



## PARINEETI IN BAD MOOD

In an Instagram post, Parineeti is seen posing for the camera and then figures out she has a pimple

LEISURE P2



## DINESH TRIVEDI QUILTS RS

TMC calls its MP Dinesh Trivedi "ungrateful" after he resigns from the Rajya Sabha

TWO STATES P7



## 2ND TEST STARTS TODAY

India look to level the four-Test series as they take on England in the second match in Chennai

SPORTS P12

# Not an inch for China, claims India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 12: India Friday said it has not conceded any territory as a result of the agreement finalised with China for disengagement of troops in Pangong lake areas in eastern Ladakh.

Hours after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the government has 'ceded' Indian territory to the Chinese and raised questions over the agreement, the Ministry of Defence issued a strongly-worded statement, saying the effective safeguarding of the country's national interest and territory in the Eastern Ladakh sector has taken place because the government reposed full faith in the capabilities of the armed forces.

"Those who doubt the achievements made possible by the sacrifices of our military personnel are actually disrespecting them," the statement said.

The ministry also made certain clarifications in the statement, and said, "the assertion that Indian territory is up to Finger 4 is categorically false. The territory of India is as depicted by the map of India and includes more than 43,000 sq km currently under illegal occupation of China since 1962."

"Even the LAC, as per the Indian per-



ception, is at Finger 8, not at Finger 4. That is why India has persistently maintained the right to patrol upto Finger 8, including in the current understanding with China," the MoD said.

The ministry also asserted that permanent posts of both sides at the north bank of Pangong Tso are longstanding and well-established.

"On the Indian side, it is Dhan Singh Thapa

Post near Finger 3 and on the Chinese side, east of Finger 8," the MoD said, adding the current agreement provides for cessation of forward deployment by both sides and continued deployment at these permanent posts.

The statement said the ministry has taken note of some misinformed and misleading comments being amplified in the media and on social media regarding the disengage-

ment currently underway at Pangong Tso, asserting that it is necessary to set the record straight and counter certain instances of wrongly understood information. Addressing a press conference, Gandhi questioned why the PM did not make a statement on the LAC situation, and claimed that Singh 'sheepishly' made a statement on the issue in both Houses of Parliament.

"Why has he asked the Defence Minister to make the statement, the Prime Minister should say - I have given Indian land to China, this is the truth," he alleged.

## US WELCOMES EFFORTS

WASHINGTON: The US has welcomed the ongoing efforts by India and China to de-escalate the situation in eastern Ladakh and said it would continue to monitor the situation closely as both sides work toward a peaceful resolution. "We're closely following reports of initial troop disengagement. We welcome the ongoing efforts to de-escalate the situation," a State Department spokesperson told PTI. "We will, of course, continue to monitor the situation closely as both sides work toward a peaceful resolution."

## DEPSANG NEXT

NEW DELHI: India plans to raise the issue of the strategically-located Depsang area in Ladakh with China in the next round of corps commander-level talks, amidst concerns it may have squandered its major bargaining leverage by agreeing to vacate the Kailash range heights for just the Pangong Tso disengagement pact. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday said India and China have agreed to convene the next meeting of their senior commanders to "address and resolve all other remaining issues," but did not specify any particular area.

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# NO LET-UP IN FUEL PRICE HIKE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 12: Petrol and diesel prices extended gains Friday with pump prices rising by 29 paise and 35 paise per litre, respectively in the national capital.

With this increase, it is for the fourth consecutive day this week that petrol price has gone up in Delhi and is now ₹88.14 a litre and diesel ₹78.38 a litre.

Across the country as well, the petrol prices increased within the 25-30 paise per litre range, while diesel between 30-35 paise per litre - depending on the level of local taxes on the two petroleum products.

Friday's hike has followed the firming of global crude oil prices that have remained close to \$61 a barrel mark. The pump

FUEL	PRICE	CHANGE
PETROL	₹88.82	(+0.30)
DIESEL	₹85.39	(+0.38)

prices of petrol and diesel have now reached new highs across the country. The current price rise is largely on account of steep increase in central taxes of petrol and diesel and firm crude prices. The budget has also imposed a new agriculture infrastructure and development cess. Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan has ruled out any cut in duty on petro products.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I am still staying at home. Yes, I know Covid cases have come down but you see, fuel prices have gone up

# All govt staff must declare assets

Employees will be unable to submit their performance appraisal reports online unless their property returns are submitted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The General Administration (GA) department Friday issued a resolution making it compulsory for government employees of all classes and ranks to make annual declaration of their assets.

The government will not entertain the performance appraisal reports of those employees who fail to comply with this resolution. "The state government is committed to ensure transparency and corruption free adminis-

tration. As a step further in the above pursuit, the government has decided to make submission of annual property statement by government servants of all groups and ranks and public representatives mandatory and the same has to be placed in the public domain for access of everybody," the resolution said.

All employees have now been asked to submit the details annually by January 31 of each year. "Employees will be unable to submit their performance appraisal reports online unless their property returns are submitted. Besides,

up-to-date filing of property returns will be a pre-requisite for promotions," the resolution said.

As per the new resolution, even Group C and Group D rank employees would be asked to give details of their property. "The performance report custodians of the departments (for Group-B, C and D) would be authorised to download and authenticate the property statement. For Group-D employees, the officer in charge of the establishment will upload the property statement on obtaining the same from those who can-

not upload online," the resolution said. "The department has planned to do away with some other existing asset declaration rules after these announcements.

"State government employees are, at present, required to obtain prior permission for purchase of movable assets whose value is more than their two months' basic pay. This is done away with. Instead, employees will intimate any such transaction immediately to the head of office besides mentioning such transaction in the annual property return," the resolution said.

## SHORT TAKES

- Quake hits Tajikistan, tremors in north India**  
New Delhi: An earthquake of magnitude 6.3 hit Tajikistan Friday night, while tremors were felt in north India, the National Centre for Seismology said. Tremors were felt for more than 30 seconds across Delhi-NCR and several other parts of north India. The earthquake occurred at a 10.31 pm, it added.
- Kharge to be LoP in RS**  
New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge will be the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, succeeding Ghulam Nabi Azad. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has written to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu for appointing Kharge to the post as Azad is retiring.

# CM disburses ₹1,272cr to 53 lakh KALIA beneficiaries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday disbursed financial assistance to the tune of ₹1,272 crore to about 53 lakh farmers and landless farm labourers under the KALIA scheme.

Speaking at a virtual meeting, the CM said, "I want that farmers of my state must get fair price for their produce. I want the farmers' income to increase and their standard of living to improve. I want farmers of Odisha to live with self-esteem and I am working towards this goal."

"Covid-19 pandemic has impacted every sector of the economy. However, the hard work and courage of our farmers have proved to be a live-saving drug for the country's

economy," he said, adding, "I salute the sacrifice and hard work of our farmers."

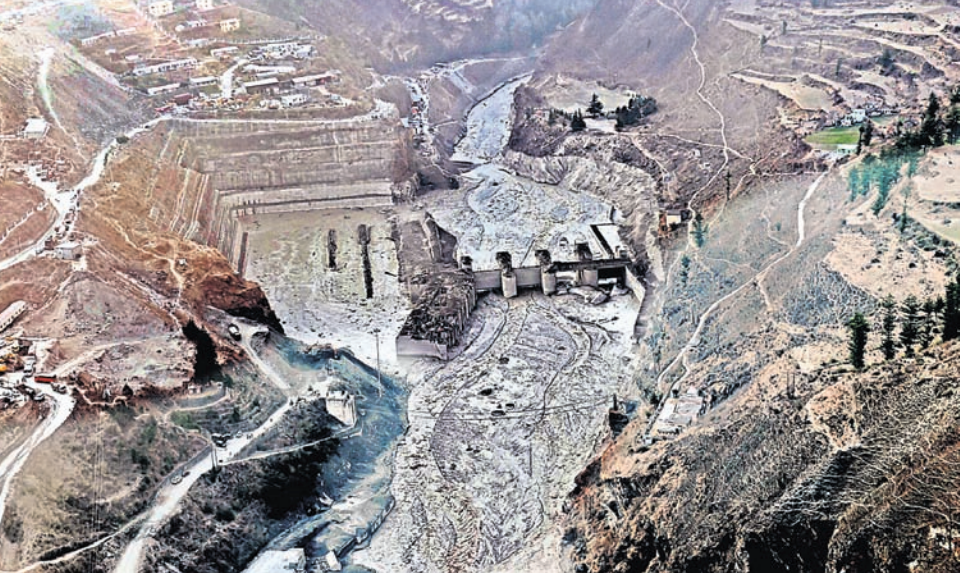
The CM said he has been working for the development of farmers and will continue to do so.

Further, the state government has been repeatedly demanding the Centre to double the MSP of crops. Various programmes have been taken up to strengthen agricultural marketing infrastructure in the state, he added.

The CM hoped that the farmers of the state shall avail agriculture-related facilities provided by the state government.

Patnaik virtually talked to five beneficiaries of KALIA scheme of Sundargarh, Bargarh, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh and Mayurbhanj districts.

# DISASTER AFTERMATH



An aerial view shows washed away Tapovan hydel power project plant after Sunday's glacier burst, in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, Friday.

# Centre, Twitter get SC notice on ways to check fake news

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Supreme Court Friday sought responses from the Centre and Twitter India on a plea seeking a mechanism for regulating content and advertisements spreading hatred through fake news and instigative messages via bogus accounts.

A bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian issued notice to the Centre and Twitter Communication India Pvt Ltd on the plea filed by Vinit Goenka, which said there are hundreds of fake Twitter handles and bogus Facebook accounts in the name

### MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	51544.30 ↑ 12.78
NIFTY	15163.30 ↓ 0.00
DOLLAR	73.48 ↓ ₹0.28
EURO	88.01 ↓ ₹0.48
GOLD	₹47,521 ↑ ₹13
SILVER	₹79,337 ↑ ₹845

MARKET WATCH

### WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	33.4°C	32.0°C
MIN	19.0°C	17.5°C
Humidity	93%	94%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Fog or mist in the morning

# 'World's pharmacy' India lags behind in vax drive

IN FOUR WEEKS, HEALTH WORKERS HAVE VACCINATED ONLY 7.5 MILLION FRONTLINE WORKERS ON PRIORITY, A RATE AT WHICH IT WOULD TAKE INDIA SEVERAL YEARS TO REACH ITS GOAL

REUTERS

New Delhi, Feb 12: India has won plaudits for gifting and selling COVID-19 vaccines around the world, but it will have to crank up the pace of immunisations at home to meet its targets.

Having reported the world's second-highest number of COVID-19 cases after the United States, India wants to inoculate 300 million people - a fifth of its population - against the virus by August.

However, in four weeks, health workers have vaccinated only 7.5 million frontline workers on priority, a rate at which it would take

India several years to reach its goal. "Vaccination programmes usually start off slow and then ramp up as logistic and operational issues are sorted out," said Gagandeep Kang, Professor of Microbiology at the Christian Medical College in Vellore.

"In India, we are fortunate that supply of vaccines is not a rate-limiting step, but to meet the timelines set by the government, we will have to immunise somewhere between 4 and 5 times

more people each day than we are doing today." The government says it is ready to step up vaccinations from next month, including by roping in more private hospitals, once identified groups from the general public are given the shots. A government online vaccine platform told Reuters it could handle 10 million inoculations a day.

The health ministry also says India is the fastest to reach the 7 million milestone, though immunisation relative to population has been much higher in many other countries.

## 'STOKING INHIBITIONS'

India, which makes 60 per cent of all vaccines in the world, has gifted or sold COVID-19 shots to 17 countries and has requests from five more. The government, however, told the Parliament this week it was coordinating with the manufacturers to ensure adequate supplies for its own campaign. India has deployed the COVAXIN shot developed by Bharat Biotech in partnership with the state-run Indian Council of Medical Research, as well as a vaccine licensed from AstraZeneca and Oxford University. Some doctors and the Opposition-ruled state of Chhattisgarh, however, are worried about COVAXIN, which was approved last month for emergency use without any efficacy data from a late-stage trial.

The health ministry has chastised Chhattisgarh for "stoking inhibitions" over vaccines during a pandemic. "In such unprecedented times, you should help address any vaccine hesitancy and do what's in the best interest of people, not further vested interests!" Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Twitter in response to a letter from his Chhattisgarh counterpart. Bharat Biotech has said efficacy data from the late-stage clinical trial will be out by next month.

of eminent people and high dignitaries. Advocate Ashwini Dubey, appearing for Goenka, said directions are needed for establishing a mechanism to regulate hateful content on the social networking site. The plea filed through Dubey said, "These fake Twitter handles and Facebook accounts use real photo of constitutional authorities and eminent citizens. Therefore, common man relies upon the messages published from these Twitter handles and Facebook accounts."

The PIL said fake news is the root cause of many riots and bogus accounts are used to promote casteism and communalism.



# leisure



## 'I DON'T FIT INTO A CATEGORY EASILY'

Hollywood actress Amber Heard says she does not want to play somebody who fits into a category easily because she does not fit into a category easily.

## CHLOE GRACE MORETZ RELIES ON EXERCISE FOR MENTAL CLARITY

Actress Chloe Grace Moretz says she relies on exercise to keep her mind, body and soul in check. The 24-year-old actress admitted there was a time when she lost sight of how important regular exercise is.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Are you a science and technology geek? Well, today you may have a chance to use your knowledge and zoom ahead of everyone! Ganesh says even students will excel in their studies. Housewives, try your own new recipe, the oven will not blast!

**TAURUS**  
Nostalgia will paint your workplace a bright energetic red today, says Ganesh. All the problems that life throws at you will be deflected by your tough exterior and efficient capabilities. Medals and trophies beckon as you taste success and emerge a winner.

**GEMINI**  
You are likely to make a list of your daily chores that take most of your time. Then you will find a way to outsource these activities or eliminate them from your routine altogether. You will also devote a lot of your time to meditation. Health of a family member may give you some anxious moments, feels Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You think you are smart. You will be most certainly savouring the positive aspects of your life. Sometimes, it is quite possible that you find yourself at the end of your wits. You had better sit together with your spouse and thrash out personality clashes and private quarrels, suggests Ganesh.

**LEO**  
A moment once lost is not going to come back. So, it's about time you realised the value of time, says Ganesh, because time is money. On this day, set everything to a schedule and figure out your tasks right down to the brass tacks.

**VIRGO**  
Communication is your best hand and creativity your best bullet. Ganesh feels you are full of energy, enthusiasm and exuberance. Creativity, though, will be at its best in an atmosphere free of pressure and strain, cautions Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
When you aim big, it is the small things that somehow manage to irritate you the most. Ganesh foresees you being troubled immensely by minute things today. But do not let this dampen your spirit, because today is also a day when you shall be receptive to new ideas.

**SCORPIO**  
You may face the music from bosses today, forecasts Ganesh. Your colleagues too may not warm up to you and offer half-hearted support. Novices knocking on the doors of career may look forward to belated success in interviews and final selection.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Friendship with a few like-minded people is likely to develop today. You shall spend a large share of your time discussing issues like attitude, beliefs and values. Those with you will enjoy sharing their ideas and opinions, and casting them in a new mould.

**CAPRICORN**  
Lack of confidence may leave you glum in the first half of the day, and to add to it, you will be loaded with work that you may have taken up from company other than the one employing you full time, says Ganesh. The sullen mood will turn jovial by evening, and you can expect to have a good time socialising with friends and relatives.

**AQUARIUS**  
You may feel constrained by future plans. Ganesh says that plans are okay, but you must live in the present to avail the cosmic energy that ultimately manifests your dreams. At work, your generous spirit adds to the goodwill you have already accrued.

**PISCES**  
You would do well to make a to-do list today, if only to gain a realistic perspective of how much you want done and how much you can achieve in the time you have available. Making unreasonable demands from yourself will only lead to further delays, says Ganesh.

# Parineeti reveals why she's in bad mood

**Mumbai:** Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra is in a bad mood and the reason is hilarious. Parineeti Friday posted videos on her Instagram stories. In one image, she is seen posing for the camera and then figures out she has a pimple on her face. She captioned the first clip: "Who invited this pimple." In the second video, the actress is seen making a sad face and revealed: "Mood is bad now bye."

Parineeti currently awaits the release of her upcoming film *The Girl On The Train*. The film is an official Hindi remake of the Hollywood thriller *The Girl On The Train*, which is based on Paula Hawkins' 2015 bestseller of the same name. The Hollywood version by Tate Taylor featured Emily Blunt in the lead role. The Hindi remake follows the story of Meera (Parineeti), who fixates on the perfect lives of a couple she watches from afar during her daily train commutes. One day, she witnesses something out of the ordinary that shocks her. The film also stars Aditi Rao Hydari, Kirti Kulhari and Avinash Tiwary. The Ribhu Dasgupta directorial premieres February 26 on Netflix. *The Girl On The Train* also stars Aditi Rao Hydari, Kirti Kulhari and Avinash Tiwary.



## Pulkit shares his 'workout gyaan'

**Mumbai:** Bollywood actor Pulkit Samrat said workout, for him, is a form of meditation. Pulkit posted a picture on Instagram, where she is seen working out. The actor is wearing a powder pink vest paired with grey joggers. For safety measures, he is sporting a black mask. Alongside the image, he wrote: "For me, working out is a form of meditation. Nothing; but me, my body and my soul having a conversation with each other. No outside factor matters." He added: "Only what lies within matters. Observing my breath and being in sync with it gives me my own version of pranayama! Breathe in.. Breathe out.. Breathe in the calm.. Breathe out the storm and keep flexing... #workoutgyaan #traidirtyeatclean."

Speaking about his work, Pulkit is currently shooting for his upcoming film *Suswagatam Khushamadeed*. The film casts him opposite Katrina Kaif's younger sister Isabelle.

## Kajol wants calorie refund!

**Mumbai:** Bollywood actress Kajol has shared a hilarious message on social media that she would want a calorie refund for things that did not taste good. Kajol Friday posted the note on her Instagram Stories. The note read: "There should be a calorie refund for things that didn't taste as good as they should've! World!" This is not the first time Kajol has entertained her fans with such funny messages on social media. Kajol, who is known for her sarcasm and sense of humour, recently shared post hinting that she is looking for a cow that milks cash. She shared a poster of a red cow with the words "cash cow" written on it. "If only he was real," the actress captioned the photo. Kajol's latest was a digital release *Tribhanga: Tedhi Medhi Crazy*. Access-director Renuka Shahane has called the shots for the film that also stars Mithila Palkar and Tanvi Azmi.

**Mumbai:** Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor is lending support to 100 cancer couples. He says the pandemic has taught him the importance of helping others. "The pandemic has taught all of us the importance of helping one another and spreading love whenever we can. We all look forward to celebrating Valentine's month in February, to make our loved ones feel special. But I have decided to do something different, this time," said the actor.

Arjun, whose mother Mona Shouri passed away due to cancer, has teamed up with the Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA) for the initiative. "Along with Cancer Patients Aid Association, I am supporting medical treatment for 100 underprivileged couples who are impacted by cancer, which means one partner is battling this deadly disease as the other one is supportive in every step of this fight," he added. "Cancer severely impacts one's immunity making them extremely vulnerable to the Coronavirus. The previous year has been very painful for these couples. Not only

were they fighting a hard battle, but they were also confined to their homes facing the severe threat of Covid-19. Many of them did not even have the source of income to buy food and essential medicines," he added.

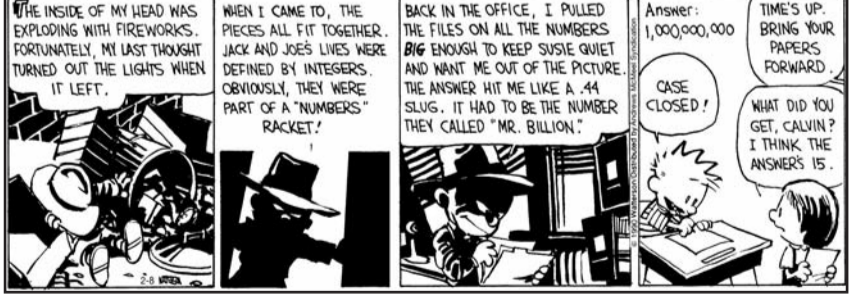
The actor appeals people to come forward and support these vulnerable couples. "By supporting their yearly medical treatment worth Rs 1 lakh per patient that takes care of expenses for chemotherapy and radiotherapies, surgeries and medicines, we can save them from draining out financially," he said.

## Arjun to support 100 cancer couples

### PEANUTS



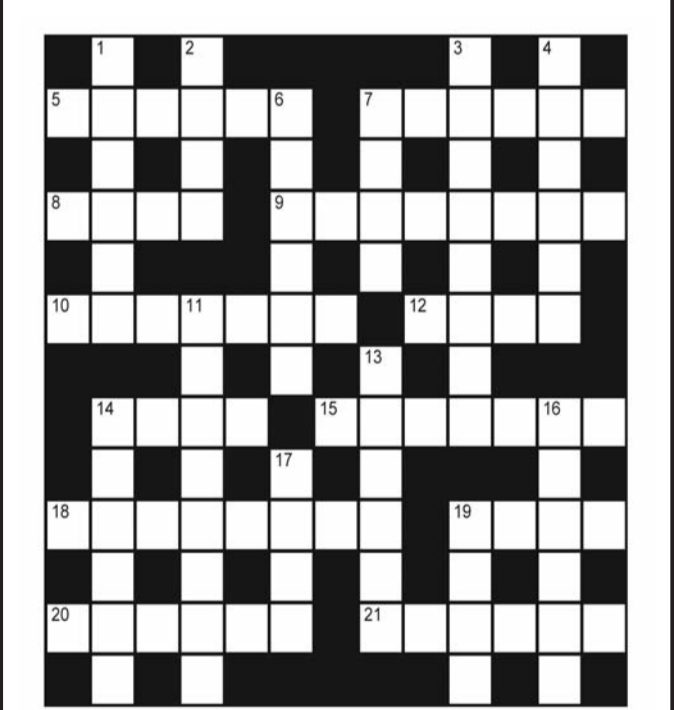
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY

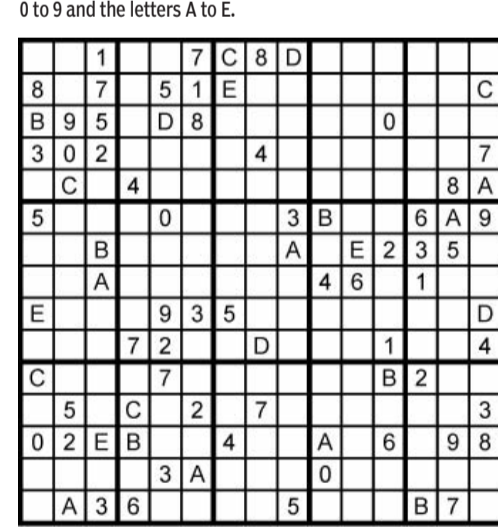


### FUN post CROSSWORD

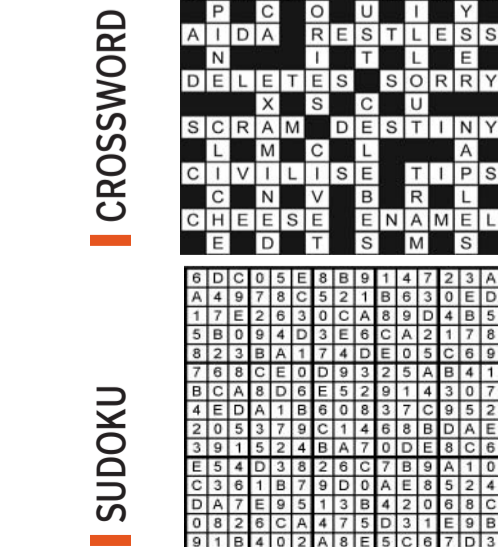


- Across**
- 5 Dark reddish-brown colour
  - 7 Respectful
  - 8 Coop group
  - 9 Catastrophe
  - 10 Silences
  - 12 Tints
  - 14 Marshes
  - 15 Gang member
  - 18 Luzon native
  - 19 Anise-flavoured liqueur
  - 20 Llama relative
  - 21 Spheres
  - Down**
  - 1 Capital of Alaska
  - 2 Northern seas
  - 14 Marshes
  - 15 Gang member
  - 18 Luzon native
  - 6 Metallic element
  - 7 Coconut tree
  - 11 Indian Ocean island
  - 13 Accolade
  - 14 Idiosyncrasy
  - 16 Pepsin, e.g.
  - 17 Verdi opera
  - 19 Australian export

### SUDOKU



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW











# national



**MLC Gopichand Padalkar's attempt to unveil the statue of Punyashlok Ahilya Devi Holkar was thwarted yesterday by the police personnel and they are taking appropriate action against him**  
ANIL DESHMUKH | MAHARASHTRA MINISTER

**KIDNEY PUT ON SALE TO MEET FIN NEEDS**  
Unable to meet daily expenses due to 'deduction in salary', a 38-yr-old bus conductor working with the Karnataka govt-owned transport corporation posted on a social media site that he was ready to sell his kidney



## of the day quote

The premises where the blaze erupted were empty and work was going on there. It is a private institute and they are carrying out their audit. The government is also investigating

**AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER**

We have invited applications for the scheme, which has been named after Aaditya Thackeray. Applicants will have to submit their certificates after completing their training and the cost will be reimbursed to their bank accounts

**SHIVRAJ KENDRE | OFFICER, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPT, MAHARASHTRA**

You say mandis will be finished. I openly challenge Congress leaders to tell us in which law it has been written that mandis will be finished

**ANURAG THAKUR | MOS FINANCE**

## FOR A HAPPY YEAR



Members of International Buddhist Sangha offer special peace prayers under the sacred Bodhi tree on the occasion of Tibetan New Year Losar in Bodhi Gaya, Friday

## We won't return till agreement reached: Tikait

**Bahadurgarh, Feb 12:** BKU leader Rakesh Tikait Friday revealed plans by farmer leaders to hold meetings in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state Gujarat and said protesters in Delhi will not return home until the Centre reaches an "agreement" with them.

It was not immediately clear if the remark made at a "mahapanchayat" here was a climb down from Tikait's earlier assertion that there will be no "ghar wapsi" unless the laws

are withdrawn. The government has been telling farmer unions to consider an option other than the complete repeal of the laws. He said the government will have to talk with the farmer unions' committee spearheading the agitation against

the laws. "This agitation will continue until the Government of India talks to the committee and arrives at an agreement. Till that time, farmers will not return home," he said addressing a "mahapanchayat" organised by the "Dalal Khap 84" near the Tikri border.

He also claimed the agitation is spread across the country and not limited to Punjab, Haryana or Uttar Pradesh as being projected by some.

More "mahapanchayats" will be held in coming days, he said, adding that they will go to Gujarat.

## SHORT TAKES

**24-hr electricity for TN farmers**  
**Tirupur:** Farmers would henceforth be provided 24-hour three-phase electricity for their pump sets, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami announced here Friday. Addressing an election rally at Udumalaipettai near here, Palaniswami, the AIADMK co-coordinator, also slammed the DMK as a 'corporate company.' The DMK had been servile towards the Centre when it was part of various governments, he alleged.

**24 yrs RI for gang rape accused**  
**Kottayam:** The prime accused in the rape and sale of a minor girl in 1996 at Vithura near Thiruvananthapuram was Friday sentenced to 24 years rigorous imprisonment by a special court here. The Additional District Sessions Court also slapped Suresh with a fine of Rs 1.09 lakh. The court charged him under various sections of the IPC, including 344 and 372 and Section 3(1) and 5(1)(g)(ii) of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act.

**Killer-elephant tranquilised**  
**Udhagamandalam:** A wild elephant, which had killed three people, was Friday tranquilised near Cherampadi, about 85 km from here, sources in the Forest Department said. The elephant with a single tusk and nicknamed Shankar had killed the three between December 11 and 13 last in the area.

## 5th accused held in Rinku Sharma case

Some organisations had started giving communal overtones to the murder, and hashtag Justice for Rinku Sharma trended on Twitter



**New Delhi, Feb 12:** The Delhi Police has made its fifth arrest in the Mangolpuri murder case in which a 25-year-old man was stabbed to death.

Following an argument at a birthday party late Wednesday night, Rinku Sharma was stabbed to death allegedly by a man known to him, and his three friends. The Delhi Police Friday said the murder took place due to a business rivalry, and no communal angle should be attributed to it.

The clarification by the police has come after some organisations started giving communal overtones to the murder, and hashtag Justice for Rinku Sharma trended on Twitter.

Earlier, four persons - Danish, Islam, Zahid and Mehtab, accused

of being involved in the case, were arrested.

"We have made the fifth arrest in the murder case. We are ascertaining the role of Tajuddin. Further investigation is on," said S. Dhama, Additional DCP, Outer Delhi.

As political tempers ran high, and netizens on social media demanded justice for Rinku, many politicians and social activists visited the deceased's family. At the same time, the Delhi Police has categorically stated that the incident does not have any communal angle.

"So far, during investigation it has surfaced that quarrel started during a birthday party over shutting down of a restaurant. All persons are known to each other and they live in the same locality. Any other motive alluded to this incident is factually wrong," said Dr A Koan, DCP Outer Delhi.

## Impact-based flood forecasts in J&K

**Jammu, Feb 12:** In a move to put flood forecast mechanism in place, Jammu and Kashmir has joined hands with UK Space Agency's collaborative project on 'Impact-Based Flood Forecasting using Earth Observation-based Information'.

"Having impact-based forecasts of flood risks will be useful for efficient, effective contingency planning and swift evaluation of severity for necessary response," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was quoted as saying in an official statement.

He observed that international collaboration adds specific value in helping analyse the past flood events and identify relations between pre-

dicted floods and their impact.

The mechanism will predict the impacts on people, their houses, crops, livestock, and transport routes, thereby mitigating many of the challenges people face during flood events, he added.

The project will be undertaken by HR Wallingford in collaboration with Oxford University, Sayers and Partners, and D-Orbit (UK).

A recent report has put India among 10 most disaster-prone countries in the world and ranked floods as a climate-related hazard posing the greatest risk to the people.

India has numerous flood forecast systems that provide predictions of water levels and flows but not their impact in terms of loss of life, damage to buildings, critical in-



rastructure and agriculture.

"In J&K, there is no effective impact-based flood forecast mechanism in place as such. It is a big initiative taken by the Lt Governor and will help predict fluvial flood risks, in terms of expected loss to life, injuries to people, building collapse, infrastructure disruption, and economic damage," the state-

ment added. The framework can be linked to existing or future flood-flow forecast systems. The UT government will not have to bear any expenses on the project.

The National Space Innovation Programme of the UK Space Agency supports collaborative projects between UK organisations and international partners.

## 15 killed in fire in Tamil Nadu cracker factory

**Chennai, Feb 12:** Around fifteen people were killed and at least 12 others injured in a huge fire that broke out at a firecracker factory in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district Friday, police said.

The death toll is likely to go up as the condition of some of the injured admitted to Sivakasi government hospital is stated to be critical.

Police said the fire in the factory in Achankulam near Sattur in Virudhunagar broke out when some chemicals were being mixed to produce firecrackers. Four cracker making sheds were de-



stroyed.

Ten firefighting vehicles rushed to the spot from various surrounding locations like Sattur, Sivakasi and Vembakottai to douse the flames, while officials from police, revenue and other departments also reached there for rescue and relief works.

Chief Minister E.K. Palaniswami expressed grief over the death of 15

## CASE AGAINST COMEDIAN

### MP HC grants interim bail to co-accused

**Bhopal, Feb 12:** The Madhya Pradesh High Court Friday granted interim bail to two men accused of organising a comedy show in Indore, during which stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui allegedly insulted Hindu deities.

Faruqui, who was arrested on January 1 and was in jail since January 2, was set free on bail last week.

In two separate orders that ran identical, Justice Arya observed, "The applicant is held entitled for temporary bail maintaining parity in light of the order of February 5 passed by the Supreme Court (granting bail to Faruqui)."

"Accordingly applicant is hereby enlarged on temporary bail on the conditions of the satisfaction of the trial court, with further condition that applicant shall not indulge himself in any such activity subversive to public order," the order stated.

## Farmers' protest unites Muslims, Jats, Gurjar in West UP

Muslims have been increasingly participating in the Kisan Panchayats being held across western Uttar Pradesh

**Muzaffarnagar, Feb 12:** The communal divide that was created in the Muzaffarnagar riots in 2013, is now filling up with the ongoing farmers' agitation.

Muslims, along with Jats and Gurjars, are slowly wiping off differences and joining hands for the ongoing farmers' agitation.

"The communal differences are now history. Farming is our profession and the problems we are facing, do not differentiate between communities. If we want a solution, we will have to remain united and sweep aside other differences," said Iqbal, who lost his brother in the 2013 riots.

"Apart from my brother, the fam-

ily lost its house which was burnt down and also our savings. We have built back our lives in the past eight years but the situation, at present, demands that we look together towards the future. What happened in 2013 is in the past," he told IANS.

Muslims, according to sources, have been increasingly participating in the Kisan Panchayats being held across western Uttar Pradesh.

Mehru Zaman, a local lawyer, said, "Both communities have always shaped the politics of western UP. Together, we can solve our problems and create a vast vote base."

In 2013, Muslim members of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), led by founding member Ghulam Mohammad Jola, had walked out



of the outfit after the Tikait brothers were booked for inciting communal violence.

Recently at a Kisan

Mahapanchayat, Jola shared the stage with Naresh Tikait and embraced him. This was a day after Rakesh Tikait emotional outburst

made it to national headlines.

"Eight years have passed. Both Jats and Muslims have seen the losses that came with drifting apart, both politically and structurally. Now, we are together. The Muzaffarnagar Mahapanchayat was the beginning. I am hopeful that this camaraderie will endure and help build bridges among people," Jola said.

Sanjay Baliyan, a farmer, said, "It may seem an uneasy truce but it is one that is firm and strong. It is a good start. The matter is farm-

The communal differences are now history. Farming is our profession and the problems we are facing, do not differentiate between communities. If we want a solution, we will have to remain united and sweep aside other differences

IQBAL

ers' welfare, irrespective of faith."

Haseeb Siddiqui, a veteran journalist and a political analyst, said, "This coming together of Jat, Gurjars and Muslims, will ultimately lead to a realignment of political forces, especially in western UP and any political party that supports their cause now will also get their support in the next assembly elections in the state.

A single bench of the high court comprising Justice Rohit Arya granted bail to the two co-accused Prakhar Vyas and Adwin Anthony.

In two separate orders that ran identical, Justice Arya observed, "The applicant is held entitled for temporary bail maintaining parity in light of the order of February 5 passed by the Supreme Court (granting bail to Faruqui)."

"Accordingly applicant is hereby enlarged on temporary bail on the conditions of the satisfaction of the trial court, with further condition that applicant shall not indulge himself in any such activity subversive to public order," the order stated.







# business



**The Budget 2021-22 has laid the foundation for the \$5tn economy. It (reform measures announced in the Budget) will play a big role in India achieving \$5tn economy target and beyond**  
KV SUBRAMANIAN | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

## 'BORDER HAATS' TO BOOST STABILITY

The 'Border Haats' along the India-Bangladesh frontier will promote peace, security, stability and prosperity across the borders, experts, said as they urged the government to expand their utility and functioning



### of the day quote

The government is trying to set up multiple bio-CNG manufacturing units in India. There is huge employment opportunity in this area and it can bolster our economic development



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Customers love the two-hour convenience of Fresh for daily grocery and unmatched Pantry savings when they shop for dry grocery. We are excited to integrate these services in a single online grocery store thus allowing customers to enjoy unmatched convenience and value



SIDDHARTH NAMBIAR | AMAZON INDIA DIRECTOR (CATEGORY MANAGEMENT)

Our digital transformation will ensure the ease of doing business to our customers through continued improvements in the overall Brand experience combined with efficient operations for well-synchronized & timely deliveries



PARTH JINDAL | MD, JSW CEMENT

## IIP grows 1% in Dec; inflation cools to 16-month low in Jan

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Feb 12:** Indicating some signs of recovery, industrial production recorded a positive growth of 1 per cent in December while retail inflation cooled to a 16-month low of 4.06 per cent in January, providing some leeway to RBI to cut interest rate to boost consumption.

Industrial production entered the positive territory after a month, mainly due to better performance of the manufacturing sector, official data showed Friday.

The manufacturing sector -- which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index of industrial production (IIP) -- recorded a growth of 1.6 per cent in December 2020.

Mining sector output declined by 4.8 per cent. However, power generation grew by 5.1 per cent. The IIP had grown by 0.4 per cent in December 2019.

Consumer durables output surged by 4.9 per cent, compared to 5.6 per cent contraction in December 2019.

Consumer non-durable goods production grew by 2 per cent, compared to a contraction of 3.2 per cent a year ago.



Vegetable prices showed further decline during the month with a negative inflation print of 15.84%, while that of pulses and products eased to 13.39%

Retail inflation eased to a 16-month low of 4.06 per cent in January, mainly on account of softening food and vegetable prices.

It is for the second consecutive month that retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has remained within the target range of RBI which is 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent).

The retail inflation stood at 4.59 per cent in December 2020 and 7.59 per cent in January 2020. The previous low for retail inflation was in September 2019 at 4 per cent.

The rate of price rise in the food basket was 1.89 per cent in January this year, significantly down from 3.41 per cent in December, revealed

Industrial production entered the positive territory after a month, mainly due to better performance of the manufacturing sector

Retail inflation eased to a 16-month low of 4.06% in January, mainly on account of softening food and vegetable prices

the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

"Driven by a fairly broad-based moderation in the food inflation, the CPI inflation in January 2021 softened appreciably to a 16-month low... "Food prices have displayed a mixed trend so far in February 2021. The rise in onion prices, as well as higher crude oil prices and their transmission into retail fuel prices are areas of concern that need to be monitored," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist, ICRA.

Vegetable prices showed further decline during the month with a negative inflation print of 15.84 per cent, while that of pulses and products eased to 13.39 per cent.

## JSW offers customers ease of doing biz

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 12:** JSW Cement, India's leading Green Cement producer is digitising its sales & marketing operations to provide channel partners ease of doing business by leveraging AI-based digital interventions.

The company has partnered with Yalochat, world's leading conversational commerce service provider, to introduce AI-based Anytime Anywhere Business transactions for its trade customers.

The Yalochat partnership enables JSW Cement to upsell, transact and provide better service to its customers over messaging apps. This will differentiate JSW Cement as it traverses from current 14 MTPA to 25 MTPA capacities by FY2023.



Managing Director of JSW Cement Parth Jindal said, "We are in a unique position to deliver integrated home-building solutions to Indian consumers."

According to Javier Mata, Yalochat's Founder and CEO, "JSW Cement has not only digitized its dealer relationship but used Yalo to transform it by bringing everything they need through Whats App. Now company's sales force has been empowered to focus on building meaningful relationships with dealers while technology takes care of the rest."

## 'Budget provides stimulus for long-term sustainable growth'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Feb 12:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said the Budget is aimed at making India self-reliant and provides strong stimulus for medium to long term sustainable high growth.

While replying to the discussion on the Budget 2021-22, the minister also attacked former finance minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram for suspecting the Budget numbers. She, however did not mention his name.

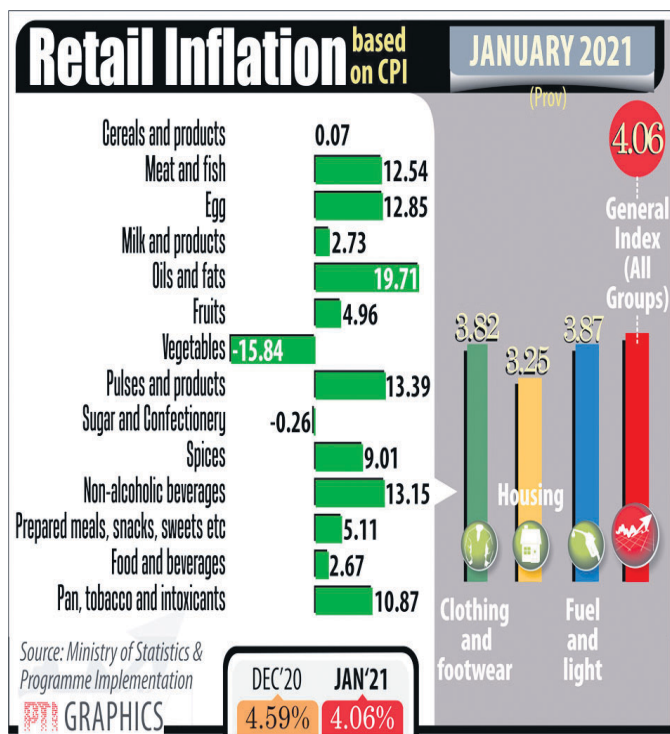
Stressing that the Budget is for



Aatmanirbhar Bharat, she said, "attempt made in this Budget is to provide strong stimulus and provide such a stimulus which can bring in that kind of a multiplier effect..."

"We are also looking at medium to long-term sustainable growth which will keep India in that kind of growth trajectory which will maintain us as one of the fastest

growing economies in the world," she said. With coronavirus pandemic affecting economic activities in the country, India's GDP growth is estimated to contract to a historic low of 7.7 per cent in the financial year ending March 2021. The economy is likely to pick up in the next fiscal and expand by about 11 per cent, as per various estimates. Referring to Chidambaram's remark that major numbers are suspect in the Budget presented by her on February 1, Sitharaman said it was the Congress finance minister who had artificially increased capex numbers during 2007-08.



## Nalco posts ₹240cr net profit in Q3

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Feb 12:** National Aluminium Company Limited (Nalco) Friday announced that the Company has registered a net profit of ₹240 crore during the third quarter of financial year of 2020-21.

The Navratna PSU said that its net profit has jumped by 123 per cent over the previous quarter of current fiscal, which was ₹107 crore.

According to the release issued by Nalco, the net profit for the nine months ended December, 2020 has grown over ten-fold to ₹364 crore as against ₹35 crore in corresponding period of previous year. "The total income in Q3 of FY'21 witnessed substantial growth, registering ₹2,415 crore compared to ₹2,137 crore in Q3 of FY'20," the release claimed.

Moreover, on sales front, the net sales of alumina hydrate for Q3 of



**The net profit for nine months ended December, 2020 has grown over ten-fold to ₹364 crore**

FY'21 was 3.44 lakh tonnes compared to 3.33 lakh tonnes achieved in the corresponding period of last year. Aluminium export also registered impressive growth, with sales volume of 1.38 lakh tonnes during the first nine months of FY21 as compared to 0.50 lakh tonnes during the same period of FY20.

Also, the company says that it achieved strong growth in same quarter, with Bauxite production of 19.34 lakh tonnes, Alumina hydrate production of 5.55 lakh tonnes while metal production achieved was 1.02 lakh tonnes.

During the first nine months of the current fiscal, NALCO achieved production of 53.48 lakh tonnes of bauxite, 15.07 lakh tonnes of alumina hydrate while metal production was 3.06 lakh tonnes.

Nalco CMD Sridhar Patra said, "The Company is geared up to meet the increase in demand with the gradual opening up of the market and the economy. The Company is also focused on operating the on-going projects -- Utkal-D Coal block, 5th Stream Alumina Refinery and Caustic Soda JV projects which will substantially bolster the bottomline of the Company."

## Google partners brace for hit as search giant threatens Oz exit

**GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK ARE FIGHTING THE FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND "NEWS MEDIA BARGAINING CODE" AS OTHER COUNTRIES CONSIDER SIMILAR EFFORTS TO AID PUBLISHERS THAT HAVE LOST AD SALES TO THE TECH COMPANIES**

REUTERS

**Sydney, Feb 12:** Google's threatened shutdown of its search engine in Australia over a proposed content

licensing law would ripple across industries, saddling partners like Apple with a sudden revenue gap and retailers as varied as affordable Kmart to upmarket David Jones with a supply of potentially useless gadgets.

The Alphabet Inc-owned company last month said it would likely pull its core search function from Australia if the government pushes ahead with a plan to require it and Facebook Inc to pay media companies an indeterminate fee for news snippets shown on their services.

Google and Facebook are fighting the first-of-its-kind "News Media Bargaining Code" as other countries consider similar efforts to aid publishers that have lost ad sales to the tech companies. In a sign of the Australian effort's potential to shake up the industry, Microsoft Corp - whose Bing search engine stands to benefit from any Google retreat - on Thursday called for the United

States to adopt a similar law.

Australian lawmakers have said the law is needed to help media firms stay afloat and so will press forward despite the threat, which Google formalised in a securities filing last week that stated forced bargaining "could result in our having to alter or withdraw products and services". Final passage of the legislation could come as early as next week.

Google is pitching its own payment program with terms it can better control, and last month reached a deal with major publishers in France as well as Reuters.

In Australia, Google users, advertisers and business partners have begun to worry about losing Google, which has a 94 per cent share of the country's search market. The interconnected nature of Google's products means that devices including Android phones, Chromebook laptops and Nest smart speakers could be impaired



without search. "If Google's search function no longer exists in Australia, that will remove a lot of the features I use on Google Nest," said Margaret Morgan, a screenwriter from Sydney who keeps a speaker in most rooms

of her house and owns a Google Pixel smartphone.

Google declined to comment for this story. The company has argued that being able to link to other websites for free is essential to search and many other free services that

benefit Australians.

**REASON TO WORRY**  
The many companies that get paid in one way or another from Google search revenue have reason to worry. To Apple Inc, for one, receives billions of dollars globally to set Google as the default search program on iPhones, the Safari web browser and the Siri voice assistant. U.S. antitrust authorities have said.

Browser makers including Mozilla and Opera get revenue share from Google, as do internet carriers in Australia such as TPG Telecom Ltd's iinet, Singapore Telecommunications Ltd's Optus and Telstra Corp.

The various partners did not respond to requests for comment or declined to comment.

Exact terms of such deals could not be learned, but estimates based on publicly available information showed that half-a-billion dollars or more could be at stake.

