



STYLE DIVA

Actor Katrina Kaif uses a safety pin to issue a fresh style statement in her latest Instagram post

LEISURE **P2**



'INCITEMENT CHARGE A LIE'

Former President Donald Trump's insurrection incitement charge is a "monstrous lie," his lawyers said

INTERNATIONAL **P10**



ROHIT TON LIFTS INDIA

Rohit Sharma's 161 on Day 1 helps India take control of second Test against England at the Chepauk

SPORTS **P12**

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 313 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 2021

12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST | ₹4.00

Defiant AP holds GP polls in Kotia

Elections were held in Kotia area despite Koraput Collector warning his Vizianagaram counterpart that the matter was sub-judice in Supreme Court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Despite opposition from the Odisha government, the Andhra Pradesh government Saturday held panchayat elections in disputed Kotia gram panchayat.

Elections were held in Kotia area despite Koraput district Collector warning his Vizianagaram counterpart not to go ahead as the matter is currently sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a plea on Andhra Pradesh invading Odisha's territory February 19.

Villagers of Patuseri under Kotia gram panchayat in Pottangi block were seen queuing up at polling booths in the morning to cast their votes even after efforts by Potangi BDO and Tehsildar to convince the villagers not to participate in the electoral process.

Police and poll officials from Andhra Pradesh were deployed in Kotia gram panchayat.

Pottangi block chairman Jagatjyoti

Pangi said Andhra Pradesh is holding rural polls Saturday despite the opposition from the Odisha government.

On Friday, Koraput district Collector Abdaal Akhtar had written to his Vizianagaram counterpart M Hari Jawaharlal appealing not to conduct the elections in the disputed region of Kotia.

"I am to bring to your attention that in Contempt Petition No. 172/2021 arising out of Original Suit No. 10/1968 (The State of Odisha Vs. M Hari Jawaharlal and Others), the Honorable Supreme Court of India has been pleased to issue notice to the State of Andhra Pradesh and post the case to Friday, the 19th February, 2021. In its oral observations, the Court has also observed that should the State of Andhra Pradesh go ahead with its plans as regards the subject mentioned above, necessary consequences will follow," said the Koraput Collector.

"The same was pronounced in the presence of counsel for the State of Andhra Pradesh. A copy of the associated case documents have been



A resident of Phatu Seneri village showing his ink-marked finger after voting in the GP polls

handed over to the counsel for the State of Andhra Pradesh," the Collector wrote in the letter.

"Considering that the sub-judice nature of the matter and Supreme Court's oral observations, you may kindly desist from going ahead with any plan to allegedly conduct elections inside Kotia gram panchayat of Pottangi block of Koraput district," Akhtar said.

On Friday, the apex court issued a notice to the Andhra Pradesh government to file its response on a contempt petition filed by Odisha, which has sought action against the neighbouring state over its violation of the Supreme Court order in 1968 and 2006.

Andhra Pradesh is holding panchayat elections in three villages Talaganjelpadar, Patuseri and Phaguseneri in Kotia gram pan-

■ On Friday, the apex court issued a notice to the Andhra Pradesh government to file its response on a contempt petition filed by Odisha, which sought action against AP for violating the Supreme Court order in 1968 and 2006

■ Andhra has allegedly also conducted elections in Jumadanga panchayat in Malkangiri district, Kuladi panchayat in Ganjam district and Gangabada panchayat in Gajapati district

chayat. It has changed their names to Ganjebadara, Pattuchennuru and Pagluchennuru. The Kotia area has 21 villages. Notably, the neighbouring state has also allegedly conducted polls at Jumadanga panchayat under Dhuliputa block in Malkangiri district, Kuladi panchayat under Patrapur block in Ganjam district and Gangabada panchayat under Raigada block in Gajapati district.

MORE P5

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



This is just for our safety. Anti-Valentine's Day groups only target those who swear in the name of love!

PETROL, DIESEL PRICES HIKED AGAIN

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices touched new record highs on Saturday after state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) yet again hiked prices for the fifth consecutive day. As per a notifi-

FUEL PRICES IN CITY

PETROL ₹89.12 (+0.30)

DIESEL ₹85.78 (+0.39)

cation from fuel retailers, petrol price in Delhi was increased by 30 paise from ₹88.14 per litre to ₹88.44, while diesel was hiked saw a hike of 36 paise to ₹78.74. With the latest revision in fuel rates, it took petrol to an all-time high of ₹88.44 per litre and ₹94.93 per litre in Delhi and Mumbai, respectively. On Friday, the auto fuels in the national capital retailed at ₹88.14 and ₹78.38 respectively. Buyers in the financial capital will have to shell out ₹94.93 for one litre of petrol and will have to pay ₹85.70 per litre for diesel. Petrol price in Chennai has been increased to ₹90.70 per litre.

Right to protest cannot be anytime, everywhere: SC

THE SC DISMISSED A PLEA SEEKING REVIEW OF ITS VERDICT PASSED LAST YEAR ON THE ANTI-CAA PROTESTERS AFFECTING RIGHTS OF OTHERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 13: "The right to protest cannot be anytime and everywhere", the Supreme Court said as it dismissed a plea seeking review of its verdict passed last year in which it had held the occupation of public ways during the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh here was "not acceptable"

The top court said there may be some spontaneous protests but in case of prolonged dissent or protest, there cannot be continued occupation of public place affecting the rights of others.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Kirshna Murari said, "We have perused the review petition and record of the civil appeal and are convinced that the order of which review has been sought, does not suffer from any error apparent warranting its reconsideration".

The bench, which has passed the order recently, said it has considered the earlier judicial pronouncements and recorded its opinion that "the Constitutional scheme comes with a right to protest and express dissent but with an obligation to have certain duties".

"The right to protest cannot be anytime and everywhere. There may be some spontaneous protests but in case of prolonged dissent or protest, there cannot be continued occupation of public place affecting rights of others", the bench said, while dismissing a plea by one Shaheen Bagh resident Kaniz Fatima and others seeking review of last year's verdict of October 7.

The top court, which considered the matter in the judges' chambers also rejected the prayer for open court hearing in the matter. The apex court had October 7, last year held that public spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely and demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in designated places alone. It had said occupation of public ways in the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh locality here was "not acceptable".

Observing that democracy and dissent "go hand in hand", the apex court had said constitutional scheme comes with the right to protest and express dissent, but with an obligation towards certain duties.

It had said the mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule during India's freedom struggle cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy.



BRISK BUSINESS



A roadside vendor with varieties of roses at a wholesale market on the eve of Valentine's Day, in Bangalore, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Massive quake hits Japan

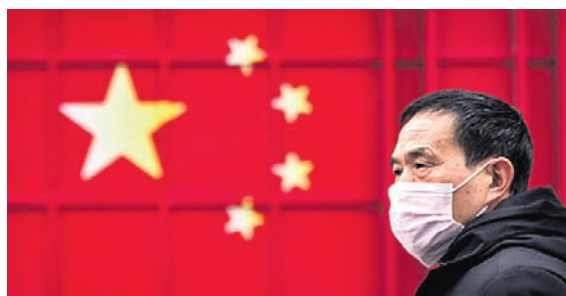
TOKYO: A day after tremors jolted Tajikistan and parts of North India, a powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.1 on the Richter Scale struck the northern coast of Japan Saturday night. Apart from Tokyo, the quake was felt in Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures in Japan's Tohoku region. The Japanese Meteorological Agency issued a statement saying, "A powerful magnitude 7.1 earthquake, which measured a strong 6 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale - the second-highest level - jolted Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures in the Tohoku region late Saturday night." "The quake, which also felt in Tokyo, where it registered a 4 on the Japanese scale, struck around 11:08 p.m., according to the Meteorological Agency.

'China refused raw data on early COVID cases'

REUTERS

Shanghai, Feb 13: China refused to give raw data on early COVID-19 cases to a World Health Organization-led team probing the origins of the pandemic, one of the team's investigators said, potentially complicating efforts to understand how the outbreak began.

The team had requested raw patient data on the 174 cases of COVID-19 that China had identified from the early phase of the outbreak in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019 as well as other cases but was only provided with a summary, said Dominic



Dwyer, an Australian infectious diseases expert who is a member of the team.

Such raw data is known as "line listings", he said, and would typically be anonymised but contain details such as what questions were asked of individual patients, their re-

sponses and how their responses were analysed.

"That's standard practice for an outbreak investigation," he told this news agency Saturday via video call from Sydney, where he is currently undergoing quarantine. He said that gaining access

to the raw data was especially important since only half of the 174 cases had exposure to the Huanan market, the now-shuttered wholesale seafood centre in Wuhan where the virus was initially detected.

"That's why we've persisted to ask for that," he said. "Why that doesn't happen, I couldn't comment. Whether it's political or time or it's difficult ... But whether there are any other reasons why the data isn't available, I don't know. One would only speculate."

While the Chinese authorities provided a lot of material, he said the issue of access to the raw patient data would be mentioned in the team's final

report. "The WHO people certainly felt that they had received much much more data than they had ever received in the previous year. So that in itself is an advance."

A summary of the team's findings could be released as early as next week, the WHO said Friday.

The WHO-led probe had been plagued by delay, concern over access and bickering between Beijing and Washington, which accused China of hiding the extent of the initial outbreak and criticised the terms of the visit, under which Chinese experts conducted the first phase of research.

ORGANIC FAIR TODAY

14 February 2021, 8 am - 3 pm

ALL ORGANIC PRODUCE BY GENUINE PRODUCERS WILL BE FOR DISPLAY/SALE

Venue:
The Press Club of Odisha
Master Canteen Square
Bhubaneswar

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT: +91-8144598918

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Friends, friends, and more friends – that's what the day will be all about. Life seems to be one big party, even if all you're doing is having tea together! But reserve the evening for that one special friend, suggests Ganesha.

TAURUS

As an administrator, you will command with an iron fist today, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may find change slowly creeping in; you may discover a more harmonious approach to managing people as compared to a dictatorial style.

GEMINI

Your career is finally on track and your dreams don't look too distant any more. A candlelit dinner with your spouse will leave you wanting for more. And you shall get more. A night to remember indeed. Ganesha, however, warns you to hold your horses or an imminent accident awaits you.

CANCER

Today, you will be keenly observing the games that people play. But your paranoia will work against you. Certain people are likely to use it to manipulate you and influence important decisions.

LEO

So what is it that inspires people to jump off a mountain with nothing but a parachute on their back? Guess you are going to find the answer to that question today, if not literally, then at least metaphorically.

VIRGO

Love will bite you today. It will bleed, and break it in two. The ship of career will sight port soon, says Ganesha. Dinner in a candlelit ambience will only help raise your spirits.

LIBRA

Today, you seem to have the Midas touch, so every task you take in your hands is bound to be a success. You may also want to take time out to spend with your loved ones and lavish them with attention. Also, don't forget to hand out credit to others for their valuable inputs. It pays to be in people's good books. Ganesha advises you to spend your money wisely in the evening.

SCORPIO

Your balancing skills may be called to fore today, as some of the important decisions of your life may come calling for judgement today. Later in the day, sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards. In the workplace, reputation and rewards may come for previous efforts.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees that today, you shall be more selfless and careful than ever. You might be slated to make some profit by involving yourself in shared actions. However, it comes naturally to you to mix business with pleasure, and you shall make the most of it.

CAPRICORN

Every venture is fraught with risks and accompanied by uncertainties, but if you have any inclination to start one of your own today, you won't be in two minds about it, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

Fortune is mighty pleased with you, so go ahead and play roulette if you wish! Partnerships will work today, as will business deals. But somewhere, a dark sentiment may cloud your thinking. Ganesha says that you should enjoy yourself and take life a bit lightly.

PISCES

Your peers will be the cause of a few confrontations today. Legal disputes may also arise. Take the advice of your elders to resolve these conflicts. Meditative techniques will help restore your calm, says Ganesha.



CAPTAIN MARVEL 2 CASTS ZAWE ASHTON AS VILLAIN

Actress Zawe Ashton has been roped in to play the villain in *Captain Marvel 2*. She will fight it out with Brie Larson's Carol Danvers, or Captain Marvel. Nia DaCosta is directing the film while Megan McDonnell has written the script.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE SAYS SORRY TO BRITNEY SPEARS

Singer-actor Justin Timberlake has apologised to pop star Britney Spears for his illtreatment to her during their relationship. His apology came after a new documentary led to criticism of how he treated the singer when the two were together.



Katrina gives safety pin a twist of oomph

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif pins her winter style statement with a twist of subtle oomph in the latest pictures she shared Saturday with fans on social media.

In two Instagram pictures, Katrina wears a blue tie-dye and front-open sweater. She prefers to keep the front unbuttoned, but loosely held together with three oversized safety pins.

"Shades of...." she captioned the image along with blue heart and butterfly emojis.

Katrina is currently busy shooting for the horror comedy *Phone Bhoot* in Udaipur.



She co-stars Ishaan Khatter and Siddhant Chaturvedi in the film. The film is directed by Gurmmeet Singh, and produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani. *Phone Bhoot* has been written by Ravi Shankaran and Jasvinder Singh Bath.

She is also gearing up for *Tiger 3* with Salman Khan, and her next release is the Akshay Kumar-starrer cop action drama *Sooryavanshi*.



'Overwhelmed with love from people in Northeast'

Mumbai: Actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who is currently shooting for Anubhav Sinha's *Anek* in Assam, is overwhelmed with the love he has received in the Northeast. Reportedly, 40 to 50 people from neighbouring villages flock to the set to meet Ayushmann and wish him well for his film.

"I'm truly overwhelmed with the love that I'm receiving from the people here in the Northeast. I have met all those who have been kind enough to come to our sets to wish me luck for *Anek*. It was humbling to know that they love my craft and my brand of cinema and I have had interactions with them during shot breaks and post wrap whenever possible," Ayushmann said.

"The warmth that I have received from the people here will always stay with me, motivating me to do better and to entertain my country better," he added.

Anup Jalota feted at Guru Debaprasad Das Award fest

The main objective of organising the festival is to showcase and promote Odissi Dance as a unique gharana, said Guru Gajendra Panda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The 14th Guru Debaprasad Das Award Festival organised by Tridhara kicked off Saturday with great enthusiasm here at Rabindra Mandap.

The highlight on the inaugural evening of the three-day event was felicitation of eminent Bhajan singer Anup Jalota, who was conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to Indian Classical Music.

Tridhara, founded by late Guru Debaprasad Das, is a prominent institution which treasurers and upholds his distinct style. Das pioneered the reinvention of Odissi from its ancient form to a perform-

ing art for the stage.

"The main objective of holding this festival is to showcase and promote Odissi Dance as a unique gharana adding the essence of tribal and

folk tradition to it," said Guru Gajendra Panda, director of the institution.

The first presentation of the evening was Odissi Dance Drama



Tridhara members perform on the occasion



Jalota performing at Rabindra Mandap

Sankhita Ramayana by the senior dancers of Tridhara. The composition was choreographed by Guru Panda with music by Guru Pandit Haramohan Khuntia.

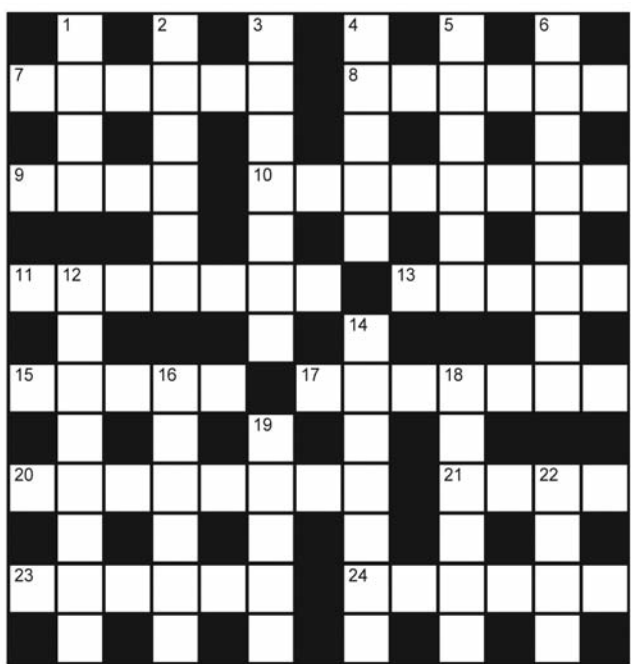
However, the main attraction was the rendition of some popular bha-

jans including *Aisi Lagi Lagan*, *Main Nahi Makhan Khayo*, *Rang De Chumariya* and *Jag Me Sundar Hai Do Naam* by Anup Jalota. He was accompanied by Pandit Prosenjit Poddar in tabla, Jabbar Mishra in flute, Pandit Ramlal Mishra in sarangi, Kousik Mukherjee in keyboard and Arindam Ghosh in guitar.

The dignitaries present on the occasion included former Union Secretary, Dharendra Kumar Mishra, Principal Income Tax Commissioner, Niranjan Rath, Secretary, Lok Sevak Mandal, Nishikanta Mishra, CMD, Team Admark, Kadambini Editor Iti Samanta and Simanchala Panda, Working President, Tridhara. The event was anchored by popular host Srinivas Ghatuauri.

FUN post

CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 7 Artist's workroom
- 8 Period of greatest success
- 9 Nile wader
- 10 Tooth problems
- 11 Overly agitated
- 13 Origami bird
- 15 Durable wood

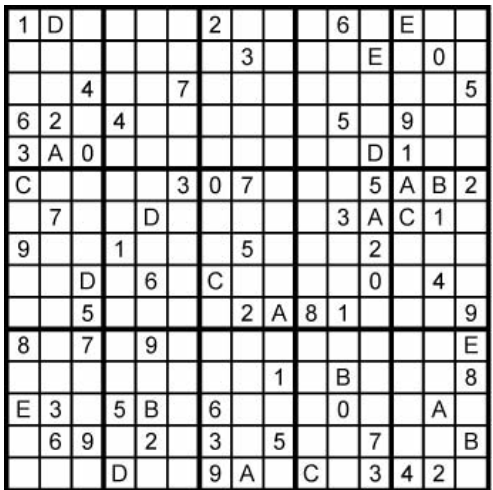
- 17 Oceanic birds
- 20 Invigorate
- 21 Litter members
- 23 Sphere of influence
- 24 Loquacious

Down

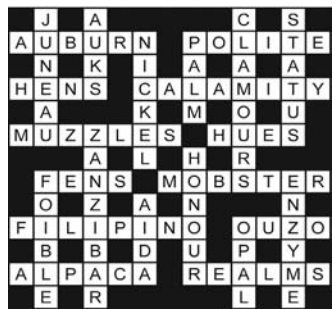
- 4 Barbershop request
- 5 Marine mollusk
- 6 Motherly
- 12 Daniel Defoe's Crusoe
- 14 Entreat
- 16 Trondheim locale
- 18 Echo
- 19 Keyboard instrument
- 22 Quarries

SUDOKU

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

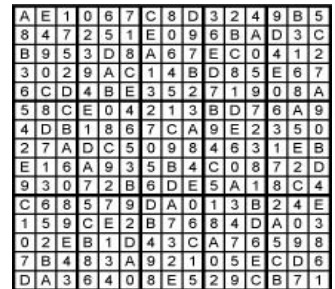


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

No assurance on MSP in farm laws: Swain

THE UNION GOVERNMENT IS TRYING ITS BEST TO PORTRAY A PRO-FARMER IMAGE WHICH IS NOTHING BUT A DRAMA, SAYS FS&CW MINISTER RANENDRA PRATAP SWAIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: State Food Supply and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain Saturday expressed concerns over three controversial farm laws and said that the legislations hardly talk about assurance on minimum support price (MSP) and mandis.

We want to weed out dummy farmers from the system. The Agriculture dept is creating a good database of the farmers, who are reaping benefits of paddy procurement

RP SWAIN | FS&CW MINISTER

He said, "Union leaders in the Parliament have said that the mandi system and MSP were there and will be there in place. However, the same has not been reflected well



The FS&CW minister hoped that the state will create a record in paddy procurement this year

The minister also talked about ghost farmers who are trying to take benefit from the paddy procurement system of the state

in the three controversial farm Bills. The government has not taken any step to rectify that. The Union government is trying its best to portray a pro-farmer image which is nothing but a drama."

The FS&CW Minister also talked about the good progress in paddy procurement this year. "Last year, during the Kharif season we had

seen lifting of around 53 lakh metric tonnes of paddy in the state. In the current year, we are lifting good amount of paddy every day. We are monitoring the process every year. We have completed procurement of more than 52 lakh metric tonne paddy till now. We are going to create a good record in paddy procurement this year."

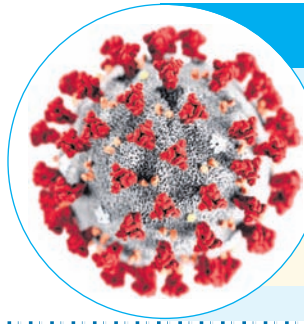
The minister also talked about ghost farmers who are trying to take benefit from the paddy procurement system of the state.

"Several districts are reporting good records and are ahead of their target now. I have ensured that tokens have been issued to genuine farmers. But we do not want traders from other states come to our state and take the benefit of our paddy procurement system. Opposition parties have tried to mislead people," Swain added.

He also added, "We will do the verification of token beneficiaries through the Collectors and want to ensure welfare of the farmers. We want to weed out the dummy farmers from the system. The Agriculture department is also creating a good database of the farmers who are reaping benefits of paddy procurement. We are also giving timely payment to the farmers through direct benefit transfer (DBT)."

FOR LORD'S BLESSING

Hundreds of devotees queuing up on the Grand Road to visit Srimandir, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	10,88,29,510	8,08,49,336	23,96,423
India	1,08,92,746	1,06,00,625	1,55,550
Odisha	3,36,101	3,33,351	1,910

BJD MPs meet Joshi over NMA draft bylaws

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 13: A delegation of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs Saturday met Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi and sought withdrawal of controversial draft bylaws by National Monuments Authority (NMA) regarding Lingaraj and Brahmeswar temples in Bhubaneswar.

The delegation comprising Lok Sabha MPs Pinaki Misra, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Anubhav Mohanty, Manjulata Mandal and Rajya Sabha MPs Sujeet Kumar and Bhaskar Rao met Union ministers Prahlad Joshi and Arjun Ram Meghwal on the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and demanded the withdrawal of the controversial draft bylaws.

"We met Union Parliamentary Affairs minister as the Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel was



There is no permanent director or chairman of NMA and a junior officer is creating such confusion
PINAKI MISRA | BJD MP

not in Delhi. Prahlad Joshi promised us that he would look into the matter and resolve it," said Pinaki Misra adding that whenever government seeks support of the BJD on various bills, they convey it through Prahlad Joshi and that is why the BJD delegation met Joshi in the absence of Patel.

Misra also said that the Culture minister had promised the BJD to withdraw three draft notifications. However, the Centre hasn't withdrawn the draft notification issued for Lingaraj and Brahmeswar temples. Misra also said that there is no permanent director or chairman of NMA and a junior officer is creating such confusion.

CRUT drive on road safety

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: The crew of a Mo Bus and the commuters were in for a surprise when they saw 'Yamraj and 'Chitragupta' in a Mo Bus Saturday.

As part of 32nd Road Safety Awareness Month, three of the crew members were dressed up as god of death and his registrar of Karma to disseminate road safety messages among Mo Bus captains.

Yamraj and Chitragupta travelled in various routes and handed over leaflets describing road safety rules to the crew and travellers.

The crew members were sensitised to wear seat belt, halt at designated stops, avoid drunken driving and talking over cellphones while on duty. They were also asked to maintain lane discipline.

Commuters were requested by Yamraj and Chitragupta to report about any traffic violation by the crew when they notice any while travelling in MoBus. "It is a good attempt by CRUT to sensitise their own crew members to follow the traffic rules," said Bishnu Behera, a senior citizen.

Ganja worth ₹3.5Cr from Odisha seized in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 13: The Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of Mumbai Crime Branch has seized 1,800 kg ganja worth ₹3.5 crore brought from Odisha and arrested two persons in the biggest such operation in recent past, an official said Saturday.

The kingpin of the inter-state smuggling racket is identified as Laxmikant Pradhan, a resident of Ganjam district

On a tip-off, police intercepted a truck at a foot over bridge (FOB) on the Eastern Express highway in suburban Vikhroli Friday evening and found the contraband, he said.

The cannabis was being smuggled in Mumbai from Odisha in the truck, the official said, adding that Akash

Yadav, 25, and Dineshkumar Saroj, 26, were arrested.

The kingpin of the inter-state smuggling racket is identified as Laxmikant Pradhan, a resident of Ganjam district in Odisha, the official said.

"Members of this racket used to bring 5 tonne of ganja in Maharashtra every month and around 3 to 4 tonne of it was distributed in Mumbai and neighbouring districts," he said. Milind Bharambe, Joint Commissioner of Police (crime), told reporters that the gang used to hire trucks from Mumbai under the guise of importing coconuts, but would actually smuggle in ganja. He said the gang used to unload the smuggled ganja at a godown in Bhiwandi in Thane district.

The man responsible for distribution of the contraband in Mumbai and neighbouring areas has been identified as Sabdeep Satpute, he said, adding that money was moved either through hawala or in cash. A hunt is launched for Pradhan, Satpute and other members of the gang.

Lovestruck
— 2 0 2 1 —
Valentine Collection

ONE
COLLECTION.
MANY TALES OF LOVE.
Happy Valentine's Day!

Find your piece Find your story

STORES ONLY at Bhubaneswar | Berhampur | Cuttack | Rourkela
NOWHERE ELSE

Open on All Days
Toll Free 1800 3131 777
(10am to 8pm)

Follow us on
f t i y

KHIMJI
Jewellers since 1936

Oppn targets govt on Kotia dispute



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Opposition parties Saturday tried to corner the state government on the controversial issue of intrusion of Andhra Pradesh into Odisha and the alleged delay by the government to move the Supreme Court.

Odisha BJP President Samir Mohanty said, "Odisha's public has entrusted upon the task of their safety and protection to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. I want to ask the CM why the government took such a long time to move the Supreme Court on the raging problem of inter-state dispute on Kotia panchayat area."

He questioned the alleged lethargic approach in the case. "I want to ask what the government is doing on that front. Why the government has kept the people of the area under

darkness," he said.

Veteran Congress leader Narasingha Mishra said, "This is an attack from another state to Odisha. This has come to the fore when the Andhra Pradesh government has decided to intrude and announced elections in the area. The state government now seems to be on a wrong side due to their delayed actions."

The BJD, meanwhile, refuted the allegations. BJD leader Shashi Behera said, "The government is doing their bit of undertaking development works in the area. Such decisions of the government of Andhra Pradesh which are likely to escalate inter-state dispute are not good. The Union government needs to intervene in the issue. We have moved the SC when the election issue came to the fore."

Showers predicted for February 16, 17

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday said light to moderate rainfall or thundershower would occur at some places of Odisha during February 16 and 17.

Some places in Nuapada, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Deogarh districts are likely to witness light rainfall February 16. A few places of south interior Odisha - Gajapati, Ganjam, Angul, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Balasore and Bhadrak - will receive shower the next day, the IMD said. Besides, thunderstorm with lightning is likely to occur at one or two places of Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Boudh, Angul, Bolangir, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Keonjhar districts February 17. The Met department has issued yellow warning for these districts.

Meanwhile, Phulbani recorded state's lowest temperature of 10 degrees Celsius while all other places record a minimum temperature of above 10 degrees.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	34.6°C	33.8°C
	MIN	16.4°C	15.2°C
Humidity	91%	69%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	
Forecast		Mainly clear sky	

ECoR braces to curb mishaps on tracks



To minimise cases of trespassing, ECoR has planned to erect boundary walls or fences near sensitive locations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has taken a slew of measures to minimise the untoward incidents on railway tracks. Trespassing is the prime factor behind unusual incidents like deaths in ECoR jurisdiction. This apart, many incidents of deaths and injuries are being reported nowadays. People sustain injuries after falling off moving trains and die in suicide bids.

The ECoR has identified vulnerable sections where such incidents occur near Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and Berhampur areas.

To minimise cases of trespassing, the ECoR has planned to erect boundary walls or fences near sensitive locations between Bhubaneswar-Mancheswar, Berhampur-Jagannathpur, Jajpur Keonjhar Road Yard and Sambalpur-sambalpur Road stations.

Construction of boundary walls/fences or provision of obstructions by placing unused con-

crete sleepers have been sanctioned on the stretch between Ranital and Baudpur in Bhadrak. Apart from this, a new proposal has been given for similar works at vulnerable locations between Bhubaneswar and Retang, Vizianagaram & Nellimarla, Gopalpatnam & Visakhapatnam and between Kottavalasa & Pendurti stations.

About 110 new vulnerable places have been identified in ECoR jurisdiction. To reduce these activities, wide trench will be constructed parallel to track to stop trespassing of animals, pedestrians and bikers. Barricade by using rail sleepers and rail posts would be erected to stop two-wheelers from crossing the rail lines.

To reduce unauthorised crossing on railway track, ECoR has closed crossings by erecting rail posts and deep trenching parallel to track in order to obstruct the pathways at some of the places.

Limited height sub-ways will be constructed at some of the places and consent has been received from state government to curb trespassing.

Odisha wins laurels for 'Drink from Tap' mission

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: The state government has received an award of excellence for undertaking smart water management system in Puri city under 'Drink from Tap' mission. The event was organised by Computer Society of India (CSI).

Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) managing director Pradipta Kumar Swain has received the award on behalf of the state



government from Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at

an award ceremony held in Lucknow, Friday.

CSI, the largest association of IT professionals in the country has set up this award in 2002 for recognising and awarding innovative projects across India through its Special Interest Group (SIG) in eGovernance.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, in October last year, had launched the 'Drink from Tap' mission called as 'Sujal' to provide quality drink-

ing water fit for direct consumption from the tap to all households in urban areas.

After successful completion of pilot projects in 12 zones in Bhubaneswar and Puri, WATCO is now focusing to cover entire Bhubaneswar city and Puri along with Cuttack, Khurda, Jatni and Berhampur towns under the mission. Later, it will be extended to other urban areas in the state in a phased manner.

State to lease out four catamarans

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: The state government has decided to lease out its four luxury catamarans at Bhitarkanika, Chilika lake and Mahanadi river in an attempt to promote river cruise tourism. Tourism department has floated tenders for this purpose.

In 2014, the state government had procured luxury catamarans under Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plan for using them in selected water bodies of state for tourism/recreation purpose.

These catamarans are currently with Tourism department and docked at Bhitarkanika backwaters in Kendrapara district. To utilise them for tourism purposes, the Tourism department intends to give the catamarans to private operators on lease basis for augmentation, operations, marketing, man-



FILE PHOTO

agement and maintenance, sources said. Selected private operators will be allowed to operate and maintain the catamarans on lease for a period of 10 years.

Two catamarans will be oper-

ated as day cruise vessels at Bhitarkanika. The other two catamarans will be operated as overnight cruise vessels at Chilika lake and Mahanadi river.

These catamarans are single

FILLIP TO TOURISM

■ In 2014, the state government had procured luxury catamarans under ICZM plan for using them in selected water bodies of state for tourism/recreation purpose

■ Two catamarans will be deployed in Bhitarkanika while one each will be docked at Chilika and Mahanadi river

■ These catamarans are single decker, 20-seater luxury boats, with twin diesel engines of 38 HP each, having a moderate speed of about 8 knots

decker, 20-seater luxury boats, with twin diesel engines of 38 HP each, having a moderate speed of about 8 knots. The boat has two additional cabins on twin sharing basis with bath and bio-toilets.

Tender floated for Kanupur spill channel project

NHAI PROPOSES EQUAL SHARE DISTRIBUTION; STATE GOVERNMENT AGREES TO BEAR 25% COST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Following repeated demands from the state, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has floated a tender for the much-awaited Kanupur spill channel on new NH-520 in Keonjhar district. The project has remained incomplete due to a fight between NHAI and the state government.

In a recent letter to Water Resources Secretary Anu Garg, NHAI member (technical) Mahabir Singh said the tender has already been invited for construction of the bridge with a project cost of ₹102.40 crore. The target has been set to complete the project within 18 months from the date of commencement.

However, the cost sharing—the main reason behind the delay in completion of the project—has not been resolved yet. The NHAI has proposed the state government to equally distribute the project cost



FILE PHOTO

while the state government has agreed to bear 25 per cent of the agreement cost.

“The necessity of construction of the bridge is solely on account of the spill channel. The cost has also increased significantly due to site condition. Therefore, may I request you to consider the sharing of the cost equally between NHAI and the water resources department,” Singh mentioned in his letter.

The NHAI has floated the tender following repeated demand from the state government. The water resources department had taken up the issue with NHAI several times. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in November last year had also written a letter to Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari for early completion of the bridge project.

According to water resources department sources, the dam and the spillway work of the irriga-

tion project are almost complete except for the river gap portion.

River closing is a vital activity for impounding the reservoir and this has been inordinately delayed due to delay in construction of the bridge over the spill channel of Kanupur irrigation project by NHAI.

Later, the project authority started the work for the tendered cost of ₹40.68 crore of which NHAI agreed to bear 80 per cent. But, later on, the cost of the bridge was revised to ₹100 crore due to a change in its design because of underground geological conditions. As the NHAI didn't agree to bear their share of the 80 per cent of the revised cost, the work came to a halt.

The project was conceived 40 years ago and three Chief Ministers have laid its foundation on different occasions. The Kanupur irrigation project over river Baitarani in Keonjhar will create irrigation for 29,578 hectares in the tribal dominated Keonjhar district.

59 new Covid cases detected in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Odisha's COVID-19 tally mounted to 3,36,101 Saturday as 59 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said. Half of the state's 30 districts did not report any fresh case, he said. Thirty-four new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 25 infections were detected during contact tracing, the official said. Bargarh and Sundergarh districts reported the highest number of new cases at nine each. The state now has 787 active cases, while 3,33,351 people have recovered from the disease, 1,910 patients have succumbed to the infection and 53 others have died due to comorbidities, he said.

Odisha has so far tested over 80 lakh samples for Covid-19.

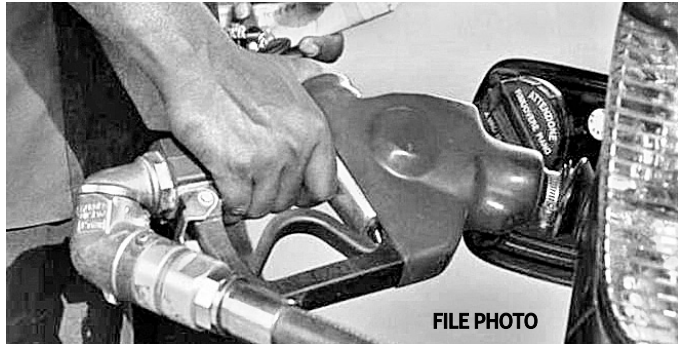
Cong flays BJD's silence on fuel prices

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: The Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Niranjan Patnaik, two days before the scheduled Odisha Bandh, addressed the media Saturday and talked about the preparedness of the party to organise the agitation.

Patnaik also questioned the silence of the BJD government in the state on the inflating petrol and diesel prices.

“When the UPA government was there at centre, the BJD government used to come on street to protest against a mere ₹1 to ₹2 rise in petrol prices. Where are they now? Have they done some internal setting with the BJP not to protest on the issue when the prices of petrol are going up,” Niranjan



FILE PHOTO

said. He said during the planned Odisha Bandh, emergency medical, education services and marriage related works would not be affected. He said, “We have decided to organize it in a peaceful manner. We are not going to block medical services, vehicles engaged in marriage functions, kids going

to schools or colleges. The bandh has been organized to raise a genuine cause.”

The Congress leader said recent studies had claimed that only 1 per cent of Indian people has seen a rise. “Most others have either seen stagnation of their income or they have seen a reduction

in their income. The government on the other hand has reduced the corporate tax for the rich,” he said.

“At the same time the government is trying to make the life of the poor and middle class hell by increasing the burden of taxes on petrol and diesel prices,” he said. He also said that he had asked the Chief Minister of Odisha earlier to request the Centre to reduce their central share of taxes on fuel and also consider reducing their tax share.

“Such actions can directly bring a shy of relief on the people who are now marred by the double whammy of price rise of fuel prices and lesser incomes. The farmers, the poor and the middlemen are highly affected by the rising prices,” he said.

SAI hosts global debate competition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: A global debate competition Saturday was held at SAI International to instill in children 21st century skills of communication, collaboration and critical thinking.

The mega online competition had students' participation from over 11 countries and 44 schools from across the globe such as Australia, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey and India. With two schools from Kenya, six schools from South Africa, 27 schools from India and one school each from New Zealand,

Turkey, Tanzania, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Australia and Namibia.

The online session was attended by keynote speaker Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director East and Northeast India, British Council, Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata and Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, founder & mentor, the SAI International Education Group.

Chakrabarti appreciated sprawling sports infrastructure at SAI. He emphasised on speaking and writing skills. Students who participated in the debate. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo congratulated students who participated in the debate.

Eviction drive at Badambadi bus stand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Feb 13: The authorities of the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) Saturday removed encroachments from the government bus stand at Badambadi here.

The OSRTC deployed an earth mover and several other vehicles to remove illegal structures from the bus stand.

“Two platoons of armed police personnel were deployed to maintain law and order during the eviction drive. ACP Subhanarayan Muduli and Badambadi police in-charge Rashmi Ranjan Mahapatra were present at the spot,” said a



police officer.

OSRTC chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) Arun Bothra said some people were operating vending stalls by encroaching upon the bus stand land for last many days. “The OSRTC has at least 17 rooms at the bus stand for commercial use. We had asked the ven-

dors to hire the rooms. But, they were operating vending stalls by encroaching upon the bus stand land. As a result, the OSRTC was losing lakhs of rupees,” Bothra added.

The OSRTC CMD further revealed that large scale encroachments on the bus stand was hampering free movement of buses and causing troubles to the passengers. The OSRTC had served notices on the vendors to vacate the bus stand land. However, the vendors had approached the Orissa High Court and managed to secure a stay on the eviction notice. “We have removed the encroachments after the High Court vacated its stay order,” Bothra added.

7th International Radio Fair kicks off in City



Visitors admiring old radios on display at an exhibition in Bhanjakala Mandap, Saturday

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: The 7th International Radio Fair 2021 was kickstarted at Bhanjakala Mandap Saturday. Around 15 stalls were organized to commemorate the radio day.

Radio Hirakhand 90.8 FM promotes community radio and it's based on Sambalpuri language and culture. The radio day is based on innovation, evaluation and com-

munication. “Radio must touch the nerves of netizens,” said Bikash Mahapatra, director of Radio Hirakhand Sambalpur. There was also an online app called Radio Bhubaneswar which one can download on smartphones and can listen to various programmes.

Kaliprasad Panda of Radhakrishna Radio and gramophone museum Bastapada Sompur Cuttack said, “Collecting radios was my passion and more than 80

antique pieces of radios and more than 1000 old records have been collected which are on display here. Unfortunately, there has been no special effort from the government to conserve such radios and old gramophone records. The gramophone displayed here was my grandfather's dowry gift which I had preserved till date.”

Ghanshyam Patnaik, a famous antique radio collector of Bolagarh, said, “I need more than 40 large

‘Harness potential of community radio’

Bhubaneswar: The Radio Club of Odisha and the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Khurda in association with ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, celebrated World Radio Day-2021 at VG Jhingan Auditorium, ICAR-CIFA, Kausalyaganga here, Saturday.

The Radio Club of Odisha (RACOD) is working for the improvement and promotion of radio activities in the state. RACOD is a forum of radio broadcasters and professionals working for the broadcast of radio contents and programmes for the community entertainment, empowerment and social development in Odisha. The event was inaugurated by Padamashree Batakrushna Sahoo. He reminisced how people from rural areas listen to weather

updates of All India Radio. It is an inexpensive tool of infotainment for the rural people. ICAR-CIFA director SK Swain said that though there are many information channels for the farmers, radio is still popular in rural areas. He

WORLD RADIO DAY

urged the broadcasters to harness the potential of community radio. “Community radio has given voice to voiceless,” he asserted. On the occasion, guests unveiled a souvenir titled ‘Radio for People’.

Four technical sessions – Radio for Agriculture, Health, Social Security and Disaster Response – were conducted during the programme. The valedictory session started with speech by Yaswant Patil, Radio Madhuban of Rajasthan.

halls to display my collection of radios and gramophones. There is no government funding to preserve these pieces. People nowadays feel that smartphones are the ultimate method of entertainment, but when

everything shuts down it's the battery operated radio that keeps one news savvy and alert about happenings.” On day one, around 10 to 15 radios were sold and many radio lovers queued up to get their share.

POLITICAL STIR



Student Congress workers demanding resignation of Law Minister Pratap Jena for his alleged role in Mahanga double murder are courting arrest at Rajmahal Square, Saturday

OP PHOTO

HEADLESS BODY RECOVERY

Accused duo made to recreate crime scene

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: The commissionerate police Saturday took both the accused in the headless body recovery case to various places related to the crime for recreation of the crime. Earlier, the court had permitted the commissionerate police to take the duo on a three-day remand for further probe.

The accused persons, Angad Das alias Sanjay and his friend Srikant Das alias Chandu, were first taken to Phuleswari slum in Patrapada area under Khandagiri police limits for the scene recreation. Sanjay showed the police how he strangled deceased Puspallata with her stole at his room over a marital discord February 3 afternoon. Police also recovered the stole from the room which will be sent for examination.

Later, the accused during the scene recreation revealed that they went to different spots searching to find a suitable spot for the disposal of the body. Sanjay and Chandu also revealed that after beheading

The torso of the deceased was found lying along the Andharua-Dasapur road under Chandaka police limits in the state capital February 4. The deceased's mother identified the body

Puspallata's body they had liquor at the spot.

Notably, the torso of the deceased was found lying along the Andharua-Dasapur road under Chandaka police limits in the state capital February 4. The deceased's mother identified the headless body of her daughter February 9. Following the identification, police succeeded in arresting the accused from Dasapalla in Nayagarh district. The decomposed head of Puspallata was also recovered by the police which was later sent to AIIMS Bhubaneswar for identification.

‘Mo Chatashalee’ to bridge learning gaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: As a step towards bridging the learning gaps among students of primary grade (Class 1-5) in the state, ‘Mo Chatashalee’ initiative was launched here Saturday by civil society organisations.

Film actress and founder of ‘Sammanita’ Varsha Priyadarshini inaugurated the initiative. She appreciated the efforts of the organisation to start a large scale programme on education for children.

The initiative also known as #Mission1lakh will cover 1 lakh students from 17 districts (Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Bolangir, Boudh, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh and Sambalpur including slums of Bhubaneswar under Khurda district) who mostly depend on government schools. These students could not access online education during the lockdown due to the lack of resources such as a smartphones, TV or where internet connectivity is erratic that pushed them to the periphery of education. The initiative which will have 100 days of learning will serve as an alternative learning avenue for the children to bridge learning gaps among them.

“During the lockdown, we started a Mission 3-5-8 campaign where we provided remedial classes in 82 blocks of 17 districts to bridge learning gaps of 4364 schoolchildren of Class 3, 5 and 8 so that they can be at par with their peers. The result was encouraging which helped us run this large scale education programme,” said Anjan Pradhan, convener of Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha; Ruchi Kashyap, executive trustee of Atmashakti Trust and Shanti Bhoi, President, Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha, Odisha.



“The unique feature of the programme is that it will be run through community contribution and volunteers will teach these children free of cost,” they added.

Under this initiative, more than 7500 remedial teaching centres will be run with 10 to 25 children each. These will impart education, based on the location and taking care of the physical distancing norms. They will be looked after by a trained volunteer selected from the locality. These volunteers will be trained to take remedial classes for these students so that they can achieve minimum levels of learning appropriate to their class and can bridge the learning gaps, caused due to the loss of learning following the outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent school closure.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

JUMBO DEATHS IN KARLAPAT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

5 JUMBOS DIE IN 13 DAYS



“A team from Centre for Wildlife Health of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) Bhubaneswar will investigate the cause behind the deaths of the elephants and do the field analysis,” Kalahandi divisional forest officer Ashok Kumar said

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Karlapat, Feb 13: An experts’ team Saturday visited Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi district to find out the cause of death of five elephants that died under mysterious circumstances over last 13 days. The fifth elephant died Saturday in the same area.

All the carcasses were found near water bodies, officials said. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Sashi Pal said, the elephant deaths were due to some bacterial infection. Consecutive deaths of five ele-



WOMAN MAULED BY BEAR, NOT LEOPARD : FOREST DEPT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Feb 13: The incident of a woman being mauled to death allegedly by a leopard took a turn with the forest department claiming she was not killed by a leopard. Bhanbai Majhi (47), a resident of Chhotlora under Bharuamunda panchayat and Sadar block of Nuapada district, was killed by a bear, claimed the forest department.

But the villagers and the deceased’s family members are not in a position to buy the forest department’s claim. They are reiterating it that it was a leopard that killed her.

Meanwhile, the forest department has announced Rs 4 lakh as

financial assistance to the kin of the deceased.

Notably, Bhanbai had gone to the nearby jungle to collect cashew apple at 11:00 pm Thursday. It was when she did not return home till evening that the family members started searching for her. They spotted from a distance that her wounded torso was lying close to a nullah. And they also saw a leopard sitting near the body. Hearing the animal’s roars, the terrified villagers returned to the village, without bringing the body.

Since the area is a Maoist-infested area, the police and the forest department officials were also hesitate to go to the forest to recover the body. The body was recovered Friday.

‘Ancient money’ found buried in Nayagarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Feb 13: As many as 10 baskets of cowries were found buried in the earth at Nachhipur village under Ranapur block in Nayagarh district Friday.

Before the introduction of coins, people would use cowries as money. They would use them as the medium of exchange for buying and selling articles. Finding of a treasure of such a huge amount of ancient money has become a matter of discussion here.

Narayan Sahoo, a resident of Nachhipur village, had engaged some labourers for the construction work of his house. While digging the earth, they stumbled upon a



huge earthen pot buried under 4 to 5 feet deep.

Both Narayan and the labourers were taken back. Upon breaking the pot, they found 10 baskets of cowries.

As the news spread, people, even from the neighbouring villages, made a bee line at the spot to have a look at the money of ancient times.

More firepower to forest officials to tackle poachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Feb 13: Amid reports of increasing poaching in Hindol range, the forest department has decided to equip its staff with more fire power, a report.

The initiative has come after poachers are reportedly active in some forests of Dhenkanal for ivory. A tusker was recently shot dead by a group of poachers in Kandhara reserve forest under Hindol range. Five days have passed since the ivory smugglers decamped with its tusks.

What is worrying was that on the same day, poachers had opened 17 rounds of bullets at forest officials who were conducting patrolling in the area.

Though the forest department has been conducting investigation, it has failed to get any clue about the poachers.

In the wake of poachers’ misadventure challenging the forest officials, the department has woken up from its slumber: Taking a serious note of the incident, the department has decided to impart training to forest officials on firing at Police Reserve line so that they will be able to counter poachers and timber mafia. DFO Dr Prakash Chand Gogineni and SP K Shiba Subramani have held talks with in this regard.

After this incident, the forest department is aware of the fact that poachers have become more active than before in the area. They, in fact, worried about the safety of ele-

Consecutive deaths of five elephants within a span of 13 days in the sanctuary have been a matter of concern for environmentalists and animal lovers across Odisha

Swinging into action, the state Forest Department sent an expert team to the protected area. A killer bacteria type is feared to be swarming through the forests of Karlapat sanctuary, an official said

Initially, anthrax was suspected to be a probable cause of consecutive elephant deaths in the sanctuary but it has been ruled out because the symptoms are completely different, the DFO added.

“Post mortem of the dead elephants have been conducted and report is awaited. Laboratory test of the first elephant conducted in OUAT revealed that it was due to Hemorrhagic Septicemia, an acute and highly fatal form of bacterial infection marked by fever, hyper-salivation, nasal discharge and difficult respiration. We have sent some samples to the Centre for Wildlife Laboratory to confirm the test report,” deputy director of Veterinary department in Kalahandi district Dharmananda Mohanty expressed.

The PCCF said, “The test result of the first two elephants at the OUAT laboratory came out negative for anthrax. We suspect the infections likely happened from the elephants drinking the water contaminated by livestock of the nearby human settlements.”

Water bodies in the area are being sanitised. Cattle in the nearby villages are also being vaccinated to prevent any probable spread of the disease.

Ganjam, Gajapati villagers give slip to admin, take part in AP polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patrapur, Feb 13: Even as the Ganjam district administration claimed to have taken steps to prevent residents in bordering villages of this block from voting in panchayat elections of Andhra Pradesh, their plans were frustrated when people voted in the elections, Saturday.

Conscious of the district administration’s plan, the candidates conducted meetings in the villages Friday night and arranged buses and tractors so that the voters could travel to the booths in Talguranthi and vote in the election. Many of the residents even did not put indelible ink on their fingers so as not to get caught by the district officials in Ganjam.

Several people from Kuladi, Satapuri, Gudikhala, Badanasahi, Banjuasahi and Tumba villages visited pooling booths across the border in the wee hours of Saturday and returned home after casting their votes before the arrival of district officials in the area.

The Patrapur block and tehsil officials had launched an awareness programme ‘Mo Gaomre Tehsil’ ‘Mo Nibedan’ and public hearing camp in five villages on the fringes of Andhra Pradesh after media reports claimed that the residents of Tumba, Duratal and Gudipadar panchayats voting in the panchayat election of the neighbouring state in exchange of various welfare benefits. Notably, two days back, the villagers had given in writing to the district administration not to par-



Women carrying headloads of firewood from a nearby forest in Rourkela

OP PHOTO

Govt tries to obtain Blue Flag Beach tag for Haripur, Sunapur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Feb 13: After the Puri beach, the state government has initiated efforts to obtain Blue Flag Beach status to Haripur(Gopalpur) and Sunapur beaches in Ganjam.

The government has made an outlay of over Rs 1.16 crore to develop Haripur beach so as to boost beach tourism. Meanwhile, the tourism and culture department has granted over Rs 58.06 lakh.

Besides, a plan outlay of Rs 1.36 crore has been made for development of Sunapur beach while Rs 68.43 lakh has been sanctioned by the tourism department.

Various development activities of the two beaches will be completed in six months.

To hasten the development work,

beach management committees have been formed. Sunapur and Haripur(Gopalpur) beaches were cleaned.

Sanitation drives are routinely being carried out on beaches. With development, the two beaches are expected to draw domestic and international tourists, it was said.

It may be noted that an eminent international jury comprising members of the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) usually awards coveted ‘Blue Flag’ certification to beaches across the globe on the basis of certain parameters.



People going in a tractor to a polling booth in a fringe village

ticipate in the panchayat elections. As a result, the district administration’s tall claims of not allowing people to vote in the panchayat elections were frustrated as several residents voted in the elections.

When questioned by the district officials, many claimed innocence and showed their fingers without ink mark. However, some of them were honest to show their ink marked fingers.

Sibaram Sabar of Kuladi village and Kundari Sabar of Satapuri village alleged that the state government has been neglecting them while the Andhra government is home-delivering them with pension, rations and providing good education to their children, power connection to villages and health-care facilities. Some even went on to allege that the district officials and public representatives only visit their villages and make tall promises but never implementing them. Moreover, the attempt by the district administration of neigh-

bouring Gajapati to prevent the residents of disputed Gudikhala village in Duratal panchayat from voting in Andhra election was also frustrated after over 30 people were found to have voted in the polls.

Ganjam sub-collector accompanied by Patrapur tehsildar Amit Kumar Nayak, Raigad (Gajapati) tehsildar Leelabati Achari visited the village but the villagers escaped through their backyard and boarded a tractor to vote in the election.

The Andhra government has renamed the village as Gudikhudi and provided houses to the residents under Indira Awas Yojana. The neighbouring state has also built an Anganwadi centre in the village and providing allowances, pensions and even financial assistance to the residents after Titili cyclone while construction of a drinking water project is underway. ‘The Patrapur block officials even conducted a ‘Mo Nibedan’ programme on a mandap constructed by the Andhra government.

BJP observes ‘chakka jam’ in W Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Feb 13: Activists of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Saturday observed a three-hour ‘chakka jam’ in various parts of western Odisha in support of local farmers.

The BJP workers staged demonstrations and dharna at Anithapali Chhak, Goshala Chhak, Remed Chhak, Sindhupalank Chhak, Rengali Chhak, Laumal Chhak and other places along NH-53 in the district. Hundreds of trucks and buses were left stranded on the NH for hours.

The BJP had ghereaod the Office of Revenue Commissioner

(Sambalpur Division) January 21 over a host of farmers’ issues. They had a discussion with the RDC January 22. The party had then demanded that paddy of local farmers be procured from the respective mandis by February 7.

They said the state government should repeal the token system in procurement while all facilities as being provided by the Central government be applied for farmers in Odisha.

They alleged neglect by the state government in the matter of paddy procurement in western Odisha.

They demanded immediate step to procure left out paddy stock from farmers.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH
E Mail-rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in

No.O-1083 **E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-EESNG-12 OF 2020-21

1. Name of the work	: Road work
2. Total No. of works	: 01 No. Road
3. Estimated cost	: Rs.78.76 lakhs
4. Class of contractor	: 'B' & 'A'
5. Period of completion	: 06 calendar months
6. Type of tender	: Double cover
7. Other details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	
		From	To
1 Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh	2 Online- EESNG-12 of 2020-21	3 18.02.2021 10.00 A.M.	4 02.03.2021 05.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh
OIPR-25046/11/0014/2021

OFFICE OF THE DEAN & PRINCIPAL
SHRI JAGANNATH MEDICAL
COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, PURI, ODISHA
Tender No. 02/SJMCH **Dated: 12.02.2021**

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the Registered firms for subscription of Medical Journals (Indian & Foreign) for the financial year 2020-21 in two bid system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) so as to reach the office of the undersigned on or before **06.03.2021 till 5.00 P.M.** through Regd./Speed/Courier Post only. The detailed tender paper, terms & conditions and list of Journals can be obtained from the office of the undersigned at the Account Section on payment of **Rs.1000/- + GST @ 18%** cash (Non-refundable) in the shape of DD in favour of the Dean & Principal, Shri Jagannath Medical College & Hospital, Puri, payable at SBI, Main Branch, Puri, Odisha.

The details are also available in the website puri.nic.in. Those who will download the tender documents from the website should enclose a DD for **Rs.1000/- + GST @ 18%** towards cost of tender paper in favour of Dean & Principal, Shri Jagannath Medical College & Hospital, Puri, payable at SBI, Main Branch, Puri, Odisha.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender in full or parts at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Dean & Principal
Shri Jagannath Medical College & Hospital, Puri

OFFICE OF THE DEAN & PRINCIPAL
SHRI JAGANNATH MEDICAL
COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, PURI, ODISHA
Tender No. 01/SJMCH **Dated: 12.02.2021**

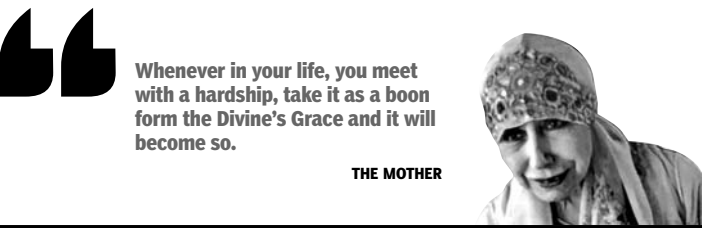
TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the Registered firms for "Supply of Books" (Medical) for the financial year 2020-21 in two bid system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) so as to reach the office of the undersigned on or before **06.03.2021 till 5.00 P.M.** through Speed/Regd./Courier Post only. The detailed tender paper, terms & conditions, list of books can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of **Rs.2000/- + GST @ 18%** (Non-refundable) in the form of DD (in favour of Dean & Principal, Shri Jagannath Medical College & Hospital, Puri, payable at SBI, Main Branch, Puri, Odisha) at the accounts section during office hours from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. on all working days.

The details are also available in the website puri.nic.in. Those who will download the tender documents from website should enclose a DD for **Rs.2000/- + GST @ 18%** towards cost of tender paper in favour of Dean & Principal, Shri Jagannath Medical College & Hospital, Puri, payable at SBI, Main Branch, Puri, Odisha.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender in full or parts at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Dean & Principal
Shri Jagannath Medical College & Hospital, Puri



Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon form the Divine's Grace and it will become so.

THE MOTHER

Ignoring the urgent

The Budget delivered earlier this month was praised for two things. First that it was spending money in the right place: capital expenditure, which would create value over the long term. And second that it was transparent. The deficit is three times what it should be but at least the government has accepted it. Perhaps these two things are enough to make it a good Budget, though one does not know. There has not really been any Budget that I can remember that has made any difference to most people's lives, except perhaps one and that was in 1991.

However, it is clear that the budget has ignored something that was urgent. The National Family Health Survey 2019-20 conducted by the government revealed some terrible numbers.

On four key metrics which represent the nutritional status of children, states recorded a significant fall in 2019-20 compared to the levels in 2015-16. In states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal, the share of anaemic and wasted (low weight for height) children was significantly higher than the levels recorded 15 years earlier in 2005-06. This indicated a reversal of progress that had been hard to win. Even in states such as Kerala, which continued to lead in these indicators, the levels recorded in 2019-20 were poorer than the 2015-16 figures.

The survey put out data for 22 states and Union territories and an analysis of 10 major states was conducted. Anaemia among children was higher in all the 10 states in 2019-20 compared to 2015-16. In Gujarat, Himachal, Maharashtra and West Bengal, a higher percentage of children were anaemic in 2019-20 than were in 2005-06. The percentage of wasted children was higher in half of the 10 states. In Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Bengal, a higher percentage of children were wasted in 2019-20 compared to 2005-06. In seven of the 10 states analysed, a higher percentage of children were underweight (low weight for age) in 2019-20 compared to 2015-16. Stunting (low height for age) was higher in six out of the 10 states compared to 2015-16.

The study also found that incident of diarrhoea had increased in half the states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bengal. In Bihar it was up from 10.4 per cent in 2015-16 to 13.7 per cent in 2019-20.

This is the reality of the situation. We can debate what has caused this and that can wait for another day. The problem is that the budget did not acknowledge and therefore did not accommodate for this problem.

The mid-day meal scheme, on which crores of children depended for their one good meal of the day, found its budget cut from ₹13,400 crore in FY 2021 to ₹11,500 crore in 2022. This was lower in nominal terms than what it had been seven years earlier. Inflation adjusted it was 38 per cent lower. The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) meant to provide preschool children with food, education, primary healthcare, immunisation, health check-up and referral services to children under six and their mothers was also lower in nominal terms, at ₹16,888 crore in FY22 versus ₹18,691 in 2014-15. The programme, running rural anganwadis or creches, is meant to improve the nutritional and health status of children "to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child," to "reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout" and "to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education." Inflation adjusted, this figure was 36 per cent lower for 2022 than it had been the year Modi took over.

Poshan Abhiyan, the flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes by 2022, was also damaged. The government had released only 46 per cent of the annual outlay by October 31 and in 2022 the budget was cut by 27 per cent. The Drinking Water and Sanitation department saw its budget officially rise from ₹21,000 crore to ₹60,030 crore but of that ₹50,000 crore was for the "Central road and infrastructure fund" suggesting a fudge to avoid embarrassing questions. The numbers seemed deliberately made hard to compare with previous spends. ICDS was clubbed with Poshan Abhiyan, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls and the National Creche Scheme and the whole thing was called Saksham. Its budget for 2022 was less than the previous year's budget for ICDS alone.

The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, the Centre's maternity benefit programme, was clubbed with the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme for girls' education, the Mahila Shakti Kendra and other general gender budgeting and the whole thing was called Samarthyaa. It received ₹2,522 crore in 2022, less than the ₹2,858 allocated in 2021.

The allocation for Ayushman Bharat (dubbed 'Modicare' by Amit Shah) was the same for 2022, ₹6,400 crore, as it was for the year before. There was no provision for minimum wage and health insurance for anganwadi and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, the individuals whom Modi had called 'Covid warriors'.

The numbers are not going to improve themselves. They will need external intervention from the government, but that has not happened in this Budget. Whether it was wise on an issue that concerns crores of our children we will not know till the government conducts the next survey.

WISDOM CORNER

- “We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.”

EPICETUS
- “In order for the light to shine so brightly, the darkness must be present.”

FRANCIS BACON
- “When you've seen beyond yourself, then you may find, peace of mind is waiting there.”

GEORGE HARRISON

WORDSWORTH

Makebate

You've almost certainly met makebates — though you probably don't know them by that name — people whose chief aim or pleasure is to spread discord and disharmony. Sir Walter Scott was a great user of this word: Elsewhere he may be an useful and profitable member of the commonweal — here he is but a makebate, and a stumbling-block of offence (The Abbot, by Sir Walter Scott, 1820). Somebody who is a makebate is clearly making a bate. The second half survives today in abate and debate; it's from Latin battere, to beat or fight (the first sense of debate in English in medieval times was to quarrel or battle). As a noun, bate described discord that was severe enough to result in a fight. British readers might think they recognise in this another form of bate, a fit of rage or bad temper, an example of which appeared in the Daily Mail in January 2004: "Shrieking with simulated frustration, Clarkson flew into a bate, picked up a hammer and smashed his desktop to smithereens." But the evidence suggests that this derives from a nineteenth-century respelling of the verb bait, to persecute a person with persistent attacks, so that a person was said to be in a bate as a result of being baited. Among the other senses of bate, one in particular is known to falconers. A hawk that beats its wings in agitation and flutters off the perch is said to bate. This is ultimately also from Latin battere, but directly from the intermediate French batre, to beat, linked to the verb to batter.

FOCUS ECONOMY

FISCAL APOCALYPSE



A fiscal deficit of 6.8 per cent of the GDP pegged in 2021-22 is too high and will push the Indian economy into a debt-trap



IF THE ECONOMY DOES NOT GROW BY 14.4 PER CENT IN NOMINAL TERM AND 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERM IN 2021-22 AS ESTIMATED, THEN THE DEBT PROBLEM MAY ASSUME ALARMING PROPORTIONS

THE DEBT PROBLEM MAY ASSUME ALARMING PROPORTIONS

The government has tried to remain unscathed by attributing unbridled fiscal deficit to recession and improved spending but it has failed to contain fiscal deficit within the limit in the past too. In 2019-20, fiscal deficit was pegged at 3.3 per cent but was revised upward to 4.6 per cent of GDP despite a massive expenditure cut.

The grim reality is that there is no increase in budgeted expenditure for 2021-22 in real terms when compared to revised estimate of previous fiscal. What is outlandish is that to camouflage the government's failure, fiscal deficit has been relegated to a secondary role in fiscal policy. The government which was opposed to higher fiscal deficit has legalised the ballooning fiscal deficit for failing to contain it. It has discarded its long-term commitment to bring the deficit down to close to 3 per cent of GDP and plans to lower the fiscal deficit to 4.5 per cent of GDP only by 2025-26, which may be changed again.

In its previous Budgets, the Modi government had preferred fiscal consolidation to increasing welfare expenditure. Economists advocating more public spending through higher fiscal deficit were condemned.

In the past, it was argued by market economists, even IMF and World Bank, that the more the fiscal deficit, the more market bor-

rowings and lower funds available for the private sector to borrow. The rise in government borrowing to finance an increase in the deficit leads to increasing money supply, triggers a spike in inflation, and causes interest rates to rise. Higher interest rates reduce or "crowd out" private investment and reduce growth.

It was also argued that market as well as the investor reacts negatively to the rise in fiscal deficit that results in the outflow of capital, stock market crash. However, it is proved wrong as Sensex rose 5 per cent or 2315 point on February 1, the best Budget-day performance since 1999 even if bond yields spiked due to widening fiscal deficit.

Relinquishment of fiscal rectitude is not only reflected in the budget but also was advocated in the Economic Survey of 2020-21 which argues that "counter-cyclical fiscal policy" or fiscal slippage is justified so as to boost sluggish demand and consumer sentiment. Earlier, a higher fiscal deficit was also opposed under the plea that rating agencies will downgrade ratings. But there is a chapter in the Survey attacking rating agencies. Further, printing of money is advocated without fear with the

plea that the same would "not necessarily lead to inflation and a debasement of the currency" if the extra money is invested in the right projects. This shows how our government changes rules to suit its purpose. The duplicity of the government, so-called intellectuals, and economists is exposed as those who earlier opposed higher fiscal deficit, have now started arguing that higher fiscal deficit creates growth-enhancing measures. Citing modern monetary theory (MMT), they also argue that sovereign nations capable of printing their own money cannot ever go bankrupt, because they can simply produce more fiat currency to service debts. However, this rule can be applied to those countries having reserve currencies like America.

Fiscal deficit is not bad if the money borrowed is spent on creating assets or the welfare of people and within the repayment capacity of the government. But a fiscal deficit of 6.8 per cent of GDP pegged in 2021-22 is too high and will push the economy into a debt-trap. What is worrisome is that the escalating fiscal deficit is not due to increased expenditure as propounded but primarily on account of revenues collapsing

and the inability of the government to tax the rich and the corporates. Not imposing new taxes or not raising the tax rates on the rich is tantamount to giving subsidy to rich/corporate indirectly. In the time of resource crunch, exacerbated by the pandemic, the government should have imposed wealth tax on those 100 billionaires whose wealth has increased 35 per cent in the lockdown period. The maximum tax rate should have been enhanced further to reduce dependence on borrowing. But the way the government is generating revenues by increasing excise taxes on petroleum products is not only regressive but hurts the masses by making everything costlier.

India cannot afford to go on debt splurge given the record mammoth contraction of GDP, and people are not benefited by present debt-induced growth as benefits of growth are garnered by a few but the cascading effects of debt falls on the masses. There is a certain limit to what extent debt can rise. It is immaterial if it rises in absolute numbers, but as a proportion of GDP, it should be within a certain limit, say 60 per cent of GDP as determined by the government in past.

According to Nobel laureate Joseph Stieglitz, an important lesson of Covid-19 is that one cannot rely on a debt-dependent development strategy. The countries around the world that relied on debt are now facing difficult times. A study by the World Bank found that countries whose debt-to-GDP ratios exceed 77 per cent for long periods, experience substantial slowdowns in economic growth.

But, India's debt-to-GDP ratio is around 90 per cent now which is much high in any condition. If the economy does not grow by 14.4 per cent in nominal term and 10 per cent in real term in 2021-22 as estimated, then the debt problem may assume alarming proportions.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Valentine showers are not for beloved alone



Harish Barthwal

THERE IS ALL THE MORE NEED OF LOVE WHEN IT IS NOT THERE!

With flowers beginning to sprout, weather pleasant and ambience tickling with romantic vibes in spring season, it is natural for the young and also the young at heart to get excited and seek proximity to close ones. Arrows from the bow of Cupid set one in musing mode irrespective of age, opening vistas unimagined earlier. "Love unlocks doors and opens windows that were not even there before," said Mignon McLaughlin. The thought of hugging the loved one is enough to usher in a sense of 'feel good'. "A kiss makes the heart young again and wipes out the years," said Rupert Brooke.

Each day of the Valentine's Week is associated with a savoury item: Rose Day, Propose Day, Chocolate Day, Teddy Day, Promise Day, Hug Day, Kiss Day and finally the Valentine's Day. Initiated by St Augustine and celebrated by the youth and other votaries of love, Valentine's Day owes its origin to the Middle Age belief that birds begin to pair in second month of the year. The love instinct becomes particularly dominant around this day, or perhaps the youth act like that. Those in love can accommodate in small places, do with little. It is the only force, said Martin

Luther King Jr, capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.

Bracketed with supernatural powers, the theory and practice of love defies any rationale. Imbued with a tinge of madness, player of the love game proceeds at the pinnacle of one's strength, verve and stamina to get over the formidable barriers. In the process, one on giving side acquires courage and courtesies, often risking their lives to seek what they think they cannot do without. The likes of Romeo & Juliet, Paris & Helen; Shah Jehan & Mumtaz Mahal; Napoleon & Josephine; Bonnie & Clyde and so on continue to be witnessed in all communities today. The agony and the unease of separation of lovers continue to be staple theme in literature of most languages, both classical and modern. The intensity and immensity of a lover's enthusiasm is exemplified by a fakir who visits the court of king Bahadur Shah Zafar. Pleased at the hospitality of the ruler, the fakir thus blessed him, "May you love the native soil as a lover does with his beloved." The Badshah quipped, "Why not like a mother?" The fakir said: "One does not go mad when in love with his

mother as is the case with beloved; and today this country direly needs people with such madness to rout the Britishers." The Badshah proclaimed, "We shall discharge tomorrow's namaz with you."

Reason of all unreasonable actions, one imbued with enormous poise and good sense is not impervious to the onslaughts of the instinct of love. Admittedly, no words are capable of truly expressing the variegated emotions: anguish, anger, love or whatever. "Words like nature half reveal and half conceal the soul within," said Alfred Tennyson. Words always elude what heart seeks to bring to fore. A hug or kiss is that comes as handy relief to fulfill the need. "A kiss is a lovely trick designed by nature to stop speech when words become superfluous," said Ingrid Bergman. When the chemistry of the duo is in unison, there is a belief that the two together constitute a composite entity like a circle, and either of them alone has no meaning; a half circle is an incomplete being, says John Donne in his poems.

The healing touch of love is what each of us needs in a hectic, stress-loaded life. This two-and-a-half letter (Prem in Hindi) is known to reverse the course of rivers, change

the drift of governments and history. Further, there is all the more need of love when it is not there! Alas, the magical powers love wields often remain confined to the flirtations with a lone lady or two. This precisely was the intent when Antoine de Saint-Exupery said, "Loving is not just looking at each other but looking in the same direction." Rather than becoming a stumbling block in career building by distracting the lovers, this power must serve as inspiration to further individual and broader social interests.

Let the ambit of Valentine's Day extend beyond serving business interests. In US alone, over 190 million Valentine's Day cards are sent by 55 per cent people, 55 per cent send candies and around 36 per cent send flowers. In India, college and school students go to the extent of affixing seals of three heart-like petals symbol on clothes and in extreme cases on bodies of loved ones. As e-commerce firms and other industries are busy with alluring offers, let us relieve the loaded hearts by listening and attending to their woes and unbosoming.

The author writes on social, health and spiritual issues, besides blogging (www.bluntspeaker.com).

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Take no chances

Sir, India appears to be taking no chances with the military disengagement in the Pangong lake area in Eastern Ladakh along the LAC. The Indian Army has adopted multiple modes to verify China's reciprocal withdrawal of troops and equipment such as satellite and drone images and videography. Given China's history of reneging on its agreements, including the problems created both at Galwan and Hot Spring-Gogra in June last, these are steps in the right direction.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Curb custodial deaths

Sir, While hearing a case of custodial death, the Supreme Court remarked that death due to custodial violence is abhorrent and not acceptable in a civilized society. The court said: "The custodial violence on the deceased, which led to the death is abhorrent and not acceptable in the civilized society. The offense committed by the accused is a crime not against the deceased alone, but was against humanity and clear violations of rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution." The death of undertrial prisoners is common in our country. The government should initiate action to curb custodial deaths and establish a mechanism that will ensure human rights of undertrial prisoners. *Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA (MP)*

Playing with fire

Sir, Lack of adequate firefighting arrangements in many hospitals, especially corporate ones, is not only causing irreparable damage to the ailing persons but is also responsible for extra burden on middle class families which have to manage funds for better treatment of their near and dear ones. Fire mishaps at renowned health centres in the twin cities in recent times are an eye-opener for the authorities to see that the safety protocols are adhered to as strictly as possible. These hospitals carry on their activities even without obtaining licence by the appropriate authorities. This is simply playing with fire. The criminal offences committed by such irresponsible health service providers must be dealt in terms of extant rules. No laxity whatsoever should be allowed as it is a question of life and death of patients, who expect services in a safe environment. *Sanjib Das, CUTTACK*

of the day quote

The BJP is successful in fulfilling all expectations of the people of the state. We have worked hard and given equal respect to all people. We will come back again. Let us work together

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway work is going on. (Once completed), it will ease the traffic load on Pune-Mumbai Expressway as a bulk of traffic between northern and southern states currently pass through the Mumbai-Pune expressway

NITIN GADKARI | UNION TRANSPORT MINISTER

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has strengthened its defence sector and even forced China to buckle down

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Rohtak killings: Accused nabbed

Chandigarh: A wrestling coach who allegedly killed five people in Haryana's Rohtak a day ago was arrested from near a Metro station in New Delhi Saturday, police said. Sukhvinder was held from near the Samaypur Badli Metro station around 2.30 pm by the Delhi Police. Sukhvinder, 30, will now be brought to Haryana on a production warrant, said the SP.

Beneficiaries to get 2nd nCoV dose

New Delhi: The vaccination drive against COVID-19 picked up pace on Saturday as many beneficiaries who had received their first shots on day one of the exercise four weeks ago turned up to get their second dose. The second dose delivery began at LNJP Hospital as well and over 20 persons had received the second shots by noon, a senior official at the facility said.

82% voter turnout in AP panchayat polls

Amaravati: The second phase of polling for 2,786 panchayats in Andhra Pradesh ended peacefully with 81.61 per cent voter turnout. The State Election Commission (SEC), in a statement here on Saturday, however, did not provide the total number of eligible voters. The Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police Gautam Sawang, in a statement, said the second phase of polls ended peacefully.

6 killed in Raj road mishap

Jaipur: Six people, including four women, were killed and seven others injured when a jeep in which they were travelling collided with a trailer in Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan Saturday, police said. The incident occurred in Rajiyasar when the collision left six people dead on the spot. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital, police said. All the passengers were from the same family and on their way to Jaisalmer from Sangaria in Hanumangarh district when the accident occurred on a state highway. The deceased were identified as Aarju, Soniya, Suman, Manju, Anil and Bhavishya, the police said.



The Goa government will spend Rs 100 crore of the Rs 300 crore announced by the Centre for the Liberation Day celebrations for developing panchayats and municipality areas

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

GOVT ORDERS REMOVAL OF ENCROACHMENTS FROM ASI MONUMENTS

The Centre has ordered the removal of encroachments from the monuments and sites protected by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) across the country. Currently, there are 3,693 monuments of national importance under ASI's protection



'Disengagement happening as per India's intent'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 13: The Line of Actual Control (LAC) demarcated by India and China has had many claims and counterclaims in the past, but the latest disengagement is not happening as per the Chinese claims made to India in 1959.

"Disengagement at the LAC is not happening as per China's 1959 claim. It is absolutely incorrect and untrue that India has given in to China's claim on LAC," former Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), Lieutenant General Vinod Bhatia (retd), told IANS.

He said that India wanted a status quo ante that implies what was the location, position and deployment as of April 2020, just before the Chinese forward deployment started in May 2020. "As per that, the Chinese position has been at the east of Finger 8, a place called Sirijap on the north bank of the Pangong Lake. Our location had been a place called Dhan Singh Thapa. That was the position in April 2020, which has been a traditional position for the last many years," he said.

Talking about China's 1959 claim, Bhatia said that it is based on too many interpretations and perceptions. "The disengagement is taking place from the friction points which are the most sensitive on the north and south banks of

Pangong Lake," said the former DGMO, adding that these are the friction points where tanks, infantry combat vehicles and infantry soldiers get face-to-face in very close proximity.

"These frictional points have the probability of clashes. That is what has been addressed. First, the most sensitive area on the south bank of Pangong Lake. The disengagement process has started from there and subsequently it will be taken up in the other sectors," he said.

Bhatia said that it is going to be a long and tedious process, which won't be an easy doing. "These are high altitude areas and it will take time. They (China) will be vacating the constructions they have done, move bunkers and inhabitants from Finger 5 and Finger 6," he said. "So India's aim was the position of status quo ante and it has been achieved. Now to say that the position was of 1959 and we have de facto accepted it is an absolutely incorrect statement to make," he said. Talking about the way forward to resolve the issue, Bhatia said that first there should be disengagement from all the friction points and thereafter there will be de-escalation and then de-induction. The retired officer said that the first step is always to resolve the crisis and then take things forward step by step, adding that talks to resolve the border issues should continue.

Politics over tainted ministers heats up in Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Feb 13: Politics is heating up in Bihar over the inclusion of allegedly 'tainted' leaders in the Nitish Kumar government.

The latest statement has come from former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi who slammed Tejashwi Yadav for his tweet on CM Nitish Kumar.

"A person with the entire family facing many criminal charges is accusing Nitish Kumar," Manjhi said in a tweet.

Manjhi's tweet came after RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav slammed Nitish Kumar over ignorance of questions of reporters who asked him about 18 'tainted' ministers in his cabinet.

After the cabinet expansion on February 9, Kumar gave berths to 17 new ministers that included MLAs and MLCs of the BJP, the JDU apart from independent MLAs.

Covaxin effective for 9-12 months, no serious side-effects so far: AIIMS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 13: Mathematical calculations indicate that Covaxin may provide immunity against Covid-19 for 9 to 12 months, and there may be a booster shot after this period elapses, Y.K. Gupta, the President of AIIMS Bhopal and Jammu, told IANS.

Stressing on the safety and effectiveness of Covaxin, Gupta, former Dean (Academics), and ex-Head, Department of Pharmacology, AIIMS, New Delhi, said that no death has been reported so far due to Covaxin, nor has there been any case of major side-effects, adding that more clarity will emerge by March end when data from Phase 3 trials will be available to establish the efficacy of Covaxin. The approval for Covaxin, the homegrown vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech, had faced unrelenting criticism, especially when it was administered to scores of healthcare workers during Phase 1 of the vaccination drive. The crit-



The approval for Covaxin had faced unrelenting criticism, especially when it was administered to scores of healthcare workers during Phase 1 of the vaccination drive

ics have badgered Covaxin's approval in the absence of Phase 3 trial data. Speaking to IANS, Gupta said, "These are not scientifically correct claims. Covaxin was ap-

proved for emergency use and the data from Phase 1 and Phase 2 trials, and the ongoing Phase 3 trials, suggest that it is safe and effective, and by March-end tentatively, the data from Phase 3 trials will be available to establish its efficacy."

When queried on the safety of Covaxin and people developing side-effects after its administration, Gupta said: "The vaccine is being given to lakhs of people, and there are hardly any serious side-effects. Rather there are only minor side-effects, whuhing indicate the effectiveness of the vaccine. No death has been caused by Covaxin so far." Commenting on India's vaccine technology in the backdrop the new mutant coronavirus strain reported in a few countries, Gupta said: "The Indian vaccine technology with minor tweaking has the potential to address these new strains."

Addressing the attack on the efficacy of Covaxin by many scientists globally, Yadav said they have made irresponsible comments.

SDRF TEAM CONDUCTS SURVEY OF RISHIGANGA RIVER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dehradun, Feb 13: Amid an alert, an eight-member team of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has conducted a survey of a lake in the catchment area of the turbulent Rishiganga river which had caused a deluge in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on February 7.

The team headed by SDRF Commandant Navneet Bhullar returned to Reni village in Chamoli district on Saturday evening after collecting samples from the lake besides filming videos of the area.

"We will send these samples and videos to the police headquarters in Dehradun for further action," said Bhullar.



First phase of Budget session concludes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 13: Lok Sabha was adjourned on Saturday, ending the first phase of the Budget session which reported close to 100 per cent productivity and witnessed 13 privilege notices filed by MPs.

The House will reconvene March 8 after recess. The first phase of the Budget session started January 29 with President's address to joint sitting of both houses of Parliament. The address was boycotted by over 20 opposition parties, including the Congress, in support of the demand of the protesting farmers for the repeal of the three farm laws. The Union Budget was tabled February 1.

Thereafter, house proceedings washed out for four consecutive days over the opposition's demand for separate discussion on farm issues. To compensate the session's



lost time, the House sat till midnight for several days in a trot. As a result, of the total 50 hours available, the house sat for more than 49 hours and the overall productivity was 99.5 per cent.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the Budget session of Parliament ran smoothly and transacted important business even beyond midnight. He said in the first part of the Budget session, Lok Sabha sat for 49 hours and 17 minutes against the stipulated time of 50 hours. The house lost an effective time of 43 minutes due to disruptions.

NC TO CHALLENGE DDC CHAIRPERSON'S ELECTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Feb 13: The National Conference Saturday said it would mount a legal challenge against the election of District Development Council chairperson in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, accusing the administration of "murdering democracy" in the Union territory.

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah said an independent candidate was made the chairman of District Development Council (DDC) despite his party having eight members, out of the total strength of 14, in the council.

He added that his party also had the support of a member of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement, a part of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). "Talk about murdering



democracy in J&K. I met 8 of our DDC members of Budgam district. There is at least 1 more alliance member of Javid Mustafa Mir's party so 9 out of a total strength of 14 & yet in an 'election' an independent member was made the chairman (sic)," he tweeted.

Abdullah alleged that all this was done with the "active involvement" of the district administration which "issued blatant threats" about powers to detain people for two

years. "Early next week we will challenge this undemocratic action in the courts of law," he said in another tweet.

Meanwhile, in a statement later, the party said Abdullah rued the "unfair mode of selection" of DDC chairman Budgam, terming the entire exercise a clear violation of law and rules. Interacting with a delegation of the party's eight DDC members from Budgam who had called on him at his residence here, the party vice-president rued the active involvement of the district administration which, he said, "issued blatant threats" about the power to detain people for two years.

"The administration is playing partisan to curry favor with particular DDC members; the mode and manner in which the election of DDC chairman was conducted is a point in case," he said.

CWC conducting simulation studies on new glacial lake

THE HIMALAYAS HAS MORE THAN 2,000 GLACIAL LAKES OF 10 HECTARES OR MORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 13: The Central Water Commission (CWC) is conducting simulation studies on the artificial lake formed in the upper stretches of the Rishiganga river after the catastrophic Uttarakhand flood early this week, and also examining the possibility of carrying out a controlled blast to drain out the water.

CWC chairman Saumitra Haldar on Saturday said studies are being conducted keeping in mind the forecast of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that the area could receive a rainfall of 1 cm and

snowfall of 10 cm on February 15 and 16. The CWC is also examining possibilities of what can be done if the water rises to "critical" level.

"We are assessing what could be the impact if the water level rises following rains and snowfall as predicted by the IMD. We are also studying what volume of water would be released if the lake bursts and how much time it would take to reach downstream," Haldar told PTI. He said the lake is 400 metres in length, 25 metres wide and 60 metres deep.

"We don't want the size of the lake to increase any further. We are examining all possibilities that



also include controlled blast at the lake," Haldar said. He, however, pointed out that the site is not accessible and it has not been decided which agency will execute the controlled blast.

"So in case if the controlled blast is not possible, we are also exploring other ways to tackle the situation," he added.

Haldar said several agencies/institutes like the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), ISRO's Indian Institute of Remote Sensing and Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority have conducted studies

on the lake.

The temporary water body was formed after sediments that the Sunday's flash floods brought down, blocking the mouth of a stream that joins the Rishiganga river.

The CWC chairman said as of now there is no increase in the water level from Joshimath to Haridwar. "We are continuously monitoring the water levels downstream," he said.

In a tweet Friday, the CWC said, "An artificial Lake has formed on river Rishiganga in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand, with a length of 350 m height of 60 m with slope of 10 deg."

of the day quote

The death toll from the pandemic increased by 40% in January, fuelled by a second wave of infections and new variants that have overwhelmed the continent's public health systems

MATSHIDISO MOETI | WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR, AFRICA

The year 2020 was challenging for investment and business in general. Despite the global economic slowdown resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, Rwanda registered significant investments in key sectors of our economy

CLAIRE AKAMANI | CEO, RDB

Basically, we froze (over nursing home data requests) because then we were in a position where we weren't sure if what we were going to give to the Department of Justice or what we give to you guys and what we start saying was going to be used against us

MELISSA DEROSA | SECRETARY TO NY GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Sri Lanka scraps trilateral deal

Colombo: Sri Lanka has said it scrapped the trilateral deal with India and Japan to develop the Colombo Port's Eastern Container Terminal (ECT) as the Indian firm involved in the project refused to agree to its new terms. PM Mahinda Rajapaksa's office February 1 said that his government has decided to run the Colombo Port's ECT as a fully-owned operation of the state-run ports authority. Answering the Opposition's query in Parliament on the deal, Ports Minister Rohitha Abeygunawardena said a Cabinet sub-committee had proposed new terms.

7.1-magnitude quake jolts Japan

Tokyo: An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter Scale struck off Japan's northeastern Fukushima Prefecture on Saturday night, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. The tremor occurred at around 11:08 pm (local time) with its epicentre at a latitude of 37.7 degrees north and a longitude of 141.8 degrees east, and at depth of 60 km, Xinhua reported. The quake logged Upper 6 in some parts of Fukushima Prefecture on the Japanese seismic intensity scale which peaks at 7.

Ruling member opposes new tax

Warsaw: A junior partner in Poland's ruling right-wing coalition says it will not back a controversial advertising tax on the media, revealing cracks in the governing bloc. The declaration late Friday by the Agreement party means the ruling coalition would be short of votes in parliament to pass the proposed legislation that critics — at home and abroad — say would undermine Poland's press freedom and variety.

Draghi to be sworn in as Italian PM

Rome: Former head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi has formally accepted the role of Italy's next Prime Minister and will be sworn in Saturday. Draghi has named his cabinet after meeting the Italian president. He has secured the support of almost all the main political parties, following the collapse of the previous administration last month, the BBC reported.



I'm not joking when I say this: If you ever work with me and I hear you treat another colleague with disrespect, talk down to someone, I will fire you on the spot

JEN PSAKI | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

ALL OVER-70s URGED TO GET COVID VAX JABS

People in the UK aged 70 or over who have not yet had a Covid-19 vaccine jab have been urged to come forward, in a final push by ministers to meet their vaccination target



Fuel tanker blast causes massive fire at Afghan-Iran border



REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

AGENCIES

Herat, Feb 13: A fuel tanker exploded Saturday at the Islam Qala crossing in Afghanistan's western Herat province on the Iranian border, injuring at least seven people and causing a massive fire that consumed more than 500 trucks carrying natural gas and fuel, according to Afghan officials and Iranian state media.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the blast. Wahid Qatali, Herat's provincial governor, said Afghan first responders did not have the means to put out the fire and had requested support from Iran in the form of fire fighting aircraft.

"For the time being, we can't even talk about the casualties," Qatali told The Associated Press.

The intensity of the flames meant ambulances were having trouble reaching the wounded or getting close to the site of the blast, said Mohammad Rafiq Shirzy, spokesman for the Herat regional hospital.

Seven people injured by the fire have been admitted to the hospital in Herat so far, he said.

The fire has forced Afghanistan to shut down its electrical supply from Iran, leaving Herat in the dark, said Wahidullah Tawhidi, spokesman for the Ministry of Power Supply.

EU calls on China to reverse ban on BBC World News channel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Feb 13: The European Union Saturday called on China to reverse its ban on the BBC World News television channel imposed in apparent retaliation for Britain's pulling of the licence of state-owned Chinese broadcaster CGTN.

The EU said in a statement that Beijing's move further restricted "freedom of expression and access to information inside its borders," and violated both the Chinese constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



The statement also said that Hong Kong's announcement that its public broadcaster would also stop carrying BBC broadcasts added to the "erosion of the rights and freedoms that is ongoing" in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory since the imposition last year of a sweeping new national security law.

'Insurrection incitement charge a monstrous lie'

TRUMP'S LAWYERS BRUCE CASTOR, DAVID SCHOEN AND MICHAEL VAN DER VEEN EACH TOOK TURNS ADDRESSING THE SENATE MEMBERS, ON DAY FOUR OF TRUMP'S IMPEACHMENT TRIAL, TO DESCRIBE HIM AS A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF LAW AND ORDER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Feb 13: Donald Trump's insurrection incitement charge is a "monstrous lie" and the impeachment proceedings against the former president a "politically motivated witch hunt" by the Democrats, his lawyers said as they presented evidence in the US Senate.

Trump, a Republican, is accused of inciting riots in the US Capitol January 6 which left five people, including a police officer, dead.

Trump's lawyers Bruce Castor, David Schoen and Michael van der Veen each took turns addressing the Senate members Friday day four

of Trump's impeachment trial, to describe Trump as a staunch supporter of law and order, not someone who incited the chaos at the Capitol.

His attorneys had up to 16 hours over the course of two days to push back on House impeachment managers case that Trump should be convicted and barred from running for future office for inciting the attack on the Capitol to try to stop Joe Biden's presidential election victory being certified.

There is a complete lack of evidence on the article of impeachment against Donald Trump, his lawyers told the United States Senate.

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT



"We have a complete lack of evidence for the article of impeach-

ment presented by the House managers," Trump's lawyer Castor said.

The impeachment by the House, during the last two days, was political. "Their goal is to eliminate a political opponent, to substitute their judgment for the will of the voters," he said as he showed clips of various Democratic leaders.

Castor said that the critical issue in this case is the very narrow issue that is charged against the 45th president. "That issue is did the 45th president engage in incitement of them continue to say insurrection. Clearly there was no insurrection," he said.

Trump's lawyer van der Veen used

his opening remarks to dispute the Democrats' case that the former president had incited violence during his speech to supporters January 6. Trump had made allegations of voter fraud and urged his supporters to converge at the Capitol building a short while before the riot broke out.

"To claim that the president in any way wished lawless or violent behaviour is a preposterous and monstrous lie.

In fact, the first two messages the president sent via Twitter once the incursion at the Capitol began were 'Stay Peaceful' and 'No violence because we are the party of law and order,' the lawyer added.

ALL ILLUMINATED



The skyline with its financial district during an extended lockdown and a demand by the German government for more home office possibilities, in Frankfurt, Germany

REUTERS

Amazon sues NY Attorney General over Covid norms

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Feb 13: In an unusual move, Amazon has filed a lawsuit against New York Attorney General Letitia James in a bid to stop her from regulating the company's workplace safety response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the lawsuit filed on Friday, Amazon has argued that the regulation of its response to the pandemic is already covered by federal law, CNBC reported.

The lawsuit by Amazon is an attempt to preempt what it says is a threat by James to sue the company "if it does not immediately agree to a list of demands, many of which have no connection to health and safety and have no factual or legal basis."



In response to the lawsuit, the New York Attorney said that she will "not be intimidated by anyone," James said in a statement.

"Let me be clear: We will not be intimidated by anyone, especially corporate bullies that put profits over the health and safety of working people," he added.

SPACEX CREW-4 MISSION

NASA assigns 2 astronauts to ISS



AGENCIES

Washington, Feb 13: NASA has assigned two crew members to launch on the agency's SpaceX Crew-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS). NASA astronauts Kjell Lindgren and Bob Hines will serve as spacecraft commander and pilot, respectively, for the Crew-4 mission, the US space agency said on Saturday, adding that additional crew members will be assigned as mission specialists in the future by the agency's international partners.

The mission is expected to be launched in 2022 on a Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Lindgren, Hines and the international crew members will join an expedition crew aboard the space station for a long-duration stay. This will be Lindgren's second trip into space, following a 141-day stay at the space station in 2015 for Expeditions 44 and 45.

Part of an Air Force family, he was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and spent a good part of his childhood living in England before finishing high school at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, Virginia.

Before being selected as an astronaut in 2009, he was a flight surgeon supporting space shuttle and space station missions.

In December 2020, NASA named him as one of the Artemis team of astronauts helping to pave the way for NASA's upcoming lunar missions.

Hines, a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force, was selected as an astronaut in 2017 and will be making his first trip into space.

UK media watchdog fines KTV for violence, terror references

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Feb 13: The UK's media watchdog has imposed a total fine of 50,000 pounds on Khalsa Television Ltd or KTV in Britain for broadcasting a music video and a discussion programme that was an indirect call for British Sikh to commit violence and also contained a terror reference.

The Office of Communications (Ofcom), the UK government-approved media regulatory authority, issued the order Friday following its findings dating back to February and November 2019.



Its order also includes a direction for the channel to broadcast a statement of Ofcom's findings on a date and in a form to be determined by the watchdog and also for KTV not to repeat the music video or the discussion programme found in breach of its rules.

Ofcom has imposed financial penalties of 20,000 pounds and 30,000 pounds on Khalsa Television Limited in relation to its service for failing to comply with the broadcasting rules. The 20,000 pounds penalty relates to a music video. The 30,000 pounds penalty relates to a discussion programme, the Ofcom decision states.

On July 4, 7, and 9 in 2018, KTV broadcast a music video for a song called 'Bagga and Shera'. Following its investigation, Ofcom found that the music video was an indirect call to action for Sikhs living in the UK to commit violence, up to and including murder.

It also included brief flashes, which, when slowed down, re-

vealed frames of on-screen text. It appeared to be seeking to influence viewers by conveying a message to them or otherwise influencing their minds without their being aware, or fully aware, of what has occurred, which Ofcom found was in breach of its rules of the broadcast.

The discussion programme in question was aired live March 30, 2019, as 'Panthak Masle'.

Ofcom found that the programme provided a platform for several guests to express views which amounted to indirect calls to action and were likely to encourage or

The Ofcom, UK government-approved media regulatory authority, issued the order following its findings dating back to February and November 2019

Ofcom has imposed penalties of 20,000 pounds and 30,000 pounds on KTV in relation to its service for failing to comply with the broadcasting rules

incite the commission of crime or lead to disorder.

Ofcom also found that it included a reference to the proscribed terrorist organisation the Babbar Khalsa, and which in our view could be taken as legitimising it and normalising its aims and actions in the eyes of viewers, it notes.

KTV is a television channel broadcasting largely to the Sikh community in the United Kingdom under a licence held by Khalsa Television Limited.

Religion and death penalty collide at US Supreme Court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Feb 13: The Supreme Court is sending a message to states that want to continue to carry out the death penalty: Inmates must be allowed to have a spiritual adviser by their side as they are executed.

The high court around midnight Thursday declined to let Alabama proceed with the lethal injection of Willie B. Smith III. Smith had objected to Alabama's policy that his pastor would have had to observe his execution from an adjacent room rather than the death chamber itself.

The order from the high court follows two years in which inmates saw some rare success in bringing challenges based on the issue of chaplains in the death chamber.

This time, liberal and conservative members of the court normally in disagreement over death penalty issues found common ground not on the death penalty itself but on the issue of religious freedom and how the death penalty is carried out.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, one of three justices who said they would have let Smith's execution go forward, said Alabama's policy applies equally to all inmates and serves a state interest in ensuring safety and security.

But he said it was apparent that his colleagues who disagreed were providing a path for states to follow.

States that want to avoid months or years of litigation over the presence of spiritual advisers "should figure out a way to allow spiritual advisers into the execution room,



The federal government, which under ex-President Donald Trump resumed federal executions, carried out 13 executions, is allowing a spiritual adviser to be present in the death chamber

as other States and the Federal Government have done," he wrote

in a dissent joined by Chief Justice John Roberts. Justice Clarence

Thomas also would have allowed the execution of Smith, who was sentenced to die for the 1991 murder of 22-year-old Sharma Ruth Johnson in Birmingham.

Alabama had up until 2019 allowed a Christian prison chaplain employed by the state to be physically present in the execution chamber if requested by the inmate, but the state changed its policy in response to two earlier Supreme Court cases.

Robert Dunham, the executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, says the court's order will most clearly affect states in the Deep South that have active execution chambers.

Dunham said most state execution protocols, which set who is present in the death chamber, do not mention spiritual advisers.

For most of the modern history of the US death penalty since the 1970s, spiritual advisers have not been present in execution chambers, he said.

The federal government, which under President Donald Trump resumed federal executions following a 17-year hiatus and carried out 13 executions, allowed a spiritual adviser to be present in the death chamber.

The Biden administration is still weighing how it will proceed in death penalty cases.

The court's order in Smith's case contained only statements from Kavanaugh and Justice Elena Kagan.

"Willie Smith is sentenced to death, and his last wish is to have his pastor with him as he dies," Kagan wrote for herself.

of the day quote

With air travel emerging as a preferred mode of travel due to safety, efficiency & time saving, we are almost touching pre-Covid numbers

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

The challenging macro-economic environment, the Covid-19 pandemic-related lockdown as well as the overall slowdown in the PV segment along with the cautious stance of FOCs towards wholesale lending led to a contraction in FOC credit in FY2020 and H1FY2021

MANUSHREE SAGGAR | VP & HEAD, FINANCIAL SECTOR RATINGS, ICRA

For Government, each life is precious whether that is from poor or rich family, urban or rural area, male or female and at any level of society. The situation is alarming. There are more deaths than in Covid-19. It is more dangerous than Covid-19

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

IDFC Ltd net loss narrows to ₹206cr

New Delhi: IDFC Ltd Saturday reported narrowing of its consolidated net loss to ₹205.59 crore in the third quarter ending December 2020. The company had posted a net loss of ₹342.67 crore in the year-ago period. Sequentially, the loss widened from ₹146.68 crore in the second quarter ending September 2020. Total income fell to ₹106.18 crore during the October-December (Q3) quarter as against ₹121.53 crore in the year-ago quarter, IDFC Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

Sterling, Wilson Solar sign pact

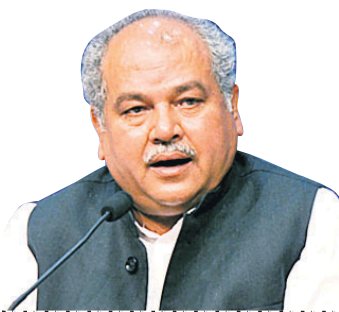
New Delhi: Sterling and Wilson Solar Saturday said it has bagged an order worth ₹930 crore in Egypt. It has signed an order worth USD 127.5 million (Rs 930 crore) in the Kom Ombo region of Egypt, a statement by Sterling and Wilson said. The order has been received from Saudi Arabia's leading renewable energy company and is scheduled to be commissioned by first quarter of 2022. Sterling and Wilson Solar has already executed 5 projects in Egypt.

Voda Idea Q3 loss narrows

New Delhi: Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea Saturday reported narrowing of consolidated loss to ₹4,532.1 crore in the third quarter ended on December 31, 2020, mainly on account of a one-time gain from stake sale in Indus Towers. The company had posted a loss of ₹6,438.8 crore in the same quarter a year ago. VIL sold 11.15% stake in Indus Towers on the completion of its merger with Bharti Infratel for ₹3,760 crore.

FB Board takes up new case

New Delhi: Facebook's Oversight Board has taken up a new case related to a user's post that was shared from a Punjabi-language online platform and contained insinuations against RSS and PM Narendra Modi. While the post was initially taken down for violating Facebook's community guidelines, the social media company later restored the content. The Oversight Board is an independent body set up by Facebook last year to look into hate speech and other undesirable content on the platform.



India is the largest producer and consumer of pulses in the world. India has almost become self sufficient in pulses production

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | AGRICULTURE MINISTER

SKILL MINISTRY ROLLS OUT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has said that it is rolling out the MGNF programme in all the districts across India. So far, the programme was working across 69 districts



Speedy economic recovery underway: PHD Chamber

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 13: A speedy economic recovery is underway on the back of higher job creation, strong stock market, healthy GST collections and elevated manufacturing PMI levels in January, said industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Accordingly, 9 out of the 10 indicators of QET of economic and business activity tracked by the industry body have shown positive trends in January.

Out of all the indicators, unemployment rate has shown highest sequential improvement of around 28

Economic and business indicators like unemployment rate, stock market, GST collections, manufacturing PMI, forex reserves, railway freight, merchandise exports and PV sales have shown positive sequential growth in January 2021 as compared to December 2020

SANJAY AGGARWAL | PRESIDENT, PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

per cent in January 2021 over December 2020. However, E-way Bill generation



has recorded a decline. It decreased to 62.9 million in January 2021 as compared to 64.1 million in previous month of December 2020.

As per the data, January 2021 QET performance is in sync with the performance of December 2020, while it is better as compared to October and November 2020.

"Economic and business indica-

tors such as unemployment rate, stock market, GST collections, manufacturing PMI, forex reserves, railway freight, merchandise exports, exchange rate and passenger vehicle sales have shown positive sequential growth in January 2021 as compared to December 2020," Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was quoted as saying in a statement.

According to Aggarwal, the expectations of a positive GDP growth in Q3 and Q4FY21 are becoming strong.

"At this juncture, to continue the recovery momentum of economic

and business activity, immediate policy attention is required towards credit access to industry and services sectors. Credit disbursement should be the top most priority at this juncture by the banking sector," Aggarwal said.

"The focus should be on ensuring the provision of hassle-free disbursements of loans vis-a-vis enhanced liquidity for MSMEs, especially in rural sectors," he added.

In addition, Aggarwal cited the need to lower interest rates for consumers and businesses, and lesser compliances for MSMEs vis-a-vis ease of doing business at the ground level.

'Reforms on to make India one of world's top economies'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 13: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday said that the government, undeterred by the Covid-19 pandemic, has been pursuing reforms for achieving sustained long-term growth in a bid to make India one of the top economies of the world in the coming decades.

Replying to debate on Budget 2021-22 in Lok Sabha, she said, the Prime Minister did not lose any opportunity to continue with the reforms and this Budget has set the pace for India to become self-reliant or Aatmanirbhar.

Earlier this month, the Finance Minister presented a ₹34.5 lakh crore Budget for 2021-22, in the backdrop of the pandemic.

The Budget has laid emphasis on increasing capital expenditure, raising allocation for healthcare capacity building and development of agriculture infrastructure, among others, which are expected to have a multiplier effect on the economy.

She said her Budget for 2021-22, has provided the highest capex growth of 34.4 per cent by providing more money to railways, roads



The Budget for 2021-22 has provided the highest cap-ex growth of 34.4 per cent by providing more money to railways, roads and defence

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

and defence.

Referring to a series of measures taken to stimulate the economy hit by the pandemic, she said, COVID-19 did not deter the government from taking up reforms, which are going to be necessary for sustaining long-term goals for this country.

Emphasising that sustained commitment to reform is blended in the Budget, she said, "reforms are

going to lay a path for India, to be one of the top economies of the world in the coming decades."

On handling of Covid-19 pandemic, the Finance Minister said, "The death rates are the lowest in the world, active cases have come down... We have actually managed to bend the curve. And as a result, the revival of the economy looks a lot more sustainable and this Budget gives necessary impetus."

Responding to the charge of crony capitalism, the minister said, the government under Narendra Modi works for common people and not for cronies.

Reeling out statistics to show the government's pro-poor policies, she said, measures of providing toilets, houses and MUDRA Yojana, rural roads were not meant for cronies. "We don't do work for any cronies, we work for the common citizen who believes in the Prime Minister," she said.

She also took on Congress for accusing that the government is favouring certain industrialists and asked the opposition party to explain how a particular project in Kerala was awarded on invitation basis to one of the industrialists.

MINING ISSUE

K'taka urges Centre to clear proposals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 13: Karnataka minister Murugesh Nirani Saturday called on Union Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi and sought early clearance of four pending proposals of the Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Ltd (KSMCL) besides discussing other related issues.

In the meeting, Nirani, Karnataka's Mines and Geology Minister, said the state government has collected ₹2,200 crore in District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund till now from different districts and sought the Centre's help to carry welfare schemes for mining-affected people.

He also sought legal aid from the Centre to pursue a long-pending case for early release of ₹18,000 crore funds from the Supreme Court for reclamation and rehabilitation of land destroyed by illegal mining in Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts.

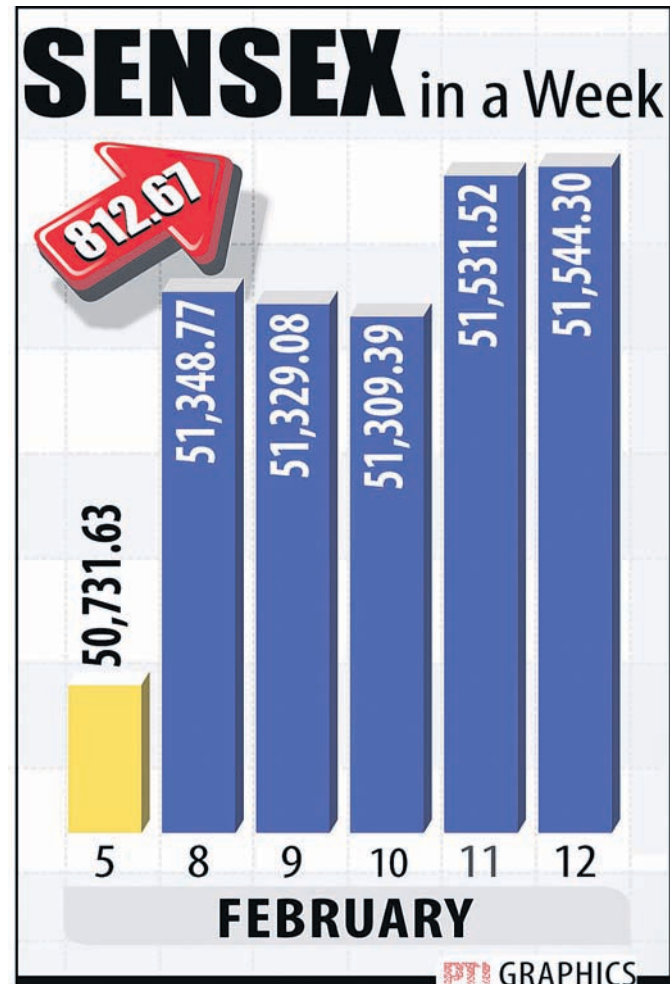
"In view of the long pendency of the matter and in order to rehabilitate the mining ravaged areas



in three districts, urgent directions from the Supreme Court is required to go ahead with the implementation of CEPMIZ," Nirani told reporters.

He urged the Centre to extend "legal and administrative help" in getting the accumulated fund to the state kitty for implementation of Comprehensive Environmental Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ) in the state, said a minister's statement issued after the meeting. Nearly ₹18,000 crore collected out of fines and levies from iron ore mines on the direction of the Supreme Court has accumulated over the last six years, it added.

On pending proposals of KSMCL, the minister discussed in detail and sought early clearance of the mining lease areas in Hassan and Udupi districts.



'HALF OF REALME PRODUCTS IN INDIA WILL BE 5G THIS YR'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

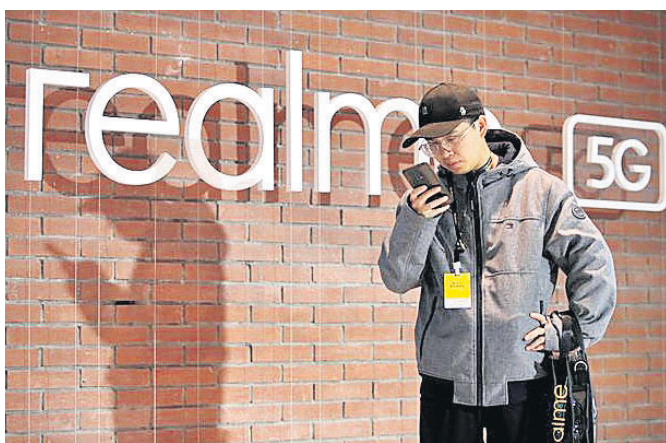
New Delhi, Feb 13: Even though the 5G network is still away, smartphone vendors have started launching 5G-ready devices in India and realme on Saturday said it will democratise the upcoming technology for the masses in India.

Half of realme products to be launched in India will be 5G-ready, according to Madhav Sheth, VP, realme and CEO, realme India & Europe.

"All realme products launched above ₹20,000 will be 5G products. We will continue to bring the latest 5G processors to products in the sub-Rs 20,000 segment so that users can experience the latest technology at versatile price points," Sheth told IANS.

5G is definitely a trend all over the world and realme aims to be the '5G Populariser' in India, in Europe and other global markets, leading the 5G user experience across different segments.

"To achieve this, we will introduce 5G-enabled smartphones at democratised prices to enable users to experience the latest processor



with much enhanced capability in terms of power management, display optimisation, camera support, gaming performance etc, and get consumers future-ready for 5G," Sheth elaborated.

The smartphone market in India is expected to grow over 10 per cent (year-on-year) in 2021 and 5G shipments are expected to grow tenfold to cross 30 million units this year.

Even though the 5G network will not be available until late 2022 or early 2023 in the country, smart-

phone vendors like realme are bullish on launching 5G-ready devices for the masses, according to market research firm CMR.

realme X7 5G houses India's first 7nm MediaTek Dimensity 800U 5G chipset that features dual 5G SIM with enhanced capability.

"Even if we remove the 5G part, it is one of the best performing and best designed smartphones in a 8.1mm slim and light-weight body in the sub-Rs 20,000 segment," the realme executive added.

'Post-road accident financial loss equal to 7 months income'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 13: More than 75% of poor households in India report a decline in their income post a road traffic crash and financial loss to them is equivalent to over seven months household income, a World Bank report released Saturday said.

As high as 44 per cent of the households in rural areas reported at least one death after a road crash compared to 11.6 per cent of households in urban areas, the report - Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society- stated. "The financial loss for the poor amounted to more than seven month's household income, while it was equivalent to less than one month's household income for



rich households," said the report.

Similarly, low income households (LIHs) reported twice the numbers of deaths post-crash vis-a-vis high income households (HIH).

Victims from LIH and rural areas are also twice more likely to suffer a disability after a crash than their

HIH counterparts, it said.

Highlighting the disproportionate impact of a road crash on poor households that pushes them into a vicious cycle of poverty and debt, the report sheds light on the links between road crashes, poverty, inequality, and vulnerable road users

Highlighting the disproportionate impact of a road crash on poor households, the report sheds light on the links between road crashes, poverty, inequality, and vulnerable road users in India

in India.

The study was done in collaboration with SaveLIFE Foundation - a national non-governmental organisation, and based on the survey data collected from four Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil

Nadu and Maharashtra, the research assessed the social, financial, gender, and psychological impacts of road crashes on poor and disadvantaged households.

The report recommends policy-oriented approaches for saving lives and improving the ability of victims and their families to get back on their feet, including providing immediate financial, medical and legal aid.

Bringing out sharp rural-urban divide and the disproportionate impact on women, the Survey showed that the income decline for low-income rural households (56 per cent) was the most severe compared to low-income urban (29.5 per cent) and high-income rural households (39.5 per cent).

RBI tightens investment rules for shadow banks



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 13: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday new investors who operate from jurisdictions not in compliance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) must hold less than 20% of the voting power in non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

In a bid to stop money laundering, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said investors from non-FATF compliant jurisdictions would not be treated on a par with those from other countries or regions. "New investors from or through non-compliant FATF jurisdictions, whether in existing NBFCs or in companies seeking Certification of Registration (COR), should not be allowed to directly or indirectly acquire 'significant influence' in the investee, as defined in the applicable accounting standards," the RBI said.

The move comes days after the central bank had proposed tighter, bank-like regulation of the so-called shadow lending sector to prevent the turmoil caused by the collapse of an infrastructure financing firm in 2018.

Milk Mantra opens Moo booths in Cuttack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 13: Dairy brand of Odisha, Milk Mantra have inaugurated Moo booths in Cuttack to strengthen its distribution network in the state.

In first phase, the company has launched 20 Moo booths in Cuttack and plans to create many more MOO Booths across key cities in Odisha such as Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Berhampur, Balasore and Puri. The entire network of Moo booths distribution system will be backed by technology to facilitate "freshness" right at the retail points and help the retailers to have better inventory management.

COO of Milk Mantra Sandipan Ghosh said, "Moo Booths are a key initiative of Milk Mantra to bridge the gap between demand and supply of Milky Moo products in the market.

With tech interventions enabling real-time inventory management, we will be able to monitor and increase efficiency in operations across the value chain. We are confident that booths will definitely help us keeping our promise of purity and freshness".

ByteDance explores sale of Indian TikTok assets to rival firm

REUTERS

Tokyo, Feb 13: China's ByteDance is said to be exploring the sale of the India operations of TikTok to rival unicorn Glance, Bloomberg News reported Saturday. The discussions, initiated by Japan's SoftBank Group Corp, are private, early and complex, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter.



Glance's parent, mobile advertising technology firm InMobi, also owns short-video app Poposo that has gained in popularity after TikTok was banned by the Indian government in July last year.

SoftBank is a backer of InMobi Pte as well as TikTok's Chinese parent, ByteDance, the report added.

Softbank, ByteDance and InMobi, did not immediately respond to Reuters request for a comment.

Hitman's day out

Ton-up Rohit sweeps on Chepauk turner as he along with Rahane helps India reach 300/6 at stumps on Day 1 of the second Test against England



Ajinkya Rahane

Chennai, Feb 13: Rohit Sharma oozed class with an aesthetically pleasing 161 (231b, 18x4, 2x6) on a challenging track, helping India seize the initiative with a solid opening day score of 300/6 against England in the second Test here, Saturday.

Ajinkya Rahane (67, 149b, 9x4) looked equally attractive during his knock and the two Mumbaiers added 162 runs for the fourth wicket, making it worth the effort for the 12,000 who flocked to the Chepauk as Indian cricket welcomed its fans back in the stadium amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A score of 350 plus in the first innings will be equivalent to 550 plus on any other track and Rishabh Pant's (33 batting) dangerous presence could also take India well beyond the magic figure on this track. At stumps, he had debutant Axar Patel (5 batting) for company.

Rohit had scored six Test hundreds prior to this knock but he will be the first to admit that in terms of conditions on offer and the quality of attack he faced, the seventh one would be at the top of the list.

On a hot Saturday, Rohit did two



UNPLAYABLE: Virat Kohli was bowled by Moeen Ali (not in pic)

things at one go. Firstly, he put India in a commanding position on a track which was way more difficult for batting than he made it look.

Secondly, he put all the naysayers in their place by scoring runs when it mattered the most. The team is aiming for a comeback after a crushing 227-run loss in the first Test.

Joe Root was marvellous with his sweep shot during the first Test but Rohit was simply magnificent with his execution on a doubly difficult track on which he gave England spinner Moeen Ali (3/112) a lesson in controlled aggression.

The way Rohit put a big front-foot stride outside the off-stump to sweep deliveries off both Moeen and Jack Leach (2/78) will not be forgotten by all who were fortunate to witness the innings.

While skipper Virat Kohli (0) was done in by a classical off-spinner's delivery from Moeen - flighted

outside the off-stump and enticing him to go for a cover drive only to find his defence breached.

If Rohit played those sweeps in a regal manner, Rahane was no

less classy in his drives - the front and back-foot punches off the pacers and those lovely cut shots off the spinners were

delightful to watch.

Call it irony, Rahane chose a wrong delivery from Moeen for playing the sweep and was bowled in the process. This was after he survived an umpiring howler from Anil Chaudhary.

But then, he was destined to be in Rohit's shadow on a day when determination became his primary capital. It wasn't the easiest of conditions but for India's 'Hit-Man', difficult has always been the easiest route.

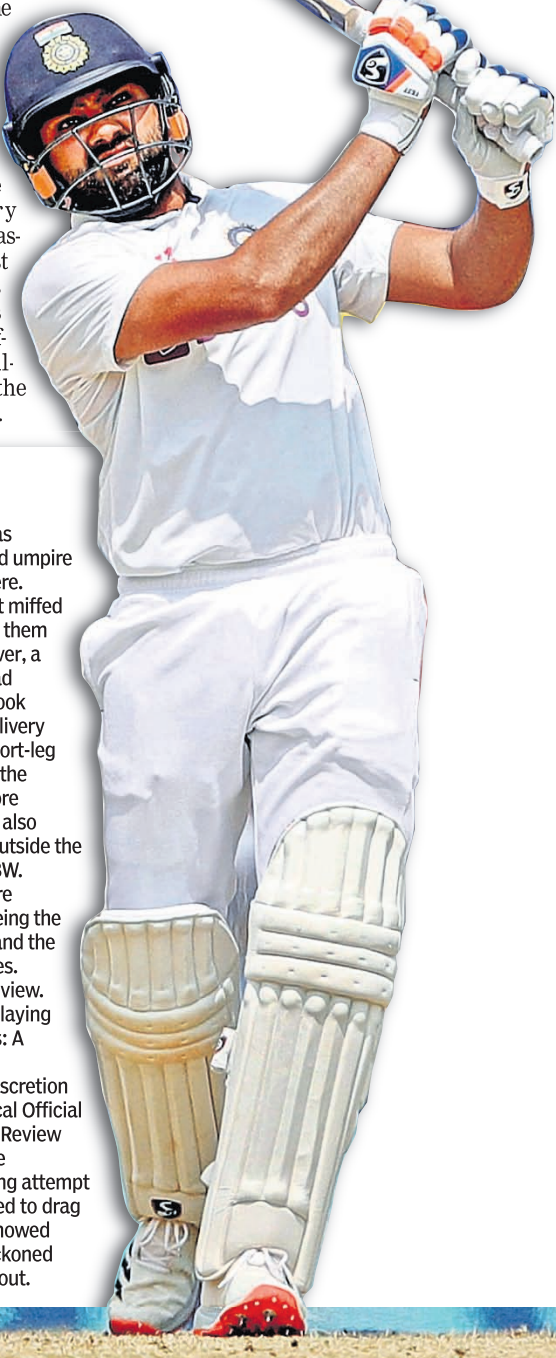
SCORECARD

INDIA 1ST INNINGS

Rohit Sharma c Ali b Leach 161, Shubman Gill lbw b Stokes 0, Cheteshwar Pujara c Stokes b Leach 21, Virat Kohli b Ali 0, Ajinkya Rahane b Ali 67, Rishabh Pant batting 33, Ravichandran Ashwin c Pope b Root 13, Axar Patel batting 5; **Total: 300/6 (88 overs).**

Fall: 1/0 (Gill), 2/85 (Pujara), 3/86 (Kohli), 4/248 (Rohit), 5/249 (Rahane), 6/284 (Ashwin).

Bowling: Stuart Broad 11-2-37-0, Olly Stone 15-5-42-1, Jack Leach 26-2-78-2, Ben Stokes 2-0-16-0, Moeen Ali 26-3-112-2, Joe Root 8-2-15-1.



DRS CONTROVERSY

CHENNAI: A Decision Review System (DRS) referral was Saturday restored to England after an error by the third umpire on the opening day of the second Test against India here.

England were left frustrated and their captain Joe Root miffed after a blunder by third umpire Anil Chaudhary denied them the wicket of Ajinkya Rahane and a DRS review. However, a few moments after it became clear that Chaudhary had erred, England's review was reinstated. The incident took place in the 75th over of the day when a Jack Leach delivery brushed Rahane's gloves on the way to the forward short-leg fielder Ollie Pope. As England appealed for a catch off the gloves, it was turned down by the on-field umpire before Chaudhary, failing to read the correct passage of play, also rejected the review thinking that the ball had landed outside the leg-stump and that the visitors had appealed for an LBW. However, the visitors appeared to clarify that they were appealing for a catch off the glove and not the bat. Seeing the replays on the big screen, Root was left unimpressed and the skipper also raised the matter with the on-field umpires. Chaudhary turned down that also as England lost a review. The review was later restored to England as per ICC playing conditions. As per 3.6.8 of the ICC's playing conditions: A Player Review categorised as 'Unsuccessful' may be reinstated by the ICC Match Referee at his/her sole discretion (if appropriate after consultation with the ICC Technical Official and/or the television broadcast director) if the Player Review could not properly be concluded due to a failure of the technology. There was also some issue over a stumping attempt by Ben Foakes against Rohit Sharma when he appeared to drag his backfoot to a Leach delivery. Though TV replays showed Rohit's backfoot to be on the line, the third umpire reckoned some part of it was behind the line and ruled him not out.

SOCIAL DISTANCING ...WHO CARES!

Chennai cricket lovers' had a wonderful day after watching the opening day's play of the second India-England Test at the Chepauk. It was also witnessed that sometimes, they even ignored the social distancing norms. But they can't be blamed as it was the atmosphere the players were waiting for.



Medvedev through in Australian Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Feb 13: Daniil Medvedev finally worked out how to win a five-setter. The fourth-seeded Medvedev was 0-6 in Grand Slam matches that went to five sets, and his Australian Open third-round match against Filip Krajinovic looked like it was going all the way. However, he came out on top with a 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, 6-0 win, Saturday.

Some pundits, including John McEnroe, are tipping the 25-year-old Russian to make his major breakthrough in Australia. Medvedev, on a 17-match winning streak that includes titles at the 2020 season-ending ATP Finals, said while that's nice to hear, he's got a long way to go.

He'll have to face unseeded American Mackenzie McDonald in the next round. After that could be a quarterfinal against No.7 Andrey Rublev, who helped him win the ATP Cup title for Russia last week.

World No.2 Rafa Nadal, a 20-time major winner, is also in his half of the draw. Nadal extended his winning streak against fellow left-handers to 16 with a 7-5, 6-2, 7-5 vic-

tory over Cameron Norrie, reaching the fourth round at Melbourne Park for the 14th time in 16 trips.

In his immediate future is No.16 Fabio Fognini, who had a straight-set win over Australia's last hope in the men's draw, 21st-seeded Alex de Minaur.

Seventh-seeded Rublev had a 7-5, 6-2, 6-3 win over Feliciano Lopez, ending the 39-year-old Spaniard's 75th consecutive major tournament.

Two women with titles already this year are through to the Round of 16. Top-ranked Ash Barty, who won the Yarra Valley Classic last week for a title in her first tournament back from almost 12 months on the sidelines, beat Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia 6-2, 6-4. Barty next faces American Shelby Rogers, who beat Anett Kontaveit 6-4, 6-3.

Elise Mertens had a 6-2, 6-1 victory over 11th-seeded Belinda Bencic. She'll take a seven-match winning streak into her next match against Karolina Muchova in the fourth round.

Jessica Pegula had a 6-2, 6-1 win over Kristina Mladenovic and will next play No.5 seeded Elina Svitolina, who won the last nine games to beat Yulia Putintseva 6-4, 6-0.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 more race walkers qualify for Olympics

RANCHI: Three Indian race walkers qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics during the National Open Race Walking Championships here Saturday, with Sandeep Kumar and Priyanka Goswami shattering national records in the men's and women's 20km events respectively. The total number of Indian race walkers who have qualified for the Tokyo Games has swelled to five as KT Irfan (men's 20km) and Bhawana Jat (women's 20km) have already made the cut earlier. The 34-year-old Sandeep clocked 1 hour 20 minutes and 16 seconds to win the men's 20km event while the 24-year-old Goswami emerged victorious in the corresponding women's event with a time of 1:28:45. Rahul Kumar, who finished second in the men's 20km race walk event with a time of 1:20:26, also qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. The Tokyo Olympics qualification time for men's and women's 20km race walk event are 1:21:00 and 1:31:00 respectively.

Foxes hunt down Reds

LONDON: Alisson Becker on fault again as Leicester struck a crucial blow in the battle for a top-four place with a 3-1 victory over Liverpool. The Reds looked on course for a win, thanks to Mo Salah's 67th-minute strike, with just 12 minutes remaining. However, James Maddison's free-kick found its way into the corner in the 78th. Three minutes later, Ozan Kabak looked to have covered a Yuri Tielemans pass, but Alisson raced from his line to confuse the situation. Kabak got to the ball, but steered it away from Alisson and straight to Jamie Vardy, who put the Foxes up front. In the 85th, Barnes completed the scoresheet with a clean finish.

Ishan saves Goa's day

GOA: Ishan Pandita struck in the stoppage time to help FC Goa secure a point against Chennaiyin FC as their ISL encounter ended 2-2 at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim, Saturday. Jakub Sylvestr broke the deadlock in the 13th minute. Four minutes later, Gaurs were awarded a penalty after the ball touched Eli Sabia's hand inside the CFC box when he was tussling for it with Igor Angulo. The Spaniard, after being disallowed the first attempt, slotted the ball past the Goa goal to his right. Chennaiyin took the lead again in the 60th through Lallianzuala Chhangte. However, Ishan turned saviour for the Gaurs scoring the equaliser.

THE INNOVATIONS YOU TRUST WITH GRAND NEW YEAR OFFERS

With decades of understanding every need of Indian kitchens, Prestige innovations are designed for the ultimate performance, convenience and delight. That's what makes us the most trusted brand in the category. This new year, celebrate innovation with amazing offers and bring home a smile with Prestige.

PRESSURE COOKERS | India's only Pressure Cooker with spillage control for cleaner cooking

Svachh Pressure Cooker

- Deep Lid to Control Spillage
- Long Lasting Anti-bulge Base
- Gas and Induction Compatible

BUY NAKSHATRA PLUS SVACHH ALUMINIUM 3L (1U) + 2L (1U) PRESSURE COOKER

GET 25% OFF* ON MRP

COOKWARE | India's only 5 Layer Non-stick Cookware for maximum durability

Omega Granite Cookware

- Durable 5 Layer Superior Non-stick Coating
- Gas and Induction Compatible • Dishwasher Safe

BUY OMEGA GRANITE COOKWARE SET (3U)

GET 45% OFF* ON MRP

GAS STOVE | Schott Glass with lifetime warranty***

Royale Plus Gas Stove

- Sabaf Valves
- Tri-pin Brass Burners
- Powder-coated Body

BUY GT 03L GAS STOVE (1U)

MRP ₹10 695.00 OFFER PRICE ₹6 595.00***

MIXER GRINDERS | Mixer Grinder with 2 years warranty and home service

Regal Mixer Grinder

- Strong 750 Watt Motor with 2 Years Warranty
- Stunning Design
- Transparent Juicer Jar with Sieve

GET 30% OFF* ON MRP

INDUCTION COOKTOP | India's only Induction with whistle counter ideal for pressure cooking

PIC 3.1 V3

- Automatic Whistle Counter
- Timer for Convenience
- Indian Menu Options
- Power Saver Technology

FLAT 30% OFF* ON MRP

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CLEANER | Keeps your Food Bacteria and Virus Free

Kills Harmful Bacteria

- Deodorize Meat and Seafood
- Keeps Food Fresh
- Zero Maintenance

BUY PRESTIGE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CLEANER (1U) MRP ₹4 695.00 OFFER PRICE ₹3 295.00***

WATER PURIFIER | India's only Gravity Water Purifier with benefits of copper

Tattva Water Purifier

- Removes Bacteria, Virus, Protozoa and Cysts
- Benefits of Copper
- Log 6+3 Purification

BUY COPPER WATER PURIFIER (1U) MRP ₹4 795.00 GET PKOSS 1.5 KETTLE (1U) + BOTTLE PSWBC 10 (1U) MRP ₹1 790.00** FREE***

KITCHEN APPLIANCES | Modern and Innovative Kitchen Appliances

FLAT 20% OFF* ON MRP

TOLL-FREE (Prestige CARE)
1800-123-334411
BSNL/MTNL Customers
080-6846 9997 (Toll)

Follow 'TTK Prestige' on



PRESTIGE XPERT
97423 34411

www.prestigexclusive.in



*Conditions Apply. All discounts on MRP only. Offer valid till stocks last. No two offers can be clubbed together. Offer valid for purchase of 1 unit only. Offers valid on select models only. For further details visit your nearest authorized dealer. **The indicated prices are MRP (inclusive of all taxes). ***Lifetime warranty on gas stoves is 10 years. Offers not valid in the state of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa.

For Franchisee Enquiry:- Call +91 7077721612 * For Trade Enquiries, Call +91 7077721602 * For Clean Home Products Trade Enquiries, Call +91 8826102361

Prestige xclusive

BHUBANESWAR: Rabi Takies Chhak: opposite to Kedar Gouri Resort, Mob: 7750925223 **Bapujinagar I:** 105, Post office lane; Near Yes Bank, Ph: 0674-2597141, Mob: 9937138998 **Bapujinagar II:** 237, Bapujinagar Pani Tanki Lane, Ph: 0674 2597685 Mob: 9777744071, **Satyangar:** 10, Janpath, Satyangar, Ph: 0674 2573408, Mob: 8280056821, **ID Market:** Shop No FG 3, I.D. Market, Near Reliance Fresh, IRC Village Mob: 9861404879, **RAGHUNATHPUR:** Shop No - S5, Manson Green, Raghunathpur, Nandankanan Road, Ph: 7205876694, **CUTTACK:** Dolmundai: Hotel Akbari complex, Dolomundai, Haripur Road, Ph: 0671 2411580; Mob: 9348222581, **Baxi Bazar:** Manisahoo Chhak, Mob: 6371736954, **CDA:** Plot No. CM/3 (In front of Police Station), Markat Nagar, Sector - 7, Ph: 0671-2504833, Mob: 8917442506 **Rourkela:** Near Haryana Bhawan, Daily Market, Udit Nagar, Mob: 9777457774 **PURI:** Behind Gundicha Temple, Sarvodaya Nagar Road, Beside Suruchi Mandap, Ph-7978547991 **BALUGAON:** Chhika Road, Balugaon, Mob: 8984858783, **KENDRAPARA:** Kakat Chhak, Ph: 06727 221241; Mob: 8598080544, **DHENKANAL:** I.G. Super Market, near SBI ATM; Mob: 9337477279/ 9348178750 **BOLANGIR:** A.B.S.S. Road, Near Samaleswari Temple, Ph: 06652 232419; Mob : 9437331171, 9437241863, **SEMILIGUDA:** Infront of RAM Mandir Gate, Main Road, Mob: 8328800974, **BARGARH:** C/o: New patra needs, 9776701165, Baripada-Aerovision-9861828643, **UMER KOTE:** Balaji Metal-977781003, Rayagada- 7008429715, **GAJAPATI:** Panda General Store-8249162067, **AUTHORISED SERVICE CENTRE:** Cuttack: TTK Prestige Ltd (RSC) Plot No 864/2677, Near Pala Mandap, Ph: 9437483032, **Keonjhar:** 7008589306; **Bargarh:** 9438015648; **Bhawaniapatna:** 8328805215, **BHADRAK:** 7978740521

AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTORS:- **BHUBANESWAR:** Manorama Trading Co., Ph: 9437279239, Saraswati Enterprises-8249250386; **JATINI:** Kanha Agencies, Ph: 9437090516, **CUTTACK:** Mahavir Enterprise, Chauliganga, Ph: 9937092599, **KENDRAPADA:** Nalini & Sons, Ph: 9938175761; **TALCHER:** Sidharth Enterprises, Hatatota, Ph: 9437003384, **ROURKELA:** Shah Distributor, Ph: 0661-2506904, 9438712456, **SAMBALPUR:** Nayagiri Traders- 9437925273, **BALASORE & MAYURBHANJ:** Mahaveer Sales- 9437052545, **BHADRAK:** PP Traders, Ph: 9937049149, **GANJAM:** Aditya Agencies Ph: 8249822902, **BALANGIR:** Ably Info Solutions, Ph: 9437025475, **KALAHANDI:** M/s Apna Kitchen- 9437146080, **JAJPUR:** Excellent Engicon- 9438866545, **JEYPORE:** Likhit Enterprises-9348430456, **GAYAGARH:** Ganapati Traders-9583281930; **AUTHORISED DEALERS:-** **BHUBANESWAR:** Reeta-06742597111, Spectra Vision, Ph.-9937722277, PratapSweing Machine-9937138544, Bharath Electronics & Home Appliances-9437506163, Ukai Light house-9937019272, Ukai Sales-9853150619, Tarni Aluminium Stores, SB Enterprises, Ph 9861155551, Crockery Plaza-9938399889, Baba Enterprises-7978856098, Kitchen King-9938475819, Prasad Kitchen-9437041063, Sivam Enterprises-7008565807, Shree Traders-9937131901, **CUTTACK:** Union Sales Emporium-9338461472, JanataGeneral Store, Ph-2419948, Arbind Plastic, Ph: 8763923528, Puspak Agency-7205016581, Balaji Distributor-8763153928, **KENDRAPARA:** Purnamasi Electrical, Ph. 9937070448, **PARADEEP:** Krishna Enterprise, Ph.9937451474, **ROURKELA:** Prestige, Ph-2642265, City Super Bazar, Ph-9437047413, Khemka General Store, Ph-2502396, Garg Enterprises, Ph: 9437046546, Kitchen Accessories-9437837833, **RAJGANGPUR:** Pradeep Store, Ph: 9437244015, **SUNDARGARH:** Laxmi Steel, Ph: 9776164771, **BALASORE:** Rohit Sales & Service, Ph: 9438519244; United Sales, Ph: 9583519516; **RAHAMA:** Maa Padmabati Enterprise: 9861202577, Sambalpur Bhatia Home Appliances- 9556053558, Samuka Steel Center-9437331074, **BOLANGIR:** Bapi Steel-Akash Steel-9437331491, Suraj Steel-9437151437, **BHADRAK:** Sai Enterprises-9776701165, Baripada-Aerovision-9861828643, **UMER KOTE:** Balaji Metal-977781003, Rayagada- 7008429715, **GAJAPATI:** Panda General Store-8249162067, **AUTHORISED SERVICE CENTRE:** Cuttack: TTK Prestige Ltd (RSC) Plot No 864/2677, Near Pala Mandap, Ph: 9437483032, **Keonjhar:** 7008589306; **Bargarh:** 9438015648; **Bhawaniapatna:** 8328805215, **BHADRAK:** 7978740521