



Ms Nature is opposing your development plans

sir! Whom shall we callto handle it... ED, CBI or

**Income Tax?** 

SHORT TAKES

Twitter suspends

New Delhi: Twitter said

over 500 accounts

Wednesday it has suspended

over 500 accounts, and blocked

access to several others within

India as it partly acceded to a

spread of misinformation and

inflammatory content around

government order to curb

farmers' protests. This

development comes in the

backdrop of the government ordering Twitter to take down

1,178 accounts February 4 with

links to Pakistan and Khalistan

were spreading misinformation

and provocative content related

**P3** 

supporters. These accounts

to farmers' protests.

Aussie island hit

Sydney: A 7.7-magnitude earthquake that hit some regions in the South Pacific has

generated a tsunami, the

Bureau of Meteorology said in

a tweet. It also warned of a

threat to Lord Howe Island,

mainland. One of the most

which is about 550 kilometres

(340 miles) east of Australia's

Wednesday. "Tsunami confirmed," the Australian

by strong tsunami

### CHINA CLAIMS DISENGAGEMENT OF ITS OWN AND INDIAN TROOPS HAS BEGUN Ladakh standoff 'ends'

#### AGENCIES

Beijing, Feb 10: The frontline troops of China and India at the south and north banks of the Pangong Lake in eastern Ladakh started synchronised and organised disengagement from Wednesday, the Chinese defence ministry announced here.

There was no comment from the Indian side on the statement made by the spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defence, Senior Colonel Wu Qian, and carried by China's official media.

'The Chinese and Indian frontline troops at the southern and northern bank of the Pangong Tso Lake start synchronised and organised disengagement from February 10." Wu said in a brief statement.

"This move is in accordance with the consensus reached by both sides at the ninth round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting," the statement added.

The militaries of China and India have been engaged in a tense standoff in eastern Ladakh since early May last year. The two countries have conducted several rounds of military and diplomatic-level talks to resolve the face-off. The ninth round of China-India Corps Commander-level meeting was held on the Chinese side of the Moldo-



Chushul border.

Since May last year, Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in skirmishes along the LAC near Pangong lake in Ladakh and the Tibet Autonomous region. In one of the violent clashes, 20 Indian soldiers and over 40 Chinese troops were killed in the Galwan Valley

June 15-16. Amid the face-off, India sent massive deployments to Ladakh.

Though both sides disengaged in the Galwan valley in July, the stand-off continued at critical points at Pangong and PP17A. In August, Indian troops regained multiple strategic heights in Chushul sector along the LAC.

However, both the countries remained engaged in talks through established institutions and mechanisms like 'Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs' (WMCC). Several rounds of talks were held at diplomatic and military levels.

The tensions between the two Asian

#### CHINA WANTS 'PACKAGE DEAL'

BEIJING: China, which has been blocking ndia's efforts to become a permanent nember of the UN Security Council (UNSC), reiterated Wednesday its stand on New Delhi's bid, and called for evolving a 'package solution' that is acceptable to all to reform the top organ of the global body. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin's comments in response to a question came a day after India and China discussed a wide range of issues relating to the top UN body. "As for India's bid for permanent membership to the UNSC, I can reiterate China's principled position on this. Efforts should be made to seek a package solution that accommodates all parties' interests and concerns on the basis of extensive and democratic consultations," said Wang.

economies resulted in Indian people threatening to boycott Chinese products. The accusations that Chinese smartphone apps were stealing Indian data, led to the government banning over 200 Chinese apps.

However, the bilateral trade continued through the hostility and during the coronavirus pandemic, which had originated in Wuhan city of Hubei province in China.



### **NEW FARM LAWS OPTIONAL: MODI**

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 10: Asserting that the Central government honours the farmers and it is ready to accept their logical suggestions on the three farm laws, PM Narendra Modi declared Wednesday that these laws are 'optional and not compulsory'. The Prime Minister made the announcement while speaking on the motion of thanks on the President's address in the

Lok Sabha. In the backdrop of the ongoing farmers' agitation on Delhi's borders for over two months, Modi said 'rumours are being spread that these laws are against the farmers'. The Prime Minister said that these laws were passed in Parliament

in view of reforms in the agriculture sector as it was the need of the hour.

He asked 'whether these three farm laws snatched the facilities of farmers which they were getting earlier?'

'There is no restriction on anyone. These laws do not create obstacles in the growth of farmers. These laws are optional, not compulsory. These acts neither stopped old 'Mandis' nor affected purchase of produce on MSP," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that the government has always honoured farmers and it will continue giving them respect in future too, and that the government is still ready to accept their suggestions even after several rounds of talks with them.

### DISPUTE REGARDING THREE VILLAGES **STATE MOVES SC** OVER KOTIA ISSU Australian weather agency said

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi. Feb 10: The Odisha government Wednesday filed a contempt petition in the Supreme Court against Andhra Pradesh. It was seeking a stay on the notification issued by Andhra

Odisha contended that Andhra Pradesh last year March 5 last year had issued notification to conduct local body elections in the Vizianagaram district. "Salur is one of the Mandals where the Panchayat election was also notified to be conducted on the scheduled date.



CHINA

famous tourist spots in Australia, the island is the home to many species of birds. The scale of destruction the island has suffered is yet to be ascertained

MARKET WATCH							
IN	DEX	,	VARI	ATION			
BOURSES	SENSEX	51309.39	₽	19.6			
	NIFTY	15106.50	₽	2.80			
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	73.21	₽	₹0.12			
CURR	EURO	88.48		₹0.11			
NOI	GOLD	₹48,168		₹220			
BULLION	SILVER	₹69,631	₽	₹65			

Pradesh for holding elections in three villages of Kotia gram panchayat in Koraput district.

Odisha, in the contempt petition filed through advocate Sibo Shankar Mishra, submitted that Andhra Pradesh has wilfully and deliberately violated the Supreme Court order dated December 2, 1968 and the judgement dated March 30, 2006 by transgressing into Odisha's territory. The apex court in its 1968 and 2006 judgements had asked both the states to maintain status quo on the boundary dispute with regard to Kotia group of villages.

In the notification, Andhra Pradesh deliberately roped in three villages from the 'Kotia Group of Villages' falling under the territory of Koraput district of Orissa into Salur Mandal of Vizianagaram District," the Odisha government said in the petition.

The state also contended that Andhra Pradesh changed the name of the three villages of Kotia GP. The name of Ganjaipadar has been changed into Ganjaibadra, Phattusenary into Pattuchennum and Phagusenary into Phaguluchennuru.

### Petrol, diesel rates record new high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Feb 10: Petrol and diesel prices Wednesday scaled new highs in the country as rates were hiked for the second day in a row. Petrol price was hiked by 30 paise per litre and diesel by 25 paise a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The increase took petrol price to an alltime high of ₹87.60 a litre in Delhi and to ₹ 94.12 in Mumbai. Diesel rates rose to ₹77.73 per litre in the national capital and

#### **CITY FUEL PRICES** PETROL ₹88.27 (+0.30)

DIESEL ₹84.68 ( +0.28 )

to an all-time high of ₹84.63 in Mumbai. Rates vary from state to state depending on the local incidence of taxation (VAT) and freight. Petrol and diesel prices have increased 14 times in 2021, which add up to ₹3.89 and ₹3.86 per litre respectively so far.

### s go paperless in Odisha

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: As part of the 5T initiative of the Odisha government, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched Wednesday nine citizen-centric online services of the State Transport Authority (STA) through virtual mode. This will see the regional transport offices (RTOs) go paperless enabling the citizens to get the services online from any place any time.

Among the services launched by Naveen include vehicle registration, auto approval of goods and contract carriage permits, special permits for buses, online application of international driving permit, renewal of registration and transfer of ownership in

#### PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

- Automated and hassle free vehicle registration
- Auto approval of contract carriage permit
- Auto approval of goods carriage permit
- Auto approval of inter-state special permit for buses
- Auto approval of inter-region special permit for buses
- International driving permit
- Learner's Licence in UMANG mobile App
- Renewal of registration in any RTO
- Transfer of ownership in any RTO

any RTO of Odisha and getting learners' licences through mobile App.

The chief minister said that the freedom to choose any transport office within Odisha for vehicle-related services will help people. The long queues in front of transport offices will soon be a thing of past, Naveen pointed out.

Underlining the 5T initiative of Odisha, the Chief Minister said that his government is committed to provide citizen centric services in a hassle free manner through online process, system improvement and automation.

Others who were present at the launch were Commerce and Transport Minister Padmanabh Behera and Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian.

**Illumination Work at Talasari Beach Front** and Surrounding Areas from Chandaneswar to Udayapur

&

**Development of Beachfront & Beautification** of sea-side at Talasari-Udaypur Beach

> FOUNDATION STONES TO BE LAID BY

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

11 FEBRUARY 2021 || 3.00 PM

odishatourism.gov.in

(f) odishatourismofficial (g) odishatourismofficial (g) odisha\_tourism



OIPR-37001/13/0033/2021













#### **JLO NOT TO PAY ATTENTION TO AFFAIR RUMOURS OF FIANCE**

Singer Jennifer Lopez has reportedly snubbed rumours around her fiance Alex Rodriguez's alleged affair. "J.Lo will soon begin working on her movie in the Dominican Republic. She doesn't let the cheating rumours get to her and chooses not to pay attention," a source told eonline.com.

#### **RITA LOSES REALITY SHOW** FOR FLOUTING COVID RULE

Singer and songwriter Rita Ora has reportedly been left out of the show The Masked Singer. Her infamous episode of breaking Covid rules to celebrate her birthday has cost her the job of a judge on the show.



### FORTUNE **FORECAST**



#### ARIES



Your bosses may allow you certain concessions and this will ease things to some extent. Ganesha says you will gain valuable guidance from elderly people.

#### TAURUS

Today might be a day of untying and getting out of the tangles, says Ganesha. You may take the blame for the actions of another. Things may get frustrating around the afternoon and your confidence levels may stoop

#### GEMINI

You will spend your time figuring out other people and their motivations today. You will probably spend time discussing issues of security and finance with your family members today. You will gain love and appreciation from people owing to your caring nature, says Ganesha.

#### CANCER

You will display a special attention towards beloved ones. This is an apt time for a frank chai on vital issues with your life part-ner,

savs Ganesha. You never allow heart to dictate terms to mind, yet today will be sentimental with your wife

#### LEO

Your day will be one of mixed results. On one hand you will be dis-

satisified with your spouse or business partner, on the other hand you will make fantastic returns on your speculations. You will be able to maintain a balance owing to the advise of some friend, says Ganesha

#### VIRGO

You will take your destiny in your own hands today. You possess the vision to penetrate the masks that people wear to hide their true selves. You will carefully select the friends to spend your time with, and you will also make plans for success

#### LIBRA Ganesha savs todav is a good day for government related work. Those of you who are

### Jallikattu out, Bittu makes it to Oscar race

Based on a true story, the film explores a heartwarming tale of friendship between two school friends





Neha's Taara

promises V'Day vibes

Los Angeles: The official Indian entry in the Best International Feature Film (BIFF) category, Jallikattu, might be out of the Oscar race, but there is still a chance for an Indian film to shine at the upcoming 93rd Academy Awards. The short film Bittu has made it to the Live Action Short Film shortlist, and is still in contention for a nomination.

Karishma Dev Dube's *Bittu* is part of the ten-movie list. The film has been presented by Ekta Kapoor, Guneet Monga and Tahira Kashyap under their Indian Women Rising initiative.

Now, members of the Short Films and Feature Animation Branch will vote to determine if the film makes the nomination

cut. Based on a true story, Bittu follows the journey of a fierce little girl who refuses to be forgotten. It explores a heartwarming tale of friendship between two school friends.

Other films in the short film shortlist are: Da Yie, Feeling Through, The Human Voice, The Kicksled Choir, The Letter Room, The Present, Two Distant Strangers, The Van and White Eye.

Meanwhile, the Malayalam film Jallikattu, which was the official Indian entry in the BIFF category this year, failed to make it to the shortlist.

The final nominations for the Oscars will be announced March 15. This year, the award gala will be held April 25.

#### black and white tones that fascinates her. Yami posted the monochrome picture on Instagram. In the image, she is seen dressed in a shirt and a skirt. She is seen looking away from the camera and seems to be deep in thought.

Tones of B&W

fascinate Yami

Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam posted a monochrome

picture Wednesday, stating there is something about

"Something about black n white tones," Yami cap tioned the post.

Yami has just wrapped up shooting for the horror comedy Bhoot Police. The film co-stars Saif Ali Khan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Arjun Kapoor and Jaaved Jaaferi, and is directed by Pavan Kirpalani. She will also be seen in the up-

coming film Dasvi. She has taken the method

route for her role of a Haryanvi girl in this movie. She is taking lessons in the Haryanvi language as well as honing her dialect, and also working on nuances of body language for the role. IANS

Mumbai: With Valentine's Day round the corner, singer Neha Bhasin is all set to celebrate love with her latest track, scheduled to release February 11.

Titled *Taara*, Neha's new song aims to blend classic acoustics with poetic lyrics.

"The intention behind the song is to be able to bring in the old wine served in a new bottle vibe. It is an ode to Punjabi folk music coupled with classic melody and a subtle touch of modern

acoustics," Neha says.

"Taara brings together a musical scape that has live tabla, duffs, ghunghroos, rabab, and guitars, along with lyrics that bring alive what feels like love from the vestervears. When you hear the song, you are sure to feel a sense of peace and transcend to a world of music where one feels extremely content," she adds. The track has

also been incorporated in the recently-released Zee5 film, Lahore

### Keep animals off the plates: Sonu

Mumbai: Actor Sonu Sood has been roped in for a People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India ad that encourages meat-free eating habits. Sonu appears with a pair of chicks on his shoulder in the new campaign for PETA India.

The actor said: "This Valentine's Day, I encourage everyone to show some love to chicks - and cows, buffaloes, goats, pigs, and fish. There's nothing more attractive than kindness, and we can all be kind to animals, our planet, and our bodies by keeping animals off our plates."

Sonu, who was named PETA India's Hottest Vegetarian in 2020, has appeared in a previous pro-vegetarian PETA India ad campaign, participated in the group's "Hug A Vegetarian Day" and sup-

ported a social media appeal to push McDonald's India to add a McVegan burger to its menu.

During the pandemic, he helped thousands of stranded migrant workers and students return to their homes, among other actions to help people in need

He is part of a long list of celebrities including Anushka Sharma, Shahid Kapoor, Hema Malini, and R Madhavan

who have teamed up India to



REVISED

STANDARD

VERSION

PLEASE

DERKINS ACTED AWFULLY

SMUG FOR A DAME WHO

AND NOT MUCH ELSE

ON JACK AND JOE. THE

HAD A HEAD FOR NUMBERS

MAYBE SHE'S GOT SOMETHING

QUESTION IS, WILL SHE SING

WHAT DOES

RGVP

MEAN, SIR

I NEVER

INDERSTAN

YOUR JOKES

SIR





government employees will be able to get good results for their work. Your work will be rewarded and your performance and efficiency will be praised. You will be able to have a heart to heart talk with your loved one.



Confidential. IANS

STOP

ME "SIR"

NO, I WON'T TELL YOU

WHAT THE ANSWER IS

DO YOUR OWN WORK !

ALLING

promote meat-free meals. IANS

FUN

with

PETA



#### **SCORPIO**

Free you mind from negative thoughts. You need to be in high spirits to work with your team and delegate equal responsibilities to your team mates. Know their calibre and designate accordingly.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

The morning seems to begin on a lazy note today, as your energy level is equal to zero

Thus, you may try to decentralise your activities and divide it between your coworkers. But make sure the responsibili ties are delegated in the right hands or you may have to regret your decision.

#### CAPRICORN

You will want to expand the horizon of your business. But, you will be confused about the path to take for the expansion. You want to reach to the sky, but such a dilemma will keep you in a double mind.

#### 

It's a busy day at work, and you're probably involved in some pending project work. It's advisable that you don't get complacent. Keep an eye on your opponents to have an edge over them, suggests Ganesha.

#### **PISCES**

You will find yourself ecstatic now that certain important projects you have been slaving over are nearing completion. You will implement new strategies and will hope that everything goes according to plan. You will experience intimate moments with your partner



NOW, HERE'S A LIST OF

ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE

SUSIE HAD A FACE THAT

SUGGESTED SOMEBODY

IPSTAIRS HAD A WEIRD

SENSE OF HUMOR, BUT I

FOR LAUGHS. I NEEDED

FORMATION

NASN'T GOING TO HER PLACE



PEANUTS

OKAY, MARCIE, YOU AND I ARE

THE INVITATION

#### BREVITY

I'M REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT STEPHEN. EVER SINCE HE TURNED 45, HE'S BEEN BUYING LOTS OF INSURANCE POLICIES FROM THOSE PEOPLE WHO USED TO HAVE THE SNOOPY BLIMP





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

#### SUDOKU

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

D		3	А	6				1	0			2		Γ
	1	С							6					
			7			6		2		A			0	4
Е	2		5		С		9		D			А		
		7					С	8			В	Е		5
		4		7	9					D	2			
2	С			4		1.0		0				1 - 11 2 - 21	D	8
6			1		1	1	$\square$	3					9	
В	D	8								7			5	
				8	5		Е		9	1			А	
				2									1	3
			В	Α	6							7	Е	
8				3	Е	А					1	j į		С
						2		7			9		6	
3					D	8	0	5		Е				

















#### **EVICTION IN CITY**

Civic authorities remove illegal shops and vending stalls at Badagada Brit Colony in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

#### **COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
rld	10,75,47,848	7,94,89,588	23,55,298
ia	1,08,58,371	1,05,61,608	1,55,252
sha	3,35,889	3,33,220	1,910

### Twitter suspends 500 accounts on govt warning Srimandir to remain open on Sunday too

New Delhi, Feb 10: Twitter said Wednesday that it has suspended over 500 accounts, and blocked access to several others within India as it partly acceded to a government order to curb spread of misinformation and inflammatory content around farmers' protests.

The development comes in the backdrop of the government ordering Twitter to take down 1,178 accounts February 4 with links to Pakistan and Khalistan supporters. These accounts were spreading misinformation and provocative content related to farmers' protests.

While Indian media claims that these 500 suspensions are a backtracking of Twitter, foreign media like 'The Independent' say Twitter is defiant and has refused to block journalists, politicians and some others because it did not consider them going against Indian laws of free speech.

Twitter, in a blogpost, said it has not blocked accounts of 'news media entities, journalists, activists and politicians'. If it was



done it 'would violate their fundamental right to free expression' guaranteed under the country's

The government, however, termed as 'unusual' Twitter's move to publish the blogpost before slated talks with the IT secretary on the issue, as sought by the USbased company.

'Upon the request of Twitter seeking a meeting with the government, the Secretary IT was to engage with senior management

WITTER, IN A BLOGPOST, SAID IT HAS NOT BLOCKED ACCOUNTS OF 'NEWS MEDIA ENTITIES, JOURNALISTS, ACTIVISTS AND POLITICIANS'

HE MICRO-BLOGGING SITE SAID IN ITS POST IT HAS TAKEN ACTION AGAINST 1,000 ACCOUNTS



of Twitter. In this light, a blogpost published prior to this engagement is unusual," the IT Ministry said in its response on 'Koo', a homegrown contender to Twitter. The government will share its response soon, the post on Koo added. The blogpost by Twitter had the microblogging platform emphasising it will continue to advocate for the right of free expression of its users and that it is

'actively exploring options under

Indian law – both for Twitter and

for the accounts that have been impacted'. In all, Twitter has taken action against 1,000 accounts - 500 as sought by the government and an equal number that were found by the company engaging in platform manipulation and spam.

The government had late last month sought blocking of 257 tweets and handles in connection with the agitation by farmers over the new pro-market agricultural laws. Twitter complied, only to restore the accounts hours later. This led to the government issuing a non-compliance notice and a warning of stringent penalties and potential jail terms.

Twitter in the blogpost also said it had taken steps to reduce the visibility of the hashtags containing harmful content that included prohibiting them from trending on Twitter and appearing as recommended 'Search' terms.

It has 'withheld a portion of the accounts identified in the blocking orders' within India, making them accessible only outside India. It, however, did not provide details of the handles against whom action had been taken.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Feb 10: Srimandir, the abode of Lord Jagannath, would remain open for all the days of the week as per a revised standard operating procedure (SOP) for the 12th century shrine.

The temple used to remain shut for devotees on Sundays for sanitisation work in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) announced the revised SOP after holding a meeting of all stakeholders Wednesday. SJTA chief administrator Krishan Kumar presided over the meeting.

As per the revised SOP, public darshan at the shrine will start at 6am. However, the devotees will have to wear masks in and outside the temple. Besides, hand sanitisation and social distancing are made mandatory for the devotees. "Devotees are requested not to

at Anand Bazar on the shrine premtouch statues and idols at the shrine. ises.

#### REVISED SOP

Devotees are requested not to touch statues and idols at the shrine

Chewing of paan/tobacco and spitting inside the temple premises are strictly prohibited

A fine of ₹1,000 each would be imposed on the violators

Chewing of paan/tobacco and spit-"The special arrangement for the residents of Puri city visiting ting inside the temple premises are strictly prohibited. A fine of the shrine within 6am and 7am is ₹1.000 each would be imposed on the discontinued forthwith. All the devotees will enter Srimandir Moreover, devotees are strictly through the Lions' Gate and exit told not to bring polythene bags though the other three gates," said

the new SOP. According to the revised SOP, the authorities will sanitise the temple premises at night thrice in a week. "The SJTA will revise the SOP from time to time depending upon the Covid-19 situation," said a temple official.

nation for regular and ex-

regular students as well as

state open school certificate

The exams will be con-

ducted from May 3 to 15 and

students will write their an-

swer papers at their own

schools. There will be one

sitting for both regular and

ex-regular students. As per a

notification, the exams will

start at 8am and end at 10am

for all subjects except for

Math, which will conclude

at 10:15am. The state gov-

ernment had also decided to

conduct parent-teacher meet-

ings (PTMs) for Class X stu-

dents across Odisha February

13 for the upcoming annual

HSC examination-2021.

examinations-2021.

### BJP blames state for fuel price hike

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Feb 10: Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly Pradipta Naik Wednesday held the state government responsible for the rise in petrol and diesel prices in the state.

The BJP leader accused the state government of extracting higher share of taxes from petrol and diesel despite allegedly having little role in the whole process of petrol and diesel distribution and sales. Naik was responding to the call of the Congress party for Odisha bandh on the issue of petrol, diesel price hike. The leader also said that the Union government has no role in escalating petrol and diesel prices. He said. "The Congress party is free to call for bandh when they are not satisfied with the existing policies and want to protest. But fuel price is not

**BJP** leader Pradipta Naik accused the state govt of extracting higher share of taxes from petrol and diesel

the country too. "In the sale of one litre of

petrol, the Centre is taking ₹13 while the tanker firms take ₹8. But the state government is taking ₹26. What is the role of the state in the whole affair and why are they taking a huge cut from the prices?" he asked.

Naik also added, "If the state can cut down the taxes, the rates could go down automatically. The Congress party also should be asked what they did during their regime.'

The Congress has planned to organise Odisha Bandh



#### BSE extends form fill-up date

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

violators," said the revised SOP.

into the temple. Any violation in this

regard would invite a penalty of

₹100. The new SOP, however, allowed

the devotees to offer earthen lamps

at some designated places inside

Srimandir. Similarly, the devotees

are allowed to partake Mahaprasad

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: The state government Wednesday extended the date of form fill-up for the High School Certificate (HSC) Examination by another two days. The last date of filling forms now is up February 12.

Earlier, the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) had extended the date of form fill-up for matriculation examinations till February 10. Previously, it had announced February 2 as the last date for filling up of forms.

The Board Monday announced the schedule of annual matriculation exami-

### Temp set to rise in state

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: The (IMD) perature will increase grad-

each. All other places in state witnessed a temperature of above 10 degrees Celsius, the Shallow to moderate fog

India Meteorological Department Wednesday said night tem-

IMD said The minimum temperature at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar was 14 and 15.4 degrees Celsius, respectively, is very likely to occur at one or two places in Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda, Nayagarh, Malkangiri, Koraput and Kandhamal districts, Friday morning.

under the control of the government."

Naik said that it depends on the international market prices. He explained that whenever the crude oil prices go up the prices would rise in February 15 to protest against the consistent rise of petrol and diesel prices. The BJD government, however, has been blaming the Centre for

the rise in petrol and

diesel prices.

Ine Diamond Jewellery Starting ₹ 11,000 Image Appendix





ually by 3 to 4 degrees Celsius in state during next four to five days.

Rajya Sabha MP Prasanna Acharya

Wednesday urged the Union gov-

ernment to frame a special law for

innumerable orphan and destitute

children of the country to save

them from abuse and exploitation

and provide them with shelter, ed-

ucation, healthcare and proper

Speaking during the Zero Hour

in the Upper House, Acharya said

children are the future of a nation

and we must upbring all our chil-

cessity of life.

dren in a very healthy at-

mosphere with every ne-

"Unfortunately, there

are millions of orphans

in our country with un-

known parentage. They

are abandoned by their

parents. These children

are seen loitering on the

streets, collecting waste

papers, plastic material,

livelihood.

Lowest temperature of 7 degrees Celsius was recorded at Phulbani while Koraput and Daringbadi recorded a temperature of 10 degrees Celsius

### No grant sans UCs: Panigrahi BJD pitches for infra devpt at Paradip Port

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi Wednesday said that the districts that haven't filed their utilisation certificates (UCs) will be barred from getting any financial grant from the department. He was holding a videoconference with the district Collectors.



He also stated that it's a matter of regret that many districts haven't filed their financial details till now. The state government has also planned to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose and centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's Odisha visit with various cultural programmes. Therefore, every Collector needs to prepare a work schedule as various cultural programs will also be held across the state

Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi, Culture director Ranjan Kumar Das and many other officials were present at the meeting.

#### PAINTER AT WORK



An artisan giving finishing touches to clay idols of Goddess Saraswati at Kumbhar Sahi in Cuttack, Wednesday

Singh urged the Centre to name the Paradip Port after former Chief Minister of Odisha Biju Patnaik

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 10: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday urged the Union government to look into the infrastructure development of Paradip Port Trust (PPT) and also urged the government to name Paradip Port after former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik.

Speaking in the Upper House on the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020, BJD MP Subhash Singh said that there is no infrastructure development at Paradip Port.

"Its annual profit is more than ₹700 crore but there is no master plan. Casual and contractual workers are facing serious crisis. They do not have any regular employment. This is very unfortunate. There is a hospital in Paradip which is managed by the PPT. There has been no development of the port for about 30 years. Where has the profit gone? What about the workers' interests," said Singh.

Speaking on the Bill, the BJD MP said that there is no mention about the purpose for which the CSR fund will be utilised. In the new Bill, there is confusion about the CSR fund. It says, "Corporate Social Responsibility and development of infrastructure by Board



authorities is being introduced." Singh mentioned.

The BJD also suggested that while implementing the PPP model in the ports, healthy competition should have been ensured be-

cause private entities were monopolising the market. Supporting the Bill, the MP BJD

urged the govern ment to

name the Paradip Port after former Chief Minister of Odisha Biju Patnaik.

#### NO PROPOSAL FROM STATE FOR METRO RAIL, SAYS CENTRE

scrap from the dump yards for their

subsistence. They are vulnerable to

abuses and exploitation by antiso-

New Delhi: The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Wednesday informed the Rajya Sabha that they have not received any proposal from the Odisha government for setting up metro rail network in the state. Replying to a question asked by BJP MP Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister of state (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri said that since urban transport is a state subject, the state governments are responsible for initiating, developing and funding urban transport infrastructure including metro rail projects. "The Union government considers financial assistance for metro rail proposals in cities or urban agglomerates on the basis of extant policy, feasibility of the proposal and availability of resources, as and when posed by state governments concerned. No such proposal from the state government of Odisha has been received in this ministry so far," the minister said.

New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) cials," said Acharya.

Acharya seeks legislation for orphans

Referring to Unicef's statistics, Acharva said the country has around 31 million orphan children in the age group of 1-17 years.

"To get admission in a school, one needs birth certificate, caste certificate, parental identification and so many things. To be eligible for government schemes, we need ration card, income certificate and residence proof. But, from where and how an orphan can get all these. Every deserted orphan ask himself/herself with a broken heart, who are my parents; what is my identity; what is my date of birth; what is my religion; what is my caste; what is my address; whom do I belong. Neither the government nor the society has answers to these questions," the parliamentarian pointed out. The senior BJD MP urged the Centre to create a separate welfare fund for homeless orphans and street children. Besides, to supervise all such things, an orphan and street children welfare authority should be constituted immediately

#### **OrissaPOST** THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 11 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

### downtown

## **Govt thrust on dist-specific innovative projects**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: In a bid to take development activities to next level, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Wednesday asked the Collectors to prepare district-specific innovative projects for development of infrastructure and improvement of livelihood of the people.

Holding a meeting with the district Collectors through videoconferencing, Mahapatra said, "Prepare innovative projects based on potential of your district for elevating people to the height of a surplus level of living.'

Now, he said, the coverage of the schemes focused on necessities like food, water, housing, road and electricity have expanded considerably towards saturation.

Therefore, the districts should plan for achieving the next higher stage of development, he said. "It will be possible with identification of district-wise potential in terms of agro-climatic zone, natural and human resources and by moulding those to define projects for harnessing the opportunities," he added. Further, the Collectors were in-

structed to identify missing links in



INFRA & LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT missing links in matters like all-weather connectivity to all the THEY WERE ALSO DIRECTED TO EXPEDITE IMPLEMENTATION OF villages, irrigation for more than one

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THROUGH PROACTIVE ACTION FOR FOREST crop, livelihood enhancement, crop CLEARANCE, TREE FELLING PERMISSION, ISSUING OF NO OBJECTION diversification, agricultural marketing and other activities CERTIFICATES, LAND ACOUISITION ETC

matters like all-weather connec-They were also directed to tivity to all the villages, irrigation expedite implementation of for more than one crop, livelihood infrastructure projects through enhancement, crop diversification. proactive action for forest clearance, tree felling permission, agricultural marketing, escalation of income generation, pipe water issuing of no objection certificates, supply, extension of health land acquisition etc. Development Commissioner services and intensification of Pardeep Kumar Jena, who also par-

ticipated in the meet, advised the Collectors to find missing links in different infrastructure and livelihood schemes on the basis of ob jective criteria like non-availability of alternatives, additional advantage of the proposed work in terms of enhancing productivity, saving cost and time

While expediting infrastructure projects, the Collectors were instructed to look at both the government projects and the projects being undertaken by private investors. "Assess your present state of development and define the target you fix for your district in terms of short, medium and long term objectives," Jena added. Agriculture Production

Commissioner Raj Kumar Sharma said the primary sector (agriculture and allied activities) provides livelihood and employment to more than 50 per cent of rural population. So, the interventions in this sector will have direct benefit to the people. He advised the Collectors to spend some more time with agriculture, soil conservation, horticulture and irrigation officers for formulation of innovative projects.

The Chief Secretary assured that government would provide all support including finance for potential based innovative projects in each district.

Planning and Convergence department would be the institutional mechanism between Collectors and the respective departments for appraisal, approval and sanction of the projects.

### State extends vax drive for 3 days

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: The Health department Wednesday decided to extend the first phase of vaccination drive for health workers for three more days as a few health workers failed to come forward for the inoculation drive.

The first phase of the drive for health workers was scheduled to end Wednesday, however owing to the failure in achieving 100 percent target; the government has extended it for three more days till February 13.

The department has now asked the Collectors and Municipal Commissioners to ensure that the left out health workers come forward for the vaccine and all of the targeted beneficiaries get the shots to prevent the spread of the disease in the state. All Collectors and urban local bodies have been asked to closely monitor the situation and encourage the beneficiaries to come forward in the mop up drive.

The state government on the other side is all set to start the sec-

ond dose vaccination of health care workers from February 15. The second drug has been prescribed 28 days after the intake of the first round of the vaccination. Meanwhile all districts and ULBs have been asked to prepare for the second drive too.

Nevertheless, the state government Wednesday saw 66 sessions for the health care workers. The department Wednesday saw 4,261 health care workers coming for ward for the vaccination which took the total target coverage to 86.9 per cent. At the same time a total of 15,108 frontline workers got vaccinated Wednesday which was 78.2 percent of the total target.

The department claimed that there was no adverse reaction reported from even a single person post vaccination exercise.

The government claimed that since the starting of the vaccination drive and till Wednesday a total of 3.38,700 health care work ers got vaccinated against the virus which was 80 percent of the total target

### Provide loans to agro-entrepreneurs: Min

Meeting with Bankers for

Credit Linkage

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Expressing concern over poor performance of banks in providing farm loans, Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo Wednesday asked bankers to expedite the process of providing loans to agro-entrepreneurs.

the Agri-Attending Entrepreneurship and Banker's Conclave here, Sahoo said, as per RBI guidelines, banks should provide 18 per cent of total loan target of a year for agriculture sector. But, the performance of banks operating in Odisha is poor as compared to other states like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Punjab, he said.

"The state government is taking a lot of initiatives and also providing 3 per cent interest subven-

tion for doubling the farmers' income. Therefore, banks should come forward to provide loans to agriculture sector." Sahoo said.

economic activities

to promote enterprises in agricul-

of providing them duplex apart-

ments in 'MX Infra New Citizen

Housing (duplex)' project located

at Uttermundamuhana mouza under

Jatni police limits in Khurda.

the intending buyers for providing

them duplex apartments in 2017

However. Sahu did not turn up. "Sahu executed agreements with



under the scheme.

The Agriculture department has provided a total subsidy of Rs 30 crore out of Rs 42 crore under the MKUY so far, he pointed out. However, the bankers are not sanctioning loans to the applicants. The government has so far issued approval for 1,538 applicants under the scheme, of which banks have sanctioned only 377 projects and rejected 270 applications. At least 891 applications are still pending with the banks, he stated.

Stating that the state government has set a target to set up 500 agro-entrepreneur units under MKUY with a loan support of Rs 200 crore during 2021-22, the minister asked the bank authorities to sance tion the pending application under the scheme

SAFETY FIRST: A mock drill to avert fire mishap in progress at the state-run press at Khapuria in Cuttack, Wednesday

Smart city Hackathon SCOUT launched

### 1 nabbed in ₹4Cr real estate fraud

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: The Economic Offences Wing Wednesday arrested the managing director of a real estate firm here on charges of duping around 13 persons to the tune of Rs 4 crore on the pretext of providing them du-

Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog

Yojana (MKUY) has been launched

ects have been enlisted for support Expo on folk & tribal art a big draw

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

scheme, around 40-50 per cent of

capital investment subsidy, subject

to a limit of Rs 50 lakh, is being

provided to entrepreneurs, he said,

adding, around 92 types of proj-

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: The 13day long International Exhibition on Folk & Tribal Art being organised by Odisha State Museum and Purvasha Folk & Tribal Art Museum is drawing attention of the art connoisseurs even as more than 100 artists from seven coun-

tries are showcasing their skills. The exhibition shows the traditional folk paintings of seven Asian countries-India, Korea, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Mvanmar. The Indian section included 14 genres of arts with distinct differences by regions.



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Electropreneur Park, Bhubaneswar, set up by STPI and in association with Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) Wednesday organised a pan-India Idea Contest/Hackathon for Smart City Solutions namely Smart City Challenge & Outcome for Urban Tans formation (SCOUT 2021).

making the PoC. The Smart city Hackathon SCOUT 2021 shall encourage the innovators to come up with pathbreaking solutions in Smart city applications and achieve the desired goals for ensuring better quality of life for our citizens and promote startups and entrepreneurship in this field. SCOUT 2021 was launched in the presence of Omkar Rai (Director General, STPI), Manoj Mishra (Secretary, Electronics & IT, Govt. of Odisha), Prem Chandra Chaudhary (CEO, Bhubaneswar Smart city Ltd), Pradeep Gupta (CMD, Cyber Media & Chief Mentor) and other dignitaries.

2 lakh and Rs 1 lakh respectively Individual cash prize up to Rs 50,000

each to 6 best PoCs against each

Reimbursement up to Rs 20,000 per participant for com-

ponents, development boards\_

and other services required to

problem statement.

plex apartments at Jatni.

"Maheswar Sahu, managing director of M/s MX Infra Limited, has been taken into custody on the basis of an EOW case (02 of 2021) under Sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of the IPC and 6 of the OPID Act. 2011." the agency said. According to the case details,

Amiya Kumar Pattanaik had approached the agency alleging that Sahu had collected around Rs 4 crore from at least 13 persons, including Pattanaik, on the promise

However, there was no progress in construction of the project. The accused neither provided them any duplex flats nor refunded them their money. It has also been ascertained that the land meant for construction of the project is a litigated land, which was already mortgaged in bank by its previous owner.

Sahu had knowledge about the mortgage. He purchased the land with criminal intent to cheat the intending buyers," the agency said about the probe.

Three artists from Odisha namely Bijay Parida (Pattachitra), Sudhir Moharana (Patachitra) and Junesh Gomango (Saura Painting) also showcased their works in the exhibition.

Saura painting is one of the ritualistic mural paintings associ-



ated with the Saura tribe of Odisha. These paintings, also called Ikons, bear religious significance for the Sauras. These paintings draw upon tribal folklore and have ritualistic importance, said Junesh.

This apart, Minhwa folk painting of Korea, Kandyan painting of Sri Lanka, Riskshaw art of Bangladesh, Mithila painting of Nepal and Batik wax art of Indonesia attracts visitors to the expo. "The exhibition tries to showcase the global issues the world is facing including Covid-19 pandemic and global warming," said Bhagvalipi Malla, curator of Odisha State Museum.

The folk and tribal art reflects the lives and living of the tribals, not rebelling against nature's order and living with them

to invite solutions from innovators, entrepreneurs, startups, enthusiasts, students, and research communities to come up with alternative ways of fulfilling the specific needs & products or service in making the city life better.

The objective of the challenge

The 100-day contest shall be followed by creation of PoC for the successful solutions. The winners will be awarded

with cash prize. The winner, 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up will receive cash prize of Rs 3 lakh, Rs

#### Institutions welcome UG, PG students **IIM-Sambalpur reopens after 11 months**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: After remaining shut for months, colleges and universities in the state welcomed the pre-final year undergraduate (UG) and first year postgraduate (PG) students amid strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines, Wednesday.

Higher Education (HE) Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo reviewed the arrangements at a few of the educational institutions, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Skill Development and Technical Education (SD&TE) department said that the physical classroom teaching for all students of technical institutions under it. except for the final year students who are already attending physical classes, may commence from February 17 in strict compliance with Covid guidelines.

The HE department had



February 2 notified that the state public universities and government as well as non-government degree colleges under the department would offer physical class-

room teaching to students of 2020-21 pre-final year UG (2nd year in case of 3-year UG course and 3rd year in case of 4-year UG course) and first year PG courses from February 10.

#### PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Feb 10: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Sambalpur reopened its campus to students Wednesday amid strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines after a gap of around 11 months, a senior official said.

The authorities, however, are not resuming physical classes immediately and have asked the students to carry Covid-19 negative certificates and remain in isolation for 14 days after their arrival on the campus

Online classes will continue for the time being, IIM-Sambalpur director Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal said

"The institute will take a decision on the resumption of physical classes depending on the circumstances and the government guide-



are not resuming physical classes immediately and have asked the students to carry Covid-19

negative certificates and remain in isolation for 14 days after their arrival on the campus

in a phased manner.

The authorities, however, Students will not be allowed to leave the hostel premises other than medical emergencies and have to undergo Covid tests once the mandatory guarantine period is over

> The authorities arranged for oxygen cylinders, beds and other essential facilities on the campus if any student falls sick, and a doctor will visit the hostel regularly

lines. Students will be returning "A set of guidelines has been issued to all students, faculty members and staffers. Those who are

facing internet and infrastructure

All those who enter the premises will have to wear face masks and

#### CONTACT BOOKING STATIONS OR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEM OUR

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







Students will not be allowed to leave the hostel premises other than medical emergencies and have

issues at home are given priority to

come," he said.

to undergo Covid tests once the mandatory quarantine period is over, Jaiswal said.

The authorities arranged for oxy gen cylinders, beds and other essential facilities on the campus if any student falls sick, and a doctor will visit the hostel regularly, the professor said.

"Staying on the campus, meeting their friends and teachers will create a positive impact on their mental health. Our students also realise the need to normalise the situation and are enthusiastic about it," he said.

use sanitiser, the official added.

## **Rushikulya-Bansadhara linking in limbo**

ANOTHER IMPORTANT PROJECT -- RUSHIKULYA-MAHANADI RIVER LINKING HAS GOT SHORT SHRIFT

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 10: About 15 years ago, there was a proposal to link the Rushikulya river with the Bansadhara river aimed at controlling flood, providing irrigation and drinking water in most parts of southern Odisha. The ambitious project has been in cold store, a report said

According to the report, the foundation stone for its survey was done about 15 years ago. The project has made no headway since then.

Another important project -Rushikulya-Mahanadi river linking project has been in limbo. Various outfits observed that execution of these two projects assumes importance for flood control and irrigation in southern Odisha. They have demanded that the state government take expeditious steps in this direction.

Former Speaker of the Odisha Assembly Chintamani Dyansamantray had raised the issue in the Assembly in 1985 during the Congress government. He was then the Deputy Speaker. However, the then government could not take action on the project.

It is said that Bansdhar-Rushikulva



#### GOVT

Former Speaker of the Odisha Assembly Chintamani Dyansamantray had raised the issue in the Assembly in 1985 during the Congress government. He was then the Deputy Speaker. However, the then government could not take action on the project

It is said that Rushikulya-Bansadhara river linking project will control flood in both the rivers in Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam districts. That apart, the project will be of great help for irrigation and drinking water sectors in all these districts

river linking project will control the Bansdhara river to the Padma river at Adaba in Gajapati district. flood in both the rivers in Rayagada, Bansadhara originates in the Gajapati and Ganjam districts. That apart, the project will be of great help Lanjigarh area of Kalahandi and for irrigation and drinking water secflows through Koraput. The river tors in all these districts. This projis known as Mahendratanaya in ect entails excavation of canal from Gajapati. This river also flows in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. The water resources department

of the Naveen Patnaik government had brought this proposal under its consideration in 2005.

At that time, Jeypore MLA Rabinaravan Nanda was the minister of state of the water resources department. He was keen for the Bansadhara-Rusikulya river linking project. He laid a foundation stone for a building of its survey division at Gudari. People were hopeful of the execution of the project, but later no step was taken in this direction. Nanda, however, did not explain about reasons for the nonexecution of the project.

In 2000, Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Ramachandra Panda had raised his voice over the Rusikulya-Mahanadi linking project. He said that in summer; Rushikulya goes dry while linking it with Mahanadi would feed water throughout the vear. The then water resources minister Mangala Kissan had favoured the project. Panda had even drawn attention of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee toward the project. In 2007, Panda had led a massive farmers rally at Chhatrapur over this river linking project.

### Hotelier succumbs to attack in Rourkela

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Feb 10: In a tragic incident Tuesday night, a hotelier succumbed to critical injuries after being attacked by miscreants at his house under Plant Site police limits in Rourkela.

According to sources, the deceased was identified as Sajjan Mittal. He was the owner of Hotel Basera located at Gandhi Road here.

### Three juveniles detained for gangraping minor in Ganjam

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 10: Berhampur Sadar police detained three minor boys Wednesday in connection with allegedly gangraping a 10year-old girl two days ago in Ganjam district.

According to sources, the three accused were interrogated by the Sadar police in the morning. The accused trio was then forwarded to the local juvenile court in the afternoon.

The victim's parents are daily wagers and had gone to Berhampur on the intervening day. Finding the girl alone at home, the accused

Sajjan was returning to his home from the hotel late in the night. Two bike-borne miscreants ambushed him in front of his house. The two miscreants took the hotel owner inside his house. Later, they attacked him on his head with an iron rod. The duo left the spot soon after committing the crime, an official of the local police station said. A profusely bleeding Sajjan was immediately rushed to Ispat General

barged into her house and gan-

graped her, a police official said.

after committing the crime.

FIR with the Sadar police.

The three boys fled the spot soon

The gangrape survivor narrated

her plight to her parents when they

returned home in the evening.

Father of the minor girl lodged an

The three accused and the gan-

grape survivor will be sent to MKCG

Medical College and Hospital

(MKCGMCH) here for medical ex-

amination. Further investigation

into the case is still underway, sub-

divisional police officer (SDPO)

Berhampur Sadar Jayant Kumar

Mohapatra said.

Hospital (IGH) in the city in critical condition. The victim succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at around 3.00am, a doctor treating him at the IGH expressed. Plant Site police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe. Business rivalry could be a probable cause behind the murder, the police station sources said. More details are still awaited as the investigation is underway.

#### Jumbo dead inside **Karlapat sanctuary**

Bhawanipatna: A female jumbo was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Ghusugudi forest area under Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi district Tuesdav afternoon. According to sources, some officials of Kalahandi (south) forest division spotted the decomposed body of the pachyderm. A team of veterinary doctors rushed to the spot and conducted a post-mortem of the elephant. The forest officials have launched a probe to find out the cause of death. The exact reason behind the death of the elephant can be ascertained after post-mortem report comes in. A preliminary investigation suggested that the female jumbo might have died due to septicemia, forest officer of the division T Ashok Kumar said. Notably. the carcass of another female elephant was found earlier in the first week of

February, 2021 near Tentulikhunti,

### Ginger farming makes tribals self-sufficient

The foundation

stone for the

survey of the

Rushikulya-

Bansadhara

no headway

since then

linking project

was done about

15 years ago. The

project has made

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Feb 10: Demand for ginger of indigenous variety is growing in the market because of its medicinal properties. Tea prepared with a dash of such ginger has a high demand in the market

Given the demand of ginger, Bhuyan tribals have been cultivating the in-



ket. After harvest we are selling it and earning enough."

Last year, the tribal farmers had set aside some ginger as seeds and have sown them in the field. "This farming starts during Raja festival and harvest happens after Makar festival," she added.

Women of Bhuyan tribe play a crucial role in ginger cultivation in the area. Apart from extending a helping hand in the farming, they sell it in the market.

However, many farmers alleged that they do not get right price of the organically grown crop in the local market.

Another problem is lack of storage facility after harvest. In the absence of coldstorages in the hilly region, a major part of the crops rots when they remain unsold. A kg of ginger is sold for Rs 50 to Rs 60 while it is sold at Rs 80 to Rs 100 in the city markets.

According to Bhuyan and Juanga tribals, the hilly area of Bansapal is quite favourable for farming of ginger and turmeric, but lack of technical and financial support from the government is a hurdle to the growth of this farming.

They observed that if they are proded with right kind of support from

#### Mayurbhanj youth missing in U'khand glacier disaster

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Khunta, Feb 10: A youth from Satapautia village under Khunta block in Mayurbhanj district is reportedly missing after the devastating glacier burst in Uttarakhand

The missing youth was identified as Parshuram Hansda, 41, son of Rabindranath Hansda of the village. He was working as an electrician for the last three years in Rishi Ganga Power Project in the Himalayan state after completing his ITI course. His family members said he is incommunicable since the fateful dav February 7

He was scheduled to return home February 15 but before that he went missing after the natural disaster.

This has pushed his family members into distress as they met the District Collector in Baripada and pleaded with him to take measures for his safe rescue.

Earlier, Nagarjuna Das of Kuda village under Chandbali block in Bhadrak district was reported missing after the glacier burst in Uttarakhand



**Protection of Plant Varieties** 

and Farmers' Rights Authority

advertisement was 12th February, 2021. The Competent Authority of PPV&FRA is pleased to extend the date of submission of applications upto 31 March, 2021 (R.S. Sengar

davp 01146/11/0009/2021 Deputy Registrar & I/c (Admn)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Bijay Kumar Mantri, S/o Sachidananda Mantri of Village-Ekadal, P.S.- Kanpur, Cuttack has lost Original RSD No.346 dtd. 16.03.1994 executed by Basanta Rout and others in favour of Sachidananda Mantri.

The aforesaid Bijaya Kumar Mantri has applied for a housing loan to the LIC HFL, Cuttack by offering mortgage of the said property documents All concerned therefore having any claim over the property purchased under the said document i.e. RSD No. 346 Dtd.16.03.1994 are required to file their claim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the property relating to the said document is free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as mortgager and the Company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 (Fifteen) days of publication of this notice

Sd./- (U.K. Mishra), Advocate LIC HFL, Cuttack Area Office Link Road, Cuttack



**E.PROCUREMENT NOTICE** BID Identification No. KCDA/ NAC -4/2020-21 No.C-431:- The Executive Officer, NAC Kuchinda on behalf of Kuchinda NAC invites bids on Percentage bid basis on online mode for 13 (Thirteen ) nos. of Civil & Electrical works of NAC Kuchinda from eligible contractors having experience of equivalent grade/

class registered with State /Central Govt. for production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. Bid document consisting Estimate cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of term and condition of contract. Bid shall be received on online from I0.00 A.M of 17.02.2021 to 5.30 P.M of 01.03.2021 and opened at 11.00 A.M. on 02.03.2021. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal-www.tendersodisha.gov.in/ & www.nackuchinda.in

Sd./- Executive Officer, Notified Area Council, Kuchinda OIPR-13121/11/0001/2021

	GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA								
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES									
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,									
	MAIN DAM DIVISION, BURLA								
	Government of Orissa"e" Procurement Notice								
	Bid Identification No.MDD-e-05/2020-21 (Online)								
			urla@rediffmail.com						
No	. 1307 /		Date: 09.02.2021						
1.	No. of work	1	5 nos.						
2.	Estimated cost	:	Rs.1.78 to 27.24 lakhs						
3.	3. Period of completion : 2 to 4 months.								
4.	4. Date & Time of available								
	of bid document in the Portal : 18.02.2021 at 10 A.M.								
5.	5. Last date/Time for receipt								

Cuttack

Dt.10.02.2021

digenous variety of ginger in recent years at Bayakumutia village under Bansapal block of Keonjhar without much support from the agriculture department. Importantly, this farming has made them self-sufficient.

They say, they are earning good enough from this farming to meet their family expenses.

Jasoda Dhangda, a tribal woman of the village said, "Earlier, we have been cultivating ginger for our own domestic consumption. We have grown it on more areas this year. It has a good mar-

Puri

the department, the ginger farming can be expanded in the area.

They pointed out that the advantage of ginger and turmeric farming is that it requires low water while cattle and elephants do not touch the crops. In most parts of Keonjhar, elephants damage crops, but they spare ginger and turmeric. Ullash Nayak, a tribal farmer, said,

I had spent Rs 1,200 in the ginger farming and earned Rs 5000. If help is provided, I will take it up largely."

All ginger farmers carry their crops in hired auto rickshaws to the market every day and sell it, said Dasri Dhangdi, another woman farmer.

So far, 32 bodies have been recovered from different places in the avalanche-hit areas of Chamoli of which eight have been identified while 174 people are still missing, the State Emergency Control Centre in Dehradun said.

More than 600 Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel are engaged in the search-and-rescue operations.

E.E., R.W. Division

more areas and year	
<b>3 kids drown</b>	
in Koel river	NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Tel. No.06752222092, e-mail id-eerwpuri@gmail.com
POST NEWS NETWORK	No.0-1059 No:- 1411 (Online- 19) Date. 08.02.2021 The Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percenta
Dourlala: Three	rate tenders through e-procurement for 04 Nos. of work for the year 2020-21 in the district of Puri.

Rourkela: Three minor boys were drowned while taking bath in Koel river in Jhiripani area near here in Sundargarh district Wednesday afternoon. The matter came to fore after locals noticed the bodies floating in the river and informed the police. Police fished out the bodies with the help of fire personnel and residents. The incident occurred when three boys aged below 12 years had gone to take bath in the river. They went deep into the water and drowned. Police suspect the deceased could be from the nearby slum as slippers were found at the river bank.

	NO.0675222	2092, e-mai	I id-eerwpui	ri@gmail.co	m
No.O-1059	No:- 1411	(Online- 19)	Date. 08.	02.2021	
The Executive Engineer, rate tenders through e-pr 1. Total no. of works: 04 r 3. Class of contractor: As of tenders on-line/ Date & papers.	ocurement for ( nos. 2. Tender o per DTCN. 4. F	04 Nos. of work cost of package Period of comple	for the year 202 s: Amount varie ation: 1 (One) ca	20-21 in the dis s from Rs. 0.44 alendar month. 5	trict of Puri. lakhs to 44,49 lakhs 5. Period of availability
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification		tender online dding	Last date & time of	Date, time & venue of opening of tende
	No.	From	То	seeking tender clarification	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division	Online-19	12.02.2021 at	24.02.2021 upto 3.00 P.M	23.02.2021 upto 1.00 P.M	25.02.2021 at 11.00 A M Office of the

Puri 6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website 'https://tendersodisha.gov.in' Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Puri OIRP-25065/11/0023/2021

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BALASORE No.O-1063 e-procurement Notice for Building works

#### Bid Identification No. Online Tender/14/RWD-II BLS/2020-21

1. Name of the work: Building work. 2. Total No. of works: 01 No.. 3. Estimated cost: Estimated cost Rs.42.97 lakhs. 4. Class of contractor: 'A' and 'B'. 5. Time of completion: As per TCN. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer			tender online dding	Last date & time of	Date & time of opening of tender in	
	No.	From	То	seeking tender clarification	O/o E.E. RW Divn- II, Balasore, (Single cover)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Executive Engineer, R.W.	14 of 2020-	12.02.2021 at	23.02.2021	22.02.2021	25.02.2021 at 11.00	
Division-II, Balasore	21	5.00 P.M.	upto 5.00 P.M.	upto 5.00 P.M.	A.M.	

Image: State and Sim subsequent, and Sim marked, rubber gaskets (IS:S382) for push - on type flexible joints of DI pipes of different diameters in different ULB's under State Action Plan for the year 2020-21.         Image: State and Sim marked, rubber gaskets (IS:S382) for push - on type flexible joints of DI pipes of different diameters in different ULB's under State Action Plan for the year 2020-21.         Image: State and Sim marked, rubber gaskets (IS:S382) for push - on type flexible joints of DI pipes of different diameters in different ULB's under State Action Plan for the year 2020-21.         Image: State and Sim marked, rubber gaskets (IS:S382) for push - on type flexible joints of DI pipes of different diameters in different ULB's under State Action Plan for the year 2020-21.         Image: State and Sim marked, rubber gaskets (IS:S382) for DI state State for for cereipt of State Action Plan for the year 2020-21.         Image: State and address of the State Government for the expression of the state Government More and Coller Actions registered with Central Government/MCF OF DISHA       No. B-733         Correct Merg: Balance (IR&B) Division, Balance (IRES)       Mod Guarano College (IS) ID IDENTIFICATION No. BCR 88/17/2020-21         In the Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in a de integrate the din Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in a de integrate the din Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in a de integrate the din Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in a def integrate authority shall be enclosed a	PUBLIC HEALTI e-mail: eephe NATIONAL COMPETI No.C-422 e-Pro INVITATION FO	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER H DIVISION, RAYAGADA d.rgda.od@nic.in TIVE BIDDING THROUGH curement DR BIDS (IFB) NO.	<ol> <li>Date of bid</li> <li>Last of bid</li> <li>Date of bid</li> <li>Date of bid</li> <li>Date of bid</li> <li>Name Office</li> </ol>
Q2       Estimate cost       : Rs.86.72 lakhs         Q3       Period of completion       : 2 (Two) months         Q4       Class of supplier       : Reputed manufactures         Q5       Date & time of availability of       : From 11.00 A.M. of D1.19.02.2021         bid document in the portal       to 5.00 P.M. of 08.03.2021         Q6       Last date/lime of receipt of       : 5.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021         bids       in the portal       bids         Q7       Date & time of opening of       : At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021         bids       months       Division, Rayagada         Q9       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only       Class A for Surphile         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://       Whereas:         Www.tendersorissa.gov.in"       GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA       No. B-733         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DiVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021       Section 13(1)         BD IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/17/2020-21       Dtd. 04.02.21         No. 521       Dtd. 04.02.21         No. 521       Dtd. 04.02.21         No. 65 Class of Contractor       Government/McS/Railways for execution of Road/         Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.		: Supply of ISI marked centrifugally cast (SPUN) ductile iron (K-7/K-9) socket & spigot pressure pipes conforming to IS:8329 and its subsequent amendments and ISI marked rubber gaskets (IS:5382) for push - on type flexible joints of DI pipes of different diameters in different ULB's under State	Further d from the e
03       Period of completion       :       2 (Two) months         04       Class of supplier       :       Reputed manufactures         05       Date & time of availability of :       From 11.00 A.M. of Dt 19.02.2021       ibid document in the portal         06       Last date/time of receipt of :       5.00 P.M. of 08.03.2021       ibids         07       Date & time of opening of :       At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021       ibids         08       Name and address of the :       Executive Engineer, P.H.         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Cutack - 753       OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021         01       GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA       No. B-733         04       Correct More Second S	02 Estimate cost		
04       Class of supplier       :       Reputed manufactures         05       Date & time of availability of :       From 11.00 A.M. of Dt 19.02.2021         bid document in the portal       to 5.00 P.M. of 08.03.2021         06       Last date/time of receipt of :       5.00 P.M. of 08.03.2021         06       Last date/time of opening of :       At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021         07       Date & time of opening of :       At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021         08       Name and address of the :       Executive Engineer, P.H.         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://       Whereas:         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://       Stransage.4.733         05       DOFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021         06       Source More More More More More More More Mor	03 Period of completion		
bid document in the portal       to 5.00 P.M. of 08.03.2021         06       Last date/time of receipt of:       5.00 P.M. of 08.03.2021         07       Date & time of opening of:       At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021         08       Name and address of the:       Executive Engineer, P.H.         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://         www.tendersorissa.gov.in"       Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021         GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-733         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BALANGIR         Email: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eepwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph. No. 06652:323274         e-Procurement Notice         BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/17/2020-21         No. 521         1.       The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with the State Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road, Class registered with Charles A. Tender Cost       Road Work, Building work         3. No. of Tender       Building Work - 02 Nos.       463936, 46         4. Tender Cost       Rs. 10,000/-       S. Madn 269 Gkrad, 269 Kr. 1000 A.M. to of Bids <t< td=""><td>04 Class of supplier</td><td></td><td></td></t<>	04 Class of supplier		
06       Last date/time of receipt of i: 5.00 P.M. of 08.03.2021         07       Date & time of opening of i: At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021         07       Date & time of opening of i: At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021         08       Name and address of the i: Executive Engineer, P.H. Divisin, Rayagada         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://         www.tendersorissa.gov.in"         Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021         GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA         No. B-733         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BALANGIR         Email: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eepwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph. No. 06652-232374         e-Procurement Notice         BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/17/2020-21         No. 521       Dtd. 04.02.21         1. The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Chatal Ko.1         1. The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Bids         2. Nature of Work       Road Work, Building work         3. No. of Tender       Exoutive Sration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.         2. Nature of Work       Road Work, Building work         3. No. of Tender       Exoutive			
bids in the portal       Whereas :         07       Date & time of opening of isids       At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021       Whereas :         08       Name and address of the :       Executive Engineer, P.H. Divisin, Rayagada       and in exercise securitization in ONLINE bidding only         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only       With the second in ONLINE bidding only         Www.tendersorissa.gov.in"       Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021       (3) Si Suresh Cutack - 753         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BALAANGIR       No. B-733       OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BLANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BALANGIR         Email: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eepwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph. No. 06652-232374       Section 13(4)         06       Section 13(4)       Section 13(4)         07       Dide overnor of Odisha invikes percentage rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with the State Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road/ Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.       1. Commercial Kata No. 11.000/-         10       Date & time of sale & receipt       From Dt 12.02.2021, 10.00 A.M. to of Bids       No. 11.32.021 at 10.0 A.M.         10       Date & time of sale & receipt       From Dt 12.02.2021, 10.00 A.M. to Bids of Khal AS of Khal AS of Khal AS of Kha			
07       Date & time of opening of idds       At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021       The Authorize and in exercise and pivision, Rayagada         08       Name and address of the importance in ONLINE bidding only       Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only       With LM Fast and Contractor 7530         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only       (3) si Suresh and Contractor 7530         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://       (3) si Suresh AD Gouranto Contractor 7530         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DiVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021       (6) Smt. Madh (9) Smt. Mash (9) Smt. Mas		. 5.00 F.W. 01 08.03.2021	Whereas :
bids       and in exercise         08       Name and address of the :       Executive Engineer, P.H. Divisin, Rayagada         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"       Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DiVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021         GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA       No. B-733         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BALANGIR       No. B-733         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BLD IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/17/2020-21       No. 06552-232374         e-Procurement Notice       BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/17/2020-21         No. 521       Dtd. 04.02.21         1       The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the of sale works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.       1. commercial Khata No. 1. No. 11-Sut Agarwal.         2. Nature of Work       Rs.10,000/-       Section 13 of the form of the Prop. M. 1. Sut Agarwal.         3. No. of Tender       Building Work - 02 Nos.       Residential 465 of Khat P.S Madh 1265 Sq.1.         4. Tender Cost       Rs.10,000/-       S. Madh 126 Sq.1.       Residential 465 of Khat P.S Madh 1265 Sq.1.         6. Date & time of sale & receipt       From Dt.1	07 Date & time of opening of	: At 3.00 P.M. of 09.03.2021	The Authorize
Officer inviting bid       Divisin, Rayagada         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://         www.tendersorissa.gov.in"       Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021         GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA       No. B-733         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BALANGIR Email: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eepwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph. No. 06652-232374       (6) Smt. Madh (subsequent/ry Parcer         Did DENTIFICATION No. BGR &B/17/2020-21       No. 521       Dtd. 04.02.21         No. 521       Dtd. 04.02.21       The Borrower / Borrower / MS         1. The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with Central Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road/ Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.       1. Commercial 48395, 64         2. Nature of Work       Road Work, Building work       2. Residential 46305 (Knatz P.S Madh 1286 sq. 1.         3. No. of Tender       Ender Cost       Ender Cost       2. No.00 - M.         4. Tender Cost       Ender Cost       Residential 4650 (Knatz P.S Madh         5. Date & time of sale & rece	bids		and in exercise
Officer invitting bid       Divisin, Rayagada         09       The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only         Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://         www.tendersorissa.gov.in"         Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021         GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA         No. B-733         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BALANGIR         Email: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eepwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph. No. 06652-232374         e-Procurement Notice         BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/17/2020-21         No. 521         1. The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road/ Building/Bridge works. The porof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.         2. Nature of Work       Road Work, Building work         3. No. of Tender       Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.         2. Nature of Work       Road Work, Building work         3. No. of Tender       Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.         2. Date & time of sale & receipt       From Dt.12.02.2021, 10.00 A.M. to o		<b>U</b>	
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://       "https://         www.tendersorissa.gov.in"       Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021         GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA       No. B-733         OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION, BALANGIR       (a) sit Suresh (b) sit Math Subsequently were Rupped Timest at comtain the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.         No. 521       Dtd. 04.02.21         System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with Central Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road/ Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.         N. No. of Tender       Building Work - 02 Nos.         A. Tender Cost       Rs. 10,000/-         S. Class of Contractor       B'' Class & "A" Class (Registered with CDMS)         Chate & time of sale & receipt       From Dt.12.02.2021, 10.00 A.M. to of Bids       Dt.01.03.2021 upto 05.00 P.M.         Date of Opening Bid       Dt.03.03.2021 at 11.00 A.M.       Residential 485 of Khat P.S. Madh 1265 sq.t.1         The bidders have to participate in ONLINE MODE only. Sd./- Executive Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Division			AND Guarantor
<ul> <li>www.tendersorissa.gov.in"</li> <li>Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021</li> <li>GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-733</li> <li>OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&amp;B) DIVISION, BALANGIR</li> <li>Email: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, eepwd.bgr@gmail.com, Ph. No. 06652-232374</li> <li><u>e-Procurement Notice</u> BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&amp;B/17/2020-21</li> <li>No. 521</li> <li>The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&amp;B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road/ Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.</li> <li>Nature of Work R Brader Bilding Work - 02 Nos.</li> <li>Class of Contractor B''s Class &amp; "A'' Class (Registered with CDMS)</li> <li>Date of Opening Bid Dt.03.03.2021 upt 0.05.00 P.M.</li> <li>Date of Opening Bid Dt.03.03.2021 upt 0.05.00 P.M.</li> <li>The bidders have to participate in ONLINE MODE only. Sul/- Executive Engineer, Balangir (R&amp;B) Division</li> </ul>	Eurther details can be coop from	m the e Presurement pertel "https://	
<b>E-Procurement Notice</b> The Borrower / to deal with the of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road/ Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.         1. Commercial Khata No. 1           2. Nature of Work         Road Work, Building work         2. Nature of Work         Road Work, Building work           3. No. of Tender         Building/Work - 02 Nos.         4. Tender Cost         7. Class of Contractor           5. Class of Contractor         "B" Class & "A" Class (Registered with CDMS)         3. Residential 465 of Khat P.S Madh           6. Date & time of sale & receipt         From Dt.12.02.2021, 10.00 A.M. to of Bids         0. Dt.01.03.2021 at 11.00 A.M.           7. Date of Opening Bid         Dt.03.03.2021 at 11.00 A.M.         4. Residential 465 of Khat P.S Madh           8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. All future corrigendums will be available on ONLINE MODE only.         4. Residential 465 of Khat P.S Madh           4. Executive Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Division         Date : 05.02.2	GOVERNMI OFFICE OF THE EX BALANGIR (R&B) Email: eepwd.bgr@rediffmail.com, ee	OIPR-13052/11/0001/2021	(6) Smt. Madhu (subsequently re (Rupees Twelv being the amou interest at control of the said notic The Borrower / Mort possession of the Section 13(4) o
BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/17/2020-21       Dtd. 04.02.21         No. 521       Dtd. 04.02.21         1. The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road/ Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.       1. Commercial Khata No. 1. Swt. Agarwal.         2. Nature of Work       Road Work, Building work       2. Nature of Work       Residential 465/9805, 46         3. No. of Tender       Building Work - 02 Nos.       4. Tender Cost       Residential 465/9805, 46         4. Tender Cost       B''' B'' Class & "A'' Class (Registered with CDMS)       9. Residential 465 of Khat 455 of K			
<ol> <li>The Executive Engineer, Bolangir (R&amp;B) Division, Bolangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/MES/Railways for execution of Road/ Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.</li> <li>Nature of Work : Road Work, Building work</li> <li>No. of Tender : Building Work - 02 Nos.</li> <li>Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-</li> <li>Class of Contractor : "B" Class &amp; "A" Class (Registered with CDMS)</li> <li>Date &amp; time of sale &amp; receipt : From Dt. 12.02.2021, 10.00 A.M. to of Bids Dt.01.03.2021 upto 05.00 P.M.</li> <li>The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website http://tendersorissa.gov.in. All future corrigendums will be available on ONLINE MODE only.</li> <li>Date : 05.02.2</li> </ol>			to deal with the
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			Place : Cuttac

5.	Last date/ lime for rece	sipi	t
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6.	Date of opening of bid	2	02.03.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
7.	Name & Address of the	9	
	Officer inviting bid	:	Executive Engineer, Main Dam Division, Burla, At/PO- Burla, Dist-Sambalpur, Odisha, Email:- ee_mddburla@ rediffmail.com
Fu	ther details any corrig	en	dum or addendum can be seer
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/			AXIS BANK LIMITED ured Assets Group - East, 1, Shakespeare Sarar loor, Kolkata - 700071, Ph. No. : (033) 6627 2035
			tule 8(1)]
Whe	POSSESSION NO preas :	ודכ	CE (Immovable Property)
The Sec and (Enf M/s.	Authorized Officer of the Axis Bank uritization and Reconstruction of Finan in exercise of powers conferred unde orcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Dema L. M. Fashions Pvt. Ltd. having addre	r Se and I ss at	nited (formerly known as UTI Bank Ltd.), under the Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ction 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interes Notice dated 16.01.2019 calling upon the Borrowe Metro Plaza, Buxibazar, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin - 753001 Jumar Agarwal. Slo. Sri Balkishan Agarwal, Jholasahi

tor(s) / Mortgagor(s) (1) Sri. Anii Kumar Agarwal, S/o. Sri Baikishan Agarwal, Jholasahi, O(01 (2) Smt. Anita Agarwal, Wo. Sri Anii Kumar Agarwal, Jholasahi, Cuttack. - 753 001 in Kumar Sethia, (Since Deceased), S/o. Mohanial Sethia, Ranihat, P.O. - Buxibazar, 3001 (4) Smt. Sarla Devi Sethia (In the capacity of the legal heirs of Late Suresh, Ranihat, OL - Buxibazar, Cuttack. - 753 001, (5) Sumit Kumar Sethia (In the capacity heirs of Late Suresh Kumar Sethia, Cuttack. - 753 001 and Suresh Cuttack. - 753 001 and Suresh Cutack. - Husmita Barik, Wio, Ajay Kumar Barik, Nuasahi, P.S. - Subdazar, Cutack - 753 001 and released), to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being amount of **Rs. 12,10,13,168.06** live Crore Ten Lacs Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Eight and Paisa Six Only Jount due as on **31,12,2018** (this amount includes interest applied till 300,918) with further ntractual rate of interest till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt the subscience of the subscinc

/ Mortgagor / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the ortgagor / Guarantor borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taker f the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 05th Day of February of the

/ Guarantor / Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned no to properly and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis (formerly known as UTI Bank Ltd.) for Rs. 9,67,37,290.06 (Rupees Nine Corre Sixty hirty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Ninety and Paisa Six Only being the amount due 021 (this amount includes interest applied till 30.09.18) with further interest at contractual till the date of payment .

's / Guarantor's / Mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

#### Description of the Immo

- al Flat on first floor at "Metro Plaza, Phase 1 " over Hal Plot No. 1461/1604 .1460/1605 180/3, Plot No. 1278/1460, 1280/1461, Khata No. 180/4, Mouza - Cuttack Town, Un tahat, Dist. - Cuttack having carpet area of 2610 Sq.ft. Owner of Property - Smt. Anita
- Flat at Flat No. 1B & 1H/B on the first floor of Mahaveer Apartment, over Plot No a nat a nativo, na a narbo nine instituor o manaveri Apariment, over hor no 64, 465 and 462, Khata No. 91 & 53573, Mouza - Cuttack Town Unit No. 37, Badambati Ihupatana, Tahasii - Cuttack, Dist - Cuttack, admeasuring about 1534.67 Sq.ft. **Own**e perty - Sri Suresh Kumar Sethia.
- Flat at Flat No. 6/F in the 6th Floor of Mahaveer Apartment, over Plot No. 463/935, 464, ta No. 91 & Plot No. 462 of Khata No. 271, Mouza Cuttack Town Unit No. 37, Badambati, Ihupatana, No. 4, Tahasil Cuttack No. 226, Dist Cuttack having Super Built Up Area Owner of the Property - Sri Anil Agarwal.
- I Flat at Flat No. 6/C in the 6th Floor of Mahaveer Apartment, over Plot No. 463/935, 464 a No. 91 & Plot No. 462 of Khata No. 271, Mouza - Cuttack Town Unit No 37, Bada , No. 4, Tahasil - Cuttack No. 226, Dist - Cuttack having Super Built Up Are Owner of the Property - Sri Anil Agarwal.

Authorized Officer
Axis Bank Ltd.





### power post

#### FOCUS MEDIA

## **EMASCULATION OF 4TH ESTATE**

'n the immediate post-independence period, there were two modes of accessing news -- print media and radio. The latter, designated as All India Radio, was controlled by the government, so quite a few unseen hands with strainers sieved the news before the brew could be offered to the public. Such was the low credibility of our radio that Indians mostly went to BBC when ever they wanted the 'real' version on important events such as the Chinese aggression of 1962.

The AIR's nadir had been reached during the "Emergency," when censorship was clamped down on all modes of media, especially the print media. Yet that period saw the Indian Fourth Estate's finest hour, with a majority of its constituents fighting censorship tooth and nail and often suffering for their effrontery. One also recalls the underground, cyclostyled "Press," which kept the ordinary Indian up to date about goings on in the country.

In those days the print media was the only source for credible news and views. Mind you, not that everything was hunky dory, for a few of the newspapers and journals had their own axes to grind. Also, the establishment sought to put across its point of view through publications of its own. But, even then, there was a broad-based solidity and credibility about the print media which, unfortunately, has evaporated with the passage of time.

Moreover, the print media of that era, both at the national and regional level, wielded real importance, and its 'voice' was heard. Politicians and bureaucrats inundating the corridors of power listened to what the media had to say and reacted accordingly. Editorials and news items were religiously placed before the bigwigs everyday so that they could sniff which way the wind was blowing. "Letters to the Editor" too were scrutinised and grievances rectified. Journalists were a tough and brazen lot, aware of the power they commanded, but sensibly purveying credible information rather than using the medium for self-aggrandisement.

What a different scenario it is today! The Fourth Estate can wear out its throat denouncing the prevalent chicanery and corruption without as much as moving a hair on the heads of politicians, bureaucrats or the public. Committed

journalists can lambast the local administration against its apathy and inefficiency without effecting meaningful changes. Previously, if someone's name came out for the 'wrong" reasons in a newspaper he or she would become incommunicado for months altogether! Nowadays, arrested culprits do not even bother to try and conceal their faces as they are led away in manacles, while the exposed "corrupt" prance about openly, having developed skins thicker than the proverbial rhino. The process of emasculation of

the Fourth Estate began with the intrusion of television in Indian drawing rooms towards the middle of the 1980s. Right from its commencement the idiot box. started in India as a tightly controlled arm of the establishment, and prosaically named "Doordarshan," unabashedly played its role as a purveyor of news without an iota of credibility. However, if one imagined that the entry of private channels had invested credibility in the medium, that was a mistake. This was because private players who later entered the arena had their own games to play, the greatest casualty being the "objective" presentation of news and views. The problem with the audio-visual media was that it had to attract viewership in order to survive, for without viewers there were no advertisements, and without advertisements there could be no channel! Even for 24x7 news channels a change in the style of news content and presentation was necessary -- the style of the Doordarshan-type newscasters

emasculation, for the powers that be have recognised that in the realm of today's Fourth Estate the intelligentsia has been marginalised

With trivialisation has come the inevitable

notonous voices certainly would not serve to attract viewers. Moreover, it was the way a piece of news was presented, rather than the basic significance, which served to increase viewership. Thus, the process of sensational ising the most ordinary news item and making it sound earth-shaking began with the intrusion of electronic media

At the same time editorial dis-

crimination as to news-worthiness of an item began to play a less dominant role. Being a visual presentation, availability of "footage" was an important consideration, with the result that more often than not trivial bits of news got more importance over crucial items merely because the channel had more visuals to air. To make news presentation "livelier," the live "debate" format was introduced, which often descended into farcical verbal fisticuffs, inviting laughter from the viewer rather than a cerebral response. The reality was that the audio-visual media, unlike established print media, had to pander to an amorphous viewership belonging to different levels, social and educational backgrounds, thus presentation and content could not be too high-brow or even directed at a presumed average audience.

The electronic media, perforce, had to aim at the lowest common denominator in order to attract the widest spectrum of viewership. Thus, petty news with which viewers could empathise more readily, rather than those of wider potential impact, took precedence. The problems of the print media were made more acute with the phenomenal increase in the number of publications, as also the invasion of the "wannabe" media moguls. Corporate houses which could boost their business prospects by controlling a media group, politicians who had made their piles through dubious means there has been a mad rush to grab a slice of the media pie, both print and electronic, thereby eroding its credibility even further. Established media organisations, which had painstakingly built up their reputation through decades of conscientious journalism, suddenly found themselves being challenged by fly-by-night operators, whose concept of news-significance was based on the size of the font of the printed headline. Unfortunately, the print-media succumbed and took the easy way out. No doubt a few tried to resist, but found it to be the surest route to rapidly decreasing circulation and a final exit. Today, whether it be at the national or regional level, overt sensationalism is the order of the day, with trite, badly written "human interest" pieces hogging the front-pages which would earlier have been put to better use. Equally unfortunate is the total lack of scruples displayed by a major chunk of the Fourth Estate to objective presentation of news and views, with many of them not hesitating to

openly flaunt their partisan perspectives, unconcerned as to how readers would categorise them.

Many of the negative traits displayed by the electronic media have rubbed off on a section of the print media. For instance, the so called "national" newspapers published from India's capital unabashedly pander to "mass" culture. With such trivialisation has come the inevitable emasculation, for the powers that be have recognised that in the realm of today's Fourth Estate the intelligentsia has been marginalised.

To add to its woes, the current information technology explosion has ensured access to news and information from sources outside the scope of the Fourth Estate. In fact, to a segment of the new generation, a newspaper or even a news channel belongs to an alien world, for they have their own world literally in the palm of their hands!

The author, a Padma Shri awardee, is a prominent social historian and writer based in Guwahati.

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Act out thy part, whether it be to fail or to prosper. SRI AUROBINDO

Care not for time and success.

### Sick cows, sick planet

od/universe/nature has a strict rule: all the suffering caused by man will have to be borne by man. Is anyone on this planet happy? Rich For poor? Hindus call it the law of Karma. Other religions simply dismiss it as coincidence.

The root of all suffering is the way we eat and what we want in terms of possessions: our clothing, cars, houses, money. Both these are destroying the earth. But it starts with what we eat.

See how the cycle of suffering is constructed. We grow animals to eat them. It is those animals that are creating the climate change that is so vicious that, all over the world, countries are falling to bits: climate change has created months of unrelenting forest fires in Australia, the locust invasions in Africa and Asia because the rains increased in length and severity - to just give you two examples.

But now a new factor has been seen: it was always there but it has been researched and revealed only now. We keep cattle really badly, closed sheds, no exercise, standing in their own dung, injected with hormones to increase their milk and meat, their children killed in front of them, their permanent pregnancies, bad food... we have left no stone unturned to be as wicked as possible to cows and buffaloes. As a result they are sick. In India most of them have mastitis, cancer, tuberculosis, foot and mouth disease and many other diseases. Whoever drinks milk, or eats their meat, is going to get these diseases- that is a certainty

But what is this doing to the world in general? There are three gases mainly responsible for the heating of the atmosphere and climate change: carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Of these, methane is the most deadly - not carbon dioxide. It is 24 times stronger than carbon dioxide in warming the world.

And it comes from just 3 sources: coal, rice, and animals grown for meat. India, China and Brazil - methane is our gift to the ending of the world. One cow emits 600 litres of methane every day.

Pigs, goats, chicken, and every other grass eater grown for meat, do the same in varying amounts. This is when they are healthy. But most of the livestock in the world is sick -

from sick and suffering chickens to cows and buffaloes, it is rare to find a single healthy animal.

Now, researchers have found that sick livestock produce even more methane. And their study shows a vicious circle: methane warms the atmosphere locally and globally and, the hotter temperature increases the spread of pathogens and the numbers of unwell livestock around the world. In short: sick cows are making the planet sick and a sick planet is making the cows even sicker.

There is only one way to deal with this: reduce the livestock substantially. Stop eating and ex-

porting meat if you want any other crop to survive global warming. Stop growing and keeping cows and buffaloes if you want to survive. You can always argue that humans will find a better way to keep livestock. But industrialisation of milk and meat does not allow for that. The Animal Husbandry Ministry has no hospitals, no medicines, no veterinary help for sick animals anywhere in India. But it has a huge amount of money for artificial insemination of cows/buffaloes. Therefore there is no plan to alleviate the sickness of our meat/milk producing animals – only to keep producing them in larger amounts. A cow that is inseminated once a year to produce a baby will get weaker and weaker, ill fed, never looked after, tied the entire day, milked with dirty hands, fed a little rubbish and overworked. This animal is never going to be well. When you get sick, your stomach starts misbehaving and you produce masses of gas; this is what the cow does. Either the government finds a better way to protect their health, or we stop growing cattle

Writing in the journal Trends in Ecology and Evolution, the researcher Ezenwa and others focused on common, widespread ailments such as gastrointestinal worms, and bacterial infections like mastitis-that are also known to increase methane emissions. Gastrointestinal worm infections disrupt the regular makeup of a cow's gut, resulting in the production of more methane.

Current estimates suggest that livestock populations are going to increase by 2.7 per cent annually. This growing population will already cause a 20 per cent leap in methane emissions a decade from now. But when the researchers factored the effects of a common parasitic gastrointestinal worm into this equation, that figure jumped steeply to 82 per cent-a fourfold increase in expected emissions. And that is just one disease. Each disease will increase the methane. Other studies have also shown the methane cost of illness in livestock. For instance, studies show that lambs infected with gastrointestinal worms produced 33 per cent more methane per kilogram of feed, compared to uninfected lambs. In cows, mastitis, which affects udders, causes an 8 per cent increase in methane per kilogram of milk Animal welfare is a key player in agricultural emissions, and it deserves immediate attention. Rising temperatures are increasing the prevalence of many diseases that plague livestock, because the warmth accelerates their breeding. Antibiotic resistance in some bacteria-like those that cause mastitis—is also growing under hotter conditions.



we eat and what we want in terms of possessions: our clothing, cars, houses, money



Arup Kumar

**THE CURRENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXPLOSION HAS ENSURED ACCESS TO NEWS AND INFORMATION** 

**OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE FOURTH ESTATE** 





Dutta

**FROM SOURCES** 

Are there any new ways to treat and reduce disease, to lessen the load on animals and the planet, and to free livestock from this destructive climateand-disease loop? No. There is only one way: stop eating meat and dairy.

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

#### WISDOM CORNER

We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them

#### ALBERT EINSTEIN

There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self.

#### ALDOUS HUXLEY

A little learning is a dangerous thing; Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring

ALEXANDER POPE

#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### Make a hames of something

he expression is indeed restricted to Ireland and doesn't now seem to be so very common even there. Here's one example from the Irish Examiner in August 2004, describing a local politician's chances in a reshuffle: "You know he'd be thrilled with Finance, and it wouldn't do you any harm to watch him make a hames of it. He could even be the scapegoat for the next election." Though the expression isn't known elsewhere, anyone who has much to do with working horses will know the term, because the hames are the two curved supports attached to the collar of a draft horse to which the traces are fastened. Here's a literary example, from Hugh Leonard's Out After Dark of 1989: "Instead I made a hames of it, mislaying a verb, marooning a noun on a foreign shore, starting a jerry-built sentence that caved in halfway through." Hame, in lots of different spellings, was once common in dialects throughout Britain and Ireland and there are terms in Old Dutch and German that are similar. The best we can say about its origins is that it's a Germanic word perhaps imported from Dutch around 1300.

### Paving way for FDI in insurance sector

with deadpan expressions and mo-



SPECTRUM INDIA

Bhaskar Nath Biswal

**INDIA, WITH ONE OF THE LOWEST INSURANCE** PENETRATION **GLOBALLY, WILL BENEFIT WITH INCREASE IN FDI AS CAPITAL INFUSION** WILL STRENGTHEN **PRIVATE PLAYERS** 

The much-awaited decision in Budget 2021 to hike FDI in insurance sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent was well received by international payers and it is expected that the country can see investment by MNCs of around Rs 20000 crore to Rs 25000 crore in the next three years. India, with one of the lowest insurance penetration globally, will benefit with the increase in FDI as capital infusion will strengthen private players who can play a key role in taking insurance to the country's nook and corner. At the same time they can give a tough competition to public sector insurance giants by rolling innovative products with increased use of technology. Insurance penetration is measured as the percentage of insurance premium in USD to the GDP and the insurance density is meas-

ured as the ratio of premium in USD to population. After liberalisation of the insurance sector in the beginning of the 21st century, there was con-

Welcome move

Sir, The Centre's decision to restore 4G inter-

net service in Jammu and Kashmir is welcome.

A powerful medium like internet is both a boon

and a bane. One need hardly mention the in-

ternet's ability to educate, empower, enlighten

and entertain. Inversely, its flagrant misuse by

unscrupulous elements injects venom in the so-

ciety and disturbs peace. To prevent escalation

of fabricated news and propaganda, the Centre's

move was inevitable. It is the responsibility of

the government to ensure law and order. There

was every possibility that terror groups across

the border might have used the vulnerable peo-

ple to their advantage. Now, the government's

positive step in reinstating 4G internet back to

Jammu and Kashmir has been welcomed by the

common man as well as senior politicians

sistent growth in insurance penetration from 2.71 per cent in 2001 to 5.2 per cent in 2009. The period from 2010 to 2014 witnessed a decline in penetration of insurance. However, the following years marked growth from 3.44 in 2015 to 3.70 in 2018 against the global average of 6.09. Life insurance penetration in the country which stood at 2.15 in 2001 increased to all time high of 4.60 in 2009 and touched 2.74 in 2018 against the global figure of 3.31. Similarly, non-life insurance penetration remained at 0.56 in 2001 and increased to 0.97 in 2018 against 2.78 at the global level.

The insurance density which stood at 11.5 USD in 2001 increased to 64.4 USD in 2010. There was a slight decrease thereafter but reached 74 USD in 2018. Life insurance density which stood at 9.10 USD in 2001 reached 55 USD in 2018 and non-life insurance density which was 2.4 USD in 2001 increased to 19 USD in 2018. These figures speak volumes about the

growth in the insurance industry but there is still much place to cover and the finance minister's announcement is a shot in the arm for the sector.

As per IRDAI Annual Report 2018-19, there were 8785 life insurance offices a decade ago which came down to 6347 in 2019. On the other hand, the number of life insurance offices of LIC of India which stood at 3030 a decade ago increased to 4932 in 2019. This reflects the steady growth of the public sector in life insurance whereas the private sector is lagging behind. On the other hand, in the non-life sector, it is the private sector which is in the driver's seat. The number of non-life insurance public sector offices operating in the country decreased from 8296 in 2018 to 8150 in 2019. But the number of non-life insurance offices of the private sector increased from 2043 in 2018 to 2459 in 2019.

However, the challenge is the

Nirmala Seetharaman said that under the new structure, majority of the directors on the board and key management persons would be resident Indians, with at least 50 per cent of the directors being independent directors and specified percentage of profit being retained as general reserves. This will create some sort of safe guard in case an unwanted situation arises in future.

agement. In her Budget speech,

In 2014, the Indian government increased the FDI from 26 per cent to 49 per cent but the stringent rule requiring all insurers to be Indian owned and Indian managed discouraged many multinationals to pump in capital. However, the present proposal looks lucrative and no doubt the insurance sector will attract FDI to boost penetration and density levels of insurance in the country. The writer is Head, Department of Commerce, Nowrangpur College. Views

are personal.

proposed new structure of man-

Economy post Covid

Sir, The hope as expressed in the economic survey is that India could achieve a GDP growth of 11 per cent in fiscal 2021-22, taking advantage of the expected jump-start after the season of lockdowns and extensive restrictions on public life. The next fiscal, it could get down to normal with a 6.8 per cent growth. If this happens, well and good. It is time the government also makes the right moves to free up the economy from too much control that has brought down the spirit of enterprise. This is also adversely affecting job creation. The Economic Survey 2020-21 expresses optimism about a V-shaped recovery for the economy. This is well-understood, given the positives that should emerge in the context of the fast-paced vaccination drive across the world and in India. Question however is, given India's laid-back approach to matters, how much of this new energy can this nation make proper use of. Hurdles from the government side themselves are far too many, as was the case in the pre-Covid times too. The index of eight core sector industries kept contracting in past few months, raising question marks over an early recovery. The survey notes that Bangladesh economy is growing fast on the back of a major uptick in exports, based on the competitive advantage it has; something which Indian enterprises failed to achieve. It is high time our complacence is replaced with a new energy to perform. The manufacturing sector is down in the dumps and understandably so. The commission raj and not just China, ensured as much. If very little investment is coming into this sector, it is worth pondering why. KRavi, BHUBANESWAR



cutting across party lines.



Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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, opinior

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

101

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



#### **Cong will repeal farm laws** when back in power: Priyanka In poll-bound Assam, MEA goes for Japanese push External Affairs Minister ties, has been on a downward curve.

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Saharanpur, Feb 10: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Wednesday promised that his party will repeal the three "black" central farm laws and ensure MSPs for different crops as soon as it returned to power at the Centre.

"When the Congress comes to power again, we will immediately repeal these farm laws. We will also ensure MSPs for all farmers, she said while addressing a 'Kisan Panchayat' in Chilkhana in Saharanpur district.

Priyanka also urged the farmer not to step back from their ongoing agitation across many states in support of their demands and assured that the Congress would stand with them in "their fight against the black laws"

"There should be no politics with farmers. Those who do not respect the sentiments of farmers cannot be called patriots," the Congress leader said.

The Congress leader also flayed Prime Minister Narendra Modi while reminding the audience that the BJP had promised to clear sugar cane dues totalling ₹15,000 crore within 15 days of coming to power at the Centre.

"Instead, the Prime Minister bought two planes worth ₹16.000 crore for himself and conveniently forgot about the famers' money, she quipped.

"When a farmer's son becomes a jawan, he provides security to the Prime Minister but the latter does



reasons like upcoming festivities,

spread of Covid-19 pandemic and

possibility of violence by anti-social

elements in the state. The restrictions

Recalling the ruling BJP's poll

promises, the Congress leader said

the money government sugar mill owe

to farmers in the state has not been

paid. "However, two aircraft worth

₹16,000 crore have been bought for

Narendra Modi ji so that he can

travel across the world." she claimed

on the planned new Parliament

complex when the sugarcane farm-

ers are not being paid their dues.

listen to the farmers' 'dil ki baat', un-

derstand them, share my feelings

with them and support their strug-

gle, I will be in Saharanpur today.

The BJP government will have to

withdraw the black farm laws.

Earlier, she tweeted in Hindi, "To

She also criticised the spending

were imposed till April 5.

There should be no politics with farmers. Those who do not respect the

sentiments of farmers cannot be called patriots

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

not recognise what lies in the hearts of farmers." "They claim that those protesting on the Delhi borders are not farmers but anti-social elements. Why do they have to ridicule the farmers? And what do they mean by using the term 'andolanjivi'?" she asked.

Earlier, the Saharanpur district administration had imposed Section 144 of the CrPC ahead of the farmers' meeting.

The District Magistrate issued an order to this effect citing various S. Jaishankar will be taking a Japanese delegation headed by their Ambassador to India, Satoshi Suzuki, to the northeastern state February 14, a move seen as fillip to the NDA's Look East policy

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 10: At a time when Modi 2.0 has ticked all checkboxes in providing vaccine aid to India's neighbours, the Centre has ratcheted up a mega plan for a strategic partnership with Japan in pollbound Assam.

Ahead of the state Assembly elections, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will be taking a Japanese delegation headed by their Ambassador to India, Satoshi Suzuki, to the northeastern state February 14, a move seen as fillip to NDA's Look East policy.

Official sources in MEA confirmed to IANS that Jaishankar and a Japanese delegation will physically review some of the Japanese-aided projects that are under construction in Assam. The Sarbananda Sonowal government in Assam has already acquired 2,000 bighas of land in Nagarbera for an upcoming Japanese Industrial Township.

"India is setting up the 13th Japanese industrial township in Assam. The purpose is aimed at





helping more domestic manufacturing with help of Japan in this border state. It will bring huge employment and tech knowhow. We have had such partnerships with Japan, Israel and the US time to time," a senior MEA official said.

The project is being looked after by the Japan External Trade Organisation. It is like to have a host of plug and play companies in coordination with government.

The Japanese Embassy did not comment on about the visit considering the memorandum of understanding confidentiality.

Sources said the delegation may also include representatives of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) - Japan government's agency which provides aid for economic and social growth in developing countries and promotes international cooperation.

Jaishankar, sources said, may also sign a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Japan for skills training and recruitment of youth in Assam, which is likely to go to assembly elections in April.

Five years ago, the BJP wrested power from the Congress, which had ruled the state for 15 years since 2001. The election battle in Assam this time, has turned quite fierce ever since the Congress-led UPA formed a grand alliance with Maulana Badruddin Ajmal's All

India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). The BJP-led alliance headed by Sarbananda Sonowal is facing stiff opposition from the AIUDF which had won 13 seats and the Congress which got 26 out of the 126 assembly seats in the 2016 state polls. The political rhetoric in Assam focuses on religious and ethnic identities because of illegal migrants from Bangladesh and its sensitive demographics

As per the 2011 census, 61.5 per cent people in Assam were Hindus and 34.22 per cent Muslims. Out of 32 districts, 11 are Muslim majority in Assam. The Hindu demographics is further divided along ethnicities - Bodo, Bengalis and others. With massive influx of migrants from Bangladesh, the population

of Assam's indigenous communi-

Apart from the debate on demographics, Assam's concerns have remained high rate of unemployment due to poor infrastructure and inadequate connectivity. Incidentally, Japan's bilateral relationship with India, which strengthened under former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has benefitted Assam in the last few years.

A spokesperson of Japanese Embassy in New Delhi told IANS that Japan has assisted several infrastructure development plans which include the Dhubri-Phulbari bridge, Guwahati Sewerage project, Guwahati water supply project and construction of vocational training center for poor women in Kamrup.

Japan was the fourth largest investor for India in 2019. Currently, about 1,454 Japanese companies have branches in India. "At recent summit meetings, India and Japan reconfirmed the commitment to synergising India's demographic dividend and Japan's capital and technology to realise the true potential of the Japan-India economic partnership for a prosperous future," as per an official statement of the Japanese government.

Abe's successor, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga who got a landslide victory in party leadership election September 14, is pursuing the same vision for Japan-India strategic partnership. Sources said Jaishankar, who was a career diplomat before he joined politics, shares a very good rapport with the Japanese government, due to which he was able to bring in a lot of investment for Assam.

### UP anti-conversion ordinance to become law soon

Though the Opposition is preparing to vehemently oppose the passage of the Bill, the numbers in the Assembly weigh heavily in favour of BJP

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Feb 10: The ordinance on 'forced' or 'fraudulent' religious conversions, which was promulgated by the Uttar Pradesh government in November last year, will be formally passed by the state Assembly in the upcoming Budget Session Though the opposition is preparing to vehemently oppose the passage of the Bill, the numbers in the state Assembly weigh heavily in favour of the ruling party which will not have any problem in getting the Bill through. In an Assembly of 403 members, the BJP has 312 MLAs which is more than enough to see the Bill become the law.





Violence erupts in -Assam-Mizoram border

#### **PROHIBITORY ORDERS UNDER SECTION 144 CRPC CLAMPED**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hailakandi (Assam), Feb 10: Several shacks were torched and a few persons were injured in an attack by unidentified people in Hailakandi district of Assam near the state's border with Mizoram, prompting the authorities to clamp prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC in the district, an official said Wednesday

The incidents of violence and arson took place at Kachurthol under Ramnathpur police station

lic order and destroy the harmonious co-existence of all sections of society in the district," he said.

Meanwhile, Suzamuddin Laskar, the MLA of the area, has written to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Director General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta urging them to take immediate steps to instil security among the people living along the border areas from "armed aggression of the neigh bouring state".

The Katlicherra MLA claimed that around 30 people were seriously injured in the attack and about 50 houses were burnt by miscreants from the neighbouring state Tuesday night. Earlier on February 3, a school building was damaged in a powerful bomb explosion at Muliala in Hailakandi district near the Mizoram border. Tension prevailed along the Assam-Mizoram border for days in October and November last year after several people were injured in a clash between the residents of Cachar district of Assam and Mizoram's Kolasib district. A number of makeshift huts in the border area were also torched at that time

holds a Bachelor of Technology

(B.Tech) degree in Computer Science

and MBA (Master of Business

Mahant Bajrang Muni Udasin

Saints associated with Akharas

The 'kalpvasis' this year are not

cut off from the outside world

either, unlike previous years

when they lived for a month in  $\rightarrow$ 

Swadesh Maurya, 76, has brought

"It helps me remain connected

his laptop and cell phone with him.

with my family because they worry

about my well-being. Moreover, I-

also holds degrees like BBA

(Bachelor of Business

like the Kinnar Akhara are also

Administration), BA and MA.

Administration).

tech-savvy.

total isolation.

The Budget Session begins February 18 and will continue till March 10.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been advocating the law to check such religious conversions for marriage and states like Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have also brought in similar laws to counter alleged attempts to convert the Hindu women to Islam in the guise of marriage, which the right wing forces refer to as 'love jihad'.

The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020 provides for a jail term of up to 10 years for any violation.

All the offences under the ordinance shall be cognisable, nonbailable and triable by the court of sessions

The ordinance states that no person shall convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any other person from one religion to another by use or practice of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage, nor shall any person

abet, convince or conspire such conversion. If any person reconverts to their immediate previous religion, the same shall not be deemed to be a conversion under the ordinance.

Any aggrieved person, parents, brother, sister, or any relative may lodge an FIR over such a conversion. Another ordinance that will become law in the Budget Session is the one on "UP Recovery of damage to public properties".

### Makeshift tents in the Magh Mela area at Sangam on the eve of Mauni Amavasya festival in Prayagraj, Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

### Cong to launch bus yatras in Assam ahead of polls

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Guwahati, Feb 10: Ahead of Assembly polls in the state, the Assam Congress is set to launch four bus yatras named 'Axom Basaon Ahok' which will crisscross the state for two weeks, meeting voters and discussing their grievances and issues

While interacting with the media in Guwahati, Assam Pradesh **Congress Committee President** Ripun Bora said the party will reach out to every household in the state to know their sufferings and hardships in five years of the

BJP's "misrule". "We will visit every house to know problems of people they have been facing for last five years," said Bora.

According to party leaders, one yatra each will be led by Pradyut Bordoloi, chairperson of the party's campaign committee, Gaurav Gogoi, Debabrata Saikia and Sushmita Dev.

According to the party's plans, Bordoloi's bus yatra will begin from at 10 am February 12 from Bordua Satra, the birthplace of Srimant Sankardev that falls under Batadraba Assembly constituency of Nagaon district, while Saikia will kick off his bus yatra February

12 at 3 pm. Saikia, who is the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader in the Assembly shall start his bus yatra after paying homage to Piyali Phukan at his memorial in Sivasagar city.

Meanwhile, Gogoi, Congress MP from Kaliabor, will begin his yatra from Guwahati after paving tribute to great Assamese warrior and Ahom army leader Lachin Borphukan at his memorial located on banks of Brahmaputra river in state capital. He will begin his yatra at 12 pm February 13, while Dev will start her bus yatra from Silchar and will be touring the Barak valley.

Saints get tech-savvy to connect with devotees

area Tuesday night.

The situation there was tense but under control, the official said.

The authorities have beefed up security in the area where senior officials of the civil and police administrations are camping.

Apprehending further breach of public peace and tranquillity in the border areas following the incident, Additional District Magistrate RK Dam promulgated prohibitory orders under Section 144 in the district with immediate effect.

"Certain elements may take advantage of the present fragile situation to create disturbance in pub-



### Farmers' stir to boost Cong prospects in western UP

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Feb 10: In the middle of the ongoing farmers' agitation for the repeal of the three new farm laws, the Congress has been working at a fast pace to strengthen its political base

The party feels that in the western districts of Uttar Pradesh by coming out in favour of the farmer protests, it is preparing the political ground for the upcoming panchayat (civic) polls and Assembly elections

In western UP, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) is also all set to gain political mileage from the farmers' agitation, say analysts. After Mathura and Baraut, crowds thronging the panchayats in Shamli

are making other political parties restless. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) are silent, but the Congress is desperate to gain some political mileage. Wherever there is no presence of the RLD, the Congress wants to influence the farmers to-

wards it. At the same time, a strategy has also been chalked out to stop the RLD from trying to dent the Congress's traditional strongholds.

Ahead of the UP Assembly elections next year, the Congress is working to gain a major vote bank through the anti-farm laws movement by campaigning at the grassroots level in the western UP districts where the party's base is strong.

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj, Feb 10: For those who have not been able to attend the ongoing Magh Mela due to various reasons, including the corona scare, there is hope.

Saints and seers camping in the Magh Mela have started using technology to connect with their disciples.

The saints are live streaming their sermon sessions on various social media platforms.

Acharya Parmanand is among those who regularly uploads his Bhagwad Katha and Ram Katha on his Facebook page as well as YouTube channel

'The Acharya has a large number of devotees who could not make it to the Magh Mela this year due to the pandemic. They have been contacting us and so we decided to live



stream the Acharya's sermons. These sermons will remain posted and anyone can catch up with them

later." said Ajav Rai, a disciple who takes care of ensuring that the sermons are uploaded on time.

Swami Brahmashram Maharaj, national president of the Akhil Bharatiya Dandi Sanyasi Parishad, said he regularly interacts with his followers at a designated time through Skype and FaceTime.

'My devotees have innumerable questions and I solve their problems through this technology on a daily basis." he said.

Almost every camp in the Magh Mela has a laptop and a tech-savvy disciple. Messages for press conferences are sent through WhatsApp and the schedule for sermons and other religious activities are conveyed through emails and the social media

What makes adaptation of technology easier this time, is the fact that a large number of seers and saints are highly educated. For instance, Swami Pranav Puri

can attend spiritual discourses sitting in my tent," he said.













The road to fighting climate change is through climate justice. At the root of climate justice is the principle of being largehearted. Climate justice is also about thinking about the bigger and long-term picture NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

#### NURSERY ADMISSIONS IN **DELHI TO BEGIN FROM FEB 18**

The process for nursery admissions in over 1700 schools in Delhi will begin from February 18, the Directorate of Education (DoE) announced Wednesday, bringing respite for anxious parents who have been waiting for the notification for over two months



**KANGANA TO** 

**AGAINST BMC** 

WITHDRAW CASE

UTTARAKHAND TRAGEDY



Fear has pervaded the minds of the people of West Bengal and they are even afraid to talk about democracy and rule of law openly

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR WEST BENGAL GOVERNOR

Over 29 lakh people visited the "Hunar Haat" organised at Avadh Shilpgram here from January 22 to February 7 and purchased handmade products of indigenous artisans and craftsmen worth crores of rupees

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI UNION MINISTER

When I became CM in 2017 we were giving good rule. Some then tried to wean away a few of our MLAs from us. You know who that conspirator is, who tried to topple this government, break the party by dividing 18 persons

K PALANISWAMI TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Porn racket: Director held**

Mumbai: Mumbai police have arrested one more person, who directed nude films for OTT platforms, in connection with a pornographic films racket busted last week, taking the total number of those held in the case so far to nine, including an actress, an official said Wednesday. The city crime branch's property cell nabbed the ninth accused, aged 40 years, from Surat in Gujarat on Tuesday night, he said, adding the accused used to direct films that cast actors in nude and send them to OTT (Over-the-Top)

#### **Ten Nepalese** nationals held

platforms.

Mumbai: Ten Nepalese nationals have been arrested here for procuring Aadhaar udulentl

#### **FAMILIES CREATE HUGE RUCKUS** AGENCIES Raini (Uttarakhand), Feb 10: The families of workers missing from the Rishiganga hydel project

site created a ruckus here on Wednesday accusing the authorities of not carrying out the rescue operations properly after the sud-

den flood in the Alaknanda river system wreaked havoc. The kin of around 40 missing workers engaged in a heated argument with the authorities of the project for two hours, alleging lack of urgency in the rescue work. "It

is four days since the tragedy oc curred but all the focus is on restoring connectivity. Rescuing the missing people does not seem to be the priority," alleged a man from Punjab, whose brother Jugal worked at the Rishiganga hydel project.

"Jugal's phone rings when his number is dialed," he said. Rishiganga project manager Kamal Chauhan, who had to face the wrath of the families, said his help was not being taken by the administration to locate the missing. The death toll in the disaster was 34 as Tuesday with six more bodies being recov-

#### When 10 labourers lost race against floods

CHAMOLI (UTTARAKHAND): It was like a 'cat and mouse' race between life and death for a group of around 10 labourers, who were stuck at the Tapovan barrage that got washed following the deadly flash floods triggered by a snow avalanche which wreaked havoc in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Sunday morning. The labourers tried their best to flee from one spot to another in order to save their lives, but a strong flow of muddy water swept them away. These labourers are among the list of 174 persons who are still missing, while 32 bodies have been recovered so far follwoing the tragedy. The fury of the flood at the Tapovan barrage was captured in mobile phones by the locals, who witnessed the wrath of nature from some nearby hills.



Family members and relatives of missing people get in a verbal spat with officials at a makeshift enquiry centre, near Tapovan Tunnel in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand PTI PHOTO

ered during the day, officials had said as multiple agencies raced against time to reach the workers trapped inside a tunnel at the power project site and 174 people remained missing. The missing people include those working at NTPC's 480-MW Tapovan-Vishnugad project and the 13.2-MW Rishiganga Hydel Project and villagers whose homes nearby were washed away.

Singh Rawat has been constantly monitoring the relief and rescue operations

He said, "There is no shortage of daily essential commodities in the flood-hit areas, even as relief assistance is being provided to the kin of the deceased. Efforts are on to establish the identity of the bodies through collected DNA samples." At least 360 families from 13 villages in the border area were af-

#### **Drones deployed** to locate workers DEHRADUN/TAPOVAN: Using

drones and remote-sensing equipment, rescue teams intensified efforts on Wednesday to reach the 25-35 men trapped in a sludge-choked tunnel since the Uttarakhand glacier disaster three days ago and more than 170 remained missing, hopes of finding them alive fading with every passing hour. The multiagency rescue operation at the NTPC hydel project site has been going on uninterrupted since Sunday, when a possible glacier break in the upper reaches of the Himalayas triggered an avalanche and floods in the Alaknanda river system, with no breakthrough in sight, officials said.

fected following the disruption in road links due to the catastrophe.Except for Pang and Murada, which remained as the the worst affected villages in Uttarakhand. power has been restored in all the remaining 11 villages.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Feb 10: In a surprise development, Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut has decided to unconditionally withdraw her suit against the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation over a 2018 demolition notice pertaining to certain illegalities effected in her properties in a Khar building.

'She has decided to withdraw the suit in the next four days and has informed the Bombav High Court accordingly," her lawyer Rizwan Siddique told IANS on Wednesday.

He said this case was related to her property in Orchid Breeze building in Khar in which the BMC had served a demolition notice in 2018 for certain unauthorised constructions.

Instead of pursuing the suit in the high court, Ranaut will apply for regularisation of the structure as per the BMC rules within four weeks. The BMC on its part will expeditiously take a decision on her application for regularisation as per the court orders. However, in case the BMC order goes against her, then the actress would get two weeks' time to approach the court again, despite strong opposition by BMC counsel Aspi Chinoy.

To a query by Justice P. K. Chavan to Ranaut's lawyer Birendra Saraf whether the withdrawal was conditional or not, he said it was unconditional

#### **CENTRAL VISTA** PROJECT

#### **IGNCA**, National Museum to be shifted

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Blocks.

New Delhi, Feb 10: As part of the Central Vista project, prestigious institutions like the National Museum and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, located in central Delhi, will be

### 'Centre to upscale vaccination sites'

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 10: In a massive capacity building exercise ahead of the Covid-19 vaccination roll out for the people above 50 years, the central government will be increas-

ing the number of inoculation sites to 75,000 in a couple of weeks from now, said Dr N.K Arora, Head, **Operations Research** Group, National COVID-19 Task Force. Arora, who was

speaking at a virtual event Wednesday said that the move is aligned with the government's intent to

vaccinate over 50 lakh people everyday. "In the next couple of weeks, the number of immunisation centres will be increased from 50,000

to 75,000 and we would be able to vaccinate about 5 to 7 million people everyday," he said.

Arora added that the country has the capacity to inoculate 1 crore people everyday. "We have the capacity to vaccinate 10 million in-

the CoWIN application.

dividuals per day," he said

More than 36,000 vaccination sites would be needed to reach the figure as shared by Arora. Currently, the government is running the nationwide Covid immunisation programme through 38,445 vaccination centres across 28 states

and eight Union Territories (UTs), which are being expanded regularly as per the data extracted from





An artist gives final touches to a Saraswati idol ahead of the Basant Panchami festival, in Agartala UNI PHOTO



police said Wednesday. Unit-11 of the Mumbai police's crime branch on February 2 had arrested an operator and agent of an Aadhaar card facilitation centre in suburban Borivali, an official said. During interrogation, the investigators found that they had helped foreign nationals including those from Nepal and Bangladesh and also some Non Resident Indians (NRIs) obtain Aadhaar cards by using bogus documents.

#### Nitish likely to meet PM today

New Delhi: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar arrived in Delhi Wednesday and is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday. It will be the first meeting between Modi and Kumar after the latter was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar in November last year.

#### ED arrests CMD of Kerala firm

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New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday said it has arrested the chairmancum-managing director of a Kerala-based company in a money laundering probe linked to an alleged cheating case. CMD of Thrissur-based BRD group, William Verghese, was arrested under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and he was sent to seven days Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody by an Ernakulam court Tuesday. The agency had booked Verghese after taking cognisance of over a hundred Kerala Police FIRs registered against him and others on the charge of cheating numerous investors. Ganga water 'unsafe' for use: NGT

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: Innocent citizens drink Ganga water out of reverence without knowing the harmful contents and the least expected from the authorities is to notify the extent of harmful contents at appropriate locations including at Ganga Sagar in West Bengal, the National Green Tribunal said Wednesday.

The green panel said steps are required to be taken on "war footing" by authorities in preventing water pollution in Ganga. It said that control of pollution of river Ganga needs to be taken seriously at all levels in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. "In absence thereof, Representative image

every Indian will remain unfulfilled," the NGT said. "Out of reverence for the Ganga water, innothe desired result of rejuvenation cent citizens drink the same of river Ganga which is dream of without knowing the harmful con-

tents including high level of faecal coliform.

"Least expected from the authorities, till satisfactory results are shown, is to notify the extent of harmful contents at appropriate locations including at Ganga Sagar to avoid adverse health effects," a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said.

The tribunal said that though certain steps have been taken, the compliance summary filed by National Mission for Clean Ganga shows that with respect to various projects, the matter is still at the tender/DPRs (Detail Project Reports) stage and progress in completing the ongoing projects in a timely manner remains a challenge, inspite of availability of funds, supported by the Government of India initiatives.

### Farmers announce 'rail roko' Feb 18

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 10: Protesting farmers Wednesday announced a four-hour nationwide rail blockade February 18 as they renewed their strategy to intensify their agitation, which also included a candle march on February 14 in the memory of those killed in the 2019 Pulwama terrorist attack.

In a statement, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, which is spearheading the protest, also said toll collection will not be allowed in Rajasthan from February 12 as part of their week-long protest strategy. The SKM said in the statement that in a meeting on Wednesday farmer unions decided to escalate their agitation.

"There will be a 'rail roko' programme across the country from 12 pm to 4 pm on February 18," the SKM said. Earlier this month, the protesting farmers had observed a

three-hour road blockade to press their demand of repealing the three laws

SKM leader Darshan Pal said candle marches, 'Mashaal Juloos' (torch marches) and other programmes will be held across the country on February 14 in respect of the sacrifices of the 40 CRPF personnel who were killed in a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama on February 14,2019

He said the farmers also will hold events in a show of solidarity on the birth anniversary of Sir Chhotu Ram -- who was one of the most prominent pre-partition farmer leaders -- on February 16. The announcements by the protesting unions comes on a day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the government and Parliament have great respect for farmers who are voicing their views on the three farm laws.

shifted to other locations. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) will be set up in a new building to be built on the Jamnagar House plot while the National Museum will be shifted to the North and South

The National Museum that show cases artefacts associated with the history and cultural heritage of the last 5,000 years in India is located on Janpath in New Delhi. It operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture. Similarly, the Ministry of Culture also oversees the IGNCA since 1985. In 1987, the centre was made an autonomous body. Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (Independent Charge) Hardeep Singh Puri told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that as part of the Central Vista project, the heritage building of the National Archives will be retained there while the National Museum will be relocated to the contiguous North and South Blocks.

## Indian Navy undertaking mega exercise in Indian Ocean Region

The exercise is taking place at a time China has been making increasing forays into the Indian Ocean Region as part of its offensive military manoeuvre

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: The Indian Navy is carrying out a mega war game involving almost all operational assets like warships, submarines and aircraft over a vast geographical expanse in the Indian Ocean Region to test the force's combat readiness in a complex multi-dimensional scenario, offi-

cials said Wednesday. The biennial 'Theatre Level **Operational Readiness Exercise** (TROPEX)' aims to validate the Navy's offensive as well as defence capabilities and safeguard national interests in the maritime domain besides promoting peace and stability

in the Indian Ocean, they said. "Indian Navy's largest war game,

the biennial TROPEX 21, which commenced in early January is currently underway with participation of all operational units of Indian Navy including ships, submarines, aircraft as well as units of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force

and Coast Guard." the Navy said. It said the exercise will culminate by the third week of February. The exercise is taking place at a time China has been making increasing forays into the Indian Ocean region as part of its offensive military manoeuvre. "The exercise is being conducted over a vast geographical expanse in the Indian Ocean Region including its adjunct waters and is aimed at testing combat readiness of the Navy in a complex multi-dimensional scenario



geo strategic environment," the Navy said in a statement.

It said the conduct of TROPEX is being overseen by the Naval headquarters with participation from all

three commands of the Indian Navy and the tri-services command at Port Blair. As part of the first phase of the exercise, the Indian Navy along with other stakeholders held a two-day mega drill in January covering the country's 7,516 km coastline

and exclusive economic zone. The 'Sea Vigil' exercise from January 12-13 was billed as India's largest coastal defence drill and it was aimed at validating the coastal defence setup which was revamped after the 26/11 terror attack. "Valuable lessons emerging from the exercise are being incorporated in the existing procedures to further fine-tune the coastal defence architecture of the country," the Navy said. "Exercise Sea Vigil was followed by a large-scale tri-service joint amphibious exercise AM-PHEX-21, which was conducted in the Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands from January 21-25," it said.

integrity of its island territories and enhance operational synergy and joint warfighting capabilities amongst the three services, the Navy said. "The weapon workup phase of TROPEX, which concluded recently, witnessed multiple 'ontarget' ordnance deliveries including missiles, torpedoes and rockets from frontline warships, aircraft and submarines and demonstrated the lethal firepower of the Indian Navy," the Navy said.

bilities to safeguard the territorial

It said the 'weapon workout' phase also reaffirmed the Navy's capability to carry out long range maritime strikes in the Indian Ocean Region, a capability that is central to meet-ing operational challenges and ensuring safe seas and secure coasts.





The amphibious exercise was

aimed at validating India's capa-







Only 9.017 of the 33,185 Covid-19 beneficiaries in the state have taken the shots, and none has reported any adverse effect following immunisation AMAN WAR | DIRECTOR, HEALTH SERVICES, MEGHALAYA

#### MAN WANTED IN RED FORT VIOLENCE HELD

A man wanted in connection with the violence at the Red Fort on Republic Day was arrested by Delhi Police from Punjab, officials said



Akhilesh's quota

panchayats ends

formula in UP

### uote

The Mamata Banerjee government has done nothing for the welfare of farmers and the tribals. The people of the state have been deprived of the Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme and the farmers are not getting benefits of PM-Kisan

JP NADDA PRESIDENT, BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

The country needs his political

sagacity and commitment, and am sure he will be blessed with many more years of service to the nation

HD DEVE GOWDA FORMER PM OF INDIA

What have you done when you were MP in Raiva Sabha for nearly 20 years and as member from Puducherry in Lok Sabha for five years to persuade the Centre for

statehood for Puducherry? A NAMASSIVAYAM MLA, PONDICHERRY

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Goa to slash traffic fines

Panaji: The Goa government is considering softening the impact of the amended Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, which mandates hefty fines and penalties for traffic violators. In the wake of severe criticism of the poor road infrastructure as well as the Goa Legislative Assembly elections slated for early next year, the state government has decided to revise the traffic rules, sources said. The Transport minister has said that the state rules for the amended MV norms would be put in place soon, but fines imposed would be the minimum as prescribed under the amended legislation.

#### 19-yr-old digital stalker arrested

New Delhi: A complaint by a minor girl, who alleged that an Instagram handle run by a

# **Bhima-Koregaon accused seeks SIT probe**

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Feb 10: One of the prime accused in the sensitive Bhima-Koregaon case, Rona J. Wilson has moved the Bombay High Court demanding a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe fake evidences planted into his computer and dismissal of the case against him, here Wednesday.

The plea has been filed through his lawyer R. Sathyanarayanan and comes in the wake of a report by a US-based digital forensic firm Arsenal Consulting which has said that a Wilson's laptop was hacked and 10 letters planted in it prior to his arrest.

These letters were used by the Pune Police and later the National Investigation Agency as the basis of their evidence against Wilson and other activists arrested in the famous Bhima-Koregaon case.

Arsenal Consulting claimed that not only was Wilson's computer 'attacked and compromised' from June 13, 2016 for over 22 months, but similar malware attacks were made on even other accused in other highprofile Indian cases

The hacker, who has not been identified, had used the malware to create hidden folders where the 10 incriminating letters were sent using an advanced version of MS Word which was not available on Wilson's laptop.

The US firm's report further said that it found no evidence suggesting that Wilson ever interacted with the top 10 most important documents used to prosecute him, and said he had in fact never opened

While making the series of sen-

those documents.



- The plea comes in the wake of a report by a US-based digital forensic firm Arsenal Consulting which has said that a Wilson's laptop was hacked
- Arsenal Consulting claimed Wilson's computer was 'attacked and compromised' from June 13, 2016 for over 22 months
- It added that similar malware attacks were made on even other accused in other high-profile Indian cases

sational arrests in nationwide raids during 2018, the Pune Police had contended that among other things, the accused were hatching a conspiracy to assassinate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and overthrow the legitimately elected government.

When questioned on this, Bharatiya Janata Party Leader of Opposition, Devendra Fadnavis who was Chief Minister at the relevant time - guardedly denied knowledge on this, but said that there was clinching evidence available on the 'Urban Naxals' case.

He said that the Supreme Court has declined them bail owing to the strong evidence but preferred further comments as the matter is sub-judice

Wilson was among over two dozen accused nabbed from all over India for their alleged links with Maoist elements, for inflammatory speeches during the Bhima-Koregaon battle's 200th anniversary on Jan. 1, 2018, which resulted in caste riots the following day which claimed at least one life.

They were charged with 'waging war against the nation', spread the

In Jan. 2020, the Bhima-

Koregaon and the related Elgar Parishas cases were handed over by the BJP at the Centre to the NIA despite strong opposition by the newlyelected Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress.

#### Smells fishy

The report shows that the hacker initially carried out surveillance and later delivered 52 documents which were stored in a hidden folder called 'Rbackup.' The last document was added just a day before Wilson's house was searched and his laptop

was seized, on April 17, 2018. The laboratory was asked to investigate 10 of the 52 documents in 'Rbackup' by the American Bar Association after Wilson's defence team was handed over a clone copy of his hard drive, in November 2019. This was a year after the chargesheet in the case was filed. "It should be noted that this is one of the most serious cases involving evidence tampering that Arsenal has ever encountered, based on various metrics



ments. Arsenal has said in the report. The report further shows that the folder in which most of the incriminating material has

been allegedly found. was neither opened by Wilson nor was it ever opened on his computer legitimately. The hacker also synchronised these documents in such a way that they would get planted in any external memory device connected to the laptop, the petition states. "That though the report drawn by Arsenal aims at examining only ten specific documents, a perusal of their report

will bear out that it has found out existence of malware which has made material changes in the content of the system without Petitioner (Wilson) even getting a hint of it," it reads

Lucknow, Feb 10: The Yogi Adityanath government has annulled the 2015 reservation order of the previous Akhilesh Yaday government, which rendered null and void the prevailing rotational seat reservation in rural local bod-

AGENCIES

1.74

ies. The decision was approved by the state cabinet Tuesday evening. According to the government spokesman, the then Samajwadi Party government had introduced the 10th amendment in the Panchayati Raj Rule to set aside reservation in seats. It had also conducted delimitation of the Gram Panchayats, Kshetra and Zila Panchayats in 71 districts, leaving four districts -- Gonda, Moradabad, Gautam Buddh Nagar

and Sambhal -- out of the purview. The Yogi cabinet has now mandated reservation of seats on a rotational basis which was in practice before 2015. The state cabinet has thus set the stage for a fresh rollout in the seat reservation.

The cabinet also approved delimitation of four districts which were left untouched in 2015. "The state government decided to restore reservation in seats as rotational quota is a continuous process and cannot be set aside,' the official said.

The order issued by the Panchayati Raj department notified reservation in all 75 districts. Now, the state government would be seeking objections from respective districts before the quota rollout. The process, sources said, would take at least one month time.

#### AP PANCHAYAT POLLS

YSRCP sweeps -1st phase with '80 pc of seats'

AGENCIES

### NCW: Verdict on 'skin-to-skin' touch perverse interpretation

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 10: The Supreme Court Wednesday agreed to examine a plea by the National Commission for Women (NCW) challenging the controversial verdict of the Bombay High Court acquitting a 39-year-old man accused of groping a 12-year-old girl over her dress while stating there was no skin-to-skin contact. The NCW

bench headed by CJI SA

ng NCW, why eparate plea v ready stayed the ourt verdict and t cused is in jail

## ection 10 of the NCV

SC stays order on gadgets, internet for poor students

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 10: The Supreme Court Wednesday staved the Delhi High Court verdict directing private unaided schools, along with Kendriya Vidyalayas, to provide gadgets and internet packages to students from economically weaker section (EWS) for online classes amid the pandemic.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and comprising Justices Bopanna and V.





said the tuition fee does not include the cost of gadgets and internet package, and this should be

ety, etc.

(Maoist) groups, inciting caste conflicts and hatred in soci-

#### the ideology of banned CPI Rona J. Wilson

stalker was morphing her pictures and the man was demanding her nude photos led to the arrest of a 19-yearold youth from Haryana's Faridabad district, said police Wednesday. The accused Rahim Khan confessed to his crime and revealed that he had similarly blackmailed more than 50 girls and women across India.

#### **UP Board exams** from April 24

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UPMSP) Wednesday announced the dates for Classes 10 and 12 board examinations 2021. Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, who announced the exam schedule, said the UPMSP board exams would begin April 24 and end May 12.

termed this verdict as a "perverse interpretation of physical contact."

A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde asked senior advocate Geeta Luthra, representing NCW, why should the court entertain a separate plea when it has already stayed the High Court verdict and the accused is in jail. Luthra argued that Section 10 of the NCW Act provides that the commission should move court if there is either miscarriage of justice or wrong interpretation of law.

"If such a perverse interpretation of physical contact is allowed, it will adversely impact the basic rights of women, who are victims of sexual offences in the society and will undermine the beneficial statutory safeguards prescribed under various legislations aimed at protecting the interests of women," said NCW's plea filed through advocates Shivani Luthra Lohiya and Nitin Saluja. At the outset, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal submitted before the bench, also comprising

Justices A.S. Bopanna and V.



Ramasubramanian that the top court had already stayed the High Court verdict January 27 and several new petitions have been filed in the matter. The top court issued notice to Maharashtra government on NCW's plea and also issued notice to the accused in the case on a separate plea filed by Maharashtra against the verdict. The commission said it is ag-

grieved by this order, and the perverse interpretation adopted by the High Court that the term 'physical contact' in Section 7, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) means only 'skin-to-

skin touch'. Clarifying Section 7, NCW said if an accused touches a victim (or

a victim's body part) with sexual intent then the act of "sexual assault" is complete, and there can be no further classification of contact. i.e. skin-to-skin contact.

"The Impugned Order has trivialised the provision provided by the framers of the enactment for the safety and security of women and children. Therefore, the observations made by the High Court ought to be set aside, otherwise the safety of young girls and women in general will be severely jeopardised," contended the plea.

Other petitioners, Youth Bar Association of India and Bharativa Stree Shakti, withdrew their pleas against the High Court verdict.

Ramasubramanian said: "Issue notice. In the meantime, there shall be stay of operation of the impugned order of the High Court.

The Delhi government had moved the top court challenging the High Court's September 18 2020 order, delivered on the petition of NGO Justice for All.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing the Delhi government, submitted that the High Court verdict has imposed an additional burden on the government.

"We are already spending a lot on the education front," he argued.

The bench, while observing the top court had earlier delivered a verdict on a similar issue in a case arising out of Himachal Pradesh. asked Singh to bring on record that verdict too.

The High Court had said the tuition fee does not include the cost of gadgets and internet package, and this should be provided free of cost to these students by the schools. Later, the private unaided schools could

#### provided free of cost to these students by the schools

claim reimbursement from the state in accordance with provision of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act. 2009. Justice for All moved the High

Court seeking directions to the Centre and the Delhi government to provide free laptops, tablets or mobile phones to students from economically weaker background to access online classes.

The High Court had observed that if school decides to voluntarily provide online education, "they will have to ensure that the students belonging to economically weaker section or disadvantaged group category also have access and are able to avail the same".

"Segregation in education is a denial of equal protection of the laws under Article 14 of the Constitution and in particular the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009," the High Court said.

Amaravati, Feb 10: Panchayat election contestants aligned to the ruling Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) have captured the most number of sarpanch posts in the just concluded first phase of panchayat elections.

Amid conflicting claims by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janasena, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, advisor to the state government claimed that the ruling party won more than 80 per cent seats. According to the ruling party's calculations, by 1 a.m. Wednesday, YSRCP aligned contestants won 2,329 of the 3,249 sarpanch elections in 12 districts. Reddy mocked TDP leaders al-

leging that they were celebrating loss and called it a strange development. "Only Chandrababu has the sobriquet of being a backstabber in this world. TDP is on ventilator, accept your defeat with grace Chandrababu," said Reddy.

### 1.7L people lost jobs every hour last April

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 10: While the wealth of nation's top 100 billionaires increased by Rs 12.97 lakh crore since March 2020, about 1.7 lakh people lost their jobs every hour in April 2020 alone.

Oxfam India's CEO Amitabh Behar says, "To contextualise the inequity in what is the biggest economic crisis in the history of independent India, the wealth of the nation's top 100 billionaires went up by Rs 12,97,822 crores since March 2020, while in April alone over 1,70,000 people lost their jobs every hour. Just this increase in wealth could sustain the NREGA wages (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) for 10 years!

Behar says that over 40-50 million



seasonal migrants working in conantined in hotels, it was only at the struction sites, factory manufacend of May 2020, that buses and turing units and services activities Shramik special trains were were left to fend for themselves durarranged for the relocation of miing the 2020 lockdown. grant workers," he said

'While affluent Indians stranded The India edition of Oxfam's abroad were flown back and quarnewly released report 'The

#### **INEQUALITY VIRUS**

Wealth of the nation's top 100 billionaires went up by ₹12,97,822 crores since March 2020

#### Just this increase in wealth could sustain the NREGA wages for 10 years

Inequality Virus', elucidates how amid spiralling unemployment, dire food insecurity, distress migration as well as reverse migration, the super-rich elite continued to amass wealth while billions struggled to make ends meet.

The findings in 'Inequality Virus' reports say that the pandemic has hit India's informal workers the most. Out of a total 122 million who lost their jobs, 75 percent, which accounts for 92 million jobs, were lost in the informal sector.

During the mass exodus on foot, over 300 informal workers died from starvation, suicides, exhaustion, road and rail accidents, police brutality and denial of timely medical care.

According to a Stranded Workers Action Network's report in April, 2020, 50 percent of the respondents had no rations left even for a single day; while 96 percent had not received rations, 70 percent had not received cooked food from the government; and 78 percent of the respondents had less than INR 300 left.

The National Human Rights Commission recorded over 2582 cases of human rights violation as early as in the month of April 2020.

### Man involved in Kasganj cop killing shot dead in encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kasganj (UP), Feb 10: The brother of a liquor mafia kingpin whose associates had allegedly killed a police constable and injured a sub-inspector was gunned down in an encounter here early Wednesday, an official said

"Elkar and others were surrounded by a police team on the banks of Kali river and in the exchange of fire, he was injured. He was taken to a CHC in Sidhpur where he died," Superintendent of Police, Kasganj, Manoj Sonkar said. Elkar, a resident of Nagla Dhimar village in the Sidhpura area here, was earlier booked under the Excise Act and was involved in spurious liquor trade with brother Moti Dhimar and others, police said.

Sonkar said Elkar's accomplices managed to escape during the encounter and police are on the lookout to trace them. A constable was beaten to death and a sub-inspector seriously injured when a police team went to Nagla Dheemar village to serve a warrant to liquor mafia kingpin Dhimar Tuesday evening. Dhimar and his associates caught them and severely thrashed them, resulting in the death of constable Devendra, District Magistrate Chandraprakash Singh had said.

Sub-inspector Ashok Kumar, who was injured in the attack, is undergoing treatment at a hospital, he added. Following the incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had directed officials to take stern actionagainst the culprits under the National Security Act.







### **P10 OrissaPOST** THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 11 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR international

**Deeper trading ties with** India will create opportunities for UK businesses that were simply not there as part of the EU, and set the stage for a much closer partnership with one of the economic powerhouses of the present and future LIZ TRUSS | INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARY, UK

#### **PAK TO BEGIN COVID VAX**

The Covid-19 vaccination of Pakistan's senior citizens aged above 65 years will begin next month. Asad Umar, chief of anticovid NCOC. tweeted that the government will begin the registration process next week



### uote

Broadly speaking, we have expressed our concerns regarding the need for full transparency and

access from China and the WHO to all information regarding the earliest days of the pandemic NED PRICE SPOKESPERSON, STATE

DEPARTMENT, US

We are stil not where we want to be. We were late to authorize. We were too optimistic when it came to massive

production and perhaps we were too confident that, what we ordered, would actually be delivered on time

URSULA VON DER LEYEN PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

As for India's bid for permanent membership to the UNSC. I can reiterate China's principled

position on this issue. China supports UNSC reforms in a manner that increases the authority and efficacy of the UNSC. increases the representation and voice of developing countries

WANG WENBIN SPOKESPERSON (FOREIGN MINISTRY), CHINA

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Turkey unveils** space program

Ankara: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan unveiled an ambitious 10-year space programme for his country Tuesday that includes missions to the moon, sending Turkish astronauts into space and developing internationally viable satellite systems. Erdogan announced the programme, seen as part of his vision for placing Turkey in expanded regional and global role, during a live televised event laced with special effects.

#### Australian court extends detention

as WHO-China probe ends AGENCIES

#### Beijing. Feb 10: China called on the United States Wednesday to invite the World Health Organization to investigate origins of the Covid-19 outbreak there, as sparring over the pandemic continued after the WHO wrapped up its field work in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

Hours after the WHO team revealed preliminary findings at a Wuhan news conference Tuesday, Washington said it wants to scrutinize data used by the team, which concluded that the virus causing COVID-19 did not originate in a laboratory in Wuhan, and that bats remain a likely source.

We wish that the US side can, like China, uphold an open and transparent attitude, and be able to invite WHO experts to the U.S. to conduct origin tracing research and inspection," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular daily briefing, repeating a call it has been making recently.

The origins of the coronavirus pandemic, which first emerged in Wuhan in late 2019, are highly politicised, with China pushing the idea that the virus has roots outside its

borders White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Tuesday that the Biden administration had not been involved in the "planning and implementation" of the WHO investigation and wants to take an in-

dependent review of its findings and underlying data. "The US independently examining the WHO's data? It's the WHO



The origins of the coronavirus pandemic, which first emerged in Wuhan in late 2019, are highly politicised, with China pushing the idea that the virus has roots

**Covid origins still a mystery** 

outside its borders who should examine the US data," said Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of the Global Times, a tabloid run by the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, on social media

platform Weibo. "Did we all mishear, or is this spokesperson really so shameless?" Peter Ben Embarek, who heads

the WHO-led team that spent four weeks in China - two of them in quarantine - said that the investigation had not dramatically changed

its picture of the outbreak, although

the virus could have crossed borders before arriving in Wuhan.

In addition to ruling out a lab leak, he said that frozen food could possibly be a means of transmitting the virus, which would support a thesis backed by Beijing, which has blamed some case clusters on imported food packaging.

The WHO's conclusion "completely refutes the conspiracy theory raised by some anti-China hawks, like former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, who has been accusing the Wuhan Institute of Virology of leaking the virus,' the Global Times wrote.

Pompeo had said there was "a significant amount of evidence" that the new coronavirus emerged from a Chinese laboratory.

Chinese officials have stressed in recent months that the virus could have emerged in multiple regions outside China.

### US Senate clears Trump's impeachment trial

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Feb 10: Six Republican Senators joined their Democratic colleagues in the United States Senate to vote Tuesday that the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump is constitutional.

The Senate confirmed the constitutionality of Trump's impeachment trial by 56-44 votes following presentation from both sides-House impeachment managers and lawyers representing the former president - paving the way for the historic impeachment trial of the 45th President of the United States who left office January 20.

From Wednesday onwards, each of the two sides - the House impeachment managers and Trump lawvers - would have up to 16 hours to present their case before the 100member Senate for them to vote on the impeachment of Trump days later.

Both the Republicans and the Democrats have 50 members each. To impeach Trump, the Senate needs to vote the House impeachment motion by 67 votes. It means the Democrats will need 11 more Republicans to the six they already have to impeach Trump. Political analysts said that it is unlikely to happen and the former president will likely be acquitted. The six Republican Senators who supported the Democrats were Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Mitt Romney, Ben Sasse, Bill Cassidy and Pat Toomey. Trump's impeachment trial is slated to begin Wednesday noon.

Earlier, the House impeachment



DONALD TRUMP IS THE ONLY US PRESIDENT TO BE IMPEACHED TWICE

CURRENT PRESIDENT JO BIDEN HAS REFRAINED FROM SPEAKING ABOUT THE TRIAL

**6**REPUBLICANS VOTED IN FAVOUR OF TRUMP'S IMPEACHMENT

managers started the debate on the constitutionality of the impeachment by showing footage of the Capitol Hill riots January 6. "If that's not an impeachable offense, then there is no such thing." said Lead House Impeachment Manager Jamie Raskin.

Trump's attorneys David Schoen and Bruce Castor argued that impeaching a former president when he is a private citizen is unconstitutional. They warned the Democrats were setting a wrong precedent. Media reports said that Trump was dissatisfied with the defense by his lawyers.

#### **EU lawmakers** approve \$815bn recovery programme

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Feb 10: European Union (EU) lawmakers Wednesday approved a 672.5 billion euro (\$815 billion) recovery package of loans and grants to help member nations recover more quickly from the coronavirus pandemic, but countries will not receive the money for several months.

The European Parliament voted 582-40, with 69 abstentions, in favor of the regulation for the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the central pillar of the the bloc's 750 billion euro (\$910 billion) recovery plan. The leaders of the EU's 27 nations adopted the RRF last year



To receive their share of the money, which is linked to respecting the rule of law. EU members must submit their plans for the funds by the end of April. Each plan has to have at least 37% of its budget dedicated to fighting climate change and at least 20% to improving digital transformation and other actions.

"In the long-term, this money is going to bring about change and progress to meet our digital and climate goals," Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, a lawmaker closely involved in the negotiations, said. "We will ensure that the measures will alleviate poverty and unemployment, and will take into account the gender dimension of this crisis. Our health systems

will also become more resilient.' So far, 18 nations have submitted their draft plans to the European Commission, which is in charge of assessing them.

#### **20 UN peacekeepers** injured in central Mali terror attack

#### AGENCIES

Dakar, Feb 10: An attack on a United Nations base in central Mali has injured at least 20 peacekeepers, the UN mission spokesman said Wednesday. The temporary UN Base in Kerena. near Douentza, was the target of direct and indirect fire early Wednesday morning, Olivier Salgado said in a statement Twitter

### 'US to stand by India in face of Chinese aggression'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Feb 10: In the face of China's aggressive actions against India, the US will stand with New Delhi, according to State Department spokesperson Ned Price.

an area that has seen aggressive actions by China against countries

there. "India is one of the most important partners in the Indo-Pacific region to us. We welcome India's emergence as a leading global power and its role as a net security provider



Canberra: Australia's highest court Wednesday upheld a law that can keep extremists in prison after they have served their sentences. Five of the seven High Court judges dismissed a constitutional challenge by convicted terrorist Abdul Benbrika who remains in a Victoria state prison despite his 15-year sentence expiring in November last year. The 60-year-old Muslim cleric is the first to be incarcerated by a so-called continuing detention order based on an anti-terror law created in 2017.

#### Myanmar protesters back on streets

#### Yangon: Crowds

demonstrating against the military takeover in Myanmar again defied a ban on protests Wednesday, even after security forces ratcheted up the use of force against them and raided the headquarters of the political party of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi Fresh protests were reported in Yangon and Mandalay, the country's two biggest cities, as well as the capital Naypyitaw and elsewhere.

#### **Explosions in Kabul** kill two, wound five

Kabul: A chain of bomb explosions targeting Kabul police Wednesday killed a district police chief and his bodyguard, and also wounded five people, officials said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts, which were all caused by so-called sticky bombs, explosive devices attached to vehicles that are remotely detonated or set off by timers.

'We are concerned by Be pattern of ongoing attempts to intimidate its neighbours. As always, we'll stand with friends, we'll stand with partners, we'll stand with allies to advance our shared pros-

perity, security, and values in, in this case, the Indo-Pacific. Price said Tuesday during a

press briefing. Asked about the new admin-

istration's position on China's growing aggressiveness towards India, Price said that the US is monitoring the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) where China has intruded on Indian territory, leading to clashes between the militaries of the two countries.

'We note the ongoing talks between the governments of India and China, and we continue to support direct dialogue and a peaceful resolution of those border disputes," he said. Price stressed the importance

of cooperation between India and the US in the Indo-Pacific region,

in the region.' Price was asked whether

Secretary of State Antony Blinken had brought up the human rights issues over which several Democratic Party leaders, including Vice President

Kamala Harris and Indian-American House of Representatives member Pramila Jayapal, have

raised concerns. Without giving a direct response, the spokesman said: "What I can say, and this applies not only to India but to every partner of ours across the board, we are committed to supporting democratic values, including a free and open civil society and the strong rule of law.

"We regularly engage with the government of India, including, as you referenced and I alluded to, today, on our shared commitment to democratic values. We believe it's the bedrock for the US-India relationship."



One of the two eighteen-month-old twin pandas plays in snow at Pairi Daiza zoo in Brugelette, Belgium

### Thai protesters take to streets

REUTERS

Bangkok, Feb 10: Hundreds of Thai protesters gathered in Bangkok on Wednesday to demand the release of four activists remanded in custody pending trial on charges of insulting Thailand's king, a crime punishable by 15 years in prison.

Many protesters banged pots and pans, borrowing from nightly displays of discontent in neighbouring Myanmar at last week's coup, while some held Myanmar flags to show support for the country's pro-democracy movement.

The Bangkok demonstration had originally been organised to show

solitary with protesters in Myanmar, but it morphed into calls to change or end the strict "lese majeste" law after the four activists were detained on Tuesday.

Police in riot gear briefly scuffled with protesters when activists marched near a police station. A smoke canister was seen on the ground near the protest site.

"If we come out to the streets in the hundreds of thousands, we can reform monarchy," protest leader Panusaya "Rung' Sithijirawattanakul said.

Youth-led protests in Thailand last year broke traditional taboos by openly calling for reform of the

powerful monarchy and the denial of bail for the four protest leaders prosecuted for royal insults has enraged activists.

About 1,000 protesters had gathered by nightfall, some holding signs that said "free our friends" and "abolish 112", referring to the article of the criminal code that covers royal insults. Others struck metal pans bearing the numbers 112

Some 44 opposition lawmakers earlier Wednesday submitted a proposal to amend the article.

Peacekeepers and soldiers. Protest leaders declared the rally Attacks by jihadists in northern a resumption of last year's street Mali this year have also killed at least five UN Peacekeepers. demonstrations

REUTERS

UN agencies press EU over rising migrant pushback cases

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Feb 10: UN agencies are pressing the European Union to end the growing practices of denying migrants their right to apply for asylum, collectively expulsing them and using violence against people trying to enter the bloc without authorisation.

Border pushbacks and collective expulsions are illegal under international refugee treaties, which allow people fearing for their safety to apply for protection. Greece and even the EU's border and coast guard agency Frontex are among those accused of pushbacks or complicity in them.

They deny using such methods. The International Organisation for Migration said Wednesday that it continues to receive documented reports of human rights violations against migrants and refugees, including children, involving countries that are part of the 27-nation bloc. "The use of excessive force and

violence against civilians is un-justifiable," IOM Chief of Staff Eugenio Ambrosi said. He said the sovereignty of EU countries "including their competence to maintain the integrity of their borders must be aligned with their obligations under international law and respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all.

The IOM, which receives EU funds for its work in countries around the Mediterranean and North Africa. said it welcomed a series of investigations launched to get to the bot-



tom of the pushback cases. Late last month, the UN refugee agency also warned that the right to asylum is "under attack" at Europe's borders and it called on

countries to investigate and stop illegal pushbacks and expulsions. The UNHCR said new migrant arrivals to the EU continue to decline each year, with 95,000 arrivals by sea

order pushbacks and Scollective expulsions are egal under international refugee treaties, which allow people fearing for their safety to apply for protection

he International Organisation for Migration, which receives EU funds for its work in countries around the Mediterranean and North Africa, said it welcomed a series of investigations launched to get to the bottom of the pushback cases

he UNHCR said new migrant arrivals to the EU continue to decline each year, with 95,000 arrivals by sea and land last year a decrease of 23%

and land last year -- a decrease of 23% compared to 2019 and by onethird compared to 2018, when more than 141,000 people arrived.

Last month, Frontex announced it was ceasing work in Hungary until the nationalist government there brings its laws into line with a ruling by the EU's top court that the country is denying people entering without authorization the right to apply for asylum and unlawfully detaining them in "transit zones."

The rising number of pushback allegations comes at an embarrassing time, as the European Commission struggles to win unanimous support among EU nations for its new Pact on Migration and Asylum, which is meant to revamp the bloc's dysfunctional asylum laws.







Secretary-General for Mali and

head of the mission there,

Mahamat Saleh Annadif, "strongly

condemns this cowardly attack

on the peacekeepers and has en-

sured that all measures are taken

to ensure that the wounded re-

ceive appropriate treatment,'

Salgado said. No group has claimed

responsibility for the attack, but

Islamic extremists linked to al-

Qaida and the Islamic State group

stage regular attacks on U.N.



AGENCIES



There is no proposal to bring in changes in FDI norms for the ecommerce sector SOM PARKASH MOS FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

#### **BPCL TO BUYOUT OMAN OIL STAKE**

Privatisation-bound Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) Wednesday said it will buyout **Oman Oil Company's shares** in the Bina refinery project for about Rs 2,400 crore



### uote

In the last two months, there has been a lot of positivity with offices opening and people stepping out although with a lot

of caution. We have seen our business improving and we expect by end of March 2022, our business will be twice of pre-Covid levels

ARAVIND SANKA CO-FOUNDER, RAPIDO



It has been our constant endeavour to create benchmarks

of innovation and build camera technology for the future. This exclusive partnership makes us the first Indian short video platform to bring Snap's innovative Camera Kit technology

GAURAV MISHRA VP (PRODUCT), SHARECHAT

to India

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **PNB inks deal** with Indian Oil

New Delhi: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) Wednesday said it has inked a pact with Indian Oil Corporation to provide up to Rs 2 crore to the oil company's dealers. Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a MoU with India Oil Corporation Ltd to cater to the financing needs of the IndianOil dealers, the bank said in a release. The MoU would benefit dealers with credit facilities at lower interest rates, nil margin, and with minimum or zero collateral requirements through the PNB e-Dealer scheme, it said.

#### **Royal Enfield may** hike prices in April

New Delhi: Niche bike maker Royal Enfield may look at

## 'High fiscal deficit to pose challenge in lowering debt'

New Delhi, Feb 10: Fitch Ratings Wednesday said India's high fiscal deficit would pose a challenge in lowering the debt to GDP ratio, which is expected to rise above 90 per cent in the next five years.

It said India entered the pandemic with little fiscal headroom from a rating perspective. Its general government debt/GDP ratio stood at 72 per cent in 2019, against a median of 42

per cent for 'BBB' rated peers. Fitch said the budget points to a loosening of fiscal policy to support the country's ongoing economic recovery from the pandemic



and will consequently lead to a rise in public debt.

The debt/GDP trajectory is core to our sovereign rating assessment, meaning higher deficits and a slower consolidation path will make India's medium-term growth outlook take on a more critical role in our analysis, Fitch Ratings said in a statement

It now expects public debt/GDP to rise above 90 per cent of GDP over the next five years, based on the revised budget targets. However, recent reforms and policy measures, including those announced in the budget, could also influence the rat-

be retained and the rest would be pri-

vatised or merged or made sub-

sidiary of another CPSE or closed

down. Taking cognisance of the

need to spur productive spending in

ing agency's growth expectations and its debt trajectory forecasts.

Fitch estimated India to clock a 11 per cent growth in the fiscal beginning April and then grow at 6.5 per cent a year through to 2025-26 fiscal. The agency had in June last vear revised India's 'BBB-' rating outlook to negative from stable based on its assumptions of the likely impact of pandemic on public finance.

"The budget's deficit projections for the fiscal years ending March 2022 (FY22) to FY26 are about 1pp (percentage point) a year above our previous estimates between, which could make it more challenging to

put debt/GDP on a downward trajectory," Fitch said.

India has exceeded its fiscal deficit target of 3.5 per cent in the current fiscal by a wide margin due to higher spendings to stimulate the economy amid the pandemic.

The fiscal deficit - the excess of government expenditure over its revenues - has been pegged at 9.5 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current fiscal ending March 31, as per the revised estimate. For the 2021-22 fiscal, beginning

April 1, the deficit has been put at 6.8 per cent of the GDP, which will be further lowered to 4.5 per cent by 2025-26 fiscal ending March 31, 2026.

#### 'Import dependence on pulses down in last few years'

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: India's pulses production has increased significantly in the last few years, leading to a reduction in imports and an annual saving of Rs 15,000 crore in foreign exchange to the country, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said Wednesday.



Addressing a conference organised by Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR) on World Pulses Day, the minister said the country is moving towards becoming self-sufficient in pulses production

The output has increased to 240 lakh tonnes from 140 lakh tonnes in the last six years because of the efforts made by farmers and scientists as well as the government's initiative, he said.

Stating that pulses demand is estimated to reach 320 lakh tonnes by 2050. Tomar said there is a need to shift focus on increasing the production to meet rising demand.

"In the last five-six years, due to the tireless hard work of farmers, scientists and farmer-friendly policies of the central government, the country has increased its pulses production from 140 lakh tonnes to 240 lakh tonnes. Now, we also have to pay attention to future requirements." he said in an official statement.

According to an estimate, by the year 2050, about 320 lakh tonnes of pulses will be required.

#### **SBI looking to double** home loan portfolio to ₹10L cr in 5 years'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 10: The country's largest lender State Bank of India on Wednesday said it has crossed the Rs 5 lakh crore mark in its home loan business and expects to double the portfolio in the next five years.

#### Among all scheduled commen

### **'New PSE policy opens lot of** opportunities for private players'

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 10: The new PSE policy announced by the government has opened a host of opportunities for the private players who now partake in India's growth story by buying the brownfield assets of public sector enterprises at an attractive valuation, DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said Wednesday.

Privatisation, as a means of improving efficiency and hence achieving higher productivity and improved allocation of resources, has been one of the guiding principles of the Budget, he said at an inter-

action with members of CII. The unveiling of the blueprint of a new privatisation policy in the Budget is akin to the landmark reforms carried out in 1991, he said.

"The policy has also opened a host of opportunities for the private players who now partake in India's growth story by buying the brownfield assets of the PSEs at an attractive valuation," he added.

Brownfield assets are the existing assets.

Unveiling the PSE policy in Budget 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said barring four strategic areas, public

Samsung launches

purchase program

# The policy has also

opened a host of opportunities for the private players who now partake in India's growth story by buying the brownfield assets of the PSEs at an attractive valuation

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | DIPAM SECRETARY

sector enterprises (PSEs) in other sectors will be divested. The policy would give a clear roadmap for disinvestment in strategic and nonstrategic sectors.

The four sectors are atomic energy space and defence; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services in non-strategic sectors. In case of strategic sector, a "bare minimum" number of CPSEs will

TOP LOSERS

1583.50 HDFC Bank -1.77%

**Axis Bank** 

ONGC

Nestle

SBI

ITC

51,309.39

FEB

-1.06%

-1.04%

-0.91%

-0.68%

-0.67%

-0.59%

the economy, the Budget has ramped up capital expenditure, so as to boost India's medium to long-term growth potential, said Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj. The spelling out of the fiscal

deficit glide path to bring the deficit below 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26 enunciates the intent of the government to rein in the expansionary stance in the years to come,

Bajaj said. Responding to a question on research and innovation, he said that the private sector should come forward and contribute proactively to the National Research Foundation without anticipating any additional tax benefits as carrying out innovation is the key ingredient for being competitive.

During the interaction, Chief Economic Adviser, K V Subramanian highlighted that the reform measures delineated in the various phases of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhivan announced last year have culminated in the crescendo of the Union Budget.

### Parl passes Bill to provide autonomy to major ports

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 10: Allaying fears that the Major Ports Authority Bill, 2020 aims at privatisation of the country's top 12 major ports, Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Wednesday said it seeks to provide autonomy to these ports and boost their decision-making powers in order to compete with private ports.

The Major Ports Authority Bill, 2020 was passed through ballot votes in the Rajya Sabha Wednesday with 84 votes in its favour and 44 against it. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill on September 23 last year.

Taking a strong objection to some members' remarks that it is intended to benefit big corporate houses and would result in the ruining of the ports and their plunder, Mandaviya, in his reply to the debate on the bill, said rather, it would turn these ports into worldclass ports and enable their boards to take decisions on their own.

"Would a patriot oppose this bill? This bill is not for privatisation of ports.... The bill has nothing to do

Khimji rolls out Valentine

is not to sell ports," he said.

cluding the Congress, TMC, SP, RJD, DMK, AAP, CPI(M) and CPI raised objections on the bill in the Upper House of Parliament and alleged that it is aimed at privatising the ports and diluting the powers of the states on land use. However, the BJD, JD(U), YSRCP supported it, saying it is a welcome move to expand the port development in-

Mandaviya questioned: "Have Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra governments not given ports to private companies for development? Did that happen in the tenure of

Various opposition parties, in-

frastructure.

Narendra Modi?'



with privatisation. Former finance minister Arun Jaitley and former shipping minister Nitin Gadkari had also specified that there will not be privatisation of ports. The bill

hiking prices from April in view of rising commodity prices, a top company official said Wednesday. The company, which is a part of Eicher Motors, has already increased prices by multiple times over the last six months. "Commodity prices have gone up, we have tried to offset it by multiple things including price hikes in the last few months. We will probably be increasing prices again in April like everyone else in the industry," Royal Enfield CEO Vinod K Dasari told reporters

#### **JSW Steel output** grows 2pc in Jan

New Delhi: Steel maker JSW Steel has registered a rise of about 2 per cent in its crude steel output to 14.32 lakh tonne (LT) during January. According to company data, it had produced 14.10 LT steel in January last year. Last month, growth in the production of flat-rolled products remained almost flat at 10.14 LT as compared to 10.25 LT in the year-ago period.

#### **Japanese Soy sauce** enters Indian market

Mumbai: Japan's Kikkoman **Corporation Wednesday** announced its foray into India with a wholly-owned subsidiary and aims to become the market leader in the soy and Asian sauces category. The company initially plans to introduce its naturally brewed 'Honjozo' soy sauce in the top metro cities and expand to other cities through e-commerce partners, Kikkoman India Director and India **Representative Harry Hakuei** Kosato said on virtual interaction.

POST NEWS NETWORK

and appliances.

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Samsung, 590.10 Bharti Airtel -1.45% India's biggest consumer electronics and smartphones brand, launched 734.50 an exciting defence purchase program for the Indian Armed Forces 99.95 Personnel. The company has partnered with udChalo, an online 17167.70 travel portal for Indian Defence personnel for this purpose. Armed Forces personnel using 1552.90 Larsen & Turbo -0.85% the Defence Purchase Program

will get exclusive discounts and of-1296.10 Infosys fers on Samsung Galaxy smartphones, tablets, wearables, TVs 392.05 They will also get free insur-227.65 ance cover on select products. All other consumer offers, including No Cost EMI, cashbacks and easy exchange will be applicable on POINTS these transactions. To avail exciting offers and discounts, all udChalo verified customers must



### collection 'Lovestruck'

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: A leading jewellery brand Khimji Wednesday launched its exclusive Valentine collection 'Lovestruck 2021' to celebrate this season of love. Inspired by tales of eternal love, the new range of valentine collection is designed to add sparkle and make every loved one special.

The new collection offers a unique and modern collection of affordable fine diamond jewellery starting from just Rs 11,000. The collection is available at all Khimji stores across Odisha- Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur and Rourkela.

'Valentine's Day is the celebration of love stories that are timeless. Understanding the sentiment of our customers, we have come up with this collection of affordable diamond jewelleries where each piece is crafted to make it the perfect expression of love", said Krishnendu Sen, Executive Director of Khimji



The 'Lovestruck' collection includes range of pendants, rings, bracelets, necklace and bands of diamond. Apart from this, Khimji boasts of the biggest variety and collection of jewellery in the state, suited for all and any occasion. Apart from this, Khimji with radio partner 92.7 Big FM has announced a 'Selfie Contest' from February 8th to 14th February 2021 to add some more sparkle to this season

of gifting. Top 3 winners of the contest shall get free Gold Coin.

As per the rule of the contest one has to visit the nearest Khimii Store and take a selfie at the specially designed 'Selfie Spot' inside the store; and thereafter post the selfie in his/her Facebook or Instagram and timeline tag 'Khimjijewellersofficial' and '92.7 Big FM' page. Top 3 contestants from each store with highest likes on their post will be the winner.

cial banks, SBI share in the home loan segment is around 34 per cent. It is offering an interest rate on home loans starting from 6.80 per cent.

"We have crossed the Rs 5 lakh crore mark. This is a journey which we have covered in almost from 2011 to 2021. So in about 10 years' time, we have built this book from about Rs 89,000 crore to Rs5lakh crore," the bank's chairman Dinesh Khara told reporters.

Around 51 per cent of the lender's home loan customers belong to urban, semi-urban and rural areas, and the balance 49 per cent are from metros, he said.

When asked how soon the bank will achieve the next Rs 5 lakh crore target in home loans, Khara said the time taken would be much lesser

"When it comes to our next target, we are aiming for a target of about Rs 7 lakh crore in around three years' time and maybe Rs 10 lakh crore by another five years' time," he said.

### Job market continues to improve led by IT, agro-based sectors

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

purchase of products.

Mumbai, Feb 10: The job market continues to improve sequentially across the country and job postings in some industries have improved, with some doing even better than the pre-Covid levels, led by IT, agro-based sectors, according to a report.

In comparison to January 2020, job postings in some industries have improved, according to Monster Employment Index, by Monster.Com - a Quess Company.

Agro-based industries and media and entertainment have grown by 15 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, in January 2021 compared to the same time last year.

Telecom and ISP (internet service provider) job postings have become stable, indicating a 0 per cent

change compared to January 2020. However, telecom roles have witnessed a 13 per cent increase in postings in the last three months, it added

The Monster Employment Index report is based on analysis of job listing data during January 2021, against the same month of 2020

Jobs in the IT industry - hardware. software - reflected significant demand this month with month-onmonth growth of 6 per cent in job postings, seen mostly in Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad. Further, a constant increase in job

postings for the home appliances industry is noticed, with 9 per cent growth in postings in January 2021, compared to December 2020.

While the job postings for the home appliances industry are at 18 per cent decline year-on-year in



In comparison to January 2020, job postings in some industries have improved, according to Monster Employment Index

Agro-based industries and media and entertainment have grown by 15% and 2%, respectively, in January 2021

Jobs in the IT industry - hardware, software - reflected significant demand this month with M-o-M growth of 6% in job postings, seen mostly in Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad

vious month are home appliances (9 per cent), agro-based industries (7 per cent), IT - Hardware, Software (6 per cent), banking and financial

services, insurance (6 per cent) and chemicals, plastic, rubber, paints, fertiliser and pesticides (5 per cent).

Industries such as advertising, market research, public relations (PR), production and manufacturing and engineering, cement, construction, iron and steel have also witnessed month-on-month growth of 4 per cent each

The media and entertainment industry remains consistent when compared to the previous month with no changes, however, there is an indication of a 2 per cent yearon-year growth, it added.

Further, the report revealed that with the reopening of travel and reduced restrictions in vehicular movement, travel, and tourism and automotive, ancillaries and tyreshave witnessed an increase of 2 per cent in job postings.



January 2021, the same has improved compared to the previous index (December 2021 vs December 2020), which was down at 25 per

cent, it noted.

As per the report, industries that have witnessed maximum growth in job postings compared to the pre-







### sports

# MAN UTD IN FA CUP LAST 8

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Feb 10: Manchester United are into the FA Cup quarterfinals for a seventh straight season. Bournemouth got there for only the second time in their 122-year history.

Scott McTominay's 97th-minute strike earned United a 1-0 win over West Ham in a lackluster fifth-round match that required extra time at snowy Old Trafford Tuesday.

In another demonstration of his growing assuredness in front of goal, the midfielder steered a vollev into the bottom corner after a neat lay-off by Marcus Rashford at the end of

a counterattack. The 24-year-old McTominay scored the winner against Watford in the third round, and also netted in his last two Premier League games.

'Scott has really developed that part of his game this season, United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said. "We let him go into the box more often, unleash him. He's a very good striker of the ball, very clinical. He was a forward in his younger days and you can see the authority when he gets a chance to finish.

United, a 12-time winner of the FA Cup, are accustomed to going deep in cup competitions under Solskjaer over the past year but the semifinals have been the ceiling, with the team losing in the last four in the League Cup (twice), the FA Cup and the

Europa

League.

Along with the Europa League, the FA Cup looks to be United's best chance of collecting their first piece of silverware since 2017 after falling five points behind Manchester City in the Premier League title race. City also has a game in hand.

West Ham, led by former Man United manager David Moyes, frustrated Solskjaer's side with a disciplined defensive performance but wasn't helped by losing three players - Angelo Ogbonna (ankle), his replacement Issa Diop (head), and Andriy Yarmolenko (knee)-to injury by the 54th minute. The team was already without its only senior striker. Michail Antonio, whose minutes were being managed by Moyes after a recent injury.

Diop was replaced by Ryan Fredericks at halftime following a clash of heads with Anthony Martial in the 37th, making it the first concussion substitute in English soccer. In a rule introduced on a trial basis for this season, teams are allowed to use a maximum of two concussion subs from the fifth round onward. It is also being trialed in the Premier League.

Second-division Bournemouth beat Burnley 2-0 and are in quarterfinals of the world's oldest club knockout competition for the first time since the 1956-57 season. Goals by Sam Surridge and Junior Stanislas, from the penalty spot, saw off a depleted Burnley side at Turf Moor.

Burnley was looking to advance to the quarterfinals for the first time since the 2002-03 season, but manager Sean Dyche chose to rest his key players — including the entire first-choice defense and goalkeeper Nick Pope — with his team battling to avoid relegation in the Premier League.

It later emerged that Burnley came within minutes of potentially getting disqualified from the competition after Dyche initially named Erik Pieters in his starting lineup — despite the left back being suspended for the game after collecting yellow cards in each of the previous two rounds.

Burnley were alerted to their error by Bournemouth officials just before kickoff and replaced Pieters with Anthony Driscoll-Glennon.

Bournemouth, who were relegated from the top flight last season, was being managed on an interim basis by former Tottenham and Real Madrid defender Jonathan Woodgate following the recent departure of Jason Tindall.

Scott McTominay celebrates Manchester United's winner against West Ham, Tuesday

## Real move closer to Liga leaders Atletico

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Feb 10: It was an assist by a left back on a goal by another left back that sealed Real Madrid's win in the Spanish league.

Zinedine Zidane's team needed an unusual starting lineup to keep their momentum and cut Atletico Madrid's lead to five points, with Marcelo setting up Ferland Mendy for the team's second goal in a 2-0 win over Getafe.

Karim Benzema had already scored in the second half and Madrid went on to win for the third time in four games in a match that was postponed from the first round as European competitions finished later than scheduled last season because of the coronavirus pandemic.

With his squad depleted by injuries and suspensions, Zidane was forced to change the team's formation and use some players out of position. Nine players were unavailable for the match at the Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium, including captain Sergio Ramos, Toni Kroos and Eden Hazard.

Zidane switched to a 3-5-2 formation and promoted the first senior-squad start for 20-year-old Marvin Park. Two other youth players later entered the game -Victor Chust and Sergio Arribas.

The victory came a day after Atletico conceded late and stumbled to a 2-2 home draw against Celta Vigo to see their eight-game winning streak end. Madrid, trying to repeat as league champion for the first time since 2007-08, moved closer to the top but their city rival remained with two games in hand.

Madrid have been recovering from a difficult start to the year, when they endured disappointing results that included an embarrassing elimination to third-division club Alcoyano in the round Benzema, who has 16 goals this of 32 of the Copa del Rey.

Fighting wind and rain at the Di bar with a header early in the Stefano, Madrid controlled possession but struggled to capitalise on their scoring opportunities

against Getafe. Benzema broke the deadlock with a header in the 60th minute after a well-placed cross by Vinicius Junior from the right flank.

match. Mendy added to the lead in the 66th by completing a left-side cross by Marcelo, who was play-

season, had already hit the cross-

ing in a more advanced position as Zidane lacked other options. Marcelo later was substituted because of an injury.



Karim Benzema rejoice after putting Real Madrid up front, Tuesday

## Odisha look to end Blasters' play-off hopes

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Margao, Feb 10: Their play-off hopes all but over, bottom placed Odisha FC will play for pride when they take Kerala Blasters in a Indian Super League (ISL) match here Thursday.

Odisha FC have been on a sixmatch winless run now, having won only one game all season, which came against Kerala Blasters, And they will be keen to repeat that feat when they face the same opponents at the Fatorda Stadium in the return league fixture. While Odisha will be battling for pride, Kerala placed a rung above at 10th, will try and reach as close as they can to a top-four spot. While Odisha have just eight points from 15 games, Kerala still have a chance to reach the play-offs having garnered 15 points from 16 games, eight points adrift of fourth placed Hyderabad FC. Odisha coach Gerald Peyton is aware that Kerala will

be fighting for all that they have but he will take confidence from their record against the southern outfit. In their three meetings so far, Kerala have never beaten Odisha.

Like their opponents. Kerala have also been struggling. They are winless in four games and have conceded the most goals this season (27).

Odisha lie a close second on that table, having conceded 25 goals. The defensive issues faced by both teams are visible from the fact that Odisha has faced the maximum



### Juventus reach Italian **Cup final beating Inter**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turin, Feb 10: Juventus progressed to their sixth Italian Cup final in seven years after a 0-0 draw against Inter Milan to win 2-1 on aggregate. They will face either Atalanta or Napoli in the final, which will be played May 19.

Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo has faced criticism in the first season in his managerial career but his team won the Italian Super Cup last year and are still firmly in the hunt for what would be a record-extending 10th successive Serie A title. It is the second successive season Inter have been eliminated in the semifinal of the Italian Cup. They are also out of European competition, having finished bottom of their Champions League group. Juventus had won the first leg 2-



number of shots on target while Kerala have faced the second-most.

Kerala has to put in some encouraging displays in their last few games but have been unable to hold on to whatever advantage they have managed to gain.

In their last two games against ATK Mohun Bagan and Mumbai City FC, Kerala suffered defeats despite opening the scoring. They have now dropped 16 points from winning positions this season.

1 last week, with Cristiano Ronaldo

scoring both goals for the Bianconeri. Ronaldo also netted Saturday in a 2-0 victory over Roma in the league, a day after celebrating his 36th birthday.

He was kept quiet in Turin, although the Juventus forward did go close on three occasions at the end of the first half. Conte has only had one success over his former club, with the Nerazzurri having beaten Juventus in the league last month.

### Enes late own goal helps JFC bag full points

#### AGENCIES

Goa. Feb 10: In a dramatic finish. Jamshedpur FC rode on a last-gasp own goal by Enes Sipovic to come out of the match with full three points in the their Indian Super League encounter with Chennaiyin FC at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim, Wednesday.

When it looked like both the teams will end up sharing points, the own goal from Sipovic in the added-on time turned the tide towards Jamshedpur and they completed their revenge of their loss in their previous encounter.

David Grande got the ball inside the box towards the righthand side. He cut inside to his stronger left foot and decided to test the keeper and looked to go to the far post.

Unluckily for Chennaiyin, the ball took the deflection of Sipovic's foot and went into the back of the net at the near post. It was a big heartbreak for Chennaiyin, but jubilation for the Men of Steel.

Earlier, both the teams tussled hard to find the back of the net but failed as the defensive unit of either team made sure none managed an advantage.

#### Sushil, Bibhansu help Djoko holds off Tiafoe to enter 3rd round BBSR B beat Balasore fought back tears before receiving ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Melbourne, Feb 10: Frances Tiafoe had never played a No.1, had never beaten anyone in the top 5, and now he'd just won a tie-breaker against Novak Djokovic to level their secondround match at the Australian Open.

Full of animation in his courtside chair, Tiafoe took the court and said what was obvious to everyone watching: 'I love this'.

Tiafoe, a 23-year-old American who reached the quarterfinals here two years ago, threw everything he could at eight-time Australian Open champion Djokovic. He pulled the crowd into the contest, too. But it wasn't quite enough, with the defending champion winning 6-3, 6-7(3-7), 7-6(7-2), 6-3 in a three and half-hour afternoon match on Rod Laver Arena.

The fourth set was on serve and appeared headed for another tiebreaker when Tiafoe was given a time violation on his serve. He lost his temper and ultimately the game. He didn't win another game in the match, which finished with a double-fault.

Tiafoe shook his head, then jogged to the net to embrace Djokovic. He'll take plenty from this. Djokovic bowed, touched the court with his hand, and then went into his more customary celebrations.

Dominic Thiem, who lost the final here last year to Diokovic but went one better to win the US Open, eased through the second round with a 6-



4, 6-0, 6-2 win over Donimik Koepfer. a 24th Grand Slam singles title on Three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka. the 2014 Australian Open champion, wasted a big lead in the fifth-set tie-break — and three match points — before losing 5-7, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7(9-11) to Marton Fucsovics. Five unforced errors in the last seven points of the tie-

breaker cost him the match.

track, making only 11 unforced errors as she swept Nina Stojanovic 6-3, 6-0. But a 21st trip to Melbourne Park ended painfully for her older sister, Venus Williams. The seven-time major winner

was trailing 1-5 in the opening set against Sara Errani when she landed awkwardly on her ankle as she ap-Serena Williams kept her bid for proached the net for a volley. She treatment on the ankle, and gamely continued, hobbling between points, before losing 6-1, 6-0.

Former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu, coming back from 15 months out with injury, became the latest top 10 player to be beaten by veteran Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan 3-6, 2-6,

Another Canadian mounting a comeback also lost. Rebecca Marino, a former top 40 player competing in a major tournament for the first time in eight years, was beaten by No.19-seeded Marketa Vondrousova 6-1, 7-5.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, the 2019 Australian Open runner-up, lost to Sorana Cirstea 6-4, 1-6, 6-1. Garbine Muguruza, the Australian Open runner-up last year, defeated Liudmila Samsonova 6-3, 6-1.

Ann Li, a 20-year-old American, reached the third round for the second major in a row by beating Alize Cornet 6-2, 7-6(8-6). World No.7seeded Aryna Sabalenka eliminated Daria Kasatkina 7-6(7-5), 6-3.

In men's play, No.11 Denis Shapovalov beat veteran Australian qualifier Bernard Tomic 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 and his fellow Canadian Milos Raonic held off Corentin Moutet 6-7(1-7), 6-1, 6-1, 6-4. World No.8 Diego Schwartzman and No.20 Felix Auger-Aliassime were among the seeded men to advance.

## Sushil K Barik

POST NEWS NETWORK

Wednesday

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10: Sushil K

Barik (4/26) and Bibhansu S Ray (76,

115b) helped Bhubaneswar B over-

power Balasore by 99 runs in their

first match of the OCA Inter-District

U-19 Boys' Super League at the

Bidanasi Ground in Cuttack,

BBSR B posted 233/4 in their al-

lotted 50 overs after being put into bat

first. Bibhansu was the top scorer and

he was ably supported by a watch-

ful knock from MG Kumar (50, 105b)

and blitzkrieg of a knock by Pankaj

K Sahoo (44 n o, 25b). Subha S Barik

(2/51) and Rajib L Sahu (1/56) shared

The target was too much for

Balasore, who were bundled out

for only 134 in 39.1 overs. Skipper

Suman S Ojha (41, 74b) and Arun

three wickets between them.

K Rout (30, 60b) were the only Balasore batsmen who offered some resistance. Sushil was the wrecker in chief and he was adjudged Player of the match. He was ably supported by Sagar K Mulia (3/26).

At BOSE Ground, Cuttack: Sambalpur 95 (Nitish Singh 31 n o; Saideep Mohapatra 4/24) lost to Cuttack A 96/1 (Shashang Rungata 39 n o, Prince S Behera 32; Shresth Singh 1/12) by 9 wickets.

At Railway Ground, BBSR: KIIT 205 (Ramani R Jena 53, Gourish Patra 45 n o, Manitej Mohanty 31; Om Kumar 4/49. Sachin Yaday 3/38) lost to Jharsuguda 206/6 (Dhananajay Yadav 65 n o, Anubhav Pradhan 48, Om Kumar 32; Manitej Mohanty 2/49) by 4 wickets.

At Town Club Ground, BBSR: Rourkela 211/9 (Hemant Nayak 43, Basant S Rathour 32 n o. Aashirwad Swain 32; Mir Kafiruddin 4/41) beat Bhadrak 189 (Mir Kafiruddin 45, Surya Mohapatra 33; Goutam Suna 3/31, Swoop S Bhuyan 2/23) by 22 runs.

#### **DEB BAGS BRONZE**

Madhumita Deb secured a bronze medal on the closing day of the 36th National Junior Athletics Championships at the Sarsujai Stadium in Guwahati, Assam. Deb won the medal in 200m of the girls' U-20 category, clocking 24.90s.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy. RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159





