

PARINEETI IN BAD MOOD

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

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LEISURE P2



## **DINESH TRIVEDI QUITS RS**

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

TWO STATES



## **2ND TEST STARTS TODAY**

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

SPORTS P1

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**BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | 2021** 

# Not an inch for China, claims India

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

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-

sistently maintained the right to pa-

trol upto Finger 8, including in the current understanding with China," the MoD said.

The ministry also asnorth bank of Pangong Tso are longstanding and well-established.

"On the Indian side, it is Dhan Singh Thapa

POST NEWS NETWORK

ception, is at Finger 8, not at Postnear Finger 3 and on the Chinese Finger 4. That is why India has perside, east of Finger 8," the MoD said,

Why has he (Modi) asked the Defence Minister to make the statement, the Prime serted that permanent Minister should say - I posts of both sides at the have given Indian land ministry has taken note to China, this is the

> truth RAHUL GANDHI

adding the current agreement pro-

vides for cessation of forward deployment by both sides and continued deployment at these permanent posts.

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

All govt staff must declare assets

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

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 deescalate 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.



## NO LET-UP IN **FUEL PRICE HI**

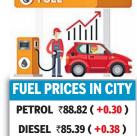
AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 12: Petrol and diesel prices extended gains Friday with pump prices rising by 29 paisa and 35 paisa 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 paisa per litre range, while diesel between 30-35 paisa 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



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.

Centre, Twitter

check fake news

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 adver-

tisements spreading hatred

get SC notice

on ways to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## Poll-bound Assam gets relief

**GUWAHATI:** Ahead of the Assembly polls in Assam, Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday presented a vote-onaccount for ₹60,784.03 crore in the House and withdrew an additional cess on petrol and diesel, making the fuels cheaper by ₹5 per litre. "Speaker sir, at the peak of COVID-19, we had levied additional cess on petrol, diesel and liquor. Now, the number of patients has reduced... I am grateful to my Cabinet colleagues who agreed to my proposal this morning to rescind this additional cess. Hence, petrol and diesel will become cheaper by ₹5 per litre with effect from midnight tonight, benefiting lakhs of consumers across Assam,' Sarma said in his speech. Elections to the 126-member state Assembly are likely to be held in March-April.

## **IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



see, fuel prices have gone up

## 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 Raiva 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.

**MARKET WATCH** 

EURO

GOLD

SILVER

**WEATHER** 

SENSEX **51544.30** 12.78

₹0.48

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#### 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 gov-

ernment is committed to ensure transparency and corruption free adminis-

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The General

Administration (GA) department Friday

issued a resolution making it com-

pulsory for government employees of

all classes and ranks to make annual

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.

tration. As a step further in the above

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 cannot 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

## 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 ₹1,272crore 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 selfesteem and I am working towards

"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

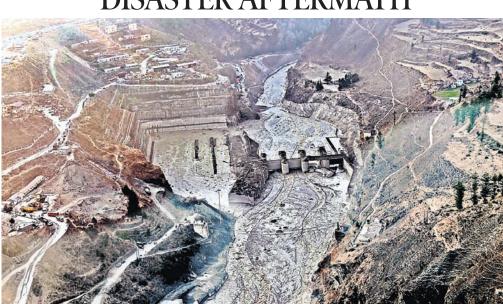
The CM said he has been working for the development of farmers and will continue to do so.

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 agriculturerelated 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

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



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.

## '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

Having reported the world's second-highest number of COVID-19 cases after the United States, India wants to innoculate 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 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

in Vellore.

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'

ndia, 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.





#### '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**

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🔊 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES Are you a science and technology geek? Well, today you may have a chance to use your

knowledge and zoom ahead of everyone! Ganesha 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 ener-getic red today, says Ganesha. 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 Ganesha

A moment once lost is not going to come back. So, it's about time you realised the value of time, says Ganesha, 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

and creativity your best bullet. Ganesha feels you are full of energy, enthusiasm and exuberance. Creativity, though, will be at its best in an atmosphere free of

the small things that somehow manage to 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, fore-

casts Ganesha. 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 firs 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 employ ing you full time, says Ganesha. 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. Ganesha savs 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 vourself will only lead to further delays, says Ganesha.



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

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

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor

is lending support to 100 cancer couples.

He says the pandemic has taught him

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

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 cou-

ples 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 cou-

ples. Not only

Arjun, whose mother Mona Shouri

the importance of helping others. "The pandemic has taught all of us

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.

were they fighting a hard bat-

Arjun to support 100

cancer couples

tle, but they were also con-

fined to their homes fac-

ing the severe threat of

Covid-19. Many of them

did not even have the

source of income to buy

food and essential medi-

The actor appeals peo-

chemotherapy and radiothera-

pies, surgeries and medi-

cines, we can save them

from draining out

financially," he

said. IANS

"By supporting their yearly medical treatment worth Rs 1 lakh per patient

that takes care of expenses for

ple to come forward and

support these vulnerable

cines," he added.



## 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 #traindirtyeatclean.

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.



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 calo-

rie refund for things that didn't taste as good as they should've! Word!"

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

Kajol's latest was a digital release Tribhanga: Tedhi Medhi Crazy. Actressdirector Renuka Shahane has called the shots for the film that also stars Mithila Palkar and Tanvi Azmi.



## **PEANUTS**



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## BREVITY



## PUST

# **CROSSWORD**

Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com 19 Anise-flavoured

liqueur

21 Spheres

Down

20 Llama relative

#### Across 5 Dark reddish-

- brown colour
- 7 Respectful
- 8 Coop group
- 9 Catastrophe 10 Silences
- 12 Tints
- 14 Marshes
- 18 Luzon native
- 15 Gang member

- 1 Capital of Alaska
- 2 Northern seas
- diving bird
- 3 Vociferates 4 Position
- 11 Indian Ocean
  - island
- 13 Accolade

6 Metallic

element

7 Coconut tree

- 14 Idiosyncrasy
- 16 Pepsin, e.g.
- 17 Verdi opera
- 19 Australian export

## 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.

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5				0				3	В			6	Α	9
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	Α	3	6					5				В	7	

## SOLUTIONS



SUDOKU



## downtown



#### **OMSA MEET**

P3 OrissaPOST	ODISHA MEDICAL CERVICE ASSOCIATION		200	COVID-19 TRACKER				
SATURDAY   FEBRUARY 13   2021   BHUBANESWAR	ର୍ଷ ପ୍ରଥାରଣ ପର୍ଷଦ ବେ	OMSA MEET			INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD	
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dO(N/NTO(N/N))		meeting of Odisha Medical Service Association		India	1,08,80,603	1,05,89,230	1,55,447	
		underway in Unit-VI area of Bhubaneswar, Friday		Odisha	3,36,042	3,33,351	1,910	
					: 	111111111111	; 	

## **SC** notice to Andhra on Kotia; no stay on polls

PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Supreme Court Friday sought Andhra Pradesh's response on the contempt petition filed by Odisha against it for holding elections in three villages of Kotia gram panchayat in Koraput district.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and Aniruddha Bose didn't pass any order in the contempt petition and posted the matter for hearing to February 19. The court, however, didn't stay the panchayat election scheduled in Kotia

During the hearing, senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Odisha, submitted that according to the 2006 judgment the status quo shall be maintained by both the states. He contended that Andhra Pradesh is holding elections in the villages Saturday and that will be contempt of court.

However, the bench said,

TERRITORIAL DISPUTE



Odisha's counsel Vikas Singh contended that Andhra Pradesh is holding elections in three villages of Kotia GP Saturday which will be contempt of court

he Naveen Patnaik government has said the notification amounts to invading Odisha's territory

ore than five decades since the first status quo order on the territorial jurisdiction dispute with AP over 21 villages, Odisha has moved the top court again

'Whatever consequence has to follow will follow."

The bench asked Advocate Mahfooz A Nazki, standing counsel for Andhra Pradesh, to file the state's response on the plea of Odisha.

More than five decades since the first status quo order on the territorial jurisdiction dispute with AP over 21 villages, Odisha has moved the top court once again seeking contempt action against officials of the southern state for notifying panchayat polls in three of its villages. The Naveen Patnaik government has said the notification amounts to invading Odisha's territory.

The dispute over territorial jurisdiction over 21 villages popularly called as "Kotia Group of villages" first reached the top court in 1968 when Odisha on the basis of three notifications -- issued December 1, 1920, October 8, 1923 and October 15, 1927 -- claimed that Andhra Pradesh had trespassed into its well-defined territory.

## TWO HELD FOR **MURDER IN CITY**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The Commissionerate Police arrested two persons for allegedly killing their neighbour at Jharana Basti in Mancheswar police limits.

The accused were identified as Chandi Naayak and his brotherin-law Sukant Das of the same slum. The deceased identified as Chhotulal Besra had a shop at the slum.

As per the FIR lodged by Chhotulal's son Tabisha Besra, Sukant allegedly attacked the victim and his wife with a sharp weapon (knife). The complainant said Raiu and Chandi, also the neighbours of the victim, attacked them with sticks and broken bottles. Chhotulal died on the spot while his wife was grievously in-

Police sources revealed that both the families had a dispute over some monetary issue.

Police arrested the accused persons after registering a case (48/21) in this regard. They were later sent to judicial custody after rejection of their bail pleas.

## CM: Withdraw bylaws for Ananta Basudev, Brahmeswar temples

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday urged the Centre to withdraw the bylaws drafted by National Monuments Authority (NMA) for Ananta Basudev and Brahmeswar

temples here. Naveen took to the Twitter to say, "Central Govt should immediately withdraw the National Monuments Authority draft bylaws on Ananta Basudev & Brahmeswar Temple of #EkamraKshetra. It would have been appropriate for the Central agencies to take the State into confidence on sensitive religious issues (sic)."

He appealed all MPs from the state to take up the issue with the Centre and Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel as it involves the sentiments of lakhs of devotees of Odisha, lives and livelihood of servitors linked to the smooth conduct of rituals of Lord Lingaraj.

The bylaws prohibit construction of any kind within 100-metre of a temple and regulate con-



Women offering earthen lamps near Lingaraj temple, Friday, seeking withdrawal of the draft bylaws of National Monuments Authority

structions on further 200-metre. Ananta Basudev temple is located within 300-metre radius of the 11th century Lingaraj temple. While the draft bylaws for Ananta Basudev covers a section of the Lingaraj shrine in its regulated zone, those for Brahmeswar have Bhaskareswar and Megheswar temples within 300-metre radius.

Reacting to this, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan made a series of tweets and said it seems that the Chief Minister is inadequately briefed on the applicability of the draft bylaws by NMA.

He requested Naveen to direct the Chief Secretary to write to Union Culture secretary for examining point by point provisions of the draft bylaws and for listing out objections of the state government in the draft published by

## Three arrested for smuggling tusks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The special task force (STF) of the state crime branch Friday arrested three wildlife smugglers from Jajpur, an official

to dispose of the elephant tusks when the STF sleuths carried out a raid and managed to take them into custody. Three tusks and a few incriminating materials were he accused were identified as Pitabas

Barik of Bhagabanpur in

of Barbil in Keonjhar and Ambuia Pradhan of

Kabatbandha in Jajpur

Keonjhar, Ananda Mohakud

bled at an isolated stretch near

Kabatbandha Square in Jajpur

he accused have assembled at an isolated stretch near Kabatbandha Square in Jaipur to dispose of the elephant tusks when the STF sleuths carried out a raid

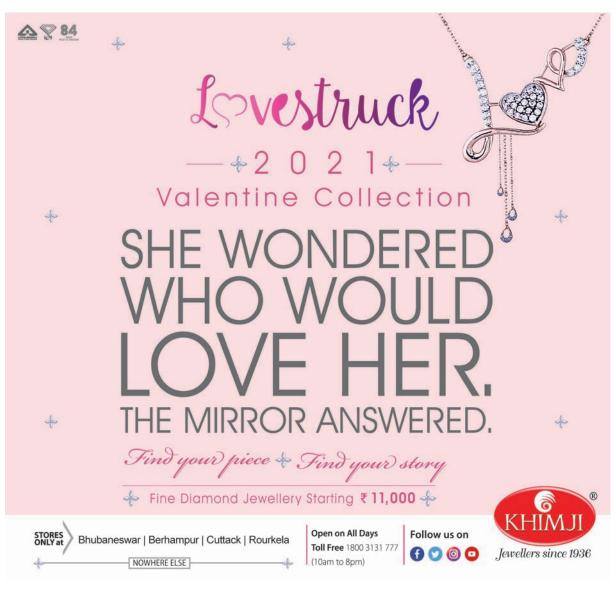
The accused were identified as Pitabas Barik of Bhagabanpur in Keonjhar, Ananda Mohakud of Barbil in Keonjhar and Ambuja Pradhan of Kabatbandha in Jajpur.

According to an official, the crackdown came while the four were about to seal a deal of tusks.

"The accused have assem-

recovered from their possession," the official said.

A case (7/21) under Sections 379 (theft) and 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) of the IPC as well as 51 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been registered with the STF police station here. "They were sent to judicial custody by a local court," the official added.



## **Identify more locations** for nature tourism: CS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: With overwhelming results from the eco-retreat interventions in post-lockdown scenario, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra directed the officials concerned to identify more locations for enhancing nature tourism activities in the state.

Mahapatra gave this direction while reviewing the present state and future prospect of nature tourism in the state at a high-level meeting held Friday.

Officials from Tourism, Forest & Environment and Water Resources departments were asked to identify more locations for enhancing nature tourism activities in the state.

"The Collectors should identify locations for setting up year-round eco-retreat sites, nature camps, day destinations, river cruise, boating, jungle safari, wild life sighting towers etc." he said.

As selection of the appropriate site for nature tourism is very crucial for taking it to the next level, the Chief Secretary advised Tourism Secretary Vishal Dev and Idco CMD Sanjay Kumar Singh to verify the identified locations and evaluate their potential for development as year-round tourist destinations. The proposals regarding

scaling up such activities at Talasari, Konark, Satpada, Chandipur, Debrigarh, Bhitarkanita, Similipal, Daringibadi, Astarang, Satkosia gorge, Tikarpada,

Hirakud, Chilika and Nalabana were discussed in the meeting. He directed to demarcate tourism zones in forest areas. list out the dams, river stretches and water bodies having good potential for boating, cruises and placement of houseboats. It was decided

that the diesel motor boats

engaged in tourist sites would

be converted to CNG mode. He advised the Forest Department to start nature camps in 30 to 40 new locations during the year. It was also decided to invite more private sector investment for making the nature tourism activity more competitive and employment generating.

## Secretariat staff to come early on bandh day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The Home department Friday asked the staffers of state secretariat to come to the office early February 15. when the Odisha Congress would be observing a state-wide bandh on the issue of fuel price hike.

The department has asked the employees to report to the office latest by 9:30am owing to the likely obstructions on the way to office on the day. The department has also planned to take a slew of measures to ensure smooth entry of the staffers on the day. It has been decided that the front gates of the

occasion online as the chief guest

and delivered the Foundation Day

lecture. The event was presided

over by the IIT director RV Raja

The IIT director on this auspi-

cious occasion welcomed

the chief guest, other

luminaries and the

fraternity in-

cluding those

who joined the

event online.

Raja Kumar

also added that

Kumar.

ambitious centres of

excellence in very relevant

research areas, like the

atmospheric sciences group

the course of the cyclone with

great degree of accuracy 5-6

days prior to its landfall

RV RAJA KUMAR I DIRECTOR

IIT-BHUBANESWAR

Lok Seva Bhawan would be closed at 10:15am on the day while all other passages would be regulated through the rear gate. The department has also tightened the security for the entrants on the day. Mandatory checking of ID cards and passes will be enforced while vehicles without passes would

not be allowed to enter the prem-

ises of the office. The department has also decided to scrutinise the entry of people having business and others works. Entry of such persons would now be allowed only with prior appointment of the Special Secretary of Home department on the day.

## Building plan approval goes online

BHUBANESWAR: Housing and Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena Friday launched online building plan approval system under Sustainable Urban Service in a Jiffy by Odisha Government (SUJOG). The OBPAS is an end-to-end online system for the entire building plan approval processes including automated building plan drawing scrutiny, auto calculation and payment of fee, streamlined building permit application process, plinth/roof verification and occupancy certificate, Jena said. He said the new system will cater to the requirements of citizens, architects, and technical persons while providing a software-based verification of building plans and details, for compliance with the various rules as defined in Odisha Development Authorities Act, 1982.

## 13TH FOUNDATION DAY

## IIT-Bhub bolstered manufacturing sector: Reddy

Dignitaries and faculty members of IIT-Bhubaneswar during the foundation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar has contributed significantly towards strengthening the manufacturing sector in the country through their expertise, re-**IIT created** 

search, technological innovations. This was stated by G Satheesh Reddy, acquiring the ability to predict Chairman,

Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), Scientific

Advisor to Defence Minister. He was addressing the IIT-Bhubaneswar's 13th Foundation Day organised at its campus, Friday. Reddy graced the

generation IITs. He said, "I am happy to share that during last 12 years of exis-

Bhubaneswar has been ranked top two in terms of student strength among the second

tence, the institute could remarkably raise its standards to offer the best of education and grew as one of the best of the campuses among IITs, co-host Inter IIT Sports Meet and organize it in high standards.

day ceremony, Friday

It created ambitious centres of excellence in very relevant research areas, like the atmospheric sciences group acquiring the ability to pre-

dict the course of the cyclone with

great degree of accuracy 5-6 days

prior to its landfall."

The institute consciously made its vision very ambitious to produce outstanding graduates and research output and took several developmental steps in that direction, he mentioned. "Some initial results of efforts are already visible and it is very encouraging to see it getting prominently placed in rankings across international and national frameworks," he added.

Reddy expressed his happiness for being a part of the 13th Foundation Day celebrations. He expressed the contributions IIT-Bhubaneswar is making to DRDO and lauded the outstanding contributions and healthy association of Raja Kumar with DRDO in their projects of the past. He credited the director for his visionary approach, leadership, tireless efforts and sheer determination which led the Institute to scale new heights.

He also made a mention about the various opportunities for collaborating with IIT-Bhubaneswar in terms of research, long term projects, applied research, providing incubation and mentoring for startup centres along with establishing their Centre of Excellence at IIT Bhubaneswar. He further mentioned that IIT-Bhubaneswar could contribute significantly by their expertise, research, technological contributions for strengthening the manufacturing sector in the country.

Raja Kumar in presence of the chief guest felicitated the students, faculty and staff members of the institute with teaching excellence awards given on the basis of student feedback, and Director's Commendations for outstanding research contributions and meritorious services in their respective fields on this historic occasion.

## **Dramatist Kunja** Roy dies at 76

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Eminent playwright, comedian, translator, novelist, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and Odisha Sahitva Akademi award-winning playwright Kunja Roy passed away in Bhubaneswar, Friday. He was 76.

Roy had worked as a high-ranking official at AG office. 'Nayak Chandrasen' is a popular play written by him for All India Radio. 'Agnisnan', 'Keun Nai Muhana

Re', 'Kalantara', 'Bidaya Bajraditya', 'Apratihata Kharabela', 'Karmayogi' and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi award winning drama, 'Nayak

Chandrasena' were some of his timeless creations. was

He feted Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, Odisha

Sahitya Akademi, Prajatantra Prachar Samiti, Harihar Mohapatra Samman, Natyakar Ramchandra Samman, Pancham Veda Natyanusthan, Ajit Natvanusthan, Manan Natyanusthan, Shatabdi Ra Kalaakar and many more.

His last rites were performed at Swargadwar, Puri this evening. Odisha's Natyasanghas, theatre lovers, the audience and thereaders are deeply saddened by his demise.



















# **Chudaganga forest to turn into wildlife safari**

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Chudaganga forest allotted to Nandankanan Zoological Park, located on the outskirts of the city here, will be developed as a wildlife safari.

Keeping in view the safety of wildlife and forest land, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has directed Works department officials to complete construction of boundary wall of 8 sq km of the forest area by the end of June next.

Making a field visit to the zoo, Mahapatra reviewed the multi-storied parking, now under construction near the zoo, and directed the zoo authorities to finalise the tender process for the management and conservation of the park-

Official sources said around 35 lakh people visit the zoo every year and at anytime 1.500 four-wheelers and 600 two-wheelers can be parked at the proposed parking place. The Chief Secretary directed

## **NZP EXPANSION**



The Chief Secretary has boundary wall of 8 sq km in the forest area by June

e also directed the zoo authorities to complete the process for the plying of a toy train inside the zoo by the end of March this year

ahapatra instructed the Works department officials to connect the Botanical Garden near Nandankan to the proposed by-pass road from Jaydev Vihar

the Works department to prepare a master plan for the renovation of the bus stand and the front side of Nandankanan.

He also directed the zoo authorities to complete the process for the plying of a toy train inside the zoo by the end of March this year and said the toy train should be made more attractive for the children.

Mahapatra instructed the Works department officials to connect the Botanical Garden near Nandankan to the proposed by-pass road from Jaydev Vihar. For this, a 500-metre

## Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: A mega

POST NEWS NETWORK

investment summit will be held here February 20 wherein more than 300 startups from across 12 states will be pitching before the delegation of investors, industry experts and associations.

The event titled 'Fund Flow East Summit 2021' will be organised by Atal Incubation Centre-Nalanda Institute of Technology Foundation (AIC-Nalanda) in partnership with Free Flow Ventures

Addressing a presser here Friday, Tapan Kumar Chand, DG, AIC-NITF & Director, BALCO, said, "The summit will bring a consortium of investors with exclusive opportunities for the startups who aspire to raise investment from renowned investors of the startup ecosystem.'

He explained that this initiative aims at scouting more than 300 startups across 12 states comprising East and North East in India namely: Odisha (host state), Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal. Out of

# Fund Flow East Su

300 startups to join mega investment meet

them, the best 25 startups would be pitching before the delegation of investors, industry experts and associations after getting selected.

Aaguib Hussain from Free Flow Ventures briefed the media that the event would follow a three-tier model with Working Capital and Seed Support rounds happening first with focus on strategic investing and venture building. Then the Facilitator Rounds for Higher Raise would follow. A total cohort of more than 20 committing investors would be engaged for a cumulative sum of over Rs 5 crore as fund commitments from the dedicated event.

Startup Odisha under the aegis

## Startups from Odisha (host state), Arunachal Pradesh,

Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal would attend the big investment summit

**FUND FLOW EAST** 

**SUMMIT 2021** 

he event would follow a three-tier model with Working Capital and Seed Support rounds happening first with focus on strategic investing and venture building

Online registration of interested startups and nomination from incubators are onen till February 15

novation and entrepreneurship and is surging ahead to be the "Startup Capital of the East", said Durga Prasad Gouda, CEO-AIC-NITF

AIC-NITF is a technology business incubator supported by Atal Innovation Mission, a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the nation.

## Covid test must for attending **Budget session**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: All the tests for Covid-19 to attending the ensuing Budget session of the Odisha assembly that will begin February 18, officials said Friday.

A temporary camp will be set up on the Assembly premises for conducting Covid-19 tests of all MLAs, their personal security officers. drivers, assembly staff, ministerial employees as well as journalists, as per a letter by the Health department.

"Like the previous session, it is mandatory to undergo the RT-PCR test for entering the Assembly building," Assembly secretary Dasarathi Satpathy told PTI.

The Capital Hospital will conduct the RT-PCR tests from 8:30am to 1:30pm and 3pm to 5pm February 15 and 16 and from 8:30am to 1:30pm February 17 in the Assembly premises. Those attending the Assembly proceedings will again undergo tests after the conclusion of the session. If any member feels uncomfortable during the session, they may go for an antigen test.

## BJP seeks transparency in KALIA scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: The state unit of BJP Friday sought more transparency regarding the beneficiaries of KALIA scheme, a day when the government planned to disburse funds under the scheme

The party also said that the announcement was a tactic to divert the fumed farmers from the issues of irregularities in paddy pro-

"Farmers are now questioning the ministers and MLAs in the state. The state government on the other hand has tried to use another tactic to divert the attention of the people from the issue. The state government Friday decided to give the funds under KALIA scheme," BJP leader Golak Mohapatra said

He also said, "If the state government has data of 53 lakh farmers why are they not giving the same to the Centre for PM-Kisan Scheme.

The farmers are now deprived of the central scheme due to the

state government initiatives.'

Mohapatra said that if the state government was so honest and transparent, why not they paste the details of all the farmers in the panchayat office from the area. 'Let there be transparency. We had demanded that the erring officials involved in giving funds the ineligible farmers should be punished. We want to ask what happened to our demand," he asked.

The BJP leader said that unlike the Naveen government, Modi government continued giving funds under PM-Kisan scheme even after elections got over.

BJD leader Amar Satpathy, however, "The state has taken pro-farmer steps. People had said that KALIA was meant for elections. But as per our commitment, the state is now going to give the funds to the beneficiaries. The Union government copied our idea and started the PM-Kisan scheme. This is not an election year but we are giving the earmarked funds to

## **Daspalla wood reaches Puri for Rath Yatra**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Daspalla, Feb 12: On Kumbha Sankranti, two trips of wood were Friday sent from Daspalla to Puri for Rath Yatra.

The logs were sent after the puja of Maa Raula at Dasspalla. This is the first trip of wood for the car festival. Servitor Rakesh Mohanty of Daspalla's Mahavir temple said,

"Another 15 trips of logs will be sent to Puri. Daspalla has been sending the wood to Srimandir for the last 100 years." These logs were fetched from Pokharigocha and Puri administration has sent a team of cameramen to record the proceedings, he added. Forest ranger Akhilesh Malick said, "We've sent 49 logs of which 30 are asana of 12ft-long and 3-ft-width and 19 dhaura. Notably, Daspalla king was allowed to climb up to 4th step of Puri Srimandir with his royal umbrella because of his service to provide wood for Rath Yatra.

## **IN LORD'S SERVICE**

of Government of Odisha is the

State Ecosystem Partner of Fundflow

East Summit. Government bodies

like Invest India and various

Chambers of Commerce like ICC,

MCC&i, BCC&i, UCCI, NOCCI,

FJCCI, ACC, TEACCA, TCC&I are

Online registration of interested

startups and nomination from in-

cubators are open till February 15

following which sessions for cu-

rated founder videos and master-

classes for pitching rounds shall be

conducted for the selected startups.

states among the fastest growing

startup ecosystems in the country has

multi-sectoral opportunities for in-

"Odisha being one of the leading

supporting the imitative.



## Devotee from Bengal 'attacked' by cop

Puri, Feb 12: A devotee from Burdwan district of West Bengal was reportedly assaulted by a police man deployed at the West Gate of Srimandir here, Friday.

Victim Satyabrata Sahu, how-

ever, did not lodge a complaint in this regard with the police, sources said. According to sources, Sahu along with eight of his family members

visited Srimandir in the morning. All his family members except an elderly woman exited the shrine through the West Gate after paying obeisance to the presiding deities. The elderly woman was left in-

side the shrine as she couldn't walk after travelling a long distance. Later, Sahu brought an auto-rickshaw to the West Gate to pick her.



Srimandir in Puri, Friday

However, the police personnel did not allow Sahu and others to enter the shrine through West Gate. They asked the visitors to enter though the Lions' Gate.

Soon, an argument ensued be-

tween Sahu and the police personnel when the former tried to explain the situation to the latter. Enraged over the argument, a police man allegedly attacked Sahu and misbehaved with him, sources said.

Meanwhile, Singhadwar police registered a case in connection with the incident as per a complaint filed by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

The complaint said that some devotees tried to enter the shrine forcibly. The devotees hurled abuses at the police personnel when the latter raised an objection.

SP KV Singh has directed Additional SP PC Badajena to probe the incident and submit a report within 24 hours. "Stern action would be taken against anybody found guilty in the case," Singh said.

## Utkal University students, alumni campaign for plastic-free campus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: A 'plastic free campus' campaign was or-Utkal University Alumni Association Friday. Under this campaign the former and present students jointly participated to clean the campus premises.

Raghunath Prusty, former student and member of association, said. "Youths have a crucial role to play in 'plastic-free campus' campaign. Not only they can transform their campuses, but they can also set an example for their peers that a better world is possible. We must change our perspective and

go zero-waste. Asish Chandra Pati, a university student, said, "Plastic-free campus is a movement that sprouted from the fundamental idea that educational institutions can set the



Apart from students, alumni and teachers of various departments also participated in the campaign that began January 30

standards for institutions at large. He said that solutions implemented at the campus level can be replicated at city, state, and country levels." Apart from students, teachers of various departments also participated in the cleaning campaign which was started by the association January 30, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Plastic pollution is a real issue. Plastics are made from hydrocarbons and their production harms our environment from added greenhouse gases. Nature can't digest it; plastics turn into smaller pieces called micro-plastics that never decompose. Plastics affect millions of sea and land creatures who are injured or killed eating them. Therefore, we need to rid ourselves from the habit of using plastics," said Krishna Chandra Rath, HOD of Geography Department.

The university and colleges in the state had started physical classes for the UG and PG students after being closed for more than nine months since March due to Covid 19 pandemic.

## faculty: State POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: Higher

Govt not to bear

expenses of guest

Education (HE) department Friday versities that the state government will not bear the expenses of the guest faculty and the payment of their remunerations. The concerned university shall meet the remuneration expenses from its

own resources. HE joint secretary Birendra Korkora in a letter to the registrars of state public universities had directed the universities to pay the guest faculty whenever they were

engaged as per UGC Guidelines. In 2019, the University Grants Commission in a letter to the registrars of all universities directed to enhance the honorarium for guest faculty to Rs 1500 per lecture subject to a maximum of Rs 50,000 per month.

## **CLASSIFIED**

## **AFFIDAVIT**

I, Godathi Ramaprasad, S/o. Godati Satyanarayana, At. Marangola, Chiplima, Sambalpur would like to inform general public that I have lost my original ROR (Patta) relating to property situated at Mouza- Marangola, P.S.-Burla, Dist.- Sambalpur bearing M.S. Khata No. 151/9. If anyone finds kindly contact: 9110599009.

## Health workers spread road safety message

POST NEW NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: While the nation is celebrating Road Safety Month, several health workers of the city and agencies responsible for operating 108 and 102 ambulance services in Odisha organised a Road Safety Awareness Campaign Friday.

Under this campaign, the health workers shared road safety aware $ness \ messages \ to \ public \ posing \ as$ 'Yamaraj' and 'Chitragupta' and thanked all law abiding citizens.

Apart from this, a bike rally was kicked off from AG square via Sishu Bhavan square and culmi-



Health workers sensitise commuters on road safety at AG Square in Bhubaneswar

nated at Ram Mandir square. Attending as chief guest on this occasion, K K Panigrahi, Additional DCP (Traffic) thanked heath workers for this noble initiative. "Safety should be the top priority for every-

one in all spheres of life. People should not hurry while driving and should obey road etiquettes to pre-

vent mishaps," said Panigrahi. Addressing the media on the occasion of Road Safety Month, Sabyasachi Biswal, Odisha Head, Ziqitza Health Care Ltd, which is operating 108 and 102 free ambulance services in the state, said, "It's everyone's responsibility to follow road safety rules compulsorily."

Every year, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways observes the National Road Safety Week in the second week of January.

This year, however, the ministry has decided to observe a monthlong initiative from January 18 to February 17 to ensure a more effective awareness on the rising number of deaths due to road mishaps in the country and necessary ameliorative measures to curb it.

## **ANTI-SOCIALS ACTIVE AGAIN** AT RLY STATIONS, BUS STANDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 12: With the gradual normalisation of rail and road traffic, the anti-socials at railway station and bus terminal in the City have become active again. The robbers have recently looted more than Rs 1.50 lakh from three persons

this week alone. According to Sahava, a non-profit organisation, providing free service at the Capital hospital, more than 20 persons were looted by the miscreants who are mostly active in the Bhubaneswar railway station area following the easing of Covid guidelines. Many other cases were also reported from other private hospitals in the city.

The miscreants have been targeting gullible persons hailing from remote districts and working outside the state. They used to loot the victims after their arrival at the

railway station here. They assured the victims to drop them at their destination or nearby bus stoppage by their vehicle. However, the accused later offer the victims spiked fruit juice, food or tea. Subsequently, they decamp with their belongings while throwing them at secluded places.

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# SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 13 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

**OrissaPOST** 

# Admin against Ganjam fringe areas taking part in AP polls

Patrapur/Chhatrapur, Feb 12: As panchavat elections in Andhra Pradesh are underway, candidates of various political parties from the neighbopuring state campaigned in some bordering villages under Patrapur block in Ganjam. Such attempts are aimed at wooing people of the fringe villages to cast their votes in favour of candidates of the neighbouring state. Now, question arises if people of the fringe areas in Ganjam have voting rights in the elections in the neibouring state.

Notably, the government of the neighbouring state had forcibly carried out various developmental and welfare works in some fringe villages ahead of the panchayat

Campaigning in fringe villages like Kuladi, Satapur (in Tumba panchayat), Gudikhala (Buratal panchayat) points to the fact that many residents are suspected to have got voter identity cards of the neigbouring state. It is said that people of these three villages are going to be part of the panchayat elections.

Sabitri Sabar of Kuladi villages is contesting as a ward member in the three-tier panchayat elections. As this news spread, Patrapur BDO Prakash Chandra Das and tehsildar Amit Kumar Nayak along with Jarada police had visited the village



he government of the neighbouring state had forcibly carried out various developmental and welfare works in some fringe villages ahead of the panchavat polls

eople in fringe villages receive like ration cards, old neighbouring gov-

Sabitri Sabar of Kuladi villages was said to contesting as a ward member in the three-tier panchayat elections. As this news spread, Patrapur BDO Prakash Chandra Das and tehsildar Amit Kumar Nayak along with Jarada police had visited the village

Thursday. They tried to convince people not to be part of the panchayat elections in Andhra Pradesh.

When Sabitri Sabar asked about her electoral participation in the Andhra panchayat polls, she said that she had gone to file nomination, but some people took my signature on a piece of paper.

At this time, a vehicle along with a bike rally involved in the Andhra panchhayat polls had entered the

village in the presence of officials. Later, villagers assured the officials in writing that they would not take part in AP panchayat se-

It may be noted here that people

in fringe villages sharing borders with AP receive various sops and benefits like ration cards, old age pension from the neighbouring government. Meanwhile, Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange said there was no such controversy in Ganjam fringe villages about people intending to take part in Andhra panchayat elections.

"Why they would vote in the AP elections? They will not do that," they Collector added.

He also said that Berhampur sub-collector and local tehsildar have held the first phase of talks with people. There is no such issue in the district, he added



A district level camp to select Kabadi players is in progress in Sambalpur, Friday

## Commercial air service to take off in 6-8 months

Jeypore, Feb 12: For commencement of commercial air service, the Jeypore airstrip in Koraput district will have to wait six to eight months more.

Commerce & Transport Secretary Madhusudan Padhi said this after inspection of the airstrip and a review meeting Friday. Jeypore MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati and other government officials attended the

"At first the airstrip will be included in the Udaan Scheme. It will be completed by March. Then it will take six to eight months for commencement of flight service,' informed Padhi. The airstrip built in 1960s was used whenever ministers or VIPs visited the town.



Later, in the 1980s a private airline started operating flights from Jeypore airstrip. But the service was stopped after a flight crashed.

Air Ōdisha had started flights from Jeypore in 2016, but its services were stopped later as both companies were using single en-

The runway width has been expanded to 24-metres from 15 metres. Similarly, a boundary wall extending to 2.5 km was built around The airstrip built in 1960s was used the airstrip. Once the much awaited flight services starts, it will make a huge difference in improving the  $\;$  airline started operating flights from tourism industry in the undivided

Commerce & Transport Secretary Madhusudan Padhi said this after inspection of the airstrip and a review meeting Friday. Jeypore MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati and other government officials attended the

JEYPORE AIRSTRIP

At first the airstrip will be included in the Udaan Scheme. It will be completed by March. Then it will take six to eight months for commencement of flight service,' informed Padhi

whenever ministers or VIPs visited the town. Later, in the 1980s a private Jeypore airstrip. But the service was stopped after a flight crashed.

## **Top woman Maoist** handed over to parents



POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Feb 12: A top woman Maoist cadre, who surrendered in December, 2020 before Koarput SP was handed over to her parents Friday. This was stated by SP Barun Gunthpalli

at a presser here. It may be noted here that Area Committee Member (ACM) Rame Madkami joined Ram Krisna group when she was only 13. Madkami is a resident of Kurub under Kalimela police limits in Malkangiri district.

After years of life marked by violence, she had shunned it and surrendered before then SP Mukesh Bhampu December 2, 2020. She sustained injuries during an exchange of fire between police and Maoists on Andhra Pradesh borders in 2020.

The district police are taking steps for her proper treatment. Steps are also being taken to provide monetary assistance as per the surrender and rehabilitation scheme of the state government.

She will also get financial assistance for building a house, pursuing studies and getting training in a trade or vocation of her will, the police said.

Her father Sukra Madmaki, mother Bire Madkami and sister Gagatri Madkami were happy to get back their daughter.

## Woman dies after delivery due to 'medical negligence'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Feb 12: A pregnant woman died after a doctor at the district headquarters hospital here allegedly cut a vein while performing a Caesarian surgery on her. The husband of the deceased woman made this allegation Friday and asked the District Collector to take action against the doctor for

Shyamananda Nayak had admitted his wife Manaswini to Jajpur DHH after she went into labour pain Tuesday. The doctor in-charge had allegedly demanded ₹5, 000 from Shyamananda. After receiving the amount, he performed the surgery and the woman gave birth

to a baby boy Wednesday. However, soon after, Manaswini developed post-delivery complications and started bleeding. All efforts to stop the bleeding went in vain. She received seven units of The deceased's husband alleged doctors at the SCB blamed the excess bleeding to a vein being cut during the surgery at the Jajpur DHH

The family members were then asked to take Manaswini to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, which they did Thursday. 'The doctors at the SCB Medical College and Hospital blamed the excess bleeding to a vein being cut during the surgery at the Jajpur DHH," informed Shyamananda. A few hours later Manaswini breathed her last. However, the newborn is

Chief district medical officer Dr Sudhanshu Sekhar Bal could not be reached for comments on the alleblood, but even then her condition gation levelled by Shyamananda.

healthy and doing well.

## KALAHANDI RECORDS THREE **ELEPHANT DEATHS IN 10 DAYS**



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna/Dhenkanal, Feb 12: Another female elephant was found dead in Kalahandi district Friday. With this casualty, three elephants have died in the district in the last 10 days.

A report from Bhawanipatna said the elephant's carcass was found in Karlapata Wildlife Sanctuary Friday.

A female elephant was found dead February 1 near Karlapata while another pachyderm's carcass was found February 8 at ians also visited the spot to con-

A female elephant died February 1 near Karlapata while another

was found February 8 at

Gusuriguda. The two had died of septicaemia. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO),

Gusuriguda

T Ashok Kumar, visited the spot and ordered an inquiry into the incident.

Forensi

duct post-mortem of the dead elephant. The post-mortem report holds significance as it will throw light on the cause of death.

Various outfits have demanded a high-level probe into the backto-back elephant casualties in Kalahandi district.

Meanwhile, an elephant death was reported from Dhenkanal district. DFO Prakash Chand Gogineni said that it may have suffered injuries while fighting with another pachyderm. He said that there were significant injury marks on the body of the elephant. Post-mortem of the carcass has been done and the report is awaited, he added.

Meanwhile, a report from Sambalpur said an elephant calf was found dead near Bindhapur under Rairakhole forest division. After post-mortem, its carcass was cremated Friday. It is believed that the calf might have

e of Work: INSTRUMENTATION FOR VALIDATION OF LWR ON MAJOR BRIDGE NO. 2KS (COMPOSITE GIRDER) OF SPAN (1X18.30M+1X12.20M+1X18.3M) AT CH 2012 MTR. OF KAPILASH ROAD SALEGAON DOUBLING SECTION ON KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COASTRAILWAY.

33.90 Lakhs, EMD: Nil, Cost of Tende Document : Nil, Completion Period of

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any

The tenderers should read all instructions to The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second Sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tende documents, submission of Annexure-C verified and signed by

PR-93/CD/20-21

## Problems aplenty at Kesinga railway station

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, Feb 12: The Kesinga railway station under Sambalpur Division is presently struggling with a plethora of problems.

The station used to have a 'coach display facility' or electronic board. This facility has been out of order for a year now. As a result, the passengers, particularly elderly ones, are facing problems. Express trains stop at the station for two-three minutes only. So people find it difficult to get the exact location of the coaches. There is always a mad rush of people whenever trains



halt at the station. At times passengers even miss trains due to the lack of the display facility.

The men's and women's toilets situated on platform No.1 do not have any power connection. So people find it difficult to use once the sun sets.

Similarly, a broken tile on the platform in front of Book Stall No. 1 is causing problems to all those who visit the station. People often stumble against this broken tile

and fall and suffer injuries. People a complain about lack of announcement facility. Kesinga is one of the important stations in this division with a halt for many important trains. Lack of announcements about arrival and departure of trains cause passengers insurmountable difficulties. Also the foot overbridge at the station lacks lights. Due to this, passengers face difficulties going from one platform to another.

Also there is no drinking water facility at the station. There are

taps but without water. Platforms No. 1, 2 and 3 do not have any restrooms. The only rest room on platform No.4 is dirty.

Kesinga railway station master Sibash Meher said the coach display facility will remain non-functional

The contract of the firm running and maintaining it has expired. A fresh tender will be floated and a new contractor will be awarded the job. So the display

board will be functional from April.

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR Phone-0680-2404096, E-Mail: eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in

Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. Online Tender/07/EERWD-II/2020-21 No. 546/RWD-IIGB, Date 05.02.2021

1 Name of the work **Building works** Rs.0.88 lakh to 50.00 lakh Estimated cost Period of completion 25 (Twenty Five) days to 6 (Six) calendar months as per Annexure 4 Date & time of availability From 15.02.2021 at 10.00 A.M. to 23.02.2021 upto 3.00 P.M. of bid documents in the portal 5 Last date / Time for receipt 23.02.2021 upto 3.00 P.M. of bids in the portal 6 Name and address of Executive Engineer, Rural Works the officer inviting bid Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal websit https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/aap

Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur OIPR-25073/11/0007/2021

## Sharp rise in iron ore prices pushes firms to the edge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Feb 12: Iron ore prices in the state have skyrocketed after the state government permitted firms from outside to buy minerals from Daitari mines, a report said.

The state government's move has impacted the industrial firms in Kalingnagar Industrial Complex in the district. The price per tonne of iron ore was ₹4,500 in the e-auction held December 2, 2020. However, the base price per tonne of iron ore went up to ₹6000 in the e-auction

held February 1, 2021 Observers attributed the sharp rise in price of iron ore to the participation of outside firms in the eauction which pushed the per tonne

price by ₹7,050. On the other hand, industrial firms are reeling from severe loss as the prices of manufactured pig and sponge iron products are falling day by day. Meanwhile, 50 per cent of the firms in Kalinganagar have shut down their plants.

Observers apprehend that the sharp rise in iron ore prices may soon lead to closure of the rest of the plants and result in heavy revenue loss for the state government if the latter does not desist from increasing the prices at the behest of outside firms.

This will also result in heavy financial loss for financial institutions like banks and in job loss for scores of employees and workers of these plants, said PL Kandoi, president of Kalinganagar Industries Association (KIA).

Expressing serious concern, KIA recently submitted a memorandum to the managing director of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). In the memorandum, KIA members have demanded to scrap the last e-auction process and reduce the price of iron ores by calling for fresh e-auction. Reports said over 25,000 labourers working in various plants in Kalinganagar have lost their jobs over last five years. The termination of regular employees from service is equally grave and has touched



The dismissal of regular emplovees and casual workers is attributed as one of the main reason behind the financial and social in-

stability in the region. The astounding rise in the price of iron ore has accentuated the problem when industrial firms in the country are going through the

economic meltdown and Covid-19

pandemic. The sharp decline in profit margin has become a cause of concern for the industrial firms and changed the industrial scenario in Kalinganagar

Firms like Tata Steel, Jindal Stainless Steel and Visa Steel are making all out efforts to overcome this problem while their counterparts like Nilachala Ispat Nigam Ltd, JJ Ispat and Mesco

he price per tonne of iron ore was ₹4,500 in the e-auction held December 2, 2020. However, the base price per tonne of iron ore went up to ₹6000 in the e-auction held February 1, 2021. Observers attributed the sharp rise in price of iron ore to the participation of outside firms in the e-auction which pushed the per tonne price by ₹7,050. It has impacted the industrial firms in Kalingnagar Industrial Complex in Jajpur

The sharp rise in iron ore prices will also result in heavy financial loss for financial institutions like banks and in job loss for scores of employees and workers of these plants, said PL Kandoi, president of Kalinganagar **Industries Association** 

Steel have shut down their shops. Many steel and sponge ironbased firms have established their firm in the state over last few years. However, the sharp rise in iron price has hit them hard and forced them to take a relook at their future.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, Nayagarh

e-mail - eeolicnayagarh@gmail.com

e-Tender Notice

Bid Identification No.06/20-21 OLIC (Nayagarh) / Dt. 09/02/2021 No. CAD-1261:- The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division Nayagarh on behalf of Managing Director, Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage Rate bids (single cover) in online mode for Installation/Renovation of Lift Irrigation Projects along with Energisation on "Turnkey Basis" from reputed Firms. Contractors having H.T. Electrical License issued by ELBO & Civil License of appropriate class having valid registration with the state PWD/Irrigation/PHED relevant license as mention below.

 Numbers of Packages Approximately Cost of Packages varies from Rs.9.11 lakh to 34.68 Lakh Tender Paper Cost Dt 15.02.2021 from 10.00 hours to Date & time of availability 25.02.2021 up to 17.00 hours
Dt 21.02.2021 up to 17.00 hours of bid in portal Date & time of clarification

Dt. 26.02.2021 at 11.00 hours The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum corrigendum/cancellation of tender if any, can be seen in the said

OIPR-32330/11/0007/2021

**Executive Engineer** 



Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the performer, and the Infinite All is the composer and audience.

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



## Push for fresh talent

ast year, Arvind Panagariya, former vice-chief of the NITI Aayog, wrote in his book "India Unlimited - Reclaiming the Lost Glory" that √Indian babus suffered from the socialist hangover, which has slowed down the pace of reforms the Modi sarkar wishes to introduce. To support his view, he cited Modi's initiative for lateral entry at the top levels of the bureaucracy. According to Panagariya, babus slowed down the process to the extent that at the very end of his term only nine officers could be inducted from outside.

But the government has not given up, yet. It is making another push to induct 30 more private sector specialists into different government departments at the crucial decision-making level of joint secretaries and directors on a contract basis. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will shortlist the candidates for interviews.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced the mechanism of recruiting fresh talent in the bureaucracy from the private sector during his first tenure. But the first round hasn't been the success that the government was expecting. It could recruit only nine of the 10 domain experts it had selected, and one of them, Arun Goyal, who had joined the Commerce Ministry as joint secretary, put in his papers barely a year later. It appears that far from changing the system, the lateral entrants are more likely to be subsumed by it. Further, a year after their appointment, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) had issued a notice to the UPSC after a pe tition from whistleblower Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi alleging irregularities in the recruitment of three of the nine lateral entrants by the government.

The government is catching flak already. Some Opposition leaders are calling for the policy to be withdrawn. Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad

has threatened to 'gherao' Parliament, calling the government's move a violation of constitutional rights. Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejaswi Yaday has said that UPSC's lateral recruitment an injustice to the youth.



Will the Modi sarkar overcome the political resistance from outside and from the babus within who may try to defend their turf?

#### Kerala ignores SC order on babus' tenures

Though the Supreme Court fixed two-year tenure for babus back in 2013, few states have complied with the directive. Most other states are clearly unwilling to cede this leverage over bureaucrats. Even in states where Civil Services Boards were set up, by the order of the Apex Court, netas always seem to find ways to go around the directive to achieve their political ends. Even Kerala often held up as an example of progressive governance, has snubbed the SC's ruling.

Official data reveals that the average tenure of secretary-rank officers in "God's Own Country" from 2014 until 2018 was 11 months and has reportedly dipped further since then. Until last December, Kerala had only 34 officers of secretary and principal secretary rank holding 72 posts! 16 principal secretaries are holding 31 posts, of which 27 are cadre posts. Similarly, 18 secretary-rank IAS officers are looking after 41 posts!

Sources say that some officers, including principal secretaries KR Jyothilal and Rani George, are discharging three responsibilities, and Secretary Tinku Biswal is managing four posts!

This data came to light as poll preparations begin for the Assembly elections due in May this year. But while this flies against the idea of good governance, it is unlikely to matter to voters at the hustings, which may explain why governments continue to defy the Apex Court's order.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

## WISDOM CORNER

Your passion is waiting for your courage to catch up.

ISABELLE LAFLECHE

make anything happen.

Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can

against you, you should still do it.

## WORDS**WORTH**

## ■ Brummagem

he British midlands city of Birmingham was at one time also called Brummagem, a local variant on its name that has given us the nickname for one of its inhabitants, Brummie. Although it has been a major industrial city since the Industrial Revolution - in 1862 George Borrow described it as "the great workshop of England" - its reputation was often for poor-quality goods. This all began in the seventeenth century when it was no more than a village. In 1691 Guy Miege noted in The New State of England that it was "particularly noted a few years ago for the counterfeit groats made here, and from hence dispersed all over the Kingdom" (a groat was a four-pence coin, of silver when genuine). In the nineteenth century, great quantities of cheap plated goods, such as trinkets and gilt jewellery, were being made in Birmingham. As a result, its bad reputation resurfaced, so much so that its old name came to be used figuratively for anything that was considered tawdry, not just items of Birmingham manufacture. An example is in a work of 1862, The Reminiscences of Captain Gronow: "The equipages were generally much more gorgeous than at a later period, when democracy invaded the parks, and introduced what may be termed a 'brummagem society,' with shabby-genteel carriages and servants".

## Bruxer

bruxer habitually and involuntarily grinds their teeth. You may be one of A these, since it's been estimated that about one in four people do so. There's continuing controversy in the dental profession over the extent to which it is a natural action rather than a condition needing treatment; many animals regularly grind their teeth as a way of sharpening them (a process called thegosis) and some experts argue that a proportion of human toothgrinding may be an evolutionary hangover from this. But many bruxers grind their teeth excessively, often through stress or nervous tension, usually while they're asleep so they aren't aware they're doing it. This is bad, as it wears away tooth enamel, can cause cracks in teeth, and often leads to sore and tired facial and jaw muscles. One way to resolve the problem is to make a plastic guard, sometimes called a bruxing appliance, to relieve the symptoms at night. The term is dental surgeons' jargon, more often found in the US than in the UK; dictionaries generally don't include it, though the base term for the concept, bruxism (where brux rhymes with flux), has been around since the 1930s and is well established.

## LOL

## A Christian lion

wo guys are walking through a game park & they come across a lion that has not eaten for days. The lion starts chasing the two men. They run as fast as they can and the one guy starts getting tired and decides to say a prayer, "Please turn this lion into a

Christian, Lord." He looks to see if the lion is still chasing and he sees the lion on its knees. Happy to see his prayer answered, he turns around and heads towards the lion. As he comes closer to the lion, he hears it saying a prayer: "Thank you Lord for

the food I am about to receive.

FOCUS FOOD SCARCITY

## **TACKLING COVID HUNGER**

√oday, 270 million people - equivalent to the combined population of Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy - are on the brink of starvation. This number has doubled over the last 12 months. And it is the world's children who are suffering most.

An estimated 11 million children under the age of five face extreme hunger or starvation in 11 countries in Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Asia. Of these, 168,000 will die of malnutrition by the end of 2022 unless they receive emergency support. And a total of 73 million primary schoolchildren in 60 low-income countries are chronically hungry.

Hunger was already on the rise before the coronavirus pandemic, mostly as a result of war and conflict, and climate change exacerbated it. But the secondary effects of the pandemic have created a global hunger crisis.

One reason for this is that Covid-19 has broken the lifeline of school. More than 1.6 billion children have missed time in the classroom since the pandemic began, and nearly 200 million are still not back at school

Previous crises have shown that school closures carry huge social and economic costs, including increases in child marriage and child labour. Some young people end up paying the ultimate price: complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19 in low- and middle-income countries. Ultimately, crises reverse progress on ensuring that all girls have access to quality education.

Moreover, schools provide many poor children with their only nutritious meal of the day. School closures mean that millions of children have lost their opportunity not only to learn, but also to eat. Children have missed more than 39 billion school meals during the crisis. Women and girls are often the first to miss meals, and account for more than 70% of people facing chronic hunger.

The damage caused by just a few weeks of missed nutrition can stunt a hungry child for a lifetime, and malnutrition can stunt a country's economic progress for



Today, 270 million people – equivalent to the combined population of Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy – are on the brink of starvation. This number has doubled over the last 12 months. And it is the world's children who are suffering most

a generation. So, getting children back into school where they can be educated and fed must be a high priority.

With relatively little money, the international humanitarian system has achieved much. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), for example, feeds around 100 million people per year. And when Covid-19 severely disrupted commercial airline services, the UN created a logistics system to transport health and humanitarian workers and vital supplies, including food. But a crisis on this scale requires an ambitious plan that involves more than just providing school meals. Humanitarian organisations can't do it alone.

At their June summit, the wealthy G7 economies should commission a long-term plan to address rising global food needs. The plan should include provisions for pre-emptive action: building up food stocks, developing insurance as a protection, and supporting developing-country farmers and food growers with long-term investments to help them become self-sufficient.

Policymakers must also adopt innovative ways to generate financing, including guaranteebased facilities that can maximize the use of development aid and private sector funding, which was at the heart of the 2015 Addis Ababa proposals for financing the Sustainable Development Goals. Another priority could be a closer partnership between the UN and the World Bank – the one wholly global organisation capable of mobilising substantial additional resources on a sustained basis.

But there is a very simple, common sense solution to the immediate crisis: new international money. At least \$600 billion in Special Drawing Rights (the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset) can be allocated to poorer countries. Leaders and lenders can agree on up to \$80 billion of debt relief on the condition that the money goes to education, health, and nutrition. And the World Bank and regional development banks can rapidly expand grants and loans.

With around \$10 billion this year, the world could stave off famine in Yemen, South Sudan, northeast Nigeria, and the Sahel. And it could prevent mass hunger which immediately precedes famine - in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia's Tigray region, and other vulnerable places.

This may sound like a lot of money. But it's the equivalent of a dollar a month from each person in the world's richest economies, and represents a fraction of 1% of wealthy countries' pandemic-related stimulus spending.

We need to move quickly. This means giving grants up front to the WFP and leading NGOs like Save the Children to feed hungry children and their families. With only 31% of refugee children enrolled at the secondary level, and just 27% of girls, Education Cannot Wait – which helps displaced children into school and has raised almost \$1 billion in its short existence – needs to be fully funded. By directing additional resources to education, we can get 136 million children in some of the poorest and most conflict-affected countries back in school - and help them stay there.

Covid-19 has also exposed another educational divide: two thirds of the world's school-age children lack Internet access at home, which prevents them from online learning. Today, only 5% of children in low-income countries have such access, compared to 90% in highincome countries. A UNICEF-led project to connect the world could bridge this gaping digital divide.

The UK government has pledged to play a leading global role in getting all children into school and ensuring that girls receive 12 years of education. But we will not achieve that noble objective unless the G7 summit addresses this issue, in addition to food security.

Time and again, education has demonstrated its power to transform individuals, families, and entire countries. But chronic hunger can have devastating consequences: cruel and preventable deaths, violent conflict, and mass displacement

Ignoring the global scourge of hunger is thus not an option. What happens in the world's most fragile places has knock-on effects in the most stable countries.

Gordon Brown is a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Mark Lowcock is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and **Emergency Relief** Coordinator.

## SPECTRUM PANDEMIC

Gordon Brown &

**AT THEIR JUNE** 

**SUMMIT, THE** 

**WEALTHY G7** 

**ECONOMIES** 

**LONG-TERM** 

**COMMISSION A** 

**RISING GLOBAL** 

**FOOD NEEDS** 

**SHOULD** 

**PLAN TO** 

**ADDRESS** 

Mark Lowcock

## The Covid revolution



Beverley McLachlin

IF THE FEAR AFTER

**WWII WAS NUCLEAR** ANNIHILATION, THE FEAR NOW IS **GLOBAL DISEASE. COVID-19 - AND** THE RECURRING **PANDEMICS EXPERTS TELL US** TO EXPECT IN THE **FUTURE - IS A GLOBAL PHENOMENON FROM BEGINNING** TO END

👅 n December 1862, in the throes World War II erupted in a late-in- And while all this was happening, and new action for a new case, as of the American Civil War, which pitted the norms of slaverv against the norms of freedom. US President Abraham Lincoln presented his emancipation plan to Congress. "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present," he declared. "The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew.'

In the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, that is our task as well.

Lincoln saw clearly that the Civil War would utterly change the United States, and that in the world that would follow, old norms and mindsets would no longer suffice. He was right. The tragedy is that he only partly succeeded in persuading his fellow Americans to accept the new norm he proposed equality for all. Some political leaders thought and acted in a new way but too many sought to revive the past. Instead of heeding Lincoln's call to think and act anew, the southern states built a new regime of segregation and discrimination.

Three-quarters of a century later, another epic conflict would again shift hitherto prevailing norms.

dustrial world that by today's standards was local and slow. True. motor vehicles had replaced horse drawn transport, and early commercial aircraft were flying a privileged few to faraway places. But much remained as it had been for decades. Men controlled business. industry, government, and finance, with women largely relegated to the domestic sphere. Vast swaths of the world - including India, Africa, and South Asia - strained under the voke of colonialism.

WWII changed everything. In its aftermath, cars became faster, and planes sleeker and swifter. Women assumed a growing role in society, the economy, and governance. But the nuclear age loomed large, bringing with it the new

threat of mass destruction. The world thus needed new ways of thinking and acting in order not to blow itself up. Governments and statesmen rose to the occasion, establishing new multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and forging treaties aimed at deterring nuclear attack. New global agencies like the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization tackled problems of starvation and illness. new independent countries emerged from colonial domination. Fast-forward another 75 years.

and the world is once again facing a radical challenge to norms it had come to take for granted. The pandemic, it turns out, is not only a scourge but also a source of revelation. It has revealed that postwar institutions, though still functioning, are tired and need revitalizing. It has exposed the costs of systemic weaknesses that enabled populists and extremists to gain power in many places. Above all, it has demonstrated that, regardless of where we live, we are all in this together.

If the fear after WWII was nuclear annihilation, the fear now is global disease. Covid-19 – and the recurring pandemics experts tell us to expect in the future – is a global phenomenon from beginning to end. We are accustomed to seeing the same diseases in different parts of the world, but never had we faced one requiring every country to take the same precautions, at the same time, lest we all fall victim.

But we have now run into a roadblock. While we have developed vaccines internationally to fight a global contagion – new thinking Lincoln would have put it - we are reverting to old nationalist norms at the delivery stage. Countries and blocs of countries - largely in the affluent West - are adopting an "us-first" attitude that makes no moral or practical sense.

Because none of us will be safe from COVID-19 until everyone is, the only way to defeat it is by attacking it globally. As long as there are countries or pockets of people where the virus is being transmitted, there will be new cases and, even more frightening, new variants. Some of these may prove more lethal and -the great fear - impervious to the vaccines that represent our only hope of conquering the virus.

Global challenges require global solutions, and today the occasion is again piled high with difficulty. To end the pandemic and navigate the stormy present, we must heed Lincoln's call and develop new norms to replace our worn-out, insular beliefs.

Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada from 2000-17, is a member of the Global Commission for Post-Pandemic Policy. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

## OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

## Indo-US ties

Sir, In the first telephonic conversation between the US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the former assumed office, both reiterated their commitment to a strong India-US relationship. Notwithstanding the apprehensions of New Delhi about the new US government's approach to China, the statements made by both the US and India about the conversation indicate that both countries have acknowledged the need for reinforcing the Indo-Pacific strategy. An alliance between the two countries to counter China has cemented deeper security, intelligence and defence ties between the two countries. In the US statement Biden underscored his desire to defend democratic institutions and norms around the world. This is also good news for India for democracies must always be at the forefront of countering the authoritarian ways of China. It must be remembered at this juncture that with regard to the farm protests in India, the US State Department had stated that peaceful protests were a hallmark of any thriving democracy. This shows that India will have to prove its democratic credentials.. Countering terrorism is also on the list of priorities. The US needs to recognise that the joint fight against terrorism will be incomplete till it adopts a strict attitude to Pakistan and holds it accountable. Venu GS, KOLLAM

## A significant breakthrough

Sir, Apropos, "India, China pull back troops in phased manner" Orissa Post, February 12. The mutual disengagement of India and China in Pangong Tso area of Eastern Ladakh is a significant breakthrough. And the government must be applauded for using a mix of four instruments — direct engagement, strong military build-up, economic measures, and international partnerships – in keeping the pressure on China. Beijing had boxed itself into a corner, underestimated Indian resolve, and was looking for ways to extricate itself. A mix of hard messaging and pragmatism has helped India over the past year in forcing China to backtrack and remember Beijing has backtracked, for it had violated agreements and overstepped in Pangong Tso. At the same time, Delhi needs to be extremely cautious. Even if the current round of disengagement from friction points goes off well, we don't know if Beijing will de-mobilise the 50,000 troops it has deployed across the LAC This will necessarily force the Indian Army to remain deployed in difficult topography for longer durations. Hence, Delhi must remain on guard and stick to the line of caution.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## **BJP** welcomes Dinesh Trivedi, **TMC calls him ungrateful**

Trinamool Congress Friday called its MP Dinesh Trivedi "ungrateful" after he resigned from the Rajya Sabha, while a jubilant BJP quickly extended its welcome to him to join the saffron camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 12: Trinamool Congress Friday called its MP Dinesh Trivedi "ungrateful" after he resigned from the Rajya Sabha, while a jubilant BJP quickly extended its welcome to him to join the saffron camp.

Trivedi's resignation came amidst the exodus from Mamata Baneriee's party ahead of the West Bengal Assembly poll.

An angry TMC lashed back at Trivedi, who had been maintaining distance with the party for the last two months, saving he has betrayed the party leadership and the trust of the people.

Trivedi, a former Railway Minister and two-time Lok Sabha MP, was sent to Rajya Sabha last year by TMC after losing the parliamentary polls in 2019. He is reported to have had some issues with a senior Rajya Sabha member of the party for the past few months.

Reacting to the development TMC Rajya Sabha deputy leader Sukhendu Sekhar Roy said Trivedi is "ungrateful."

"For the last so many years he (Trivedi) did not say anything. Now all of a sudden just months before the state Assembly poll he has complaints. This shows his true colours," Roy said. "He is ungrateful and has betrayed the trust of the masses," Roy added.

Echoing him, party colleague and Lok Sabha MP Sougata Roy



said, "People like Trivedi enjoy power during their tenure and leave at the time of elections. If he had grievances, he could have aired it in the party.'

An elated BJP said, "The beginning of the end of the TMC has already begun".

Claiming that the party will disintegrate soon, state BJP president Dilip Ghosh said, "It is only a matter of time before TMC disintegrates. If Dinesh Trivedi wants to join us, we will welcome him".

BJP national general secretary and the party's Bengal minder Kailash Vijayvargiya lauded Trivedi as a good leader who was feeling suffocated in a party like TMC. Trivedi is the fourth senior TMC leader to quit the ruling party in West Bengal in the last two months after Suvendu Adhikari and Rajib Banerjee, who had switched over to the BJP and Laxmi Ratan Shukla, who had expressed his desire to quit politics.

This was not the first time that Trivedi had openly aired his grievances against the party. Earlier in March 2012, he had to step down as Railway Minister after Mamata Banerjee, who is also the TMC supremo, had opposed the railway budget placed by him.

He was replaced with the then TMC general secretary Mukul Roy. Trivedi was also suspended from

the party but was later reinstated. Resigning from the Rajya Sabha. he had said, "If you sit here quietly and cannot do anything, then it is better that you resign from here and go to the land of Bengal and be with people.

"What I mean to say is the way violence is taking place in our state. Sitting here, I am feeling perplexed as to what I should do,'

## Rahul alleges PM 'ceded' Indian territory to China PRESS TRUST OF INDIA is where our post used to be. So,

New Delhi, Feb 12: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "ceded" Indian territory to the Chinese, and questioned the government over its agreement with China on disengagement of troops in eastern Ladakh.

His attack on the government came a day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh assured Parliament that India has not conceded anything in the sustained talks with China and it will not allow even an inch of its territory to be taken away by anyone.

Addressing a press conference, Gandhi questioned why the prime minister did not make a statement on the LAC situation, and said 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



territory, which is where our post used to be. So, now we have moved from finger-4

RAHUL GANDHI I CONGRESS LEADER

to finger-3

have given Indian land to China, this is the truth," he alleged.

He said it has emerged that Indian troops are now going to be stationed at Finger 3 at Pangong Tso lake. "Finger-4 is our territory, which now we have moved from finger-4 to finger-3. Why has the Prime Minister Modi given up Indian Territory to the Chinese? This is the question that needs to be answered by him and by the Defence Minister," Gandhi said.

Why have Indian troops, after the hard work that they had done in capturing Kailash ranges, been asked to move back, the Congress leader asked.

'What has India got in return for this? Most importantly why have the Chinese not moved back from the more important strategic area, Depsang plains? These are the real questions. Why have they not moved from Gogra-Hot Springs, the former Congress chief asked.

"It is the responsibility of the Prime Minister to protect the territory of the country. The Prime Minister has ceded Indian Territory to the Chinese. It is his responsibility to solve the problem," he alleged. Asked if India will lose its strategic advantage once status quo ante is restored, Gandhi said there was no strategic advantage as the Chinese were on our land in Depsang and Pangong.

'Our soldiers risked everything they had, to go to Kailash ranges. That's where the strategic advantage, if any, arose. Now, the Prime Minister has given back the land. Status quo ante is irrelevant. Kailash has been given back and nothing has happened on the key area of which China wants, Depsang plains".

"This is absolute 100 per cent cowardice. This is nothing else. The Prime Minister is a coward who cannot stand up to the Chinese...He is betraying the sacrifice of our Army," he charged, and added, that nobody in India should be allowed to do it, nobody in the rest of the world should be allowed to do it. The Indian government's position at the begin ning of this was status quo ante as in April 2020 that is what they were negotiating for, he asserted.

## Concerted effort to regard Muslims as 'others': Hamid Ansari

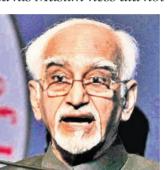
Participating in a discussion on his book "By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life", the former Vice President said his Muslim-ness did not matter and his professional competence did.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: Former Vice President Hamid Ansari has said that there is a concerted effort by some in the country to regard Muslims as "others" and stressed that India's plural society has been the reality for centuries.

Participating in a discussion on his book "By Many a Happy Accident: Recollections of a Life' he said his Muslim-ness did not matter and his professional com-

"There is a concerted effort from



as others. Am I a citizen or not? If I am a citizen, I have the right to be a beneficiary of all things that flow out of citizenship," he said, but did

"A plural society was an existential reality in India for centuries," he also noted.

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram. who was also part of the discussion, said he and Ansari are both pained as the developments of the last several years are "threatening those who are Muslims"

"They feel threatened and, therefore, they are withdrawing," he

"Muslim identity is being deliberately targeted in India and the current dispensation is targeting

them viciously," Chidambaram alleged. Ansari said the debate on Muslim identity is "somewhat superfluous" as each one has multiple identities.

"I carry several identities all at the same time. Why should one identity be picked out simply to be ridiculed. A citizen is a citizen,

Ansari said his experience as a professional diplomat for four decades did not talk about his Muslim-ness. "When I was in the UN at a difficult time my Muslim-ness did not matter. My professional competence mattered," he said.

## Religious divide makes this Bengal polls distinct

Despite Assembly polls scheduled in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam simultaneously, elections in West Bengal have hogged the limelight for more reasons than one

Kolkata, Feb 12: Despite Assembly polls scheduled in Tamil Nadu, elections in West Bengal have hogged the limelight for more reasons than one. This is a do-or-die battle for both Mamata Baneriee and the BJP, which wants its meteoric rise in the state to come to a logical conclusion. In the 2016 Assembly elections.

the BJP had only three MLAs in the 294-member Assembly. Cut to 2019,



With the way BJP has occupied the Opposition space here, the major contest will be between them and Trinamool Congress. The Left-Congress combine will merely fight to save their existence.

The run-up to elections in Bengal has been marred by violence and bitter personal attacks on leaders of rival camps. Allegations of Muslim appeasement against the ruling

and the saffron camp pocketed 18 Trinamool Congress and several of Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha seats. communal flare-ups on a local scale have polarised the electorate as well. Add to it political assertion by some backward communities, and it's a deadly cocktail for an election. A major aspect which distinguishes Bengal elections 2021 from previous ones is religious polarisation. Never before did the state witness such a communally charged atmosphere, not even during Lal Krishna Advani's rathvatra in late

1990 for the Ram temple construction in Ayodhya. In fact, BJP leaders then were ruing the lukewarm response they received in the state. Over three decades later, the BJP

is once again experimenting with rathyatras in Bengal, this time highlighting Mamata's poor governance and corruption. So far, Bengalis have only associated rathyatra with Lord Jagannath. This is also the first time 'Jai Shri Ram" is being used as a political slogan in the state

CPI(M) leader Mohammed Salim says, "Bengal has always known padavatra and not rathvatra. This is a new concept for them which they won't accept. A rathyatra alienates the Muslim community as it is essentially a Hindu affair. BJP has been using it for polarisation."

When the Left was in power, caste divide was very subtle. In the last leg of Left rule, the Matua identity developed gradually but it was not a determining factor in elections.

## **VENTING ANGER**



Congress activists burn a tyre to block a road during their Bangla Bandh protest over Thursday's alleged police attack on their party rally in Kolkata, Friday

## Tap water access in Delhi linked to dengue infection risk: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: Tap water access in densely populated parts of Delhi is a strong predictor of the risk of contracting dengue, says a study that may lead to new strategies to control transmission of the deadly virus in urban areas.

The dengue virus is among a growing number of mosquito-borne pathogens across the world that have adapted to spread in cities, the scientists, including Vikram Kumar from the National Institute of Malaria Research in Delhi, noted.

They said close to 3.5 billion people across the world are at risk of dengue viral infection which is spreading increasingly with growing rates of urbanisation.

In the current study, published in the journal PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, the scientists analysed social and environmental risk factors for contracting the virus in Delhi. They measured dengue antibodies in 2,107 individuals and mosquito larval prevalence in 18 areas within the city as well as socio-economic factors across neighbourhoods.

Based on the analysis, the scientists said 7.6 per cent of the surveyed individuals were positive for dengue virus antibodies, indicating a recent or current infection. The study found that colonies with very poor access to tap water, with less than 61 per cent of houses



having access, were associated with a higher risk of exposure to the virus. According to the research, these were the only type of areas to register dengue cases between epidemics. However, despite relatively low mosquito densities, they said wealthy colonies had a higher risk of recent infection than intermediary colonies.

The scientists believe this may likely reflect the import of dengue virus by commuters coming into the

high income areas during the day. Citing the limitations of the research, the scientists said the classifications in the study based on wealth indicators are subjective to an extent. However, they said these do offer at least some quantitative indication of socio-eco-

The use of larval mosquito indices as a measure mosquito density was also a limitation since "they have been shown to have limited predictive value for dengu."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 12: One hundred vears ago, when the nation was still in the making and Independence 26 years away. Britain's Duke of Connaught laid the foundation stone of Parliament House and said it would stand "as the symbol of India's rebirth to yet higher destinies".

On Friday, a century from that February 12, 1921 day, as parliamentarians from various parties sat in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha for the Budget session and work continued on a new parliament building close by, the milestone was a blip in history unnoticed

The building, with a diameter of 560 ft and circumference of one-third of a mile, was designed by Sir Herbert Baker, who along with Sir Edwin Lutvens was chosen to design the new imperial capital in Delhi on a site in the

Raisina Hill area. Placing the first building block of what would become the imposing circular, colonnaded structure that is the heartbeat of India's parliamentary democracy, Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, had recalled the grandeur of the Acropolis in Athens.

He was an uncle of King George

V, then reigning monarch of the

British Empire, and laid a huge block of red sandstone bearing inscriptions in Hindi, English and Urdu in that order. It carries his name and the historic date in Roman numbers - "XII February A.D. MCMXXI"

"I need only recall the Acropolis of Athens, the Capital of Rome, and the great cities of the East famous in past ages for their splendour and culture. India herself is rich in such precious legacies. From the granite pillars on which the Apostle Emperor Asoka engraved his imperishable edicts, onwards through the chequered centuries, down to the splendid palaces of the Moghal Emperors, every age has left behind it some monument commensurate with its own achievements," the Duke of Connaught said.

Foundation of Parliament House was laid 100 years ago

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WHEN THE NATION WAS STILL IN THE MAKING AND INDEPENDENCE 26 YEARS AWAY. BRITAIN'S DUKE OF CONNAUGHT LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE

> Records show the grand ceremony took place with then Viceroy Lord Chelmsford – a recreational club named after him still stands a stone's throw away – and a large number of ruling chiefs from princely states and other dignitaries in attendance.

A 1921 publication of the Superintendent Government Printing, Calcutta, on the Duke of Connaught's visit has full texts of the speeches made on the occasion.

At the foundation laying ceremony, he said, "These buildings will not only be the home of new representative institutions which mark a vast stride forward in the political development of India and of the British Empire, but will, I trust, stand for future generations as the symbol of India's rebirth to yet higher destinies."

All "great rulers, every great people, every great civilization have left their own record in stone and bronze and marble, as well as in the pages of history", he said.

The Duke of Connaught, after whom Delhi's first and biggest shopping plaza is named, extolled the value of architecture and underlined its role in politics and nation-building. According to old archival images, an elegant pavilion was constructed on the site during the foundation stone ceremony. Later, a circular railway track was temporarily laid around the structure during construction to trans-

port raw material. The architectural masterpiece. which was originally called Council House, was inaugurated six years later in 1927, 20 years before India attained its freedom August 15, 1947, by then Viceroy

Lord Irwin. According to the plan, the building was to be constructed to house the imperial legislative chambers - the Central Legislative Assembly (which took the form of the Lok Sabha), the Council of State (became Rajya Sabha) and the Chambers of Princes (now used for other purposes) - along with a Central Hall to house a library and a place to hold joint sessions. All within the aesthetic round

structure. The sprawling edifice covering an area of nearly six acres and its creamy sandstone colonnade of 144 pillars on the first floor is one of the most distinctive parliament

buildings anywhere in the world. Over the decades, as India evolved into the nation it is today, Parliament House has been witness to many a moment in history from cerebral debates to highdecibel, raucous discussions andthe passing of legislations, some landmark and others controversial.



# 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



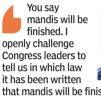


The premises blaze erupted were empty and work was going on there. It is a private institute and they are carrying out their audit. The government is also investigating AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY

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



that mandis will be finished ANURAG THAKUR MOS FINANCE

## SHORT TAKES

#### 24-hr electricity for TN farmers

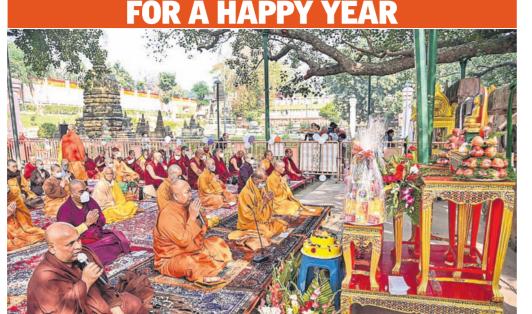
Tirupur: Farmers would henceforth be provided 24hour three-phase electricity for their pump sets. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami announced here Friday, Addressing an election rally at Udumalaipettai near here. Palaniswami, the AIADMK co-coordinator, also slammed the DMK as a 'corporate company.' 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 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



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

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

# **Army Chief's focus on NE**

New Delhi, Feb 12: The perception that India is the mainland and the northeast must align is flawed and contemptuous, Indian Army chief, Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane said

In his address at the annual seminar of the Assam Rifles and United Services Institution over evolving security challenges in the northeast and the way forward, he said that a common thread that runs along the northeastern states is a lack of coordination amongst various agencies.

The policy disconnect is further accentuated by the feeling that affairs of the northeast region are being run from Delhi, he said.

Naravane said that most of the Central Armed Police Forces and Central agencies are headquartered at Delhi. "National priorities. political compulsions of the states and local aspirations are seldom aligned, creating dissonance in execution," he said.

The Army chief pointed that another distinctive factor that reinforces the feeling of alienation amongst the people in the northeast is dismissive, sometimes indifferent and often contemptuous approach.

"You would often hear the need to integrate the northeast with mainland India," he said.

"The perception that India is the mainland and the northeast must align itself to the ways of the mainland, in itself is flawed and contemptuous.

Talking about disconnect policy,



You would often hear the need to integrate the northeast with mainland India. The perception that India is the mainland and the northeast must align itself to the ways of the mainland, in itself is flawed and

contemptuous

GEN. MANOJ MUKUND NARAVANI

reader during the weather forecast usually dismisses the entire region of nine states by a cursory: "Aaj poorvutttar rajyon mein adhiktam taapmaan .... rahega (The maximum temperature in the northeast leash the tremendous potential of states today is ...).

Noting India's northeast region is extraordinarily diverse and colourful, and the states that comprise the region share almost 98 per cent of their borders with five countries, he said that it is the centre of gravity for sub-regional connectivity and thus remains the launch pad for Act East initiatives.

Although endowed with natural resources, it is a laggard in terms of growth and development, Naravane said.

Protracted insurgencies, legacy

the Partition and inefficient integration with rest of India account for much of what the region faces today, he said To set the score right and un-

the northeast, there is therefore the need for establishing an organisation that can synergise multiagency coordination and optimise resource and effort. The realigned strategy for the

northeast proposes a robust and effective North East Integrated Security Council, he said. With the Minister of State for

Home as the Chairman at the apex level, the organisation seeks to galvanise the efforts of all stakeholders which includes the policymakers as well as the authorities responsible

## 5th accused held in Impact-based flood forecasts in J&K 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

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

Earlier, four persons -- Danish, Islam, Zahid and Mehtab, accused of being involved in the case, were

'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,

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

He observed that international collaboration adds specific value in helping analyse the past flood events and identify relations between predicted 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 fored systems that provide predictions of water levels and flows but not their impact in terms of loss of life, damage to buildings, critical in-



frastructure 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-

be linked to existing or future floodflow forecast systems. The UT government will not have to bear any expenses on the project.

The National Space Inr 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-



Ten firefighting vehicles rushed to the spot from various surrounding ocations 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

persons in the fire. He announced Rs 3 lakh each as solatium to kin of the bereaved families.

He also directed District

Collectors to ensure safety of cracker unit workers during the summer. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed grief over the tragedy.

The Prime Minister's Office tweeted that authorities were working on the ground to assist those affected.

PMO announced Rs 2 lakh exgratia each from PMNRF for the next of kin of those who lost their lives. Rs 50,000 would be given to those seriously injured.

"Fire at a firecracker factory in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu is saddening...," said the Prime Minister.

## CASE AGAINST COMEDIAN

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

AGENCIES

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



A single bench of the high court comprising Justice Rohit Arya granted bail to the two co-accused

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

"Accordingly, applicant is hereby enlarged on temporary bail on indulge himself in any such acthe 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 family 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 Mehru Zaman, a local lawyer,

ways 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

said. "Both communities have al-



of the outfit after the Tikait brothers were booked for inciting com-

munal violence. Kisan Recently

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

made it 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.

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 now one that is firm and strong. It is a good start. The matter is farm-

ers' welfare, irrespective of faith." Haseeb Siddiqui, a veteran journalist and a political analyst, said, "This coming tocommunal gether of Jat,

Guriars and

Muslims.

will ulti-

lead to a

mately

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litical forces,

especially in

western UP

differences are now 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

> and any political party that supports their cause now will also get their support in the next assembly elections in the



Prakhar Vyas and Adwin Anthony.

(granting bail to Faruqui)."

the conditions to the satisfaction of the trial court, with further condition that applicant shall not tivity subversive to public order,"

# national



The state government has initiated measures to put a tab on the online games. Various states have different provisions where they have classified these games as 'game of skill' and 'game of chance'. In some cases licences have also been given, while some others have been banned completely BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | HOME MINISTER, KARNATAKA

#### MP POLICE PROVIDE SECURITY **TO KANGANA**

Madhya Pradesh police have put in place thick security cover around actor Kangana Ranaut in the wake of a threat by some state Congress leaders that they wouldn't allow her shoot for a film





I've a piece of advice to the senior officials should be treated with utmost respect and humility. Listen to their grievances and address them

BS YEDIYURAPPA CM, KARNATAKA

The budget has shown 'krodha' (anger), 'mada (false pride or ego) and 'matsarya' (envy or jealousy) on the flagship programme of the UPA government and the world's largest rural employment guarantee programme - MNREGA

LOKTANTRIK JANATA DAL (LJD) MP

MV SHREVAMS

The BJP-led government at the Centre and the LDF



RAMESH CHENNITHALA CONGRESS LEADER, KERALA

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Covid infection slows in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Friday saw its Covid positivity rate continue to be around 7 per cent as 5,397 new Covid cases were recorded from 74,408 tested in the past 24 hours. A statement issued here by state Health Minister K.K.Shailaja also said that the day saw 5,332 people recover, taking the total cured to 9,25,871, while there were 63,961 active cases. There were also 18 more deaths, taking the death toll

#### **Cong's Bus Yatras** begin in Assam

Guwahati: To reach out to the people before the Assembly elections, the Congress in Assam Friday launched the 'Bus Yatras' named 'Axom Basaon Ahok' (Let's Save Assam). The party said the Yatra would criss-cross the state for two weeks, while meeting the people and discussing their grievances and other issues.

#### 7-time Himachal MLA dies at 78

Shimla: Seven-time Himachal Pradesh Congress legislator Sujan Singh Pathania died Friday after a prolonged illness at his native place in Fatehpur tehsil of Kangra district, his family said. Pathania, 78, a former Congress minister and the sitting legislator from Fatehpur, is survived by his wife and a son. He was a minister in the previous Congress-led government led

# We are benefiting poor not some 'damaad': FM

Nirmala was referring to Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, who has often been targeted by the BJP for his alleged land dealings

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 12: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lashed out at the Congress during her response to the Budget discussion in the Rajya Sabha and said the government schemes are meant only to benefit the poor and not meant for "some damaad" (son-inlaw in clear reference to Robert

Although she did not take any name but the Finance Minister's iibe clearly agitated the Congress leaders even as she continued with her volleys at the opposition benches.

She said: "The digital transaction through UPI till January 2020 was over 3.6 lakh crore. UPI is used by who? - The rich? - No.

'Middle class, smaller traders. Who are these people then? Is Government creating UPI, facilitating digital transactions to benefit rich cronies, Some damaads?

She was referring to Vadra, who is the son-in-law of Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi, and who has often been targeted by the BJP for his alleged land dealings.

The Congress objected to these charges but Sitharaman went on to target the Congress and said: "Loans sanctioned under Mudra Yojana -more than ₹27,000 crores. Who takes



Mudra Yojana? Damaads?

Attacking the opposition, she said it has got into the habit for some "to constantly level allegation, in spite of what we are doing for the poor and the steps taken for helping the poor and the needy of this country.

"A false narrative is created to accuse saying that this Government works only for cronies.

The Finance Minister said that 800 million people were provided free food grains: free cooking gas provided for 80 million people and cash was directly given to 400 million people, farmers, women, speciallyabled and the poor and needy.

Former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram Thursday had launched an attack on the Union government and had alleged that the Modi government ignored the poor, unemployed and the MSME sector in the Budget proposals for 2021-

"The most deserving were left to their fate -- the poor, farmers, migrant workers, MSME sector, middle class, and the unemployed," he said while speaking on the Budget in the Rajya Sabha.

He said that the Congress "reiected" the Budget since there was nothing in it for the poor. Everybody expected it but cash transfers to the poor were not done, he added.

Chidambaram said that there was no mention of the defence sector in the Budget either, and the numbers predicted therein were not correct.

"The Union Finance Minister did not mention defence in her speech, which is unprecedented. The budgetary allocation for defence in 2021-22 is ₹3,47,088 crore as against Revised Estimates of ₹343,822 crore in the current year, an increase of just ₹3,266 crore,' the former Union Minister added.

## Rajya Sabha clocks 99 pc productivity

**PARLIAMENT WILL NOW MEET MARCH 8 FOR** THE SECOND PART OF THE BUDGET SESSION

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Rajya Sabha clocked 99 per cent productivity during the two-week long first part of the dual phase Budget session of Parliament, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said Friday.

The House broke for a threeweek recess Friday after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's reply to a discussion on the budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1. The recess will allow parliamentary committees to examine the budget allocation for various ministries. Parliament will now meet March 8 for the second part of the Budget session.

"I am happy to inform you that this part of the session has been quite productive with the House clocking 99 per cent productivity," Naidu said before adjourning the proceedings till March 8. Besides discussion on the Budget, the House also debated for 15 hours on a motion thanking the President for his address to the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget session. Prime Minister Narendra Modi replied to that debate earlier this week.

"The productivity of the House during this week has been 113 per cent as against the productivity of 82 per cent during the first week. he said. "As against the total scheduled time of 45 hours 4 minutes, net of only 30 minutes has been lost due to disruptions," Naidu said.

Naidu, who is also the Vice



■ The productivity of the House during this week has been 113 per cent as against the productivity of 82 per cent during the first week

As against the total scheduled time of 45 hours 4 minutes, net of only 30 minutes has been lost due to disruptions

President of India, said during the first part a total of 27 hours and 11 minutes were spent on debate and discussions. Over 60 per cent of the total functional time was spent on discussing Motion of Thanks to the President and the General Budget for 2021-2022, he said. "About 100 members spoke on these two subjects alone."

As against the total loss of 4 hours 24 minutes during the first week, the members sat for an extra 3 hours 54 minutes during the second week. A total of 88 issues of public importance have been raised. These include 56 Zero Hour and 32 Special Mentions. Also, 55 Starred Questions were orally answered.

During the two weeks, three Bills were passed - The J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021; The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and The Major Ports Authority Bill, 2020, he

Lake forms on

Rishiganga river

in Uttarakhand,

alert sounded



Lawyers shout slogans during a protest march outside the Supreme Court against alleged attacks on advocates, in

## TRS, BJP gear up for another poll battle

Hyderabad, Feb 12: With another election coming up in Telangana, the ruling TRS and opposition BJP and Congress are gearing up to battle it out for two seats of state Legislative Council.

Graduate voters will cast their votes March 14 to choose their representatives for upper house of the state Legislature. However, the entry of prominent academics in the fray could upset the calculations of the main parties.

The Election Commission Thursday announced the schedule for the elections to Mahbubnagar-

Rangareddy-Hyderabad and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda graduate constituencies.

The poll body will issue the notification February 21. The last date for filing of nominations is February 23. Polling would be held on March 14 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The counting of votes would be taken up March 17.

The term of office of two MLCs (Members of Legislative Council) from graduate constituencies in would expire March 29. Those retiring are Bharatiya Janata Party's N. Ramachandra Rao from Mahbubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad graduates constituency and Telangana Rashtra Samithi's Palla Rajeshwar Reddy from Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda graduates constituency.

The TRS has already indicated that Rajeshwar Reddy will contest again from Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda while the BJP is likely to re-nominate Ramachandra Rao from Mahbubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad. The parties are in the process of finalising candidates for other constituencies.

Major political parties and even those who plan to contest as independent candidates have been campaigning for the last couple of

## Homoeopathy add-ons allowed in Covid-19 treatment: Rijiju in Parl

New Delhi, Feb 12: The Supreme Court has upheld the Ayush Ministry's advisory to permit use of homoeopathy medicines as addons to standard care in Covid-19 treatment, Parliament was told

Sabha, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, who holds additional charge of the Ayush Ministry, said that while homoeopathy treatment is not to be given in standalone mode for Covid-19 treatment, Ayush interventions, including homoeopathy, as add-on to standard care are allowed.

He also said that the Ayush Ministry has taken many steps with the help of other systems of medicine, including homeopathy, for Covid-19-related treatment.

The Minister also cited the Ministry's letter dated March 6, 2020 to all Chief Secretaries of states and Union Territories, conveying specific suggestions on augmentation of general immunity of people and about possible Ayush interventions.

He also mentioned the self-care guidelines issued by the Ministry on March 31, 2020 for preventive health measures and enhancing immunity with special reference to respiratory health.

Further, the Ayush Ministry, through various research organisations and National Institutes under it, has conducted 105 interdisciplinary clinical studies (including 20 studies of homoeopathy) at 136 centres in the country.

Clinical research studies are conducted on Ayush interventions as prophylactic interventions in high risk population targeting approximately five lakhs population and as an add-on to standard care to Covid-19 management.



# Dehradun, Feb 12: The

Uttarakhand government Friday sounded an alert after satellite images detected the formation of a large lake in the catchment area of the turbulent Rishiganga river which had caused a deluge February 7.

"We have to remain alert as satellite pictures show formation of a 400 metre long lake at Rishiganga," Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said.

Top government officials said people have been asked not to go near Rishiganga river and take all precautions.

On the other hand, the government also sent a team to see the formation of the lake and suggest measures. The team comprising personnel of the National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force personnel will trek through the tough terrain to take the first hand information of the lake formation in the higher altitudes of the Himalayas.

This team will trek to see exact location of the lake and submit a report in this regard," state police spokesman, DIG Nilesh Anand Bharne, said.

The government has also asked scientists of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology and the Geological Survey of India to depute teams to Rishiganga valley to make detailed report on the lake's formation

Reports pouring in from different areas of Chamoli district said the flow of Rishiganga has abruptly increased many times since Thursday afternoon that also forced the authorities to suspend the search operation inside the disaster-hit tunnel of NTPC's 520 MW Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project. Rishiganga is a tributary of Dhauliganga river on which the Tapovan project is being built.

Since Thursday morning, villagers around Rishganga project which was destroyed in the heavy floods had been complaining tothe district administration about the formation of the lake.

## Relatives of missing workers gather in U'khand's Tapovan

AFTER WITNESSING THE 'SLOW PACE OF RESCUE OPERATION', THE PEOPLE ARE GRADUALLY LOSING PATIENCE

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RAMESH DAYAL

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(government and

NTPC) have done

A RESIDENT OF GORAKHPUR

Dehradun, Feb 12: From Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh to Gopalganj in Bihar, people from different parts of the country are flocking to the disaster-affected Tapovan area in Uttarakhand in search of their near and dear ones who have been missing since the February 7 floods caused by a glacier break.

It has been a long wait for the missing workers' relatives who are anxiously watching all the developments related to the rescue operation at the project site. A large number of local women have also gathered, saying they are looking for their missing kith and kin. After witnessing the slow pace of rescue operation, the people are gradually losing patience.

In presence of Uttarakhand

Governor Baby Rani Maurya Thursday, and other top state government officials Friday, the worried relatives called for speeding up the rescue operation. The Governor assured them saying the government will make an all-out effort in the search operation.

"Since yesterday (Thursday), we have been hearing that the rescue operation will be sped up by deploying additional machines. But till now, they (government and NTPC) have done nothing," said Ramesh Dayal,

a resident of Gorakhpur. His nephew, Rohit, has gone missing in the floods. The local residents are providing food and shelter to most of the people who have come from outside the state. Project officials had employed people, mostly in their 20s, from dif-

ferent states. They were working in

■ Amid repeated disruptions in the rescue work since Thursday. there has been no breakthrough to find 25-35 people trapped inside the disaster-hit tunnel of Tapovan project area

■ The rescue work had been disrupted repeatedly due to different reasons mainly due to technical reasons

the two projects -- Rishiganga and Tapovan. Significantly, scores of local people had taken off Sunday -

the day when the disaster struck. "Local people usually don't work on Sunday," said Swati Bhadauria, District Magistrate, Chamoli. Amid repeated disruptions in the

rescue work since Thursday, there has

been no breakthrough to find 25-35

people trapped inside the disaster-hit tunnel of Tapovan project area of Chamoli district in Uttarakhand.

The rescue work had been disrupted repeatedly due to different reasons mainly due to technical reasons. Earlier, the rescue workers had started drilling the tunnel vertically downward. But within hours, the drilling work was also intermittently disrupted due technical faults in the machine. Few hours later, the flow of Dhauliganga started increasing which in turn disrupted the rescue work.

After days of digging and excavation work, the personnel of Army, ITBP, NDRF and SDRF, who are engaged in the rescue operation, managed to open a sizeable portion of the tunnel. However, the presence of heavy silt and sludge inside the tunnel slowed down the rescue work.





# international



We have been working behind the scenes to secure the timely arrival of vaccines for our border workers and their families and it's great they will arrive well within our scheduled timeframes JACINDA ARDERN | PM, NEW ZEALAND

#### **CHINA'S MARS PROBE SENDS BACK VIDEO**

China's space agency released video footage from its spacecraft circling Mars Friday, two days after it successfully entered the planet's orbit in Beijing's latest ambitious space mission



proud democracy and a country with which we have the strongest possible to think that over the next century, our relationship with India may well be our most important relationship with any country in the world

REES MOGG MP, CONSERVATIVE PARTY, UI

strong, terrific Indian PM Narendra Modi) of how to power a growing economy with clean energy, and it's going to be one of the most important contributions JOHN KERRY | SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE, US

We didn't shut down public enough or systematically enough amid signs of a second wave and warnings from various scientists. We were not careful enough and not fast enough ANGELA MERKEL GERMAN CHANCELLOR

## SHORT **TAKES**

#### Nigerian farmers can sue Shell

London: Britain's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that a group of Nigerian farmers and fishermen can sue Royal Dutch Shell PLC in English courts over pollution in a region where the oil giant has a subsidiary. The justices said Shell has a "duty of care" to the claimants over the actions of its Nigerian subsidiary, Members of Nigeria's Ogale and Bille communities took Shell to court in Britain in 2016. alleging that decades of oil spills have fouled the water and contaminated the soil in the Niger River Delta.

## Ceska acquires **US gun maker**

Prague: Czech firearms has signed a deal to acquire Colt, the American gun maker that helped develop revolvers in the 19th century and has since supplied the armed forces in the US and other countries. Ceska Zbrojovka Group SE said Friday that it has purchased all the shares in Colt Holding Company LLC, the parent company of Colt's **Manufacturing Company** LLC and its Canadian subsidiary, Colt Canada Corp. The deal is worth

#### Hundreds rally for women's rights

Kathmandu: Hundreds of women's right activists and their supporters rallied in Nepal's capital Friday to call for an end to violence and discrimination against women and the scrapping of a proposed law that would restrict travel for many women. The protesters marching in the heart of Kathmandu chanted slogans demanding equality.

#### **'Burkina Faso on** brink of crisis'

Kaya: Burkina Faso is on the brink of becoming a protracted crisis after extremist violence displaced over 1 million people, a senior United Nations official said this week during a visit to the West African nation. UN Acting assistant secretarygeneral for humanitarian affairs Ramesh Rajasingham spoke to The Associated Press after visiting the hardhit Center North and Sahel regions in the country that has been engulfed in extremist violence for more than five years.

# Ready for split if EU imposes new sanctions: Russia

Moscow, Feb 12: Russia is prepared for a split with the European Union if the EU imposes new crippling sanctions amid a dispute over the treatment of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the nation's top diplomat warned Friday.

In response to a question about Moscow's willingness to rupture links with the EU, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in televised remarks that Russia doesn't want to be isolated but must increase its selfsufficiency to face potential EU sanctions

We don't want to be isolated from international life, but we must be ready for that," Lavrov said. "If you want peace, you must prepare for war.'

Asked if Russia is heading toward a split with the European Union, Lavrov replied, "We proceed from the assumption that we are ready for that.

He emphasised the importance of economic ties with the 27 EU nations, adding that Russia would continue engaging in mutually beneficial cooperation. At the same time Lavrov said, Russia must prepare for the worst and increasingly rely on its own resources.

"We must achieve that in the economic sphere, if we see again, as we have felt more than once, that, sanctions imposed in some areas create risks to our economy. including in the most sensitive spheres, such as supplies of parts and components," the Russian foreign minister added.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also said Russia wants to maintain normal ties with the EU but needs to prepare for the worst, if the bloc takes hostile actions.



In response to a question about Moscow's willingness to rupture links with the EU, FM Sergey Lavrov said that Russia doesn't want to be isolated but must increase its self-sufficiency to face potential EU sanctions

He emphasised the importance of economic ties with the 27 EU nations, adding that Russia would continue engaging in mutually beneficial cooperation

"If we face a destructive course that will hurt our infrastructure, our interests. Russia must be ready in advance for such unfriendly steps," Peskov said during a call with reporters. "We must be selfreliant. We must ensure our security in the most sensitive strategic areas and be prepared to replace everything we could be deprived of with national infrastructure in case madness prevails and such unfriendly actions take place.' Russia-EU relations have sunk to new lows over Navalny's arrest and imprisonment.

The opposition leader was arrested January 17 upon his return from Germany, where he spent five months recuperating from the nerve agent poisoning he blamed on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have denied the allegations.

Last week, a court in Moscow sent Navalny to prison for two years and eight months for violating terms of his probation while recuperating in Germany

## Oz: Victoria enters snap lockdown due to Covid cluster



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Melbourne, Feb 12: The Australian state of Victoria will enter a snap five-day lockdown from Friday midnight as a new Covid-19 cluster linked to a quarantine hotel in Melbourne increased to 13.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said the state will return to stage 4 lockdown from 11.59 pm Friday night to prevent further community transmission of a highly infectious Covid-19 strain, reports Xinhua news agency.

Under the rules, Victoria resi-

dents can only leave their homes for four reasons -- shopping for esercise; and essential work.

Exercise and shopping will be limited to 5 km from home and face masks will need to be worn indoors and outdoors.

No home visitors will be allowed. Religious gatherings and weddings will not be permitted, and funerals will be limited to 10 people. All non-essential retail, gyms, pools, community centers, entertainment venues and libraries will close. Cafes and restaurants will only be able to offer takeaway.

"I know this is not the news Victorians wanted to hear today, I know this is not the place we want to be in... We have to make difficult decisions to maintain what we have built," Andrews said Friday.

"If we wait for this theory that it might be out there, there might be more cases than we know about, it would be too late, and then we would face the chance of being locked down until a vaccine is

## **MYANMAR CRISIS**

## Sanctions should target coup leaders, not people: UN

Geneva, Feb 12: The United Nations warned Friday that any sanctions imposed over the coup in Myanmar must be "carefully targeted" against those responsible, to avoid harming vulnerable people.

Speaking before the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the UN's deputy rights chief Nada al-Nashif expressed concern after Washington announced sanctions on the generals behind last week's coup in Myanmar.

Other countries are considering similar moves

"Any sanctions under consideration should be carefully targeted against specific individuals who are credibly alleged to have violated the people's rights," al-Nashif said. "Leaders of this coup are an appropriate focus of such actions," she said, adding that "it is of critical importance that no harm should be inflicted on the most vulnerable people in the country.'

She was addressing a special session of the council urgently called for by Britain and the European Union to address the situation in Myanmar after the military there seized control February 1.

The new US sanctions target Min Aung Hlaing and other top generals, after President Joe Biden

Any sanctions under consideration should be carefully targeted against specific individuals who are credibly alleged to have violated the people's rights. Leaders of this coup are an appropriate

focus of such actions NADA AL-NASHIF DEPUTY RIGHTS CHIEF, UN

announced his administration was cutting off the military's access to \$1 billion in funds.

#### "WORLD IS WATCHING"

Huge crowds have for days thronged cities around Myanmar to demand the return of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and there has been concern over harsh police tactics in dispersing the largely peaceful crowds.

"The world is watching," al-Nashif warned.

**RUCKUS IN THE WILD** 

"Draconian orders have been is-

sued this week to prevent peaceful assembly and free expression, and police and military presence on the streets has grown progressively over the last several days

"Let us be clear: the indiscriminate use of lethal or less-than-lethal weapons against peaceful protestors is unacceptable," she said.

During Friday's one-day session. diplomats will consider a draft resolution demanding the immediate release of Suu Kyi, who until the coup on February 1 was the country's de facto civilian leader.

## **Israel launches Covid inoculation** for industry: MAI

AGENCIES

Tel Aviv, Feb 12: Israel has launched a Covid-19 vaccination programme for industry and hitech employees at workplaces, the Manufacturers Association of Israel (MAI) said

The operation has been initiated by MAI, the Ministry of Health, the Israel Defense Forces, and the country's national emergency service Magen David Adom. reports Xinhua news agency.

Vaccinations of workers will begin within a few days, as vaccine vehicles will come to the workplaces, reports Xinhua news agency.

It will take place alongside the general vaccination campaign in the country, which began in December 20, 2020.

The vaccines will be provided to employees free of charge.

Ron Tomer, President of the MAI, said: "We are making every effort on all fronts to raise the vaccination rate among workers. The operation will promote a safe and healthy work environment."

The number of people vaccinated against the Covid-19 in Israel has surpassed 3.68 million, or 39.6 per cent of the total population, according to the Ministry of Health. Israel has so far reported 714.812

coronavirus cases and 5.283 deaths

## Danish police find IS flag in raid of bomb making suspects

Copenhagen, Feb 12: Fourteen people have been arrested in Denmark and Germany on suspicion of preparing one or several attacks in the two countries, Danish police said Friday, adding that the discovery of an Islamic State group flag could indicate the suspects "have a connection or sympathy with the terror organization.

Flemming Drejer, operative head of Denmark's Security and Intelligence Service, said the findings were "worrying" but "it\_ is our assessment that there was no imminent danger."

Drever said the first seven individuals who were arrested in Denmark had acquired weapons and "we found things that can be used to make

People run away as Kurdish animal rights activists release a bear into the wild after rescuing bears from captivity in

## Biden admin to allow 25K asylum-seekers into US

AGENCIES

San Diego, Feb 12: The Biden administration Friday announced plans for tens of thousands of asylum-seekers waiting in Mexico for their next immigration court hearings to be allowed into the United States while their cases proceed.

people's homes, in Dohuk, Iraq

The first of an estimated 25,000 asylum-seekers in Mexico with active cases will be allowed in the United States February 19, authorities said.

They plan to start slowly with two border crossings each processing up to 300 people a day and a third crossing taking fewer. Administration officials declined to name them out of fear they may encourage a rush of people to those locations.

The move is a major step toward dismantling one of former President Donald Trump's most consequential policies to deter asylum-seekers from coming to the US About 70,000 asylum-seekers were enrolled in "Remain in Mexico," officially called "Migrant Protection Protocols," since it was introduced in January 2019.

On Biden's first day in office, the Homeland Security Department suspended the policy for new arrivals. Since then, some asylumseekers picked up at the border have been released in the US with notices to appear in court



Biden is quickly making good on a campaign promise to end the policy, which the Trump administration said was critical to reversing a surge of asylum-seekers that peaked in 2019.

But the policy also exposed people to violence in Mexican border cities and made it extremely difficult for them to find lawyers and communicate with courts about their cases

"As President Biden has made clear, the US government is committed to rebuilding a safe, orderly, and humane immigration system," said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

"This latest action is another step in our commitment to reform immigration policies that do not align with our nation's values,

## 'Over 2mn Yemeni children likely to starve in 2021'

THE UN REPORT WARNED THAT NEARLY ONE IN SIX OF THOSE KIDS: 400,000 OF THE 2.3 MILLION, ARE AT RISK OF DEATH DUE TO SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION THIS YEAR. A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR'S ESTIMATES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Feb 12: More than 2 million Yemeni children under the age of 5 are expected to endure acute malnutrition in 2021, four United Nations agencies said Friday, urging stakeholders to end the yearslong conflict that has brought the Arab world's poorest country to the brink of famine.

The UN Report warned that nearly one in six of those kids — 400,000 of the 2.3 million — are at risk of death due to severe acute malnutrition this year, a significant increase from last year's estimates.

The report also said a lack of funds was hampering humanitarian programs in Yemen, as donor

nations have failed to make good on their commitments.

Compounding the crisis, around 1.2 million pregnant or breastfeeding women in Yemen are also projected to be acutely malnourished

'These numbers are yet another cry for help from Yemen, where each malnourished child also means a family struggling to survive," said David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Program, which jointly issued the report with the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

The crisis in Yemen is a toxic mix of conflict, economic collapse and a severe shortage of funding,"



Beasley explained. In 2020, humanitarian programs in Yemen received only USD 1.9 billion of the required USD 3.4 billion, the report

UNICEF estimates that virtually all of Yemen's 12 million children require some sort of assistance. This can include food aid. health services, clean water, schooling and cash grants to help the poorest families scrape by.

"But there is a solution to hunger, and that's food and an end to the

violence," Beasley said. Yemenis have suffered six years of bloodshed, destruction and humanitarian catastrophe. In 2014, the Iran-allied Houthi rebels seized the capital and much of the coun-

try's north. A Saudi-led coalition launched a sweeping military intervention months later to restore the U.N.backed government. Despite relentless Saudi airstrikes and a

Last week, President Joe Biden announced that the U.S will no longer support the Saudi-led coalition. But reaching peace will be a difficult path.

Biden also reversed the Trump administration's designation of the Houthis as a terrorist organi-

That move has been hailed by aid groups working in Yemen, who feared the designation would disrupt the flow of food, fuel and other goods barely keeping Yemenis alive. "Malnourished children are more vulnerable to diseases ... It is a vicious and often deadly cycle, but with relatively cheap and simple interventions, many lives can be saved," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom

blockade of Yemen, the war has ground to a stalemate. Ghebreyesus.







# 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

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

**'BORDER HAATS' TO** 

**BOOST STABILITY** 





trying to set up multiple bio-CNG opportunity in this area and it can

bolster our economic development NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER

Customers love the twohour 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)



doing business to our customers through continued improvements in the overall Brand experience combined with efficient operations for well-synchronized & timely

PARTH JINDAL | MD, JSW CEMENT

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Voda Germany suspends CGTN

Berlin: Vodafone Germany said it had suspended distribution of China's stateowned CGTN television on its cable services after authorities had withdrawn a licence for its distribution. The operator said in a statement Friday that it hoped to resume distribution, but needed a valid licence to do so. The development comes a week after London revoked a licence for distributing CGTN in Britain, leading China Friday to bar the BBC from its television networks.

#### **Kochhar appears** before court

Mumbai: Former ICICI Bank

appeared before a special PMLA court here on Friday in connection with the ICICI Bank-Videocon money laundering case. The special court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) had on January 30 summoned Chanda Kochhar, her husband Deepak Kochhar, Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot and other accused in the case after taking cognisance of the ED charge sheet. Kochhar appeared before the special Judge AA Nandgoankarand filed a bail application through her lawyer Vijay Agarwal.

#### Llistosella to **head Tata Motors**

New Delhi: Tata Motors Friday said it has appointed Marc Llistosella as its CEO and MD. He is the former President and CEO of Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation and Head of Daimler Trucks in Asia. Llistosella, whose appointment will be with effect from July 1, 2021, will succeed Guenter Butschek. who has expressed his desire to relocate to Germany at the end of the contract for personal reasons, Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing.

#### Ather Energy to invest ₹635 cr

New Delhi: Hero MotoCorpbacked electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy Friday said it would invest ₹635 Tamil Nadu to scale up production. The company, the factory in Hosur, from January 2 this year, has achieved 90% localisation of parts, Ather Energy said.

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

New Delhi, Feb 12: Indicating some signs of recovery, industrial production recorded a positive 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.

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

ndustrial production entered

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

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 16month 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 (+/-

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 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 Navar. 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.

## Bengal eyes to double textile industry to ₹70K cr in 5 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 12: West Bengal on Friday said that it has set a target to double the state's textile industry to ₹70,000 crore over a period of three to five years. West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) chairman Rajiva Sinha said that the state has also decided to set up a task force to implement the target.

Speaking at an interactive session, Finance Minister Amit Mitra pointed out that the potential of export from West Bengal is far more than it is tapped.



The textile export from Bengal is around 2.7 per cent of the total export from the country, he said. In the next three to five years, it should go up to 10 per cent, Mitra said.

The readymade garment sector in Kolkata's Metiabruz itself is worth ₹15,000 crore, and has the potential of growing up to ₹25,000 crore in the next few years, he

## UK economy shrinks 9.9%, suffers biggest drop since 1709



AGENCIES

restaurants and

non-essential shops

since mid-December

London, Feb 12: The British economy suffered its biggest decline in more than 300 years in 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic closed shops and restaurants, devastated the travel industry and curtailed manufacturing.

The economy shrank 9.9% last year, more than twice the figure for 2009 at the height of the global financial crisis, the Office for National Statistics said Friday. The drop is the largest since 1709, when a cold spell known as the Great Frost devastated what was then a largely agricultural economy.

The data comes as Britain's economy remains shackled by restrictions designed to combat Covid-19. A rebound in growth during the fourth quarter has been stifled by England's third lockdown, which has closed schools, restaurants and non-essential shops since mid-December: Tough restrictions also remain in place in Northern Ireland. Scotland and Wales.

"Today's figures show that the economy has experienced a serious shock as a result of the pandemic, which has been felt by countries around the world." the UK's top treasury official. Chancellor Rishi Sunak, said in a statement.

"While there are some positive signs of the economy's resilience over the winter, we know that the current lockdown continues to have a significant impact on many people and businesses.

Sunak said he would announce new plans to protect jobs and bolster the economy when he delivers his annual budget statement to the House of Commons March 3. Covid-19 has hit Britain's econ-

omy harder than most other industrialised democracies. French GDP shrank 8.3 per cent last year, Germany 5 per cent and the US The GDP figures show the

breadth of the pandemic's economic impact in Britain.

The service sector, which accounts for about 80% of the UK economy, shrank 8.9% last year, with output from accommodation, food and beverage businesses down more than 55% from February levels. Manufacturing fell 8.6% and construction 12.5%. In hopes of relaxing the re-

strictions that have devastated the economy, the UK has moved to rapidly vaccinate its most vulnerable residents. More than 13.5 million people, or about 20% of the population, had received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine by Wednesday

Andy Haldane, chief economist for the Bank of England, said the vaccination drive is helping Britain turn a corner in its battle against the virus. Lifting Covid-19 restrictions is likely to unleash a wave of spending by consumers and businesses

## ease of doing biz POST NEWS NETWORK

**JSW offers customers** 

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 AIbased 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



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'

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

Cereals and products

Meat and fish

Milk and products

Pulses and products

Food and beverages

Sugar and Confectionery

Prepared meals, snacks, sweets etc

Source: Ministry of Statistics &

Programme Implementation

GRAPHICS.

Pan, tobacco and intoxicants

0.07

2.73

4.96

2.67

JAN'21

DEC'20

10.87



'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

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

said. With coronavirus pandemic

affecting economic activities in the

## Nalco posts ₹240cr net profit in Q3 nesduring the same period of FY20.

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 % 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 vear. Aluminium export also registered impressive growth, with sales volume of 1.38 lakh tonnesduring the first nine months of FY21 as compared to 0.50 lakh ton-

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, 15.07lakh 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 ongoing 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** 

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

**COMPANIES** 

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% 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 long 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 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

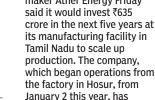
benefit Australians. **REASON TO WORRY** 

The many companies that get paid in one way or another from Google search revenue have reason to worry, too. 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.



# INDIA SEEK REDEMPTION

#### KOHLI'S MEN LOOK TO TURN THE TABLES WHEN THEY TAKE ON ENGLAND IN THE SECOND TEST, STARTING TODAY, AS THE TEAM COMBINATIONS ON FOCUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Feb 12: A desperate India have decided to go for the jugular by opting for a spicy turner against a well-prepared England side in the second Test starting Saturday, well aware that it can boomerang and cost them a spot in the World Test Championship final.

The honeymoon of the Australian series is over after a sobering 227 run defeat in the first Test which must have shaken a complacent team out of its stupor ahead of three high stake Test

But it is a perfect stage for India's mercurial skipper Virat Kohli, who loves to bring his A game to the fore when the chips are down.

With crowd back inside the heated cauldron ready to egg him on, something he thrives on, the Indian captain would be eyeing a good slugfest against a very resolute opposition. India need to win two matches and not lose any of the games to make the WTC final.

England will have a new wicketkeeper in Ben Foakes and Stuart Broad will replace James Anderson as part of workload management. Also in the mix is Moeen Ali, a known nemesis of India, in place of last match's first innings top wicket-taker Dom Bess.

Jofra Archer's elbow injury might make way for bowling allrounder Chris Woakes, who is a handy batsman apart from being a fine pacer in his own right.

A look at the newly-laid dark coloured Chepauk track is an indication that unlike the strip used during the first Test, this one will offer turn earlier than expected.

Ravichandran Ashwin will need a lot of support from the other end in terms of both restrictive and attacking options. A fit-again Axar Patel is the closest to being a like-for-like replacement for an injured Ravindra Jadeja. Patel's Test debut looks imminent as Ashwin will need someone to hold on at the other end.

However, one can't be so sure about Kuldeep Yadav, who in his short six-Test career, has played some tough games.

He would fancy his chance for being a better attacking option than Washington Sundar, but on a rank turner where batting becomes important, allrounder Hardik



those quick runs

M-1JUS

against spinners and

bowl 8-10 overs

which is

the max-

imum

that

Rohit Sharma (R) has something to talk about with Ajinkya Rahane

and Jasprit Bumrah during Team India's practice session

Pandya can come into the fray The 20-year-old Washington might go on to become a fine allrounder in the Ravi Shastri mould in the coming years but as of now, he is not good enough to play as a

specialist third spinner.

Kuldeep is an excellent attacking option but the team management's continued reluctance to play him is an indication of lack of faith in the Uttar Pradesh wrist-spinner's abilities of Hardik, on the

other hand, might just be able to

is required from a fifth bowler on a friendly pitch.

The Indian team management, after a drab first two days at the Chepauk during the opening game, had two options going into the sec-

The first option was to leave a liberal sprinkling of grass and then get tested by Broad, who would have got the SG Test to land on seam and move around off the

The second option, which they have taken is shaving off the grass and very little watering of the pitch, leaving it to bake in the sun.

The ball will bounce and turn and the strip will break much earlier but then India have had instances where this kind of track has back-fired.

Rewind to Pune 2017, when Steve Smith punished

them on a turner on the

day. The home team didn't have a clue that the ball will turn so much. Or perhaps the best innings ever played in India - Kevin Pietersen's epic 186 in Mumbai in 2012. India played a single pacer in Zaheer Khan with Ashwin and Pragyan Ojha opening the bowling.

In both games, it was the rival spinners (Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar in 12 and Steve O'Keefe in 2017) who made the most of the conditions and rattled the Indian batsmen in their own den.

The toss will be very crucial and even if turns square, Kohli will look to bat first and expect Rohit Sharma to go beyond the two or three pretty shots that he has been managing so far.

He would have to give the team a big hundred which it desperately needs from him. Kohli gave a master-class on how to play the reverse swing in the first Test but it always takes two to tango.

Whether it's a Cheteshwar Pujara or an a flight to London.

Kuldeep Yadav's chance in the final XI is still not sure despite prediction of pitch to offer turn very early in the

Ajinkya Rahane or a Rishabh Pant, the Indian skipper will need some support to keep his team's chances alive of booking

#### THE SOUADS

Virat Kohli (C), Ajinkya Rahane (vice Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishab Pant (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Jasiprit Bumrah Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Hardik Pandya, Mayank Agarwal, KL

**ENGLAND** Joe Root (C), Dominic Sibley, Rory Burns, Ollie Ben Stokes, Ben Foake

## Pope, Dan Lawrence, (wk), Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Stuart Broad Jack Leach & Olly

## **PRE-MATCH STATEMENTS**

#### **AJINKYA RAHANE**

Pitch: It looks completely different. I am sure it will turn from day 1 but again as I have said before the first Test match, you have to wait and see how it plays in the first session and take it from there on. We know these conditions really well and we have to put our best foot forward tomorrow (Saturday).

No-balls & drop catches: We are really working hard on what we can control. In India, close-in catches are really important and sometimes these things happen. No one does it intentionally, it's all about how confident you are. About, no balls, yes we all were disappointed about the it and they are working

Negative body language in 1st Test: There are moments when you don't have that energy but that doesn't mean that it has happened because of a change in captaincy. As I have said earlier, Virat is our captain and will remain our captain. If you are trying to dig in and find some 'masala' (controversy), unfortunately you will not get it. Look, body language can be a bit down at times and the wicket was such in the first two days, it could be because of that. There could be many reasons.

Match: It certainly provides a stern challenge but it's not going to be as not as tough as being 1-0 down. We are in a really good position. We played brilliant cricket and will take a lot of confidence forward into this week. But we won't get ahead of ourselves.

Missing Anderson: Everyone's heart was in favour of him being available for this game, but also you look at the bigger picture. We want to give James the best chance to be fit and firing in the last two games. And ideally if he is available for two of the last three (Tests), that's a huge asset for us as a team.

Geoffrey Boycott: So I get (Jos) Buttler leaving India but it is poor that (Jonny) Bairstow is not replacing him for the second Test. It has to be because Ed Smith (chief selector) wants to see this other kid, Foakes, get a go. Smith clearly does not want Jonny playing as a keeper-batsman. Bairstow has always said he wants to follow his father as a keeperbatsman. He does not want to be just a specialist batsman but Smith has made that decision and I feel it is unfair. Jonny has missed his opportunity to keep wicket again and England should be ashamed of what they have done to him. It seems as if England bring him in and push him out when it suits them. He must feel like a yo-yo.

Kevin Pietersen: I absolutely don't expect things to change, but it is impossible to avoid the continuing debate around the Indian Test captaincy. Virat Kohli has now lost four consecutive Tests as skipper, and has Ajinkya Rahane, who just led India to a famous series win in Australia, in his side. Everywhere there are very deep discussions around what should happen. Captaining your country is very difficult and unfortunately this is the nature of the beast. It's one more distraction that Kohli doesn't need, but he is, of course, capable of leading his side to a victory in the second Test to quieten things down a bit.

# Barca's 2009-10 record

**BAVARIANS WIN CLUB WC TO COMPLETE SIX-TITLE FEAT** 

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Doha, Feb 12: Benjamin Pavard scored the winning goal as Germany's Bayern Munich defeated Mexican side Tigres 1-0 in the Club World Cup final to claim their sixth trophy within a year.

The Bundesliga giants finished the 2019-2020 season with a treblewinning performance and have won the UEFA Super Cup, German Super Cup before the victory in Al Rayyan.

Thus Hansi Flick's Bayern became the second football team in history to win all six domestic and international titles available within 12 months after 2009's Barcelona, coached by former Bayern manager Pep Guardiola. This is also the eighth year in a row that a European club has won the title

in this tournament.

Despite Thursday's defeat, Tigres had already written the club's history as they were the first Mexican outfit to reach the Club World Cup final as CONCACAF champions.

Bavern's attacking player Thomas Muller was absent after testing positive for the COVID-19  $\,$ only hours before the kick-off and has been put into self-isolation.

The goal was initially ruled out for a Lewandowski offside but was allowed after a VAR consultation. "It feels good to have the six-pack - six titles in a row is something very special for us," said Lewandowski, who had beaten Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to be named as the FIFA Best Player of 2020.



## Bayern Munich match No-look shot in Serena's win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Feb 12: If Serena Williams somehow manages to conjure up another on-the-run, backto-the-net, no-look, over-the-shoulder shot in her next Australian Open match, a local coronavirus flareup means there won't be any spectators to react with the appreciative applause and yells that greeted this one.

That's because while Williams was using that bit of magic Friday to help pull off a comeback victory over an opponent who is 20 years younger, the head of the Victoria state government was announcing a five-day lockdown in response to a COVID-19 outbreak at a quarantine hotel. Competition at the year's first Grand Slam tournament will be allowed to continue, but no fans can attend as of Saturday.

A year ago, Williams dropped just three games against Potapova in the first round. But then the American was surprised in the third round, her earliest exit in Australia in 14 years.

This time at that stage, Williams who has won seven of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles in Australia fell behind in the opening set, which Potapova served for at 5-3. But the 2016 Wimbledon junior champion double-faulted five times in that

game, including twice on set point. Williams then trailed 5-3 in the tie-breaker. But she took the next four points, the last on a 21-stroke exchange that ended with Potapova

putting a forehand into the net. Never more so than shortly after



Potapova edged ahead again by breaking to begin the second set. Williams broke right back with the help of a remarkable get on a lob. After somehow putting her racket on the ball and sending it in the right direction, the 39-year-old paused and smiled, assuming the point was over — and then laughed upon realizing she won the point, because Potapova responded by putting an overhead into the net.

Williams, who won the match with 7-6(7-5), 6-2, will next play seventh-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, who matched her best Grand Slam showing by reaching the fourth round

with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Ann Li. Other women's fourth-round matchups established Friday: threetime Grand Slam title winner Naomi Osaka against two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza, Marketa Vondrousova against Hsieh Su-wei, and two-time major champ Simona Halep against reigning French Open champion Iga Swiatek.

World No.8 Diego Schwartzman became the highest-seeded man to lose so far after being eliminated 3-6, 3-6, 3-6 by Aslan Karatsev, a qualifier from Russia ranked 114th and making his Grand Slam debut at age 27.

World No.3 Dominic Thiem, who won the US Open in September, appeared to be in real trouble against Australia's Nick Kyrgios in front of a raucous crowd, but came all the way back from a two-set deficit to win 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Thiem's fourth-round opponent is No.18 Grigor Dimitrov.

In other action, Alexander Zverev won in straight sets and now takes on No.23 Dusan Lajovic, while Novak Djokovic's bid for a ninth Australian Open championship was thrown into doubt after he took a fall during a 7-6(7-1), 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Taylor Fritz and said he tore a muscle.

## Santana late goal helps HFC draw with SCEB

Goa, Feb 12: Aridane Santana scored in the stoppage time to help Hyderabad FC (HFC) steal a point against SC East Bengal (SCEB) as their ISL encounter ended 1-1, Friday. Bright Enobakhare put SCEB up front in the 59th minute, but Santana denied SCEB full points at the Tilak Maidan Stadium.

After a goalless first half, it was SCEB who broke the deadlock in the 59th. Raju Gaikwad cleared the ball from SCEB box. His clearance found Anthony Pilkington, who headed the ball in the direction of Bright. The Nigerian was one-onone with Chinglensana Singh and he breezed past the diving Indian defender before entering the box and shooting it past the keeper.

Nizams were denied a clear-cut penalty 10 minutes later. Halicharan

Narzary got the ball outside the penalty area on the left. He checked the ball to his right and entered the box but then went to ground after tangling with Sarthak Golui. However,

In the 82nd, SCEB were denied a penalty. Bright was one-on-one with the goalkeeper in the HFC penalty area, he felt a touch on his trailing foot as Kattimani came to take the ball off his feet.

referee didn't saw it as any foul.

In the added-on time, Santana gave Nizams something to cheer for: Rohit Danu played the ball from right to Fran Sandaza who sent a low cross towards the far post and Santana made no mistake to put HFC on level terms with SCEB.

HFC were reduced to 10 men after their equaliser as Mohammed Yasir was sent off for a poor challenge on Wahengbam Luwang just outside the HFC box.



Aridane Santana (in sky blue) about to strike the ball for HFC's equaliser, Friday

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