

Stormy start to Budget session

THE OPPOSITION STAGED A WALKOUT DURING GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS TO THE HOUSE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Feb 18: The Budget session of the state Assembly started on a stormy note Thursday as Opposition Congress and BJP members staged a walkout during Governor Ganeshi Lal's address to the House.

The Governor said, "Despite the severe impact of COVID-19 on revenue, the state has been able to achieve positive growth in revenue which is an indication of recovery in economic activities in the state." The government has been able to collect revenue amounting to ₹38,760 crore by the end of January 2021, which is about 7.3 per cent more than the collection during the corresponding period in the previous vear. he said

He further said the state government was able to plough back about ₹2,800 crore by mopping up government money parked in bank accounts. One Time Settlement (OTS) schemes have been introduced for the realisation of revenue arrears, he said

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic posed a unique challenge to Odisha's

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



public finances, the Governor said, the crisis resulted in shrinkage in fiscal space which compelled the government to reprioritise its public spending to meet the higher demand sfor spending on COVID management, thereby creating livelihood opportunities, promoting agriculture as well as the industries and MSME sector for employment generation.

As a temporary measure, the corpus of the Contingency Fund was enhanced from ₹400 crore to ₹2.000 crore to provide the required fiscal space for an aggressive response to the pan-



- 19 on revenue, the govt has been able to collect revenue amounting to ₹38,760 cr
- The state government was able to plough back about ₹2,800 crore by mopping up government money parked in bank accounts The government has undertaken

several strategic steps towards a farmer-centric development in the state, which include a separate agriculture budget

demic, Ganeshi Lal said.

The government also adopted an innovative way to avail cheaper sources of financing from surplus cash balance in dedicated funds, like Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC), to maintain the required liquidity during the crisis.

Further, the government has undertaken several strategic steps towards a farmer-centric development in the state, which include a separate agriculture budget, a dedicated agriculture Cabinet for faster processes and sectoral growth, the introduction of Kalia and Balaram schemes, he added.

The Congress members led by its whip Taraprasad Bahinipati raised slogans and urged the Governor to stop reading out his speech in praise of the BJD government. The BJP members also followed suit and walked out of the House.

The Budget session started with strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines and all members had to produce corona Self-immolation bid near Assembly zone

BHUBANESWAR: Despite the tall claims by the Commissionerate Police about beefed up security, a lady Thursday attempted self-immolation before Javdev Bhavan near the highly sensitive state Assembly area. On Wednesday, One Maguni Sahoo of Mancheswar police lim its tried to commit suicide by pouring some inflammable liquid on his in front of the state Assembly building. According to sources, alert cops deployed near the Assembly area foiled the immolation bid by the lady identified as Jyotshna Rani Jena of Kujanga in Jagatsinghpur. She was trying to pour kerosene on her in front of Jayadev Bhawan Thursday

negative reports for entering the House.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who had attended the previous two sessions of the Assembly in virtual mode, was physically present in the House during Governor's speech. Later, he participated in the proceedings from his residence virtually.

'Metro Man' to join BJP

NEW DELHI: E Sreedharan, the legendary "Metro Man" of India, is set to join the BJP months ahead of polls in Kerala. The 88-yearold is likely to join the party during its Vijay Yatra in Kerala from Sunday and may also contest the Kerala election, due by May, although there are guestions about the BJP's cut-off point of 75 years for elections, applied previously to veterans like LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi. "I have decided to join the BJP, just official formalities remain, Sreedharan confirmed told the media from his hometown Malappuram. "I have been living in Kerala for the last 10 years, since my retirement. I have seen different governments and they are not doing what can be done for the people. I am joining the BJP to be able to do my part, using my experience," he said.

SV Cement Start Strong. Grow Stronger. 1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

Opposition targets govt on Kotia issue

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The Opposition parties in the state Thursday attacked the state government over its weak stand on the Kotia controversy and paddy procurement issue.

Following the delivery of the Governor's speech in the Assembly, the Congress and the BJP claimed that several important issues did not find place in the Governor's address to the House. Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Pradipta Naik said that the government claims that all is well in the paddy procurement process, but the BJP objected to such claims.

"In many mandis, paddy stocks have not been lifted. The token system is not working properly. We have raised the demand in the House. We have objected to the Governor's speech on the same," Naik said.

"We also spoke on the Kotia issue and tried to raise other issues concerning the people there. The Andhra Pradesh government has been intruding into Odisha and holding gram panchayat elections there without any opposition by our government," he said. Congress leader

NEW DELHI: The Andhra Pradesh government has submitted its response in the contempt plea filed by the Odisha government against the neighbouring state for alleged violation of status quo in the disputed Kotia region of Koraput district stating that it has taken over certain villages belonging to Odisha. After the apex court served a notice to AP to file a response in this regard, the district Collector of Vizianagaram in AP, through an affidavit, stated that there is no question of contempt by

Andhra Pradesh as no direc-

tion was passed by the court.

Narasinhga Mishra said that Andhra Pradesh had forcibly captured Kotia and exerted power there under the nose of the government. "They have also conducted elections there and sarpanchs from the area have also been selected. Those issues were not mentioned in the speech of the Governor," he said.



AGENCIES

Patna, Feb 18: While the prices of petrol and diesel touched ₹100 at some places in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, this situation is turning out to be a money making business for mafias active on the borders of India and Nepal.

The smuggling of petrol and diesel is taking place in areas adjoining the Nepal border with people going to Nepal on bikes and bicycles, and coming back with gallon

FUEL

FUEL PRICES IN CITY PETROL ₹90.58 (+0.34) DIESEL ₹87.46 (+0.35)

According to an official, the price of petrol in Nepal is ₹111.20 (Nepalese Rs) which is equal to ₹69.50 in Indian currency. Similarly, the price of diesel in Nepal is ₹94.20 (Nepalese Rs) equivalent to ₹58.88 in Indian currency.

In Bihar the price of petrol is ₹92.51 and ₹85.70 for diesel. Interestingly, India exports petrol and diesel to Nepal.

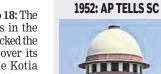
Due to such illegal practices, the sale of petrol and diesel at petrol pumps located at these places in

India has declined sharply. Hence,

petrol pump owners are com-

plaining to the district adminis-

tration about smuggling of fuel.



HOLDING POLLS SINCE

Jaleswar: In a tragic incident three men and around 40 cows were killed after a cattle-laden truck overturned on NH-60 near Basta bypass square in here Balasore district Thursday morning. Two other persons, believed to be the staff of the vehicle, have been trapped beneath the overturned truck. The incident took place when the vehicle carrying around 100 cattle was moving towards West Bengal from Bhadrak

Credit for our victory in local body

elections goes to our top leaders.

They never campaigned here.

3 men, 40 cows killed

Disha Ravi moves HC

New Delhi: Climate activist Disha Ravi Thursday approached the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the police not to leak any investigation material in relation to the 'Toolkit' case to the media. The 21-year-old activist was arrested from Bangalore last week in connection with allegedly editing and sharing a 'toolkit' on social media related to the farmers' protest and was remanded to five-day police **P**8 custody.

cans filled	with fuel to	villages in
	inaran distr	

Reports of smuggling of fuel der. These are unchecked places emerged from over two dozen vildue to the open borders between the lages like Bhiritarwa, Basantpur, two countries. The prices of petrol Semarwari, Bhaluwahiya, Bhagha and diesel are much lower in Nepal etc located on the India-Nepal borcompared to India.

FUEL PRICES BREAK INTO NEW HIGHS

٥

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel price con tinued to rally northward Thursday, the 10th consecutive day when its retail prices rose across the country. In Sri Ganganagar town in Rajasthan, normal petrol price has shot up over ₹100 per litre to stand at ₹100.49 a litre. The global oil market remained firm and prices of both crude and products saw a big

spike. Accordingly, oil marketing companies raised the pump price of petrol by 34 paise and diesel by another 32 paise per litre in Delhi. With this increase, petrol is now priced at ₹89.88 a litre and diesel ₹80.27 a litre in the national capital. In the last 10 days (since February 9), the price has gone up by ₹2.93 per litre for petrol, while diesel rate has risen by ₹3.14 a litre. Across the country as well, the petrol and diesel price increase ranged between 30-35 paise per litre depending on the level of local taxes on the two petroleum products. In Mumbai, petrol prices is just ₹4 per litre short (₹96.32 a litre) of touching the three-digit mark of ₹100 per litre for the very first time ever. Diesel prices in the city are closing on ₹90 a litre (₹ 87.32 a litre). In all other metros, petrol is over ₹90 a litre mark while diesel is well over ₹ 80 a litre.



"As the border is open in these places, villagers often go there carrying gallon cans on bikes and cycles to buy petrol and diesel. They generally operate at night and sell it to individual buyers," said Rajiv Sharma, manager of a petrol pump, in Iranwa village. Another employee Ibrahim Khan

said: "The local administration knows about the smuggling. We have informed the local police also but they are not taking any action. The mafias are strong in these villages and that probably is the reason for inaction from the police department.'

Kundan Kumar, the SHO of Iranwa police station said: "We have received complaints about smuggling of fuel. Accordingly, we have taken measures. We have enhanced night patrolling in these areas to nab the smugglers. The process of identifying individual smugglers is underway through local informers.

AGAINST FARM I



Members of various farmers' organisations block a railway track during a four-hour 'Rail Roko' demonstration across the country, called by Samyukta Kisan Morcha, as part of their agitation against Centre's farm reform laws, in Amritsar, Thursday (Story P9)

MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION 5ENSEX **51324.69 </u> 3**79.14 NIFTY 15119.00 ➡ 89.90 DOLLAR 72.93 ₹0.19 EURO 87.69 ₹0.04 ₹85.00 GOLD ₹46.322 SILVER ₹68,920 ₹250

W	/EATI			
		BHUB	СТК	
EMP	MAX	33.7℃	33.6° C	-
ΤE	MIN	18.0°C	17.0°C	Forecast
Hui	midity	75%	71%	
Rai	nfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clear sky

NASA rover faces '7 minutes of terror' before landing on Mars

ENTRY, DESCENT, AND LANDING (EDL) BEGIN WHEN THE SPACECRAFT CARRYING PERSEVERANCE STRIKES THE MARTIAN ATMOSPHERE AT NEARLY 20,000 KMS PER HOUR

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Feb 18: Seven months after blast-off, NASA's Mars 2020 mission will have to negotiate its shortest and most intense phase on Thursday: the "seven minutes of terror" it takes to slam the brakes and land the Perseverance rover on a narrow target on the planet's

Entry, Descent, and Landing

(EDL) begins when the spacecraft

carrying Perseverance strikes the

Martian atmosphere at nearly 20,000

It ends around seven minutes

later with the rover at rest on the

surface. Touchdown on the Jezero

Crater is scheduled for 3:55 pm US

kilometers per hour.

maneuvers that we do in this business, and almost 50 percent of the spacecraft that had been sent to the surface of Mars have failed," Matt Wallace, the mission's deputy project manager said. Atmospheric entry

eastern time (2055 GMT).

'This is one of the most difficult

Ten minutes before entering the Martian atmosphere, the spacecraft sheds its cruise stage that supplied the fuel tanks, radios and solar panels on the voyage. It's left with just a protective aeroshell, carrying the rover and descent stage, and it fires thrusters to make sure its heat shield is forward facing. At about 130 kilometers altitude,

it careens into the atmosphere and

things start to get hot: peak heating occurs about 80 seconds in when the heat shield surface reaches about 1.300°C. Perseverance is tucked away



riencing room temperature. The craft might need to fire thrusters to stay on course as it hits air pockets. Parachute deployment

Once the spacecraft has slowed down to less than 1,600 kilometers an hour, it's time to deploy the 21.5 meters wide supersonic parachute at an altitude of 11 kilometers. Perseverance is deploying a new technology called Range Trigger that decides the precise moment to deploy, based on the craft's position relative to the landing site.

Asked to name the single most critical event, NASA's EDL lead Allen Chen said: "Obviously there's a lot of concentrated risk in supersonic parachute opening." To try out its new design, NASA had to carry out extensive supersonic parachute testing from high altitudes here on Earth, a field of research that had been dormant since the 1970s.

HEAT SHIELD SEPARATION

Next, the spacecraft jettisons its heat shield, around 20 seconds after the parachute has been deployed. The rover is exposed to the atmosphere for the first time, and uses landing radar to bounce signals off the surface and calculate its precise altitude.

The mission will also see another technology deployed for the first time: the "Terrain Relative Navigation" (TRN) system that uses a special camera to identify surface features and compare them to an onboard map where engineers pre-programmed the safest landing sites.

"That gives our vehicle eyes, and the ability to really see where she'sgoing and figure out where she is," said Chen.



surface













KIM SHOWCASES 'FLOWER POWER'

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has covered herself with just peonies for her latest picture post on social media. The star is also seen flaunting her iconic contoured face with smokey eyes and dark lips. Alongside the image, which currently has 1.5 million likes, she wrote: "Flower Power".

PARIS WAS ABUSED AT SCHOOL

Model Paris Jackson, daughter of pop king Michael Jackson, says she went through similar abuse at school as Paris Hilton. Jackson attended a reformatory school in Utah and she shared that she identified with the treatment endured by Hilton, who recently testified in court about the physical and emotional abuse she suffered during her time at school.



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



love life is stable and you are ready to make a commitment to your loved one. If you are married, your relationship will become more intense and attachment will strengthen.

TAURUS

Unless you mind your moods and manners today, you are likely to hurt, and lose, a lot of

friends, fears Ganesha, Your thoughts and feelings will be unduly unsteady and unpredictable. It may not always be possible to maintain your calm, to stay in control.

GEMINI

You will be bound by the bonds of love with your friends today. Deep introspection will provide the muchneeded balm to your fragile state of mind. You need to keep your temper in check, says Ganesha



Besides pleasure, the day will also fare well for business. As an entrepreneur, you may be able to see important deals and ventures coming through. You may go on a tour for business purposes in the later half of the day.

LEO

It is always a small world till vou dream big! Ganesha foresees chances of you tran

scending your regular boundaries as you combine forces with people and conceive interests larger than what most people dream of. This route is not the easiest, in that it may be hard to convince people who see differently, espe cially conservative bosses.

VIRGO

The way you feel today will bring abou many changes in your behaviour, savs Ganesha. You will probably make some choices that will involve some high expenditure. In the afternoon, you may entertain relatives and friends a home, says Ganesha.

LIBRA



When Shraddha understood value of 'zero'

Mumbai: Actress Shraddha Kapoor describes the lockdown phase of last year as one of her crucial phases for self-realisation. It was a period when she could learn to unlearn and redefine the value of zero, the spiritual meaning of 'shunya', she says

"As an actress, being a part of show business, we have to look in a certain way and that changes also with every film that we do, every character I play. Recently I invested in a beverage project in which I really do not have to count my calories while having my favourite drinks. In a way, during lockdown, I have understood and redefined the value of 'shunya', and now I know the brand of product or even brand of cinema I would like to associate myself with,³ adds the Baaghi actress.

Shraddha has been around in the industry for around a decade, and she has faced success, failure, praise and criticism. Her debut film Teen Patti fared below expectation, her third film Aashiqui 2 was a musical superhit, followed by *Ek Villain*. IANS

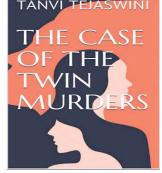
Loyoleans embark on a publishing journey Students bitten by the writing bug were taught composition techniques to create and publish their own e-Books POST NEWS NETWORK TANVI TEIASWIN

Bhubaneswar: At a time when mobile and iPads are an integral part of the lives of millennials, Lovola School authorities here have adopted a unique way to enhance the creative writing skills of their students

In a joint venture, principal Father Victor Misquiths, SJ, conceptualised 'K12 Writing Fest' in collaboration with Shaon Mitra, the director of Future Learner K12, a well known publishing house to bring students' talent to the fore.

Result: The first e-Book of a five book series, comprising four stories of supernatural genre, all authored by the students, has been published recently. The illustrations in the book have also been drawn by the students.

The writers are Sanidhya Jena of Class 7 (The One in the Façade), Simran Sahoo of Class 8 (Talent Brown), Swastik Padhy of Class



Cover of Tanvi's e-Book

7 (Mystery Case De Earl) and Archita Samantara of Class 7 (Fearing The Unknown). Tapasi Patnaik. Spandan Dash, Anmol P(All of Class 10) and Sushree Tamanna worked as illustrators in the e-book

The Loyoleans wrote their stories and poems and the FLK12 team presented the work of the students on the global Amazon Kindle platform. Titled Loyola Achieves and *Logs*, is a five part series covering



An illustration by Tapasi Patnaik

a wide range of genres. It is to give ambitious new authors and poets a rare chance to be published. "VIS **ITANTS L'BBSR: FLK12, FILE 1** is the first e-Book of the series.

A second module e-Book was simultaneously introduced in which individual students bitten by the writing bug were trained on composition techniques to create and publish their own e-Books. Tanvi Tejaswini of

Her e-Book The Case Of The Twin Murders was the first book to go on The Amazon Kindle platform and it is a matter of great pride that she reached the second position in the Children's Crime & Thriller Category on the Kindle Store during the first week of its release. "Quite a few of my children have been brooding over the enforced home confinement of the last few months. A winner as the saying goes is someone who does things differently. Tanvi is one among a winning breed of Loyoleans who has been able to change adversity into an opportunity for creative writing," said the excited principal.

Class 6 is one such success story.

"It has given talented and ambitious new authors and poets a rare opportunity to become better communicators and enhance their leadership skills," said Mousumi Jena, a teacher of English department who joined as the project coordinator for the first book.

NehaKakkar donates₹5 lakh to veteran lyricist Santosh Anand

Mumbai: Singer Neha Kakkar will donate Rs 5 lakh to veteran lyricist Santosh Anand during an upcoming episode of Indian Idol 12, after the lyricist speaks of how he is battling a tough financial situation and has incurred debts.

Neha is a judge on the show, and Anand will appear as a guest with musician Pvarelal of the legendary composer duo of Laxmikant-Pyarelal. The duo had worked with Anand in classics as Prem Rog, Roti Kapada Aur Makaan and Shor in the past. An emotional Neha says: "I would like to give you Rs 5 lakh as a small gesture and would also like to request the Indian entertainment industry to give Santosh ji some work as he has been such a crucial part of our industry. It's our duty to help our colleagues in their bad times.

Her co-judge, composer Vishal Dadlani, then asks Anand to share a few of his songs with him. Vishal will help Anand release the songs. IANS

Prachi to make OTT debut with murder mystery

Mumbai: Actress Prachi Desai is all set to make her debut in the web space with the murder mystery film, Silence Can You Hear It, starring Manoj Bajpayee. 'This is all too excit-

ing for me and I feel blessed to be making my digital debut with such an incredible film. My experience of filming with the extraordinary cast and crew of the film has really been a phenomenal one and I can't wait for the audience to witness the movie on their screens," Prachi said.

The film also features Arjun Mathur, and Sahil Vaid, and is slated to release in March 2021 on Zee5. The film ells the story of the



chances that today you may have an overwhelm ing urge and desire to renovate your home. It may be the small things, but even a new showpiece can go a long way in adding to the general décor of the house.



SCORPIO Today will be a favourable

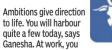
day to conclude transactions in houses or vehicles, foresees Ganesha. On the business front, you will possibly get lesser profits than expected. At work, your negotiating skills will save your money from being swindled by others.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees signals of you being calm and in control to safeguard the sentiments of your dear

ones. The afternoon is scheduled to be either the time for a business meet or for some fun and frolic. However, the evening may be heavy on your pocket as you may spend a lot to improve your appearance.

CAPRICORN



will strive for perfection and watch out for every minute detail that can ruin the expected results. Also, you will be brilliant with executing ideas and ensuring coordination among team mates.

Wake up! Things are moving guickly and you want to keep pace. Today, your ideas find a place in the sun, and you will bask in all the attention you garner. You need to decide quickly about certain matters, but leave the big decisions for now, savs Ganesha.

PISCES

Your honesty is your hall mark, and it will reap bountiful rewards for you today, both at the workplace on account of your integrity, and in relationships on account of your sincerity says Ganesha, Financially also, it promises to be a good day.



PEANUTS

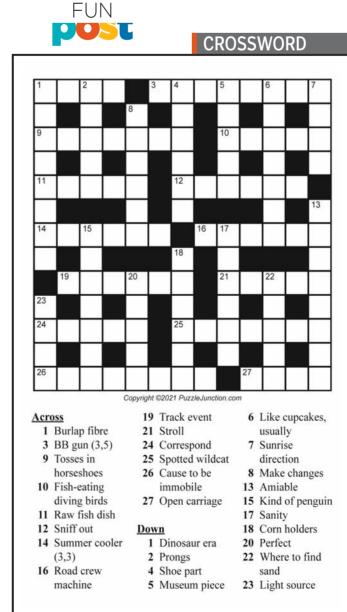


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

	1	9	6			С				7				
						7		3					6	
		8	5		4		В			3	6			Е
6						9	4			Е	А	В	С	7
		С				0			5				А	
	С			4			D	Е	6	В		0	7	
	9							0		С	7	4		2
В								С		1	9		5	
					1			А	Е	4				
		3			9		2			8		D	Е	
	8							2			4		0	А
5		Е								9	0	6		
4		А		9	2		6	В	1			Е	D	С
D	6					5	8					7		
	В	7		1										

SOLUTIONS RESIST

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

1			-					5		9					
	S	к	1	L	. 1	L	Е	D		L	E	-	D	G	Е
[Ρ		Ν		(С		М		U			D		1
		В	E	A		N		1	Ν	G	F	2	0	W	Ν
					(С		т					С		S
		S	С	C		V	Е		S	N	P		к	Е	
[Ρ		А					А		E					
[Е	Ν	D	Γ	. 1	E	S	S		M	ιlι	1	F	F	
[R		D)	X		т		E			R		Ρ
[U	Ν	1	Т	1	Ξ		Е	С	S	1	Г	A	S	Υ
[Κ		Е		\$	S		R		1			Ν		R
[Е	А	S	Y	1				Ρ	S	1	1	С	н	Е
										_	_				
	8	9	0	Е	5	2	3	1	6	D	4	С	A	В	7
	6	С	2	D	1	В	5	7	А	0	9	Е	8	4	3
		1.00										- 0			

OPTS



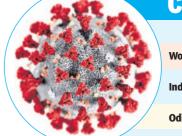






GIVING WAY

The complex housing Biswanath Pandit Central Library at Khannagar in Cuttack being demolished to give way for Netaji Bus Terminal, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	11,05,40,408	8,54,28,741	24,43,160
lia	1,09,49,646	1,06,54,802	1,56,039
lisha	3,36,460	3,33,888	1,913

State has potential to emerge as metal industry hub: Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday said that Odisha has great potential to emerge as a global hub for steel, aluminium and other metal industries. The state has registered signif-

icant growth in mining and mineral industries over the past two decades. Industry-friendly measures of the state have attracted huge investments, he said. The Chief Minister along with

Union Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the production work at Guali and Jilling-Langalota iron ore mines allotted to state PSU—Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) on virtual mode

Patnaik said production at these two mines would help stabilise the iron ore market and meet the supply and demand of the industry. He further said that the state government has always

taken early initiatives in mining sector.

generate approx. Rs To bring in trans-4.000-5,000 crore annua parency in transrevenue for the state of portation of minerals, i3MS has been launched and the auc

tion process of many large mines has been successfully completed in the last few years. Naveen said.

Stating industry-friendly measures of the state have encouraged investment, the Chief Minister emphasised on the need for a coordinated effort by the state and Centre towards realising the huge potential of the state in the mining and metal industries

The state government has been of the country," he said. supporting the reforms in mining bilising the supplies for small insector and it would benefit both the Centre and the state, he opined. dustries and generating huge em-



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the production work at Guali & Jilling-Langalota iron ore mines allotted to OMC on virtual mode. 5T Secretary VK Pandian is also seen OP PHOTO

FILIP TO MINING SECTOR

The Chief Minister along with Union Mines | Patnaik said production at Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the these two mines would help

production work at Guali and stabilise the iron ore market Jilling-Langalota iron ore mines allotted to and meet the supply and OMC on virtual mode demand of the industry

Both the mines have production capacity of 12 million tonne per annum and they possess approximately 275 million tonne consolidated iron ore reserves

Patnaik extended ployment opportunities in the state. his gratitude to the The two mines will generate approx. Rs 4000-5000 crore annual rev-Union minister for allocating the two enue for the state of Odisha. new iron ore mines to said Joshi. Joshi also requested the Chief

Minister to bring more mines into auction and operationalisation of all non-working mines, to increase the production and revenue generation in the state.

Both the mines have production capacity of 12 million tonne per annum and they possess approximately 275 million tonne consoli dated iron ore reserves. With the operation of these two mines. OMC's annual production is expected to touch 20 billion tonne.

Literature and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi and GKCM research centre CEO Sangita Gosain. The theme of the seminar was what more steps could be taken by

Chorus for classical

tag to Odissi music

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: A seminar

on Odissi music was held at Guru

Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM)

Research Centre under the Odissi Sangeet Ustav program, Thursday

wherein many exponents pitched

for classical tag to Odissi music.

GKCM Research Centre and Odia

Language, Literature and Culture

department. The seminar was inaugurated by Odia Language,

The seminar was organised by

POST NEWS NETWORK

the state government to give Odissi music the classical tag which it deserves Eminent personalities like Pt.

Damodar Hota, Pt. Gopal Chandra Panda, Shyamamani Devi, Guru Ramhari Das and others offered their valuable suggestions

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



3 HRMS modules launched for govt staff

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: As part of 5T model of governance, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Thursday launched three new modules of Human **Resource Management System** (HRMS) for the state government employees

With these three modules the HRMS has become a comprehensive system and all government-to-employee (G2E) transactions have been made online.

Launching the modules, Mahapatra said these new modules developed by Centre for Modernising Government Initiative (CMGI) will help all the departments in quick disposal of de-



partmental proceedings, quarter allotment and vacation, and timely verification of service records for sanction of different benefits.

He directed all departments and employees to make best use of the system and assured that any operational difficulty would be duly resolved

The launching of new modules will help the departments in quick disposal of departmenta proceedings, quarter allotment and vacation and timely verification of service records for sanction of different benefits

Outlining the modules, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Sanjeev Chopra said HRMS 2.0 was launched by Chief Minister in July 2020. Launching of e-disciplinary proceeding (eDP), e-quarter management system (eQMS), e-service book (eSB) are further additions to the system. This makes the system more inclusive and effective Chopra said.

Executive Director of CMGI, Md Sadique Alam said eDP has the provisions for issuance of online show-cause notice to the delinquent officer, issue of hearing notices, disposal by disciplinary authority, appeal to the appellate authority and online tracking of the implementation of the final order Similarly, eQMS tracks occupa-

tion and vacancy of government quarter on real time basis. It is also integrated with iFMS for online payment of arrears. E-Service Book captures all service records and entries in the service book of government employees. It has the facility of auto-updation upon posting, transfer and sanction of claims.

Curb illegal trafficking of cows: Sarangi to CM

two mines will

Odisha

RALHAD JOSHI UNION

the OMC

Speaking on the occasion, Union

Minister Joshi said that Odisha is

rich in mines and minerals. The

economy of both the state and the

country will grow if the work is

done in coordination. "The coor-

dination between state and Centre

will lay foundation for beginning

of a new era in economic growth

"These mines will help in sta-

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 18: Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Pratap Chandra Sarangi Thursday wrote to Chief



Farmer outfits stage 'Rail Roko' against agri laws

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Different farmer outfits under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha



DIGITAL GOVERNANCE Launching of e-disciplinary proceeding (eDP), e-guarter management system (eQMS), e-service book (eSB) are additions to HRMS 2.0 launched in July 2020 The modules developed by

SELF-IMMOLATION BID Instigators to face music, says DCP

Minister Naveen Patnaik to augment surveillance and patrolling and put in place robust ground level intelligence gathering system to prevent illegal cattle trafficking.

The Union minister wrote a letter to the Chief Minister in the wake of a tragic incident in Balasore where around 40 cows and three men were killed after a truck illegally transporting the cows overturned.

Sarangi stated that illegal trafficking of cattle has become rampant in Odisha, pointing to grow ing laxity in law enforcement and alleged tacit support from agencies which are supposed to enforce the statutes such as Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1960, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, the Transport of Animals Rules 1978 and other relevant rules made from time to time.

"I may add here that Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1960 was one of the pioneering legislations in the country made under

incident in Sarangi urged Balasore Naveen to order where around an investigation 40 cows and into the three men incident and were killed ensure that after a truck exemplary 'transporting' punishment is the cows meted out to overturned accused

a tragic

Sarangi urged the CM to direct the DGP to enhance patrolling vigilance in order to prevent illegal trafficking of cattle

the dynamic leadership of Late Shri Biju Patnaik," Sarangi mentioned.

The Union minister urged Naveen to order an investigation into the incident and ensure that exemplary punishment is meted out to accused. He also urged the Chief Minister to direct the Director General of Police (DGP), Odisha to enhance patrolling vigilance in order to prevent illegal trafficking of cattle.

Thursday organised 'Rail Roko' to press for consideration of farmers' demands to repeal the controversial farm laws of the Centre.

The Navnirman Krushak Sanghatan, All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee and several others took part in the agitation called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the umbrella body of farmer outfits for the farmers' agitation. They attempted to bring the train movement to a halt in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jajpur and other areas to show the strength of unity among the farmers for the cause "We took part in the agitation

under the call of Samyukta Kisan Morcha. This was organised to protest against the controversial farm laws. The government has become mute spectator to the farm agitations in the state. The stir was successful," Akshay Kumar, convener, Navnirman Krushak Sangathan said.

The outfits converged at several rail tracks in the state and observed the stir from 12 noon to 4 pm. With



Members of a farmer outfit demonstrate at Bhubaneswar railway station

The farmer outfits attempted to bring the train movement to a halt in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jajpur and other areas to show the strength of unity

slogans and banners of demands, the protesters appealed to the Union government to consider the demands of farmers and resolve the issue. Suresh Panigrahi, state secretary of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, said. "The stir was called in Odisha to demand the repeal of the laws, withdrawal of false charges against agitating farmers and peasant leaders and adequate compensation to the families of farmers killed in the Delhi Chalo Krishak Andolan.'

The outfits halted Puri-Howrah Special Express train and Puri-New Delhi Nandankanan Express at Bhubaneswar railway station. A few farmer leaders were also detained during their protest, Panigrahi said.

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: In view of frequent incidents of self-immolation attempts near the state Assembly, the Commissionerate Thursday said that stringent action will be taken against people found provoking the aggrieved citizens to take such steps.

Speaking to media persons, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Umashankar Das said that police have started a probe to find out the alleged instigators behind such repeated acts of self-immolation bids. He also warned of stringent action against people found provoking the citizens to attempt self-immolation when the Assembly is in session. The areas surrounding the

Assembly have turned into a hot spot for aggrieved citizens to vent their grievance through immolation bids.

Several such self-immolation bids also occurred during the Winter session of the Assembly that put the state government in a very awkward situation last year. The suicide at-

Several such incidents also occurred during the Winter session of the Assembly that put the state government in a very awkward situation last year

tempt by parents of the five-yearold girl from Nayagarh who was brutally killed reportedly by her neighbour triggered a state-wide furore in November, 2020.

Keeping in view repeated incidents, the Commissionerate Police have beefed up security in Assembly zone as well.

Winged beauties bask at an islet near Cuttack's Jobra barrage in the Mahanadi river, Thursday

Implement HC order on fee waiver: OPF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: A State Level Parents' Convention was organised by Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF) here Thursday where School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash and Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo were present.

In the convention, the parents demanded that the fee waiver notification should be implemented as per an order of the High Court. Any violation, if made, strong action leading to withdrawal of COR and NOC may be taken against these schools

Use of books as prescribed by NCERT and SCERT was also in their demand. Books list should be provided to parents as per government orders

The outfit demanded that par-

ents would purchase textbooks from local markets at competitive prices. This apart, Odia books

in all English medium schools should be as per SCERT curriculum.

They also demanded that the School and Mass Education department should allow Certificate of Recognition (COR) applied schools for online admission of 25 per cent students under RTE Act in state.

The department should provide books to all Odia medium students under Bharatiya Shiksha Vikash Sansthan.

They should allow COR and COR applied schools under different scholarship and entrance examinations in Navodaya, OAVS and others. Results of all scholarships should be announced online to maintain neutrality and transparency.

Nodal officer for grievance redressal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department has notified about appointment of an official for hearing the grievances of transgenders.

The notification was made as per Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules 2020. The department has notified the name of SSEPD director as the appellate authority for redressal of appeals received under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules 2020.

The notification said that aggrieved persons can approach the official on issues related to theirrights as prescribed under the law.



OP PHOTO





downtown

BMC braces for distribution of excess food **Over 50% of cheating**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: With a view to reducing wastage of surplus food and feeding the same to the needy in the Capital city, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to rope in non-profit organisation (NPO) for collection and distribution of excess food.

OrissaPOST

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 19 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

Observing the excess food being wasted on a daily basis, the civic authority has come up with the initiative which will bridge the gap between destitute, poor and hungry and individuals and organisations willing to give surplus food. A tender has been floated by the BMC looking for NPO for a period of two years that will be involved in efficient collection and distribution of excess food.

"The NPO in consultation with the BMC will identify suitable location for distribution of food which can be changed later. It will also arrange necessary storage places for food, container, utensils and volunteers to execute the project. However, food collection, transportation and distribution will be done strictly as per the approved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the BMC," a senior offi-



in efficient collection and distribution of excess food

cial at the BMC said.

The official also mentioned that the responsibility of quality and condition of food will be given completely to the organisation hired. The food will be inspected by the Food Inspector which the NPO will have to organise. "BMC under any circumstances

initiative which will bridge the gap between destitute, poor and hungry and individuals and organisations willing to give surplus food

will not be responsible for any eventuality of food poisoning or any other mishap due to serving of food," the official added. Moreover, the NPO that will

identify point of origin of excess food, such as hotels, hostels, mandaps, and celebration events/organisers and will submit the list along with method, locations and time of distribution to the BMC. Meanwhile, the civic authority will engage in pursuing the hotel and restaurant owners, party organizers and Kalyan Mandaps to handover excess food to the BMC engaged organization. It will also provide a 24x7 exclusive toll-free number to the stakeholders/donors willing to call for the purpose of donation of excess food. It can be mentioned that earlier

individual organisations in Capital city had installed community fridges and food banks to alleviate hunger. However, owing to lack of awareness and transportation of large quantities of excess food, the initiatives couldn't get much traction.

"We have been urging the authorities to formulate an efficient system so that the hungry could benefit from the excess food thrown on a daily basis. While the restaurants, hotels and other places are willing to offer the excess food, they don't have adequate transportation, storage or distribution facilities. Hopefully, the civic authority's new initiative kicks off so that no one sleeps hungry," said Sukanti Chand Behera, a Right to Food activist here.

TTA MAJDOOR SAL

cases remain unsolved

IPC at various police

stations in the city

during the last

10 years

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The city has become a happy hunting ground for fraudsters who dupe thousands of gullible denizens of lakhs every year even as tardy pace of police investigation gives the criminals ample opportunity to target more individuals.

According to the available data through a Right to Information (RTI) plea, it came to the fore that probe into over 50 per cent of cases registered at various police stations in Capital city have been pending during the past decade 2010 to 2020

Data revealed that as many as 4,054 cases have been registered under Section 420 of the IPC (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) at various police stations in the city during the last 10 years. However, police succeeded in solving only 1,785 cases out of the total registered cases during the period.

As many as 2,269 cases were pending at the police stations in the

TARDY Data revealed that as many as 4,054 INVESTIGATION cases have been registered under Section 420 of the

HOWEVER, POLICE SUCCEEDED IN SOLVING ONLY 1,785 CASES OUT OF THE TOTAL REGISTERED CASES DURING THE PERIOD

city in which the victims are yet to get justice.

Khandagiri police failed to avail justice to the victims in 226 cheating cases out of the total 315 cases registered under Section 420 of IPC in the last 10 years.

Similarly, Mancheswar police failed to solve 148 cases out of the total 213 cheating cases reported during the above period. As many as 160 cases were pending out of 250-odd cheating cases reported at Nayapalli police station during the period.

Likewise, Chandrasekharpur police failed to solve 190 cases out of the total 300 cases registered during the last decade.

However, Sahid Nagar police managed to solve more than half of the cheating cases registered between 2010 and 2020. Out of the 557 cheating cases registered at the Sahid Nagar police station, investigations are pending in only 143 cases. The city failed to arrest many fraudsters in the cheating cases. It managed to arrest 1,599 accused persons while a large number of accused is still at large. Laxmisagar police managed to arrest 145 persons while around 300 are still absconding.

Speaking on the issue, DCP Umashankar Das said that cheating cases usually take more time to solve due to various complexities involved in the issues. There is a staff crunch which is affecting the probe process, the DCP

added

Handloom expo spins ₹9 crore biz



File photo of ministers Padmini Dian and Ashok Chandra Panda and other senior officials at the inaugural occasion of the expo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The 20th National Level Handloom Expo, 2021 organised Bovanika at Unit-III IDCO Exhibition Ground here registered sales to the tune of over ₹9 crore

The exhibition started January 20 progressively achieved sales for a span of 29 days. The Handloom Expo has gained much more popularity among customers due to its decent ambience. Sufficient space inside the ground has good impact on visitors/customers to move around, wearing masks to maintain social distance and make purchases of their required handoom products from different stalls

crores. The total sale of Odisha Handloom products amounts to ₹3 crore. Handloom organisations of other states like Co-optex of Tamil Nnadu, APCO of Andhra Pradesh, Mrignavanee of Madhva Pradesh. Kasfab of J&K witnessed good sales,

more than previous year and expressed their satisfaction on sales as well as arrangements of the fair organised by Boyanika.

On the closing day, a buyer-seller meet was held and all stall incharges were felicitated by the Textiles and Managing Director, Bovanika Jyotiprakash Das with an Uttariya, a sweet packet and certificate of participation. The deputy director of Weaver Service Centre, Bhubaneswar, officers of

TO 3,36,460

STATE'S COVID

TALLY CLIMBS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Odisha's Covid-19 tally mounted to 3,36,460 Thursday after 63 people tested positive for the virus, while one more fatality pushed the death toll to 1.913, a Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said

The state has so far conducted over 81 lakh sample tests for

Covid-19 Of the new cases, 39 were re-

ported from various quarantine centres and the remaining were local-contact infections. "Regret to inform the demise of

50-year-old male Covid positive patient of Mayurbhanj District..., the H&FW department tweeted. A total of 53 other Covid-19 pa-

tients have died due to comorbidities, the official said. Odisha now has 706 active cases, while 3,33,788 patients have re-

covered from the disease. The state has so far conducted over 81 lakh sample tests for Covid-19, including 19,374 Wednesday.

Meanwhile, 5.03.614 healthcare and frontline workers have received vaccine shots till Wednesday, officials said.



Paramedics under the banner of 'Odisha Paramedical Karmachari Sangha' beg at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, as part of their protest for fulfilment of their demands

RTI body decries clean chit to Sethi

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Soochna Adhikar Abhiyan, a body of state-based RTI activists Thursday expressed its displeasure over the clean chit given to senior bureaucrat Bishnupada Sethi by the Lokayukta in the Omfed polythene bag purchase scam in 2016. The body announced that it would register a plea before the Orissa High Court against the Lokayukta decision. The body alleged that the

Manipur cyclist raises funds for homeless

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: The coronavirus and the lockdown afterwards has impacted people in large way that includes daily wagers, migrant labourers and homeless who for many days suffered due to strict lockdown.

For their welfare and to raise fund for them, 25-year-old Philem Rohan Singh from Manipur, had started a campaign titled 'Cycling and in the present expedition which for Humanity' under which the cyclist-activist is spreading awareness on humanity and environ-

ment and trying to raise funds for the homeless to feed. Through this cycle expedition he aims to raise money for the people who have been distressed and have lost their livelihood due to Covid-19 pandemic. The MA in English student Singh started cycling in 2018 and had done many cycling trips for many different issues and themes. This is his eighth expedition for the 'Cycling for Humanity campaign

He reached Bhubaneswar Monday. He has raised approximately ₹30,000 so far through the campaign and has covered Odisha and West Bengal and will travel through Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Through his expeditions since 2018 he has travelled the whole country till now.

"I don't know your perspective but to me feeding a hungry stomach and making an unhappy soul happy is the best thing I have ever enjoyed in my life," said Singh.

As many as 2,269 cases were pending at the police

stations in the

city in which

yet to get

justice

the victims are

This year the expo achieved sales of more than ₹9 crore, while Boyanika itself achieved ₹1.51

Directorate of Textiles and Boyanika were present in the closing ceremony.

Lokavukta reportedly ignored the CAG reports, letter by then Omfed MD to state government while rejecting the cases against Sethi.

started in February 2021, he is travelling across 10 states for raising funds for Covid-19 affected people.

Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan said, "ILS is one of the

premier institutions in Odisha and

Eastern India and the initiatives

of the institute are timely." He

stressed that the institute should also

focus on Marine Biotechnology as

Odisha has tremendous opportunity

for improving the economy and

ecology of the state in partnership

Renu Swarup, Secretary,

Department of Biotechnology at

with other institutions.

HOMEBOUND



A man pedals home with a heap of paddy straw on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Thursday

32ND FOUNDATION DAY ILS improved livelihood of tribals: Vardhan

THE UNION MINISTER APPRECIATED THE INSTITUTE FOR TESTING OVER 1,50,000 SAMPLES FROM ACROSS ODISHA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology and Earth Science, Harsh Vardhan Thursday hailed the scientific achievements of Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) regarding Covid-19 diagnosis and research while participating in the 32nd Foundation Day of the institute The

through videoconferencing. "The institute has sequenced

OP PHOTO

around 500 viral genomes cultures that will enable and estabfurthering research and lished 17 virus development efforts of cultures that Covid-19 in coming days will enable furthering research and development efforts of Covid-19 in coming days. ILS, an au-

tonomous institute of Department of Biotechnology, has excelled in basic research in biotechnology in the area of cancer biology, infectious

HARSH VARDHAN UNION

H&FW MINISTE



diseases and plant sciences. ILS scientists have contributed in improving livelihoods of tribal population, using science and technology applications effectively," said

the minister. He also appreciated the institute for testing over 1,50,000 samples from across Odisha.

On the occasion, Petroleum and

the Centre, mentioned about the impressive progress made by DBT-ILS particularly in the area of tribal health and nutrition using multiomics approach which will have far reaching implications. ILS represents an institution which combines basic and applied research to technology development and application to stakeholders, said Swarup.

Ajay Parida, Director, ILS gave a detailed presentation on the work carried out in the area of research and development, Covid management, societal work as well as entrepreneurship development.

During the programme, minister Vardhan also laid the foundation stone for the Animal Challenge Study platform at ILS for undertaking evaluation studies of potential drug and vaccine candidates. He inaugurated the Bio-repository for the Covid-19 clinical samples at ILS that now holds more than 1,000 samples of nasopharyngeal swabs, blood, urine and saliva etc from 202 Covid patients.

OR ASSIFIED AD EM ENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING

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









state

NH-20 underpasses incomplete; wildlife exposed to dangers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Feb 18: Roads and railway lines passing through forests have often proved dangerous for wildlife. In the past, elephants and other animals have died after coming under wheels or colliding with the vehicles in Keonjhar.

The NH-20 linking Panikoili (Jajpur) and Rimuli in Keonjhar have reserve forests along both the side at many places. The NH poses threat to the lives of the wild animals wandering freely in the reserve forest area.

There are many instances of wild animals dying in road mishaps on NH-20 in the past. In view of dangers to wildlife, there was a plan by the NHAI and the forest department to build underpasses at some places of the road so as to provide the wild animals a safe passing.

Wildlife activists and environmentalists have expressed concern over the safety of elephants. They have laid stress on underpasses on the national highways passing through forested areas.

Work on underpasses is lying incomplete while some underpasses, though completed, are

Youth hacks mother to death in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Soro, Feb 18: A youth hacked his mother to death in Mirpur Khaira village under Khaira police limits in Balasore district late Wednesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Mani Sial, wife of Raghunath Sial, and the son as Jagabandhu Sial. Police arrested the accused Thursday.

Jagabandhu returned home drunk Wednesday night and picked up a quarrel with his family members. He then attacked family members with a wooden plank and sharp weapons. She was hacked mercilessly and died on the spot. Khaira police the body for post-mortem.



not convenient for animals to

move across the road. The reserve forests in Keonjhar have a good number of elephants. Special underpasses are needed for elephants.

Pipilia Thakurani Shala is a place where elephants move freely. The work for an elephant underpass with 15 ft height was taken up some years back at this place, but its work is incomplete. At this place, elephants often come to face to face with speeding vehicles while crossiron-ore laden truck on NH-20 ing the road at night. Sound of vehicle horns and bright light are near Balijodi area under harmful to elephant calves. Ghatagaon forest range in

Notably, three elephants were

Reserved forests in Keonjhar are home to a good number of jumbos. Pipilia Thakurani Shala is a place where elephants move freely. Special underpasses on NH-20 are needed for them to cross the road safely

killed when they were hit by an

Keonjhar, August 22, 2019.

to 504 customers in first phase POST NEWS NETWORK

BUCB refunds money

Baripada, Feb 18: Bringing a sigh of relief for 504 of its depositors, the Baripada Urban Cooperative Bank (BUCB) whose license was cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2014, refunded Rs 9,00,69,502.

The BUCB refunded money to 504 beneficiaries in the first phase Thursday.

Over 76,000 customers had their deposits. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies had recently directed the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies Baripadafor smooth disbursement of the money to respective depositors.

Kesinga traffic woes to end soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, Feb 18: The deteriorating traffic problem in Kesinga NAC of Kalahandi district has been a cause concern for the residents as well as the NAC administration.

A meeting to find solutions to the ever-increasing problem was convened under the chairmanship of NAC, executive officer, Siddharth Patnaik at the NAC conference hall recently.

In the meeting, the executive officer, SDPO S Sushree, Kesinga tehsildar Gandaram Khamari, police officials, NAC officials, members of Kesinga Businessmen's Association and journalists participated and discussed the issue thoroughly.

National Highway-26 passes through Kesinga town. However, commuters have nightmarish experience while commuting on this highway from the police station to the NAC office via Hospital Chowk.

It was discussed that 18 fruit shops, 19 vegetable shops and 15 vendors are spreading their shops on the footpath, encroaching upon almost half the road. Also, illegal parking of two-wheelers and four-wheelers is compounding the problem.

Rourkela

Bic

Bid



Officials of quality control department along with police personnel checking food standards at shops in Kuchinda of Sambalpur, Thursday.

PARI MURDER CASE

The video says: "After

body in a sack and later

dumped it near a pond. I

July 14, last year. When the girl re-

sisted, he strangled her to death.

Bothra had revealed at a presser

December 22 that, the 5-year-old

girl of Jadupur village in Nayagarh

had gone at around 10.30am to the

accused's house which is about 100

metre from her house.

went to pond to throw

away her leggings to

destroy evidence..."

killing her, I put the

Confessional video of accused goes viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Feb 18: A video of the accused minor boy confessing his crime before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the state crime branch in the Pari murder case surfaced Thursday. In the video, the boy is seen telling the interrogators that he attempted to rape Pari. He also is heard saving that even though he strangled the girl to death, he failed in his attempt to rape her. The accused admitted that he was alone in his house that day.

"After killing her, I put the body in a sack and later dumped it near a pond. Later, I went to pond to throw away her leggings to destroy evidence. I repented after committing the crime. Pari's mother came to our house and asked me if I have seen her but I lied. I denied seeing Pari when my mother asked me about her too," the accused confessed in the video.

Notably, SIT chief Arun Bothra had previously claimed December 22 at a presser that the accused was addicted to watching porn films. The victim had reportedly visited his house to collect blackberry when he attempted to rape her,

join Suzuki Motors POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 18: Berhampur, Feb 19: As many as 243 students of the government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), here have joined Suzuki Motors, a report said. The matter came to the fore after the selected students left for places of posting in Gujarat Wednesday.

243 students of

Berhampur ITI

The students from fitter, welder, electrician and MMV trades had qualified in the tests conducted by Suzuki Motors for different posts in the company. The tests were conducted at ITI Berhampur February 14 and the successful students would be engaged in a package of Rs 19,400 per month.

Five special buses from Suzuki Motors, carrying the students, were flagged off by Dr KVR Chary, Director IISER; Kanhu Chowdhury, RTO Ganjam and Ranjan Kumar Swain, Principal, Parala Maharaja Engineering College.

BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED Regd office: Bajaj Allianz House,

Airport Road, Yerwada, Pune 411006. Tel.: 020 66026777, Fax: 020 66026789

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the office of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited located Subhra Plaza, O T Road, Balasore, Odisha-756001 will be shifted at its new address at Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd 2nd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road, Balasore -756001, Odisha



OST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Feb 18: Lakhs of rupees have allegedly been misappropriated in the alibi of repair and restoration of piped drinking water projects damaged by floods in July and August, 2020 in Jajpur, a report said. According to the report, 120 piped drinking water projects under RWSS were damaged in the district. The department had claimed to have spent Rs 1. 29 crore towards their repair and restoration, but in fact only 50 projects had been damaged by flood. 1 crore meant for 70 other projects had been misappropriated, it was alleged.



UCs were returned to the district RWSS. Various outfits demanded a high level probe into the alleged irregularities in the restoration of projects damaged by Fani, Titli and floods in Julv& August, 2020) It was alleged that over Rs 1 crore has been misappropriated through forged bills in the repair of about 70 drinking water projects in July and August. Bari, Jajpur sadar, Binjharpur and Dasrathpur blocks were worst affected by the floods. People in these blocks sought to know how many project were affected by flood in their areas. They refuse to believe that an average of Rs 1.5 lakh might have been spent for each project as claimed by the RWSS. Executive engineer of the Jajpur RWSS, Motilal Tiwari said, "UCs of the restoration must have been submitted within 45 days after completion of the work."

	ent Notice f				No I, KEONJHAF NCB - 07/2020-2	
 Name of the Work Total Number of W Estimated Cost Class of Contracto Period of Complet 	/ork : pr :	2 (Two) Rs.5.47 lakhs t 'B', 'C' & 'D' Cli One month for	ass	IS	0110 C 010	
Procurement Officer	Bid		lability of tender online for bidding		Date & time of Opening of Tender	
Flocurement Onicer	No.	From	То	of seeking tender clarification	in O/o. the E.E.R.W. Division - I, Keonjhar	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division - I,	Road Works N.C.B. No	Dt. 19.02.2021	Dt.01.03.2021	Dt.01.03.2021	Dt.02.03.2021	

Fishermen see red over 'blue flag' status to beaches

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gopalpur, Feb 18: The state government has initiated steps to develop Gopalpur and Sunapur beaches to ensure Blue Flag status to them. But the move has encountered opposition from local fishermen.

The administration has already identified land at the two beaches for its development.

The part of the beach in front of the NAC Children Park in Gopalpur will be developed. Local fishermen have opposed it. They staged protests and road blockade, saying their livelihood will be affected if the Gopalpur beach is accorded the

Blue Flag status. A delegation of the fishermen held talks with the NAC authorities and another round of dis-

cussions will be held in this regard February 21. The fishermen pointed out that the administration has identified places at Gopalpur, Buxipalli, Venkatraipur, Kuturu, Haripur and Bandar beaches. Over decades, they have been using the places to park their boats, fishing nets and other instruments. About

10 days ago, the sub-collector had visited these places and asked the fishermen to vacate the places. The fisherman had demanded

proper rehabilitation and said their livelihood will be affected after developmant of these places.

Earlier, it was alleged that over Rs 1.90 crore had been bungled in the name of restoring drinking water projects which were damaged by Titli (October, 2018) and Fani (April, 2019).

Then executive engineer of the RWSS.



Jajpur Division, had submitted utilization certificates for the restoration work of the damaged drinking water projects. There were anomalies in generation of utilization certificates (UCs), which pointed to irregularities in fund utilization.

The then engineer-in-chief of the RWSS had pointed out violation of 7-A of the Odisha General Financial Rules after pointing out anomalies. The faulty

Admin apathy turns schoolkids into labourers in Malkangiri district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Korukonda, Feb 18: With repeated pleas of villagers to get a road constructed falling on deaf ears, schoolchildren had no option but to level a village road.

This incident occurred at Padalput village of Patrel panchayat under Korukonda block in Malkangiri district Tuesday. The children's act has since been a talk of the town here.

It was when the school-going children came out of their homes carrying spades and baskets, the scene reminded people of the Odia poem "Tuma Pari Chhota Pila Tie...

To go to Padalput village, one has to reach Majhiguda. A PWD road from Malkangiri-Balimela main road goes to Kenduguda. A bifurcation road from this PWD road runs to Majhiguda village.

While the PWD road and the bifurcation road are in motorable condition. the road between Padalput and Majhiguda villages is an earth road and is in pathetic condition.

In past, the villagers took the matter up with the sarpanch and block development officer requesting them to lay a concrete or tarmac-topped road on the road, but to no avail.



"The administration has not carried out any repair work on this road let alone constructing the road," alleged the villagers. With no options left, the villagers have been repairing the road every year. They would pool a fund and offer labour to give the road at least a condition for commuting on cycles.

As the schools are open, students are using this road to go to their institutions. In a recent incident, two students had a close shave after they fell off their bicycles as they could not negotiate the potholes on the road. And going to save the children, a motor cyclist coming from the opposite direction applied sudden brakes and he also fell off the bike. The incident forced the students to

think about the issue. Eventually, they decided to do something to ensure their safety. Tuesday, they came out of their houses carrying spades, crowbars and baskets

Hearing about the incident, the members of two SHGs came to the spot and joined hands with the children. A few hours later, the road looked leveled with no potholes. After learning this, 'Team Sangathan', a social organization, informed the Collector and the concerned executive engineers about what the children have done. He also shared some photographs of the kids in action with the officials. The villagers urged the administration to repair their road as soon as possible.

	Keonjhar 07/2020-21		at moor and	with effect from 24th April
	Further details can be seen from the website:		 A state of the sta	
	OIPR-25110/11/0009/2021	Executive Engineer, R	.W. Division, Keonjhar	2021
1				

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is here by given to all concerned that, Sri Santos Kumar Sethy, S/o- Late Ratnakar Sethy, Resident of A Siriabagicha, Near Laxmi Rice Mill, Po- Jharsuguda, Dis Jharsuguda, Odisha, has sworn an affidavit on date: 15.02.2 regarding the loss of original Sale Deed No. 10861502730 Dto 12.12.2015 & ROR Khata No. 1067/4756 of Rajeev Ranjan. have also Lost original Sale Deed No. 1086160006 Dtd.:08.01.2016 & ROR Khata No. 1067/4762 of Ravi Shekha before this Sub-Registor, Jharsuguda, RoR, Jharsuguda, S Santosh Kumar Sethy has applied to the LIC HOUSING FINANC LTD. to avail housing loan by mortgaging the said document No Sale Deed No. 10861502730 Dtd. 12.12.2015 & ROR Khata No 1067/4756 and another sale deed No. 10861600060 dt 08.01.2016 & ROR Khata No. 1067/4762 are required to fil their claim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days fror the date of publication of this notice failing which it will b presumed that, the property having link with the said document s/are free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thes of against the applicant as a mortgagor and the company as th mortgagee shall be avoid and ineffective after the lapes of 1 (Fifteen) days of publication of this notice. (R.K. Choudhury) Advocate,

LIC Housing Finance Ltd., House No. Dt. 19.02.2021 AL- 36, Basanti Colony, Po- Rourkela- 1 Dist- Sundargarh, Mob. No. 9337402828

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-59 DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MECHANICAL CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR Email Address: semechcircle104@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice 2020-24

	Bid identification No	υ.	SEIWI/IVIDB-1//2020-21
1.	Name of the Work	:	Mechanical Gate Works
2.	No. of Works	2	02 (Two)
3.	Category of Executors	:	SSI Units registered under DIC NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters Hydro Mechanical Gates.
4.	Bid Identification No.	:	SEM/MDB-17/2020-21
5.	Estimated Cost	1	Rs.10,30,480.00 to
			Rs.17,32,948.00
6.	Period of Completion	0	30 (Thirty) Calendar Days
7.	Date & time of availability of	:	From Dt.19.02.2021 (10.00 A.M.)
	bid documents in the portal	:	to Dt.01.03.2021 (5.30 P.M.)
8.	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	1	Dt.01.03.2021 (upto 5.30 P.M.)
9.	Date and place of opening of	:	Dt.02.03.2021 (04.00 P.M. onward

in the O/o. the undersigned) 10. Name of the Officer Inviting Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswa Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https tendersodisha.gov.in.

> Sd./- Superintending Engineer Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswa OIPR-32405/11/0001/2021 Place: Kolkata

(Under Regulation 32 and 33 of the I	NOUNCEMENT nsolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India ss) Regulations, 2016)
3	RELEVANT	PARTICULARS
1.	Name of the corporate debtor	Maadurga Thermal Power Company Limited
2.	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	December 15, 2008
3.	Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies – Cuttack
4.	Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U40102OR2008PLC010501
5.	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Registered Office: CADD Centre Building, 2nd Floor Press Chhak, Madhupatna, Cuttack, Orissa - 753010 Plant Location: Bainchua, Tangi, Cuttack – 754022, Orissa
6.	Liquidation commencement date of the corporate debtor	June 25, 2019
7.	Name, address, email address, telephone number and the registration number of the Liquidator	Name: Pankaj Dhanuka Registered Address with IBBI: FE 328, Sector 3, Sait Lake City, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700106 Registered Email Address: pankajdhanuka@gmail.com Telephone: +91 98300 18128 Registration No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01205/2018-2019/11911 Communication Address: Deloitte Touche Tohmats India LLP, 13th Floor, Building- Omega, Bengal Intelligent Park, Block – EP & GP, Sector – V, Salt Lake City, West Bengal 700091 Communication Email Address: immtpclip@deloitte.com
8.	Date of E-Auction	Auction Start Date & Time: March 13, 2021 @ 11:00 a.m. Auction End Date & Time: March 13, 2021 @ 04:30 pm
9.	Manner of Obtaining the Process Document	The detailed terms and conditions of the auction process are set out in the process document, which can be obtained by the bidders by sending an email request at immtpclip@deloitte.com.
10.	Last Date of Obtaining the Process Document	March 11, 2021
11.	Subject Matter of Auction Process	Acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a going conce
12.	Manner of Submitting Bid	As set out in the process document to be issued by the liquidator of the Corporate Debtor.
13.	Mode of Sale	The mode of sale is open e-auction, where bidders can view other competitive bids from other bidders during the open window. The acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a going concern shall be on an 'as is where is' basis, witho any representation, warranty or indemnity by the Corporate Debtor or the liquidator.
14	Reserve Price	The reserve price for the purpose of conducting thi e-auction of the Corporate Debtor as a going conce is determined at INR 50 Crores.
15	Earnest Money Deposit requirement	Bidder(s) shall be required to submit an Earnest Monu Deposit ("EMD") of INR 50 lakhs in order to Bid for acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a going concer
Debt Bidd Insol if any the 0 the a relev The proc	tor as a going concern or any of its assets. ers must note that the aforementioned aucti vency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ('Code') y assets of the Corporate Debtor are realise Code read together with the applicable regu auction process being conducted by the liqui ant charge holder. liquidator reserves the right to amend and ess therein, without giving any reason, at an ation, including the aforementioned timeline, s w.mtpcl.in.	a binding offer or a commitment to sell the Corpora on process is being conducted in accordance with th and the relevant regulations thereunder. In the ever d by existing charge holders in terms of Section 52 lations, the same shall be excluded from the ambit dator, as and when such an option is exercised by th for annul this invitation including any timelines or th y time and in any respect. Any such amendment in th shall be notified on the website of the Corporate Debt For Maadurga Thermal Power Company Limitk Sc Pankaj Dhanul Regn. No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01205/2018-2019/119 rector 3, Salt Lake City, Koklata, West Bengal, 70011
	Deloitte Touc E: February 19, 2021 Bengal Intellige	Registered Email: pankajdhanuka@gmail.co Communication Addres the Tohmatsu India LLP,13th Floor, Building – Omeg ant Park, Block – EP & GP, Sector – V, Sait Lake Ci 1, Communication Email: inmtpclip@deloitte.co

FOCUS DEFENCE MODERNISATION

The whole world yearns after freedom. vet each creature is in love with his chains: this is the first naradox and inextricable knot of our nature **SRI AUROBINDO**



Changes in the offing

ven as India's GDP has been shrinking month after month, stock mar-🚽 kets are rising to newer heights with every passing day. This dichotomy has been in full glare right since the second quarter of this financial year. An investor who put half their savings in equities in March last year would have surely doubled his corpus by now — an over 100 per cent return. In fact, the dynamics of the stock markets have decoupled from economy. As economy shrinks, jobs come down and so does the demand. As demand dries up, companies fail to find buyers for their products and services. Once sales of services and goods fall, companies incur losses and revenues come down. Dividend payouts by companies to investors also thin out. In normal situation, it would seem that stock prices will be less pricey. The relentless rise in stock prices now is a very dicey scenario. It looks like a massive bubble is building up, only to burst in our face before long. Why such exact opposites are happening? Are the investors so naïve? Not exactly. These questions and many more like this are coming to mind. One reason for the unexpected rise in stock prices could be the falling wage bills of companies during the pandemic leading to a corresponding increase in the income of business owners. The returns to owners of businesses have gone up sharply while real wages have dropped. So the health of the economy may have gone down, but the returns to the owners have gone up — something that drives the stock prices of companies. We can assume that share prices go up when companies announce that they have reduced their wage bills. Stock markets across the world have been rallying in the midst of the global recession worsened by the coronovirus pandemic. The slump caused a drop in sales of companies because demand has evaporated. Yet, the returns to owners of businesses went up sharply while real wages dropped. The easy money policy by the RBI has also helped in good measure to sustain the market rally. There is enough money for people to borrow and invest in stocks and shares Another reason why share prices are going up is the accumulated capital of corporates. As demand drops, corporate houses do not make fresh investment in their businesses. Therefore, they return a part of their retained profits to shareholders by giving them higher dividends or through share buybacks. High dividends push the demand for shares, pushing up prices. Sharebuy-backs also reduce the float (supply) size of the shares in the markets, causing stock prices to go up. At present, real interest on term deposits offered by banks is negative if we factor in over six per cent retail inflation in the December quarter. The rate of interest on a term deposit in any Indian bank does not fetch 5-6 per cent. Therefore, the only instrument that gives positive returns is the investments in stock markets. Availability of easy money by banks, lack of avenues to grow money and allure of stock markets have combined to drive investors to equities markets. Will this rally sustain for long? Not likely. In the medium to long run, this is headed for a bustup. The earnings of companies are likely to come down as wage bills are headed for a markup. If the tax projections of the government in this year's budget are any indication, we will see that the size of tax projections is relatively smaller in the Q3-Q4 of the current fiscal. In such situations, markets are bound to get into a phase of correction.

WISDOM CORNER

- Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve. MARY KAY ASH
- The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time CHINESE PROVERE
- Work like there is someone working twenty four hours a day to take it away from you MARK CUBAN

WORDS**WORTH**

■ Bull in a china shop

t's still common, though rarely meaning reckless destruction of a physical kind. More usually, it's a way to express a metaphorical clumsiness. The damage is caused by want of diplomacy or tact or through mindless

BOOST TO ARMED FORCES

he Union Budget 2021-22 has come in the backdrop of a severe economic crisis induced by Covid-19 pandemic. The Indian economy, whose growth was already decelerating in 2019-20, seems to be witnessing a major contraction of by 7.7%, as assessed by the Economic Survey. The CMIE has assessed the unemployment figure as 122 million, including 12.8 million in the organised sector. China has been making belligerent moves on the border. The Defence Services have been clamouring for more funds to upgrade its combat capability. In this backdrop, defence outlay in the general Budget was keenly watched.

An analysis of MoDs overall expenditure during 2011 to 2021 would reveal that it has increased at a compound annual growth rate of 9.2%, of which the hike in pension and pay and allowances contribute 71%. On the contrary, the capital Budget has increased by a mere 13%. The FM has made an allocation of \$65.6 billion to the MoD, accounting for an increase of 1.4% over the last year's Budget and around 2.38% of India's GDP and 14% of CGE.

However, the major surprise has been accepting a major recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission to create a Nonlapsable Defence Capital Outlay Fund. This has been a recurring demand by the Defence Services, in view of a perception that the requirement of modernisation for the three Services has not kept pace with the allocation made by the Ministry of Finance. Army is the biggest spender (54%), followed by IAF and Navy. DRDO spends around 6% of defence expenditure for building prototypes and improving India's capability for producing major weapon system.

Capital expenditure accounts for nearly 35% of total defence Budget unlike the general Budget where it is of the order of only 15%. IAF is most capital intensive with a share of 44%, followed by the Navy and Army. It is a matter of satisfaction that there is a significant increase in capital expen-



Army is the biggest spender (54%), followed by IAF and Navy. DRDO spends around 6% of defence expenditure for building prototypes and improving India's capability for producing major weapon system. Capital expenditure accounts for nearly 35% of total defence Budget

The Commission, in its report,

has asked the government to cre-

ate in the Public Account of India

Rs 2,38,354 crore non-lapsable

Modernization Fund for Defence

(MFDIS) to bridge the gap between

projected requirement and Budget

allocations for the MoD for 2020-

21 to 2025-26. The Commission has

suggested the following three broad

sources to generate resources for

the non-lapsable MFDIS: (a)

Transfer from the Consolidation

Fund of India at the rate of one per

cent of the Central government's

annual gross revenue receipts

(Rs1.53.354 crore or 64 per cent in

five years) (b) Disinvestment pro-

ceeds of Defence Public Sector

Undertakings (DPSUs) (Rs40,000

crore or 17 per cent) (c)

Monetisation of defence land (Rs

While suggesting the creation

of the non-lapsable fund, the

Commission has also urged the

MoD, the bigger beneficiary of

the proposed MFDIS, to"take im-

mediate measures to innovatively

bring down the salaries and pen-

sion liabilities". In this connec-

45,000 crore or 19 per cent).

diture by IAF and Navy at the RE the Commission has made sevstage. However, a comparison of the eral vital recommendations that funds asked for by MoD and aphave the potential to mitigate the proved by MoF would reveal that shortages of resources required for India is the second highest imsecurity sector modernisation. porter of conventional arms.

The SIPRI report (2020) brings out how the global share of five major countries playout in terms of global share of export and imports. Of the total world military expenditure of \$1917 billion, USA has the largest share (43%), while China accounts for \$261 billion and India around \$70 billion. It works out to 2.2% of world GDP. As against this India's defence expenditure is around 2.3%. Import of military hardware results in the country losing out on the multiplier effects on the economy and spin offs in terms of technology and innovation.

In July 2019 the government had tasked the 15th Finance Commission to address the severe resource constraints being faced by the Defence and Home Affairs ministries in their modernisation efforts. It had also asked the Commission to examine if a "separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up and if so, how such a mechanism could be operationalised". In view of the charter.

tion it would be pertinent to observe that the manpower cost, the major elements of which are salaries and pension, has increased significantly from less than 50 per cent of the MoD's budget to over 60 per cent in a time span of 10 years ending 2020-21. During the same period, the share of modernization expenditure has declined from 27 per cent to 19 per cent.

The 15th Finance Commission has also urged the MoD to reduced pendence on defence import. In this respect, the Commission has recommended to the Ministry of Finance to incentivise the MoD to work on a time-bound action plan for progressive increase in the share of indigenous arms in India's defence procurement. The Commission hopes that a calibrated roadmap should enable the MoD to source not more than 30 per cent of its arms requirement from the foreign vendors by the end of 2025-26. This brings to memory the Kalam Committee report of 1993, which enjoined upon the India's Defence manufacturing complex to improve Self Reliance Index (SRI) from 30% to 70%, in a decade's time, which has remined

a pipe dream. Victor Hugo, the celebrated French poet wrote, "No force on earth can stop a moment whose time has come". Despite stubborn opposition by MoD mandarins, CDS is now a critical component of MoD's decision making Similarly providing a non-lapsable fund for modernisation of the Defence Services is a major struc tural reform which will ensure that the services are no longer starved for funding modernisation plans. However, it needs to mesh up with Long Term Defence Capability Plan and our indigenous capability plans, duly factoring the capability of our bellicose neighbours. Besides, the services need to tighten and shorten their cycle time for acquisition, cut down on interminable delay in time taken for trials and drawn up realistic QR.

The writer was an Addl. Financial Advisor with MoD.

SPECTRUM THE UNITED STATES

Tackling racial disparities in science



2018 Pew Research Center report. earlier this month by be-Coming the first woman, and 62% of black STEM workers said the first Black person and South they had experienced discrimination. Other studies show that racial bias can also devalue black STEM students' racial identities Socioeconomic inequalities in education, coupled with inadequate policies, hamper efforts to achieve gender and racial balance in the STEM disciplines. Moreover, the Trump administration's restrictive immigration policies during the last four years have discouraged and limited inflows of STEM talent to the US This must change. At a time when it is more crucial than ever that science attracts the best minds, the underrepresentation of women and people of color in STEM fields has significant consequences for America and the world. We must do better at giving aspiring black girls and women role models who look like them, so that future trailblasers can, like Harris, thrive and shatter more glass ceilings. So, how can America's racial disparities in science be addressed? First, we need sustainable policies that target affordability, starting at the college level. To boost enrollment and encourage women and students of color who are al-

ramala Harris made history ination and biases. According to a ready pursuing STEM majors to fin- agencies, and private STEM-foish their degrees requires ensuring cused firms t that they are able to bear the financial burden. The evidence suggests the importance of making financial aid and Pell Grants avail able to students of color and other minorities from low- and moderateincome families. Indeed, given that many students currently must juggle school and work commitments. financial aid and other assistance available to students of color in STEM fields should be doubled. But financial aid alone is not sufficient. Mentoring at all levelsfor secondary school and college students, and for early and mid-career professionals - can be critical to helping improve academic retention rates and ensuring that people of color thrive in STEM iobs. The good news is that some institutions are establishing and funding such programs. In 2019, for example, the University of California, Davis, received over \$1 million to set up a mentoring scheme for 15,000 girls with the aim of closing the STEM gender gap. Research shows how mentoring can help women to remain in the sciences by boosting their sense of belonging and confidence. To lock in positive change requires individuals, universities, US federal

aggression that falls short of actual violence. It's on record from the beginning of the nineteenth century. It's one of those idioms that seem to have arrived fully formed without anybody having to go to the trouble of creating it. Was there ever a real bull that rampaged through a real china shop, leaving chaos and destruction behind him, so giving rise to the simile? Perhaps not, though an open-fronted shop in a market town might easily have had such an encounter with an escaped animal. But if you wanted to form a phrase that suggested uncontrolled and uncaring actions with disastrous results, to set a bovine rampaging though a porcelain emporium would be as good as you could wish for. As a linguistic curiosity, related expressions occur in many European languages - among them Russian, Latvian, Polish, Dutch, German, French, Hebrew, Italian and Spanish - though all of them feature an elephant, not a bull. The last two, however, prefer to place him in a glassware store rather than a china shop. English is the odd one out in using the homely bull. There's probably a story in there, if one could only tease it out.

Bulldozer

he word is definitely American. The earliest sense had nothing to do with The word is definitely American. The earliest series and the machinery, but referred to a severe punishment, in particular one applied with a bullwhip. Detailed explanations appear in several US newspapers in the latter months of 1876, the earliest I've found being the day before the presidential election of 1876, which historians suggest may have been the most hard-fought, corrupt and rigged election in the history of the Union. All say that it came into being as a result of a determined attempt by Democrat supporters in the Southern states to stop blacks from voting Republican. This is the way the origin of the expression was explained in the Gettysburg Compiler of 11 January 1877: In very obstinate cases the brethren were in the habit of administering a "bull's dose" of several hundred lashes on the bare back. When dealing with those who were hard to convert, active members would call out "give me the whip and let me give him a bull-dose." From this it became easy to say "that fellow ought to be bull-dosed, or bull-dozed," and soon bull-doze, bull-dozing and bull-dozers came to be slang words. Several articles use bull-dozers for the individuals who were doing the intimidation, as in this item from the Janesville Gazette of Wisconsin in November 1876.

Esther Ngumbi

Prof. SN Misra

AN ANALYSIS OF

MODS OVERALL

DURING 2011 TO

REVEAL THAT IT

HAS INCREASED

EXPENDITURE

2021 WOULD

COMPOUND

GROWTH RATE

WHICH THE HIKE

IN PENSION AND

ALLOWANCES

CONTRIBUTE

OF 9.2%. OF

ANNUAL

PAY AND

71%

AT A

ACCORDING TO A 2018 PEW **RESEARCH CENTER REPORT, 62% OF BLACK STEM WORKERS SAID THEY HAD EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION. OTHER STUDIES SHOW THAT RACIAL BIAS CAN ALSO DEVALUE BLACK STEM STUDENTS' RACIAL**

IDENTITIES

Asian American, to serve as Vice President of the United States. But despite these occasional big wins, America is far from achieving racial and gender parity in many fields, from government to science, the field in which I work.

According to UNESCO, just 30% of science researchers globally are women, and Black women account for only a small proportion of that number. Similarly, one US study last year revealed that science textbooks feature only a small number of scientists of colour, including Black women, thus providing few role models for the diverse range of students who use them.

This disparity reinforces the status quo. In 2016, students of colour received just 22% of US bachelor's degrees in science and engineering and 9% of doctorates in those fields. After graduating, their numbers dwindle further: Black people account for less than 10% of America's scientific workforce

When people of colour do choose to study and work in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, they may face both implicit and explicit discrimproach to the task.

Third, the US needs a federal government that is committed to science and empowering women, especially those of color. Fortunately, President Joe Biden's administration has a bold agenda for women. Specifically, it proposes to make historically black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions tuitionfree for students whose family incomes are below \$125.000 per vear. Biden also plans to enforce Title IX protections to ensure that women and girls receive financial aid and other educational opportunities to realize their full potential.

Lastly, we need more research to generate data-based evidence about the best ways to reduce racial disparities in science. Compared to research on gender biases in academia, racial biases remain understudied. Funding agencies such as the National Science Foundation should therefore earmark funds exclusively for such research.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Entomology and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

LOL

NOT A MEMBER

During an impassioned sermon about death and final judgment, the pastor said forcefully, "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgment." Glancing down at the front pew, he noticed a man with a big smile on his face. The minister repeated his point louder. "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgment!" The man nodded and smiled even more. This really got the preacher wound up. He pounded the pulpit emphatically when he came to the ultimatum: "Each member of this church is going to die and face

judgment!!!" Though everyone else in the congregation was looking somber, the man in front continued to smile. Finally the preacher stepped off the platform, stood in front of the man and shouted, "I said each member of this church is going to die!" The man

grinned from ear to ear. After the service was over, the preacher made a beeline for the man. "I don't get it." the preacher said in frustration. "Whenever I said, 'Each member of this church is going to die,' your smile got bigger. Why?" "I'm not a member of this church," the man replied.



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and 101 columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full 4 postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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

Ban diesel-driven car production

Sir, This refers to regular increase on daily basis in prices of petrol and diesel. Procurement prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene are almost same. However, kerosene is sold at highly subsidised prices because it is mainly used by the poor. Diesel was priced lower than petrol because diesel is mainly used in transportation. But now prices of diesel are regularly increasing, thus resulting in price rise of goods. The motto should be to keep diesel prices in control by allowing its use mainly for commercial transportation and not for running cars. It is not proper that even super-costly cars used by elite rich are now-adays having diesel engines. This is evidently misuse of the policy of keeping the price of diesel lower than petrol. Production of dieseldriven cars should be altogether banned. It will also help in reducing pollution because diesel causes more pollution than petrol. It is noteworthy that in Delhi, diesel-cars are allowed to be used for ten years, while petrol cars are allowed to be used for 15 years. Ban on production of diesel cars will enable the Central government to restrict price-rise of diesel which, in turn, will keep prices of publictransportation and goods under control.

Subhash Chandra Agarwal, NEW DELHI

More foreign Consulates needed

Sir, The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations mandate the establishment of Honorary Consulates and full-fledged foreign embassies across cities globally. The Honorary Consulates and embassies function effectively to bridge educational, scientific, cultural and trade ties of the home country with the foreign country. India should now take a surge in leading from the front to foster new and strong diplomatic relationships with more number of its counterparts in the European Union, ASEAN countries, Asia Pacific countries, the Middle East nations, African and American countries. There is a need to take forward this relationship with the establishment of new Honorary Consulates and full-fledged embassies in New Delhi and across other popular cities such as Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai. Many cities such as Bengaluru (the IT Hub) does not have enough diplomatic representations through full-fledged Consulate offices of countries such as the United States of America, Australia, Singapore,-New Zealand, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand etc to name a few. Varun Dambal, BANGALORE



BJP promises 33% quota for women in govt jobs in WB

Shah made the announcement while addressing supporters in Namkhana of the South 24 Parganas district and kicked off the fifth and final phase of 'Poribortan Yatra' in Bengal



lf

AGENCIES

Namkhana (West Bengal), Feb 18: In a bid to woo women-voters in poll-bound West Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday announced 33 per cent reservation for women in government jobs if the party is voted to power.

Shah made the announcement while addressing a

huge crowd of supporters in . Namkhana village of the South 24 Parganas district and kicking off the fifth and final of phase 'Poribortan Yatra' in

Bengal. "If we come to power we will provide 33 per cent reservation for women in the government jobs," the Home Minister said.

This was not the only sop that Shah promised at the public meeting. He also said in case the BJP comes to power, it will works towards implementing the Seventh Pav Commission.

Shah said the economy of the state is in such a precarious position that the Seventh Pay Commission is not given to employees of the state government.

"If we are voted to power, I promise we will implement the Seventh Pay Commission benefits to all the employees." Shah said.

First fight Abhishek, then **CID** investigates bomb me: Didi dares Amit Shah attack on WB minister

AGENCIES

Pailan, Feb 18: Hitting out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's 'Didi-Bhaipo' jibes, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday challenged him to contest an election against her nephew Abhishek Banerjee and then think of fighting her.

Addressing a party rally in Pailan in the South 24 Parganas district, Banerjee said that Abhishek could have taken the easy route of being an MP by choosing to be a Rajya Sabha member but he fought the Lok Sabha election and got the people's mandate.

"Day and night they are talking about Didi-Bhatija. I challenge Amit Shah, contest against Abhishek Banerjee first and then me," she said, amid a loud cheer from supporters. Banerjee said that she has neither

made Abhishek the deputy Chief Minister nor the chief minister and he is just an elected MP. "My family will not do anything

which will bring disrepute to you," Banerjee told the TMC workers, claiming that she feels anguished that the BJP has been making accusations against Abhishek for being her nephew.

BJP leaders, including Shah, "After coming to power, the BJP have often accused Banerjee of dygovernment in West Bengal will nasty politics, alleging that her form a committee to give right remuneration to teachers in the state."

Shah also emphasised on the upliftment of the fishermen community in the state, "For welfare of fishermen, after coming to power. we will give Rs 6,000 fishermen 'Samaan Nidhi' like 'Kisan Samman Nidhi' to four lakh

HOME MINISTER

He further said that Gangasagar will be developed as a tourism and cultural hub. "The fair held at Gangasagar on the occasion of Uttarayan on January 14 will be given the status of international fair to bring tourists from across the globe," said the union home min-

The BJP is giving a tough fight to the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. Assembly elections in the state are scheduled

'Bhaipo' or nephew has received preferential treatment and will eventually be made the chief minister of the state.

"How come your son became a part of the cricket administration and made hundreds of crores of rupees?" Banerjee said, in a direct attack at Shah. She also challenged the home minister to get him into politics.

"I challenge Amit Shah, get your son into politics and ask him to toil hard to rise through the ranks,' she said.

Banerjee exuded confidence that her party will break all records of past elections in the state, get most of the votes and win the highest number of seats in the upcoming polls. "Amit Shah should know that in 2021, we will break all records and

will get the highest votes and win the most seats," she asserted. The TMC supremo, questioning Shah's observation that the Gangasagar mela site at Sagar islands in the district was not in good shape, said, "I haven't seen any home minister of the country speaking this much falsities.'

Shah was also in the district during the day for a host of political programmes, including a rally and a roadshow in Kakdwip-around 65 km from Pailan where the chief minister was addressing TMC's booth-level workers in the evening.

Baneriee alleged that attempts were being made to threaten people and coerce them to vote for the BJP with the help of the central police forces.

"Remember, central police will be here for a month after that it will be Didi's government. So, don't worry and whenever they try to threaten, the women of the house should go out and guard the family with 'khunti' (cooking spoon)," she said.

DEMO OVER DEMANDS



Members of various farmers' organisations block a railway track during a countrywide four-hour 'Rail Roko' demonstration, called by Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), as part of their agitation against Centre's farm reform laws

Kolkata, Feb 18: The CID Thursday started a probe into the bomb attack on West Bengal Minister Jakir Hossain, who along with 21 others was seriously injured in the blast at Nimtita railway station in Murshidabad district Wednesday night. A team of forensic experts visited the railway station Thursday and collected evidence.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday visited the SSKM hospital, where the Minister of State for Labour department and the other injured are under medical treatment. The Chief Minister said that she handed over the investigation to the Criminal Investigation Department, who immediately went to the blast site and began their probe. "It was a planned conspiracy," Banerjee said and raised questions about the role of the security personnel of the Railways.

The incident took place at Nimtita railway station at around 10 p.m. Wednesday night when the Minister accompanied by the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers was on the platform to board a Kolkata bound train to attend a

party meeting in the state capital. In all 22 persons including the Minister, were injured in the blast and 10 of them have been shifted to Kolkata hospitals. Hossain was seriously injured after the "unidentified attackers" hurled a crude bomb at him

Minister Firhad Hakim, who also visited the SSKM hospital, said that a medical board has been constituted for Hossain. He is stahle now but has injuries on his fingers and foot, Hakim added.

Bharatiya Janata Party leaders alleged that the incident was due to the infighting in the ruling party before the Assembly elections while the Congress accused the state government of having failed to main

n all 22 persons including the minister, were injured in the blast and 10 of them have been shifted to Kolkata hospitals

ossain was seriously injured after the 'unidentified attackers' hurled a crude bomb at him

tain law and order. "The incident proves that Bengal is not safe even for ministers. The TMC government has failed to manage law and order," West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said. The ruling TMC workers Thursday blocked National Highway-34 for several hours to protest the bomb attack.

This is the first such attack on a minister in recent years in West Bengal, which will go to the polls along with other states in April-May this year.

It's a conspiracy, alleges Mamata Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has pointed out towards a "conspiracy" behind the bomb attack in West Bengal's Murshidabad district that left her Labour Minister Jakir Hossain seriously injured.

Without taking names of any particular party or individual, Banerjee levelled allegation that some people were "pressurizing' Hossain to join their party.

Banerjee held even the Indian Railways responsible for the incident since it took place on its premises as crude bombs were hurled on Hossain by unidentified people Wednesday night while he was walking towards Nimtita Railway station in Murshidabad to board a train for Kolkata

"Railways are to be blamed for the blast at Murshidabad where Minister Jakir Hossain was injured. It was a planned conspiracy to kill him. Not a responsibility of state government, Railways and Centre are to be blamed," Banerjee said.



icular party or individual. Baneriee lev allegation that some people were "pressurising" Hossain to join their party

he said we are voted to power, I promise we will implement the Seventh Pay **Commission benefits** to all the employees

the party will be fighting for their

rights and proper remuneration.

fishermen in the state," he said. "To ensure the right price for their



produce, the BJP government will create a ministry at the level of state minister. A seafood hub will be developed in the area of 24 Parganas," he said.

ister.

in Malda, Thursday

Curb tobacco sales near schools: Karna kids LUKEWARM RESPONSE TO **'RAIL ROKO' IN KARNATAKA**

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Feb 18: The Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka (CFTFK) has demanded the Karnataka government to expedite the process to introduce a vendor licencing system to sell tobacco products in the state.

As part of the CFTFK's campaign, students from schools had also participated in the programme to appeal to the state government to expedite the vendor licencing process in the state.

Aditya Hari, a Class 12 student from Delhi Public School, Bangalore North, told the media that although they are well aware of the harmful effects of tobacco vet the tobacco industry flourishes.

"This is a result of a sheer marketing strategy with the youth as a target audience. Introducing vendor licensing will be a major shield against this exploitation and is necessary for the constructive future of this country," he said.

Hari also appealed to parents, teachers and students from across the state to write letters to state Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj urging him quick implementation of vendor licensing norms across the state.

He added that already 3,000 parents, teachers, and students have written letters demanding the implementation of this new system to address the minister.

Hari also pointed out that the Union Health Ministry in its advi-

This is a result of a sheer marketing

strategy with the youth as a target

necessary for the constructive future of this country

ADITYA HARI CLASS XII STUDENT, DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, BANGALORE NORTH

audience. Introducing vendor licencing will be a

major shield against this exploitation and is

sory to states September 21, 2017, had called for regulating the sale of tobacco products through proper authorisation and registration of tobacco vendors.

'This has remained a mirage since then in Karnataka. But I am happy that the vendor licensing system has come into effect in states like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and West Bengal, at least our friends in these states are

safe," he quipped. While Class 8 student, Mokshit from Nava Bharatha Nirmana Vidya Mandira appealed to parents to act responsibly in front of their children. "Parents should stop sending their children to buy cigarettes or tobacco products besides completely stop smoking in front of their chil-

step where a child gets attracted to smoking and he will know where that item is available for his consumption, so, I want parents to act more responsibly.

According to renowned Oncologist Ramesh Bilimagga, who is also the Advisor of CFTFK told reporters that with more than 14.6 per cent of youth between the age of 13 to 15 years are using some form of tobacco in India.

"The easy access to tobacco products is luring the youngsters to experiment with tobacco and eventually get addicted to it. This is very dangerous and there is an immediate need to keep the younger generations away from tobacco products. Vendor licensing is one of the bold steps of the state government which will ensure that the tobacco sale is monitored, regulated and keeps youngsters out," he argued.

The oncologist added that easy ac-

Parents should stop sending their children to buy cigarettes or tobacco products besides completely stop smoking in front of their children

MOKSHIT | CLASS VIII, NAVA BHARATHA NIRMANA VIDYA MANDIRA

cessibility of tobacco products especially around educational institutions is one of the main reasons for tobacco consumption and addiction by youngsters.

"It has been proven that tobacco companies target children as addiction formation takes place in adolescence and they further take advantage of the inability of children to make rational decision making to experiment with their products and get addicted to them. As a result of this, every day more than 5,500 children are initiated into tobacco use," he explained.

The CFTFK convenor, S.J. Chander said that in absence of strict regulation, tobacco products like cigarettes, bidis and chewing tobacco items are being sold at every nook and corner of the state by petty shops, retail stores, milk parlours, tea shops and bakeries.

"Tobacco industries illegally advertise products with lighted up boards and posters. The points of sale (POS) of tobacco products use a strategy pushed by the tobacco companies which is placing tobacco products next to the common eatables such as biscuits, candies, chips etc. that children are accustomed to purchasing regularly from these POS," he alleged.

He contended that the tobacco industry has been projecting that the livelihood of farmers and vendors would be affected with the introduction of vendor licensing, which is not true. Chander added that those vendors who wish to sell tobacco products should obtain a 'special license', apart from their regular 'trade license' from their respective Urban Local Bodies.

'This will help the ULBs to check violations by the tobacco vendor which is a common phenomenon and it would not affect their livelihood in any which way," he said.

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Feb 18: Barring a few stray incidents of stone pelting on moving trains, the nationwide 'Rail Roko' call given by the farmers Thursday evoked lukewarm response in Karnataka with the police detaining farmer leaders across the BJP-ruled state, stopping them from entering the railway station premises.

The ongoing farmers' protest on the borders of Delhi against the three Central farm laws has been going on for over three months now. The farmers have held 11 rounds of talks with the Centre, but they have failed to break the deadlock with the farmers sticking to their main demand of repealing the three farm laws. we arrived at the

railway station, we

weren't allowed to

demonstrate by the police.

when the 'Rail Roko' was

nationally announced by

the farmers' unions

A PROTESTING FARMER

lice.

Thursday, the Karnataka police detained several farmer leaders Why should we wait for the from outside the railway stations in Bangalore, Belagavi, Raichur, Hubballi and Kalaburgi districts.

Even as the farmer leaders gathered in front of various railway stations in the state, the police prevented them from entering the station premises by putting up barricades.

Several farmer leaders, including state president of the Confederation of Farmers' Associations, Kuruburu Shanthakumar, were detained along with their supporters from outside the Yeshwantpur railway station in

When

Bangalore after Shanthakumar police to give us permission declared that farmers had gathered there in support of the protesting farmers in

> Delhi. "We will sup-

port them in their endeavour," he

said before being detained by the po-

Although there were reports

from other parts of the state where

farmers tried to break the police se-

curity ring in front of various rail-

way stations, they were eventually

way station, we were not allowed to

demonstrate by the police. Why

'When we arrived at the rail-

overpowered by the police.

give us permission when the 'Rail Roko' was nationally announced by the farmers' unions," a farmer leader at Raichur railway station said. Meanwhile, there were reports

should we wait for the police to

about stray incidents of stone pelting on moving trains from some parts of the state. One such incident was officially reported near the Kengeri railway station on the outskirts of Bangalore.

However, the authorities are tightlipped on the matter; stating that it is yet not known if the protesters were behind the incident, or some anti-social elements were involved.

The Bangalore railway policehave registered a case and investigation is underway.



dren," he said.

He added that this is the first







OVER 200 LJP LEADERS JOIN JD(U)

More than 200 mid-level and lower-rung leaders of Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party joined the JD(U) in Bihar Thursday. A rattled LJP, which has been taking pride in having weakened the JD(U) in the assembly election, lashed out at the deserters whom it sought to dismiss as traitors



POLICE REGISTER MURDER CASE Toolkit case: Disha uote

the life of common man. The budget takes care of the poor who is at bottom of the pyramid. This budget instils a new

Union Budget

2021 touches

hope for new India PIYUSH GOYAL UNION MINISTER

So in India, despite the pandemic, nobody was deprived of education and online education

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR UNION MINISTER

We are consuming poisonous food due to extensive usage of pesticides. The present farming system has to be changed by encouraging organic farming SRI SRI RAVISHANKAR ART OF LIVING FOUNDER

SHORT TAKES

NCB nabs African woman

Mumbai: In a major breakthrough, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested an African woman from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) here and seized 3 kg heroin worth around Rs 9 crore from her possession, a top official said here on Thursday. NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede said that the accused has been identified as Khanyisile P. Khahshwayo, a South African national who landed in Mumbai early on Thursday morning by a Qatar Airways flight from Johannesburg.

Jaishankar to visit Maldives, Mauritius

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will on Saturday embark on a four-day visit to the Maldives and Mauritius, the two strategically key maritime neighbours of region. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Jaishankar will visit the Maldives from February 20 to 21 and he will be in Mauritius on February 22 and 23. "The External Affairs Minister's visit is testimony to the importance that India attaches to its close and friendly relations with the Maldives and Mauritius and is expected to lend further momentum to substantive cooperation and robust people-to-people ties," the MEA said.

AGENCIES

Unnao (UP), Feb 18: Police on Thursday registered a case of murder into the deaths of two teenage girls whose bodies were found in a field here even as a post-mortem revealed no injury marks.

A third girl, who is on ventilator support at a Kanpur hospital, is being treated for suspected poisoning. The Uttar Pradesh human rights body has taken note of the incident at Babuhara village in Asoha -- around 36 km south of Lucknow - in Unnao district on Wednesday evening and political parties slammed the Yogi Adityanath gov-

ernment over it. Although the cause of death could not be immediately ascertained in the post-mortem, samples from the girls' viscera have been preserved for further exami-

Police ruled out the suggestion that the victims' hands were tied, citing the absence of any injury marks. Apart from Section 302 (murder), the FIR also lists Section 201 of the Indian Penal Code, related to causing disappearance of evi-

ADVOCATE COUPLE

KILLING: T'GANA

HC SEEKS REPORT

Hyderabad, Feb 18: Taking se-

rious note of the brutal killing

of advocate couple in broad

daylight, Telangana High Court

on Thursday directed the state

government to submit status

report and ensure thorough in-

vestigation in a time-bound

A division bench comprising

Chief Justice Hima Kohli and

Justice B Vijaysen Reddy ordered

notices to the state government

directing it to submit a report on

the gruesome murder of Gattu

Vamana Rao and Nagamani in

nisance of the incident saying

"murders have shaken us alla. It also

issued notices to the home secre-

tary, the DGP, Police Commssioner

of Ramagundam and Pedapalli

The bench took suo motu cog-

Peddapalli district.

station house officer.

lection of all evidences

manner.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



UNNAO TRAGEDY

Security personnel stand guard during post-mortem of two minor Dalit girls PTI

dence. The case mentioning the two sections was lodged on the basis of the family's complaint. The three girls, aged 16, 15 and 14, were found in a field by the villagers when they did not return after leaving their house to take fodder for cattle, police had said. The villagers rushed the teenagers, who are related, to a hospital, where two of them were declared brought dead. The other girl was rushed to a district hospital and later referred to a Kanpur healthcare facility, according to police. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

took a serious note of the incident and sought a detailed report from the director general of police (DGP). He has directed officials to ensure proper treatment of the teenager, according to a spokesperson.

DGP Hitesh Chandra Awasthi said six police teams had been constituted and senior officials were supervising the probe.

'The post-mortem of the two girls was done by a panel of doctors and no injury before death or external injuries were found on their bodies," Awasthi said in a video clip released to the media.

'The cause of death could not be ascertained and viscera has been preserved for chemical analysis," he said. "We are taking help of forensic experts and looking into all possibilities." Earlier, Unnao Superintendent of Police Anand Kulkarni said there was a contradiction in the statements of girls' family members. He added that the brother had said the girls were tied with a stole, while her mother said Thursday that it was around her neck. "The UP government is not only crushing Dalit society, but also the honour and human rights of

MATTER OF FAITH



Sadhus perform rituals for salvation during the Kumbh Purva in Mathura



SHOCKING **INCIDENT**

he three girls, aged 15, 14 and The three gills, ages 12, 16, were found in a field at Babuhara village in Asoha -around 36 km south of Lucknow · - on Wednesday evening by the villagers when they did not return after leaving their house to take fodder for cattle, police had said

The third girl, admitted in a critical condition to a Kanpur hospital, was being treated for suspected poisoning and is presently on ventilator, sources in the healthcare facility said

women," Rahul Gandhi tweeted. "But they should remember that I and the entire Congress party will stand as the voice of victims and will endeavour to get them justice. ghter of Unnao) in his tweet.

Privanka Gandhi demanded that the third girl be shifted to Delhi for better medical treatment and asked why her family had been detained.

moves Delhi HC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 18: Climate activist Disha Ravi, arrested for alleged involvement in sharing a toolkit backing the ongoing farmers protest, moved the Delhi High Court on Thursday seeking to restrain police from leaking to the media any probe material in relation to the FIR lodged against her.

The petition, which is listed before Justice Prathiba M Singh, also seeks to restrain the media from publishing the content or extract of any private chats, including those on WhatsApp, between her and third parties. When the matter came up for hearing in the prelunch session, Justice Singh said she will take it up after 2.15 pm.

Ravi, in her plea, said that she is "severely aggrieved and prejudiced by the media trial surrounding her arrest and the ongoing investigation, where she is being viscerally attacked by the respondent 1 (police) and several media houses". She also claimed that her arrest from Bengaluru on February 13 by a Cyber Cell team of Delhi Police was "wholly unlawfully and without basis"

She has contended that in the present circumstances, it was "highly likely" that the general public will perceive the news items "as being conclusive as to the guilt of the petitioner (Ravi)". "In these circumstances, and to restrain the respondents from further violating her privacy her reputation. and her right to a fair trial, the petitioner is moving the present petition," the plea said.

Her petition has alleged that investigative matters have been leaked to the media and the press briefings by the police are "prejudicial" and "grossly violative of her right to a fair trial and presumption of innocence". "The illegal actions and omissions on part of the respondents has irrevocably violated the petitioner's fundamental right to privacy, her right to reputation, her dignity, and the consequent effect of the administration of justice and right to fair trial," the petition has said.

It has claimed that the police first "leaked investigative material" -- like alleged WhatsApp chats - the substance and details of which were only in the possession of the investigating agency. Thereafter, the "private alleged WhatsApp chats" were publicised and disseminated by various media houses which was a violation of the provisions of the Cable Televisions Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (CTN Act), the Programme Code and the Uplinking and Downlinking

Guidelines, the petition has contended. It has also claimed that the "media

houses have published one-sided defamatory, suggestive innuendos, and half truths about the petitioner". Ravi's plea has further contended that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the News Broadcasting Standards Authority "have failed to exercise their statutory and self-regulatory powers in ensuring compliance with the Programme Code under the CTN Act and the Code of Ethics of National Broadcasting Standards Association".

more than ever before in infra-



Liquor smuggling module busted

Chandigarh: The Punjab Excise department Thursday claimed to have busted a liquor smuggling module with the arrest of two people and seizure of alcohol brought from Harvana. The department said it had learnt about two contractors from Harvana and two men from Nabha and Ludhiana who along with others allegedly smuggled in liquor from the neighbouring state and sold it in areas around Ludhiana and Fatehgarh Sahib districts in Punjab.

IOC Engineer commits suicide

Ranchi: An Indian Oil Corporation engineer committed suicide in Jharkhand on Thursday, police said. According to Police, Draupdi Kumari Patro alias Binni, 26, was working as an engineer at the Indian Oil Corporation in Kolkata. She committed suicide by hanging herself inside her home at Harhargutu under Bagbeda Police Station area of the East Singhbhum district.

The bench remarked that athe incident has shaken us all from our stupor'.

vestigation be conducted with col-

'The entire State apart from the legal community is looking up to the government to ensure a proper working of the rule of law. We are all governed by the law and nobody can take law into their own hands", Chief Justice Kohli said.

The court made it clear that it does not want to hear about lapses on part of the investigators. It referred to viral videos being circulated about the dying declaration of Rao who spelled out the name of the killer before succumbing to his injuries.

In a horrific crime caught on camera, an advocate couple practicing law in the Telangana High Court was brutally murdered in broad daylight by unidentified persons in Peddapalli district on Wednesday

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal. Feb 18: Rising to the occasion, a group in 200 women in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district, led by 19-year-old Babita Raiput, dug through a mountain to bring water to their parched village.

The residents of Angrotha village were struggling with a water crisis, as they were unable to get water from the river to the pond due to the hill in between. The crisis used to exacerbate during May-June. A graduate in Arts, Babita then decided to motivate the women of the village to take things in their own hands. Under her, the women of the village dug a 107-metre long trench, cutting through the hill, to create a wa-

terway to recharge their pond. Babita said: "The village was under severe water crisis since



2018. We planned to bring water to the pond in the village and had to struggle a lot in getting permission from the Forest Department.

An NGO, Parmarth, helped us in all of this struggle. With everyone's effort, we were able to dig through the hill and connect a waterway to the pond."

Farmer Ramratan Rajput said: "The village witnessed rains only twice in 2020. Despite such less rains, 10 wells and five borewells didn't dry up. There was sufficient water for farming also."

Jammu, Feb 18: The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir,

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Manoj Sinha, Thursday held an interaction with the foreign envoys who were on a two-day visit to J&K to have a firsthand appraisal of the government's efforts to restore normalcy and boost development in the Union Territory.

As many as 24 foreign envoys visited the Raj Bhavan for the interaction. While interacting with the foreign envoys. Sinha spoke about the developmental changes which J&K is witnessing

He observed that an ecosystem of democratic values, welfare principles and economic development has been developed in J&K and scores of measures are being taken by the government for the development and prosperity of the UT. "Years of suffering for J&K peo-

ple ended on August 5, 2019. The efforts of Prime Minister Narendra



J&K Lt Guv meets foreign envoys

Modi ushered the Union Territory into a new era, which has brought about socio-economic development in the region and empowerment of the people," the Lt Governor said. On reformative interventions

being made by the Central government for boosting economic growth in J&K, Sinha said that the Centre has drawn up excellent ideas and initiatives of industrialisation even in far flung areas of the Union Territory so that more jobs could be created for the youth.

While speaking on the focus areas of the UT government, Sinha said that the government is investing

'Our collective aim is to continue implementing people centric, development, and industry oriented policies. Targeted solutions have been devised to address the issues like poverty, health, skill development of youth, job opportunities and concrete steps are being taken to ensure that the benefits of the government schemes reach the last mile," said

structure, industries, education,

healthcare, skill development and sus-

tainable livelihood so that every cit-

izen of Jammu and Kashmir has a

safe future and earns recognition.

the Lt Governor. Terming terrorism as the biggest enemy of humankind, the Lt Governor said that despite relentless attempts by India's neighbour to destabilise the security situation and trigger social disharmony by exporting terror, the govern-

ment is resolute towards the holistic and equitable development of J&K.

Mars missions now on radar of multiple nations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 18: From flybys to orbiters and landers, more than 40 missions have been launched to Mars to explore different aspects of the red planet which has long tickled the imagination of astronomers and space explorers.

The recent detection of plumes of methane in the northern hemisphere of Mars is of great interest because of its potential biological origin, though other explanations may also be possible. This is what generates a lot of interest in the planet. Methane (CH4) is an organic molecule present in gaseous form in the Earth's atmosphere. More than 90 per cent of methane on the Earth is produced by living organisms. February has been an important month with regard to Mars as missions to the planet from

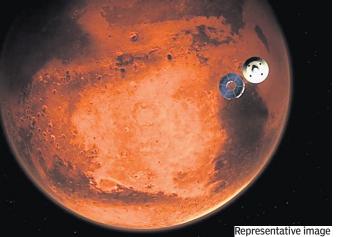
the US, China and UAE this month

are at different stages

As NASA gears up for the landing of its rover -- the 'Perseverance' -- to Jezero Crater, a place that planetary scientists think could be ideal to find preserved signs of life from several billion years ago, if life ever did arise on Mars, eight countries have undertaken missions to explore the planet.

Chinese mission Tianwen 1 was launched July 23, 2020. After making a trip of seven months, it arrived in the Martian orbit February 10. The lander is expected to land somewhere in the Utopia Planitia region, currently scheduled for Mav 2021. The UAE's 'Hope' mission also entered the Mars orbit earlier this month. It's also the UAE's first interplanetary mission.

Just like exploration of the Moon, the then USSR was the first to send a mission to Mars. According to the European Space Agency (ESA) data-



base, Marsnik 1 was launched on October 10 1960. A flyby mission, it did not reach the Earth's Orbit. From 1960 - 62, the USSR launched five missions to Mars --- Marsnik 1,

Marsnik 2, Sputnik 22, Mars 1 and Sputnik 24. It was November 5, 1964 that the US launched 'Mariner' 3'. A flyby mission, the launcher shroud failed to jettison.

During the peak of the Cold War in the 1960s, the two superpowers fiercely competed with each other in this area. From 1960-69, the two countries launched 12 missions to Mars-four by the US and eight by the USSR. The two countries launched nearly 25 missions from 1960-1989.

It was only July 3, 1998 that a new entrant launched any mission to explore Mars, when Japan launched the 'Nozomi' mission. It failed to enter orbit and flew by Mars December 14, 2003 at a distance of 1,000 km. No data was returned.

In 2003, the European Space Agency and the UK Space Agency embarked on a mission to Mars. Launched in June 2003, a 'Beagle 2' lander was carried to Mars by 'Mars Express orbiter'. The orbiter and lander arrived December 25, 2003. Beagle 2 was successfully released but no further contact was made and the lander was declared lost.

In January 2015, the UK Space Agency announced that the lander had been identified in images from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. The images appeared to show the lander partially deployed on the surface. The last decade saw China making rapid strides in the area of space exploration. Joint launch of Russian Phobos lander and sample return mission and Yinghuo-1, a Chinese Mars orbiter took place on November 8, 2011.

India is one of the few nations to carry out a successful Mars mis- ২ sion in its first attempt.

The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) was launched on November 23, 2013. Pegged to be one of the cheapest missions to Mars - at around USD 74 million --, Prime Minister Narendra-Modi had said the journey to Mars was cheaper than an auto ride.











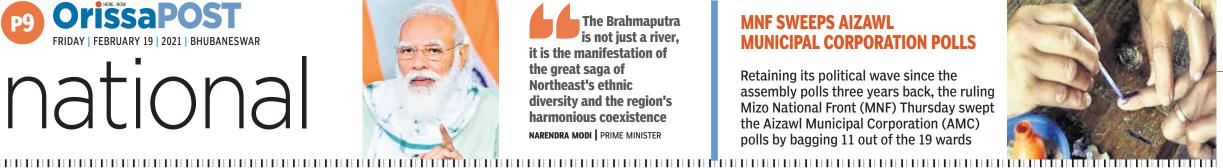




The Brahmaputra is not just a river, it is the manifestation of the great saga of **Northeast's ethnic** diversity and the region's harmonious coexistence NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

MNF SWEEPS AIZAWL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION POLLS

Retaining its political wave since the assembly polls three years back, the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) Thursday swept the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) polls by bagging 11 out of the 19 wards





Every construction worker of Delhi should have the confidence that my government stands with them in the times of need. People of Delhi should have that level of trust in the government

MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

The Centre should intervene at the earliest and bring down the rising prices of fuel. The common man is facing hardships now

AJIT PAWAR MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

The role of the fourth pillar (media) is crucial in process of development. I feel that media is a watchdog of society and helps the government redress the grievances of the people KIRAN BEDI FORMER LIEUTENANT

GOVERNOR OF PONDICHERRY

SHORT TAKES

Arms, ammunition seized in JK

Jammu: Security forces have recovered a huge cache of weapons from a remote forest in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said Thursday. The recovery included an AK 47 rifle with one sealed box of ammunition, one Self-Loading Rifle (SLR), one 303 bolt rifle and two Chinese pistols with magazines and ammunition, the spokesman said.

.....

Man dies in lightning strike

Buldhana: A 60-year-old man died in a lightning strike at a village in Maharashtra's Buldhana district Thursday, an official said. The incident took place in the morning hours, when lightning struck Babarao Rindhe, who was

FARMERS STAGE NATIONWIDE 'RAIL ROKO' AGITATION



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body New Delhi, Feb 18: Agitating farmer groups Thursday held a four-hour nationwide 'rail roko' agitation with the railways saying there was negligible impact on services though some trains were stopped by officials at stations as a precautionary measure. In Punjab and Haryana, farmers

at several places squatted on railway tracks which led to disruption in normal movement of trains on some routes. Protests were also staged at some places in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka

However, in many states, it was a low-key affair. The All India Kisan Sabha claimed the agitation received "massive response across the country". It further claimed that some activists were arrested in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka

and Telangana. "The massive success of the rail roko struggle is a warning to the Modi government. The farmers across the country have expressed their determination to continue the struggle till the demands are met with," Trains began running normally across the country within an hour after the agitation ended at 4 pm, he said. Earlier, around 25 trains were regulated by the Railways on account of the agita-

of farmer unions which is spearheading the protest against the three farm laws. "Majority of the zones have reported not a single case of any stoppage of train by the agitators. Few trains were stopped in some areas of some Railway zones but now train operation is normal and trains are being operated smoothly. While dealing with the Rail roko agitation, utmost patience was exercised by all concerned," he said. The railways de-

ployed 20 additional companies of the RPSF across the country, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Ferozepur division of the Northern Railways decided to halt trains at stations so that passengers

face less inconvenience during the 'rail roko' protest. In Rajasthan, officials said that the Rewari-Sri Ganganagar special train was the only train cancelled due to the agitation, while few others were delayed. At least 12 people were detained at Lasur station, around 40 km from Aurangabad, an official said. "The Jalna-Mumbai Janshatabdi train was stopped at the station for around 30 minutes. We have detained around 12 agitators and further probe is under-

Cong wins Mohali civic body too

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Feb 18: The ruling Congress in Punjab won the Mohali municipal corporation polls on Thursday by registering victory in 37 of the 50 wards.

After the final counting of votes, the Congress won 37 wards, while independents bagged the remaining 13, officials said. With this, the ruling party registered victory in seven municipal corporations and emerged as the leading party in the Moga municipal corporation, where no party got a clear majority. Punjab minister Balbir Singh Sidhu's brother Amarjeet Singh Sidhu won from ward number 10 of the Mohali municipal corporation. The counting of votes for the Mohali municipal corporation was taken up on Thursday as repolling was conducted at two polling booths Wednesday. The Punjab State Election Commission had ordered repolling at the two booths after receiving reports of irregularities during polling February 14.

Pondy CM to face floor test Feb 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pondicherry, Feb 18: Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday directed Chief Minister V. Narayansamy to prove his majority in the Assembly on February 22. Hours after taking additional charge as Lieutenant Governor of the union territory, she directed the Congress-led government to prove its majority.

The direction came amid claims by the opposition parties that the Congress-led government slipped into minority after one more party MLA quit the party Tuesday.

The lieutenant governor, in an official communication, said the session of the legislative assembly shall be summoned on February 22 with a single agenda of ascertaining whether the government continues to enjoy the confidence of the House.

She directed that voting on the agenda shall take place by show of hands. The entire proceedings before the legislative assembly shall



be videographed. The floor test shall be conducted by 5pm on February 22, and the proceedings shall not be adjourned/delayed or suspended at any cost.

After Soundararajan, who is the governor of Telangana, was sworn in as the incharge lieutenant governor at Raj Nivas here, both the chief minister and the leader of opposition called on her separately. All India NR Congress (AINRC)

founder-leader N. Rangasamy, who is the leader of opposition, claimed that the government had lost its majority after four of the MLAs of the ruling party resigned in the last 25 days. He also pointed out that a legislator of the ruling party was disqualified last year.

The opposition MLAs led by Rangasamy told Soundararajan that the government had lost its legitimacy to continue and requested her to direct the government to prove the majority in the House.

Both the government and the opposition have 14 MLAs in 30member Assembly. There are three nominated members and all the three belong to BJP.

Five seats fell vacant after resignation of four MLAs and disqualification of one MLA.

The Congress party now has 10 seats. The DMK, which has three seats and an independent, are supporting the Congress government.

AINRC has seven MLAs and its ally AIADMK four. Another ally BJP has three members, all nominated.

The ruling Congress maintains that it still enjoys majority in the House and has accused the BJP of engineering defections.

Weekend lockdown in Amravati district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amravati, Feb 18: Authorities in two eastern Maharashtra districts of Amravati and Yavatmal Thursday announced strict implementation of restrictions, including a weekend lockdown in Amravati, to stem the rising cases of COVID-19.

The administration in Yavatmal district ordered curbs on gatherings and also closure of schools (which had reopened for select classes) for ten days, measures coming on a day when the state reported 5,427 new cases, a daily tally not seen in more than two months.

A weekend lockdown was announced in Amravati district, from 8 pm on Saturday to 7 am on Monday a period during which markets and other establishments will remain shut, but essential services will remain unaffected. Schools (for stu-

FIGHT RESUMES



Can't rule out conspiracy

against Gogoi: Top Court

dents from Classes 5 to 9), colleges, and coaching classes in Yavatmal district will remain closed till February 28, while only 50 persons will be permitted at weddings, Yavatmal collector D M Singh said. Religious places will remain open

but COVID-19 protocols will be strictly implemented, he said. Hotels and restaurants will be allowed to operate between 8 am to 9.30 pm, while markets and shops will remain open till 8 pm, Singh

said. Amravati Collector Shailesh

Naval said on weekdays, all establishments in the district, including hotels and restaurants, would stay open only till 8 pm (from earlier 10 pm).

Yavatmal collector Singh told PTI that they have not stopped anything in the district. "However, strict enforcement of restrictions as per the guidelines of the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra is being implemented in the district," Singh said.

Both Amravati and Yavatmal fall in Vidarbha, a region which has been reporting a steady rise in COVID-19 cases since the start of February. Earlier, the Maharashtra government ordered collectors of Amravati, Akola and Yavatmal districts in Vidarbha to take necessary steps to curb the rising number of COVID-19 cases, state Minister Anil Parab said in Mumbai.

Over 4.6 lakh health dose of Covid vax

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE court referred to the letter of the

SP creates ruckus in UP Assembly

police said.

Lucknow, Feb 18: Samajwadi Party legislators Thursday staged a protest outside the Uttar Pradesh Assembly

AGENCIES



way," the official from the railway

working on a field at Tandulwadi village in the district, Buldhana tehsildar Rupesh Khandare said.

Gold seized at MIA

Mangaluru: Customs officials at the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) Thursday seized gold weighing over 1 kg from two passengers including a woman. The value of the seized gold is Rs 53.5 lakh, a customs release here said. The two were found with 1.103 kg goldin a sanitary napkin, while 0.404 kg gold was hidden in pouches. The customs had February 11 seized 200 grams gold worth Rs 10 lakh that was beingsmuggled by two passengers belonging to Bhatkal.

Naxals kill man

Rajnandgaon: Naxals have killed a villager in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district on suspicion of being a police informer, an official said Thursday. The incident took place Wednesday night in Khursipar Khurd village which falls under Bortalav police station's jurisdiction, they said.

Labourer killed

Rainandgaon: A 32-year-old labourer has been killed after a ropeway trolley crashed into a tower and fell from a height of about 60 feet in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district, police said Thursday. The accident took place around 7 pm Wednesdav when the goods trolley carrying the labourer was descending to the base of a hill, where Bamleshwari Devi temple is located, in Dongargarh town after dropping iron rods for some construction work there, they said.

building against the Centre's farm before the beginning of the state's Budget session.

Raising slogans against the government and in favour of farmers, the SP legislators sat before a statue of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh and demanded that the three laws be repealed.

They also carried banners and placards criticising the state government for the alleged rise in crime against women, hike in LPG, petrol and diesel prices and pending sugar cane dues of farmers.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav accused the government of arresting a party legislator, a charge denied by the police. In a Hindi tweet, Akhilesh Yadav said the BJP governments in the Centre and the state are afraid of the public support to the farmers' protest.

'Hence, an MLA and workers going on a tractor to the Vidhan Sabha to attend the session were arrested," he said condemning it.

When contacted, Lucknow's Commissioner of Police DK Thakur said, "No MLA was arrested. This is a lie

Earlier, some legislators arrived on a tractor carrying the party flag, sugarcane and a sack with "dhaan" (paddy) written on it as a mark of protest but were stopped by policemen. "These things are symbols of agriculture. Cane prices have not been increased but the prices of diesel and petrol have been hiked

several times," said a legislator when asked why he had come to the Vidhan Sabha on a tractor.

Udayveer Singh, a member of the legislative council, said issues are discussed inside the House while action is shown on the roads. On the alleged arrest of the MLA, the party said it is a murder of democratic rights. The Samaiwadis will not be afraid of it and will stay strong, the party said in a tweet

New Delhi. Feb 18: The Supreme Court Thursday closed the proceedings initiated to probe a "larger conspiracy" behind sexual harassment allegations against ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi and "fixing" of benches at the top court.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said that nearly two years have passed and the possibility of retrieving electronic records is very little.

The top court, while closing the suo motu proceedings in the case, said the in-house probe has been completed and the three-member panel headed by Justice S A Bobde, the current CJI, has already given the report exonerating the former СЛ.

The bench, also comprising justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, said the Justice (retd) A K Patnaik panel was not able to get electronic records like WhatsApp messages to probe the conspiracy and hence no purpose would be served by continuing with the suo motu case. The top

Director of Intelligence Bureau that some conspiracy might have ensued due to certain tough decisions taken by former Chief Justice Gogoi like verdict on preparation of the National Register for Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

There are strong reasons to believe that some kind of conspiracy might have been undertaken against the then CJI Gogoi, the bench said, while quoting the report of Justice Patnaik.

It said that in view of the mandate of the order dated April 25, 2019 Justice Patnaik's report opines that it cannot really inquire whether the decisions of the then CJI on the judicial side had triggered the conspiracy against Gogoi.

We are of the view that the suo motu proceedings in the present case is accordingly closed and the report be sealed again", it said, The top court, while referring to the report of Justice Patnaik, further said that simultaneously the report on the existence of conspiracy cannot be completely ruled out.

New Delhi, Feb 18: The Union Health Ministry announced that 3,17,190 people, including healthcare and frontline workers, were vaccinated Thursday across all states and Union Territories, taking the total close to the 10 million mark.

According to the ministry, the overall vaccination figure has reached 98,46,523. Of them, 66,99,567 beneficiaries are healthcare workers and 31,46,956 are frontline workers.

Meanwhile, 4,64,932 beneficiaries have received their second jab so far and attained full immunisation against Covid-19 provided under the nationwide vaccination drive. The administration of the second jab was started in the country February 13.

The ministry noted that the highest participation in the vaccination drive on Thursday was in Uttar Pradesh with 89,026 inoculations followed by Maharashtra (23,714), Bihar (20,666), Jammu and Kashmir (19,285), Odisha (18,486), Karnataka (15,237), Tamil Nadu (13,780), Andhra Pradesh (13.649). West Bengal (12,669), and Chhattisgarh (10,606).

Meanwhile, the number of hospitalisations after the immunisation have reached 40. Of them, 24 have been discharged after the treatment, three are still under treatment, while 13 deaths have also been reported, as per the data shared by the ministry. However, it clarified that there is "no case of serious/severe AEFI/death attributable to vaccination till date".

The ministry also said that two new events of hospitalisation have been reported in the last 24 hours. The events include a case of convulsions and anaphylaxis from West Bengal. "Condition of both the cases are stable," it added.

"The percentage of hospitalisation against vaccination is 0.0004 per cent," it noted. The vaccination of the healthcare workers started on January 16 while the frontline workers started receiving the vaccine shots from February 2.

Hyderabad recognised as Tree City of the World

The southern city is the only from India to get the recognition for its commitment to growing and maintaining the urban forest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Feb 18: The Arbor Day Foundation and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation have recognised Hyderabad as 2020 Tree City of the World.

The southern city is the only from India to get the recognition for its commitment to growing and maintaining the urban forest.

Through this recognition, Hyderabad will join a network of like-minded cities who recognise the importance of trees in building healthy, resilient and happy cities, officials said on Thursday.

Hyderabad earned recognition in the Foundation's second year of the programme along with 51 other cities across the world during 2020

and cumulatively 120 cities from 63 countries. Most of the cities were from countries like the US, the UK, Canada, Australia etc.

Congratulating Hyderabad on earning 2020 Tree Cities of the world recognition alongside 120 cities from 63 countries. Dan Lambe. President, Arbor Day Foundation said that it is now part of an important global network leading the way in urban and community forestry. He remarked that now more than ever, trees and forests are a vital component of healthy livable. and sustainable cities and towns around the globe. Hyderabad's commitment to effective urban forest management is helping to ensure better future for its residents. Telangana's Municipal



Administration & Urban Development Department had applied for this recognition on January 31. The department has been in the forefront and executing 'Haritha

Haram' programme since inception. Apart from that, urban forest blocks are also being developed in identified pockets. Hyderabad pledged its commitment by meeting

five programme standards that show its dedication and determination towards planting and conserving trees for a greener future. It is demonstrating leadership in management of its urban trees and is serving as part of the solution to many of the global issues today. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K.T. Rama Rao expressed his happiness over the recognition received by Hyderabad.

"This is an acknowledgment of our efforts to improve green cover as part of Haritha Haram programme," he tweeted. Haritha Haram is a flagship programme of the state government for large scale plantation across the state to increase the green cover.







We are learning about malware attacks, some coming from states as part of new conflicts between nations, others coming from mafias. Some attacks have criminal or lucrative motives. others are used to destabilise countries EMMANUEL MACRON FRENCH PRESIDENT

GEORGIAN PM STEPS DOWN

Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia announced his resignation Thursday. Gakharia said that he decided to step down because he could not reach an agreement with the ruling party over the arrest warrant issued against Nika Melia, a Parliament member



uote

Covid infections 'fallen significantly' in England: Study

the virus has affected all parts of the country and all sections of society but it is also clear that there are particular challenges faced in particular sections of our society, especially in some ethnic minority communities

It is clear that

CHARLES PRINCE OF WALES

We still expect recovering demand, low mortgage rates and a shortage of supply to support a healthy rate of new home

construction and the risk may be for further upsides surprises

NANCY VANDEN HOUTEN OXFORD ECONOMICS

I completely transformed and united the party into a welloiled, pro-Trump machine that won conservative

victories and advanced an America

First agenda at every level - and that delivered a second victory for President Trump in our state JANE TIMKEN US POLITICIAN

SHORT TAKES

US reporter in Syria released

Beirut: An American journalist, living in northwestern Syria for nearly a decade, has been released, six months after he was captured by an al-Qaida linked militant group, Syrian opposition media reported. Bilal Abdul Kareem, a native of Mount Vernon, NY, has been living in the rebel-held Syrian northwest since 2012, reporting on the Syrian government military campaigns against areas in opposition hands. He had been detained last August. following a report he did about torture in the prisons of Havat Tahrir al-Sham, the al-Oaida-linked group that dominates the area.

'Must reveal

The reduction in prevalence from our last REACT round is very welcome. particularly the very large reduction in

London. But it's important that we continue following all the measures that the government has set out

KELLY BEAVER I MD, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, IPSOS MORI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Feb 18: The interim findings of a new UK governmentbacked study released Thursday shows that COVID-19 infections in England have "fallen significantly' since January, reflecting the im-

The social media giant

pact of the strict lockdown measures

The Imperial College London led Real-time Assessment of Community Transmission (REACT-1) research swab tested over 85,400 volunteers in England between February 4 and 13 to examine the levels of infection in the general population and found infections have dropped by two-thirds since lockdown began, with London showing an 80 per cent fall.

The findings show infections in England have fallen significantly since the last report in January," the latest report noted.

But the findings indicated coronavirus levels are still high, with one in 200 testing positive during that same period

"These findings show encouraging signs infections are now head-



ing in the right direction across the country, but we must not drop our guard," said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

"Cases and hospital admissions

vital we all remain vigilant and follow the rules as our vaccination rollout continues at pace," he said, reiterating the current lockdown message of staving at home and maintaining social distance. The figures offer some hope for

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is preparing to present a roadmap on Monday for gradually lifting stringent lockdown restrictions in place early last month.

He has repeatedly warned that any unlocking will be "cautious" and has refrained from setting any firm dates for when specific sectors of the economy can reopen.

The main findings from the REACT study, ninth since the pandemic began last year alongside Ipsos MORI, show infection prevalence fell from 1.57 per cent to 0.51 per cent, or 51 per 10,000 infected.

The R number, or the rate at which the infection spreads, remains below one at around 0.72 and regional prevalence fell in all areas and across almost all age groups compared to the last report.

Pakistan's economic indicators slowly improving: Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Feb 18: Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday said Pakistan's economic indicators were slowly improving, banking on foreign reserves and exports, despite the severe challenge posed by the Covid-19 outbreak. Khan was addressing a felicitation meeting, celebrating the Roshan Digital Accounts (RDA) crossing the \$500-million (Rs 7,939 crore) mark in deposits



The RDA initiative was launched in September last year by the State Bank of Pakistan, the country's central bank, to provide banking solutions to Non Resident Pakistanis (NRPs).

The initiative aims to improve Pakistan's foreign currency reserves. In his address, Khan said the main indicator showing an improvement in the economy was the rise in exports, which grew more than that of regional competitors.

He said the textile sector was attracting investment and new mills were being opened.

"They can't find [enough] skilled workers for textile factories in Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Sialkot," he said.

The prime minister said the current account deficit had decreased as another indication of economic stability brought by his government.

Khan said his government had also repaid Rs 6 lakh crore (\$37,787 million) in debts.

'Disengagement in eastern Ladakh going smoothly'



WTO's Appellate Body, the ultimate arbiter on global trade, which was paralysed by the previous U.S.

NEWS IN FOCUS s of power: facebook ns

and emergency services, were as arrogant as they were disappointing," Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison wrote on his own Facebook page.

the concerns that an increasing number of countries are expressing about the behaviour of Big Tech companies who think they are bigger than governments and that the rules should not apply to them.'

Australian law that would require Facebook and Alphabet Inc's Google to reach commercial deals to pay news outlets whose links drive traffic to their platforms, or agree a price through arbitration.

Though the measure was lim-

'These actions will only confirm

The dispute centres on a planned

Facebook said it had blocked a wide swathe of pages because the draft law did not clearly define news content. It said its commitment to combat misinformation had not changed, and it would restore pages that were taken down by mistake. "The actions we're taking are

focused on restricting publishers and people in Australia from sharing or viewing Australian and interna-

tional news content," a company spokesman said. "As the law does not provide clear guidance on the definition of news content, we have taken a broad definition in order to

respect the law as drafted.' The head of the British parliamentary committee overseeing the media industry, Julian Knight, was among politicians abroad who thought the message was aimed far beyond Australia.

"This action - this bully boy action - that they've undertaken in Australia will I think ignite a desire to go further amongst legislators around the world," Knight told Reuters

"I think they're almost using Australia as a test of strength for global democracies as to whether or not they wish to impose restrictions on the way in which they do business," he said. "So, we're all behind Australia in my view."

News publishers saw Facebook's tactics as evidence that the company. which also owns Instagram and WhatsApp, cannot be trusted as eeper for their industry the gate

EU to push for greener trade policy, reform at WTO

REUTERS

Brussels. Feb 18: The European subsidies and be enforced.

The 27-nation bloc's executive body also said it would seek to work with President Joe Biden's U.S. administration to address a crisis of confidence in the WTO, where settlement of trade conflicts and negotiations are deadlocked

China's accession to the WTO has not led to its transformation into a market economy," the European Commission said in a communication. "The WTO has not been able to negotiate new rules to tackle this.²

This could include liberalisation of trade in certain green goods and services, or agreements to reduce fossil fuel subsidies.

The Commission said it



The Commission, which oversees EU trade policy, is making combating climate change a central part of its new "open, sustainable and assertive" strategy

couraged by Monday's appointment of Nigerian Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as the first woman and the first African to head the WTO.

The EU executive said it would propose a set of WTO reforms focusing on sustainable development, which also includes gender and labour rights, and launch negoti ations on new rules to avoid distortions to trade from state-owned enterprises. It would also seek to restore the

administration.



Union put reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) at the heart of its trade strategy for the next decade on Thursday, saying global rules on commerce must be greener, take more account of state

"A key driver of the crisis is that

The Commission, which oversees EU trade policy, is making combating climate change a central part of its new "open, sustainable and assertive" strategy. It wants to incorporate green action into trade deals and also wants a more environmentally conscious WTO.

wiped out pages from Australian state governments and charities as well as from domestic and international news organisations, three days

before the launch of a nationwide Covid-19 vaccination programme

REUTERS

Sydney, Feb 18: Facebook faced a worldwide backlash from publishers and politicians Thursday after blocking news feeds in Australia in a surprise escalation of a dispute with the government over a law to require it to share revenue from news.

Facebook wiped out pages from Australian state governments and charities as well as from domestic and international news organisations, three days before the launch of a nationwide Covid-19 vaccination programme.

ited to Australia, denunciations came from far afield, with politicians elsewhere describing it as an attempt to put pressure on governments that are considering similar measures around the world.

"Facebook's actions to unfriend Australia today, cutting off essential information services on health

remain high - over 20,000 COVID-19 patients are in hospital – so it is **Facebook 'unfriends' Australia**

country of origin'

Berlin: A German court ruled Thursday that online retail giant Amazon has to tell consumers the specific country of origin of fresh fruit and vegetables that it sells. The Munich regional court rejected Amazon's appeal against a lower Bavarian court's ruling on the issue last year, which had said the company needed to provide full details of the source of the goods to protect consumers with transparent product information.

Hungary seeks citizen input

Budapest: Hungary's government launched an online questionnaire Thursday asking citizens to give their opinions on lifting pandemic restrictions as weeks of declining Covid-19 cases have started to rise again. The government calls the set of seven questions a "national consultation," an informal, non-scientific poll that officials say is meant to gauge public sentiment.

40 injured in Iran guake

Tehran: At least 40 people were injured in a 5.6magnitude earthquake that shook Sisakht city in Iran's western Kohgiluye va Boyerahmad province Wednesday night, media reports said. The quake has caused a lot of damage to buildings, structures as well as roads in the city, and cut off the electricity and water network, the Xinhua news agency reported. The epicenter, with a depth of 10 km, was determined to be at 30.890 degrees north latitude and 51.566 degrees east longitude.

'More than 11,000 Ebola vaccines will go to Guinea'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dakar, Feb 18: The World Health Organization says it will be sending more than 11,000 Ebola vaccinations to the West African nation of Guinea in the coming days to combat the recent epidemic of the deadly hemorrhagic fever that has been declared in the country's southern N'Zerekore

region. WHO regional director for Africa Dr. Matshidiso Moeti said Thursday that 11,000 Ebola vaccines are being prepared in Geneva and are expected to arrive in Guinea over the weekend. An additional 8.600 doses will

be shipped from the United States, she said. The vaccination campaign could start as early as Monday. 'Thirty vaccination experts

have already been mobilized locally and are ready to deploy as soon as Ebola vaccines arrive in the country," she said. The WHO has called on six

African countries to be on high alert for Ebola infections after both Guinea and Congo recorded cases in recent weeks

"The sub-region is on high alert and surveillance in neighboring countries is ongoing," she said. "Our collective, quick action is crucial to avert an uncontrolled spread of Ebola amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which has already pushed health workers and health facilities to the edge."



A person walks in front of a fire during a protest in support of Catalan rap singer Pablo Hasel, after he was given a jail sentence on charges of glorifying terrorism and insulting royalty in his songs, in Barcelona, Spain

Beijing, Feb 18: China Thursday said the disengagement process of the Chinese and Indian frontline troops at the eastern Ladakh border was progressing smoothly and expressed hope that both sides will make concerted efforts to achieve the goal.

On February 10, China's Defence Ministry spokesman Senior Colonel Wu Qian announced that the Chinese and Indian frontline troops at the South and North banks of the Pangong Lake in eastern Ladakh started synchronised and organised disengagement.

"To my knowledge, things are progressing smoothly in general. We hope both sides will continue to move towards each other. strictly comply with the consensus reached and agreements signed, and ensure the smooth completion of the disengagement process," Foreign Ministrv spokesperson Hua Chunying said when asked how the disengagement process is proceeding.

US life expectancy plunged in 2020, most since WW II

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Feb 18: Life expectancy in the United States dropped a staggering one year during the first half of 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic caused its first wave of deaths, health officials are reporting.

Minorities suffered the biggest impact, with Black Americans losing nearly three years and Hispanics, nearly two years, according to preliminary estimates Thursday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

'This is a huge decline," said Robert Anderson, who oversees the numbers for the CDC. "You have to go back to World War II, the 1940s, to find a decline like this.

Other health experts say it shows the profound impact of Covid-19, not



just on deaths directly due to infection but also from heart disease, cancer and other conditions. What is really quite striking in

these numbers is that they only reflect the first half of the year...I

would expect that these numbers would only get worse," said Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, a health equity researcher and dean at the University of California, San Francisco. This is the first time the

COVID IMPACT

inorities suffered the biggest impact, with Black Americans losing nearly three years

ealth experts say it shows the profound impact of Covid-19, not just on deaths directly due to infection but also from heart disease, cancer and other conditions

s a group, Hispanics in the US A have had the most longevity and still do

CDC has reported on life expectancy from early, partial records; more death certificates from that period may vet come in. It's already known that 2020 was the deadliest year in

US history, with deaths topping 3 million for the first time.

Life expectancy is how long a

baby born today can expect to live, on average. In the first half of last year, that was 77.8 years for Americans overall, down one year from 78.8 in 2019. For males it was 75.1 years and for females, 80.5 years. As a group, Hispanics in the US

have had the most longevity and still do. Black people now lag white people by six years in life expectancy, reversing a trend that had been bringing their numbers closer since 1993. Between 2019 and the first half of 2020, life expectancy decreased 2.7 years for Black people, to 72. It dropped 1.9 years for Hispanics, to 79.9, and 0.8 years for white people, to 78. The preliminary report did not analyze trends for Asian or Native Americans.

"Black and Hispanic communities throughout the United States have borne the brunt of this pandemic," Bibbins-Domingo said.

They're more likely to be in frontline, low-wage jobs and living in crowded environments where it's easier for the virus to spread, and "there are stark, pre-existing health disparities in other conditions" that raise their risk of dying of Covid-19. she said.

More needs to be done to distribute vaccines equitably, to improve working conditions and better protect minorities from infection, and to include them in economic relief measures, she said.

Dr. Otis Brawley, a cancer specialist and public health professor at Johns Hopkins University, agreed.













At present, there is no such proposal before the food ministry to increase the prices of products given under the Food **Security Act** PIYUSH GOYAL UNION FOOD MINISTER

BARCLAYS RESUMES DIVIDENDS

British banking firm Barclays is resuming dividend payouts despite reporting a big drop in profits last year after it set aside 4.8 billion pounds (\$6.7bn) to account for loan losses during the coronavirus pandemic



in Vedanta, the Tax Department

seized dividends of around ₹1,140

crore due to it from the sharehold-

ings and set off a ₹1.590 crore tax re-

ternational arbitration to challenge

when the government was expected

to challenge the arbitration tri-

bunal's award as it has done in the

matter involving Vodafone Group Plc.

lenged in the Singapore High Court

an international arbitration tri-

bunal's verdict that overturned its

demand for ₹22.100 crore in back

The Indian government has chal-

In 2015, Cairn initiated an in-

The meeting comes at a time

fund against the demand.

retrospective taxation.



With the growth in direct-toconsumer (D2C) as a share of overall eCommerce, there is a growing

opportunity to enable the full-stack of services in the post-purchase journey of the D2C consumer SAAHIL GOEL CEO AND CO-FOUNDER,

SHIPROCKET

With our first Spinny Car Hub in Chennai, Spinny is poised to meet consumer needs in South. Moreover,

our entry will ensure an organised approach in the pre-owned category

NIRAJ SINGH FOUNDER, SPINNY



conducted to help students understand the kind of course they should pursue and where it is available. Second, on the supply side, we were dominant in the US and UK and are now trying to get in Canada and Australia

AKSHAY CHATURVEDI CEO AND EDU FOUNDER, LEVERAGE

SHORT TAKES

'Small VCs eye startups'

Mumbai: Investments into the startup ecosystem by micro venture capital funds (investments under \$30 million) have jumped manifold to \$341 million in the past three years through 730 deals across 566 startups, says an industry report. In the past decade, micro VCs have emerged as promising players in the domestic startup investor landscape providing the much needed risk capital as well as hands on mentorship to their portfolio companies.

Piramal group gets RBI nod

New Delhi: Piramal Group Thursday said the Reserve

CAIT DEMANDS BAN ON AMAZON'S e-COMM OPERATIONS IN INDIA

PRESS TRSUT OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 18: Traders' body CAIT Thursday urged the government to impose a ban on Amazon's e-commerce portal and its operations in India, accusing the global e-tailing giant of indulging in predatory pricing, deep discounting and inventory control. Addressing a press conference.

CAIT Secretary-General Praveen Khandelwal demanded an "immediate ban on Amazon's portal and its operations in India" and an investigation against the company in a time-bound manner. He also urged the government to

probe the business practices of Amazon and Flipkart.

However, responding to the allegations, both Amazon and Flipkart said they remain compliant with Indian laws The traders' body also wrote to

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in this regard on Thursday. "Our association has been re-

questing your good office to take appropriate steps and investigate and penalise the multinational companies like Amazon and Flipkart (Walmart) for the blatant violation and/or exploitation of the loopholes of the FDI policy and the Foreign Exchange Management

Act/Rules," CAIT said in the letter to Goyal. The traders' body further said that during its national convention held in Nagpur February 8-10 in which more than 150 trade leaders were present, "the inaction of government on this issue was



CAIT Secretary-General Praveen Khandelwal demanded an immediate ban on Amazon's portal and its operations in India

and an investigation against the company in a time-bound manner

viewed very seriously, and members resolved to go on a nationwide stir if urgent action is not taken by the government". An Amazon India spokesperson said the company remains compliant with all Indian laws

"In the last several years, there have been a number of changes in regulations governing the marketplaces and Amazon has on each occasion taken rapid action to ensure compliance," the spokesperson said

Responding to an e-mail seeking response, a Flipkart spokesperson said it is fully compliant with the laws of the country and committed to fair marketplace practices. "As a marketplace, our endeavour has always been to facilitate

the buying and selling in a transparent and efficient way," he said.

US jobless claims jump to

861,000 as layoffs stay high

AGENCIES New Delhi, Feb 18: Amid specu-

lations of the Indian government and UK-based Cairn Energy going ahead with further legal proceedings regarding the retrospective tax liability, Cairn CEO Simon Thomson Thursday met Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey. Speaking to reporters post the meeting, the CEO described the

meeting as "constructive" and the dialogue is "ongoing" Chairman of the Central Board

of Direct Taxes (CBDT) PC Mody and other tax officials also wre present at the meeting.

In December, Cairn Energy won an international arbitration case against the Indian government which claimed ₹10.247 crore in past taxes over internal reorganisation of Cairn's India business. The tribunal in the



Meeting with Fin Secy constructive: Cairn CEO

In December, Cairn Energy won an international arbitration case against the Indian government which

claimed ₹10,247 crore in past taxes over internal reorganisation of Cairn's India business

Netherlands awarded damages of \$1.2 billion towards Cairn along with interest and costs, payable by the government. Cairn Energy had, in 2010-11, sold Cairn India to Vedanta. Post the merger of Cairn India and

Vedanta in April 2017, the UK firm's taxes from Vodafone Group Plc. shareholding in Cairn India was re-Recently, Minister of State for placed by a shareholding of about 5 Finance, Anurag Thakur told the per cent in Vedanta issued together Parliament that the order passed in with preference shares. Cairn Group's case is under con-Along with attaching its shares sideration of the government.

China posted negative growth

in AOA zone due to the timing of the

downs. it said.

digit organic expansion.

Nestle reports 'high single-digit' growth PM to chair Niti's **Governing Council**

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 18: Swiss food and beverage major Nestle on Thursday said it has "performed well" in the South Asia market in

2020, including in in India where it posted "high single-digit" growth. Key brands such as Maggi, Nescafe and KitKat posted robust growth in the Indian market in 2020, Nestle said in a post-earnings statement

Besides, the company saw sustained momentum in e-commerce sales in India, a segment which has grown in prominence after the pandemic.

"South Asia continued to perform well, with high single-digit growth in India and a return to



positive growth in Pakistan," Nestle said.

"In India, Maggi, Nescafé and KitKat posted robust growth and ecommerce sales saw sustained momentum," it added.

The Indian market falls under Nestle's Asia. Oceania and sub-Saharan Africa (AOA) zone, which reported sales of 20.73 billion CHF (around USD 23.10 billion).

announces 'go-live'

of the CBS Platform

Bhubaneswar: Indian Bank has

announced the successful go-

merger of Allahabad Bank into

implemented with effect from

live of the consolidated CBS

Platform. This follows the

Indian Bank that was

Indian Bank

BIZ BUZZ

Samsung launches Galaxy A12

Bhubaneswar: Samsung launched Galaxy A12, its first Galaxy A Series smartphone in India this year. Galaxy A12 comes with True 48MP Quad Camera, stunning 6.5" HD+ Infinity-V display, powerful 5000mAh battery and a host of other innovative

features. With



meeting Feb 20

New Delhi, Feb 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair Niti Aayog's Governing Council meeting February 20 where issues related to agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing and human resource development will be discussed, according to an official statement.

The council, the apex body of Niti Aayog, includes all chief ministers, lieutenant governors of Union Territories (UTs), several union ministers and senior government officials.

The sixth meeting of the Governing Council will witness the entry of Ladakh for the first time, in addition to the participation of Jammu and Kashmir as a UT, the statement said.

This time, other UTs headed by administrators have also been invited to join, it added.

Prime Minister Modi is the Chairman of Niti Aavog



Bank is understood to have approved acquisition of debt-ridden DHFL by the group's subsidiary as part of resolution process. The Committee of Creditors (CoC) had approved a resolution plan submitted by a Piramal Group company, Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited, last month. "We understand that the RBI has approved the DHFL resolution plan from Piramal Capital and Housing Finance, submitted by the CoC," Piramal Group said in a statement.

GJEPC welcomes government move

Mumbai: The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) Thursday welcomed the government's move to exempt the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on gold and silver bars and dore for exporters, and said it will boost jewellery exports.

Open acquires tax platform Optobizz

Mumbai: Neo-banking player Open Thursday said it has acquired tax filing platform Optobizz for \$5 million in a part cash, part stock deal. In a statement, Open said the Hyderabadbased Optobizz is the country's largest GST filing platform which caters to 30,000 tax practitioners and 8 lakh small businesses. After the acquisition, Open's customer base will go up to 18 lakh small businesses from the present 10 lakh. it said. The deal will help Open cement its leadership in the SME neo-banking space, it said.

drop in the number of confirmed viral infections.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Applications from laid-off workers rose 13,000 from the previous week, which was revised sharply higher, the Labor Department said Thursday.

Washington, Feb 18: The num-

ber of Americans applying for un-

employment aid rose last week to

861,000, evidence that lavoffs re-

main painfully high despite a steady

Before the virus erupted in the United States last March, weekly applications for unemployment benefits had never topped 700,000, even during the Great Recession of 2008-2009. The job market has stalled, with employers having added a mere 49,000 jobs in January after cutting workers in December. Nearly 10 million jobs remain lost to the pandemic.

Though the unemployment rate fell last month from 6.7%, to 6.3%, it did so in part because some people stopped looking for jobs. People



who aren't actively seeking work aren't counted as unemployed. Fraudulent claims may be ele-

vating the totals. Last week, Ohio reported a huge increase in applications and said it had set aside about half the increase for additional review out of concern over fraud.

Thursday's report showed that a

total of 18.3 million people were receiving unemployment aid as of Jan. 30, down from 19.7 million the previous week.

About three-quarters of those recipients are receiving checks from federal programs, including two extended benefit programs that provide jobless aid beyond the 26 weeks given by most states.

oril 1, 2020. The CBS integration was taken up over the weekend of February 13/14 successfully completed in time. The CBS and all channels were made available for use by branches and customers by 9 a.m. February 15. The integrated CBS is running smoothly across branches and channels. This is a 'Big Bang' merger by the CBS provider, TCS where the data of 3000+ branches and all channels of erstwhile Allahabad Bank were migrated seamlessly to the Indian Bank database. The customer account numbers of both the Banks remain unchanged and the login credentials of Internet Banking and Mobile Banking were also retained.

Galaxy A12 Samsung will disrupt the sub ₹15000 segment with great features. Galaxy A12 comes with a side fingerprint sensor. It supports Android 10 and One UI Core 2.5 that helps you focus on what

matters the most with content and features at your fingertips. It is powered by MediaTekHelioP35 processor. Galaxy A12 is available in three colours- Black, Blue and White. 4GB + 64GB variant is priced at INR 12999 while 4GB + 128GB is priced at INR 13999. Galaxy A12 is available across retail stores, Samsung.com and leading online portals starting February 17, 2021.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Feb 18: Two mega events India International Mega Trade Fair (IIMTF) and Home & Décor exhibition will be organised in city starting from February 19 to March 1.

CREDAI Bhubaneswar and GS Marketing Associates are organising the Home & Décor exhibition and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and GS Marketing Associates are hosting IIMTF. This Fair is also supported by the Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UCCI).

Airbus lost \$1.3bn amid pandemic; expects better 2021

AIRBUS DOESN'T EXPECT THE INDUSTRY TO RECOVER TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS UNTIL 2023-2025, AND WHEN IT DOES, AIRBUS PREDICTS THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WILL BE EVER MORE IMPORTANT TO PASSENGERS AND AIRLINES

AGENCIES

Paris, Feb 18: European plane maker Airbus lost 1.1 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) last year amid an unprecedented global slump in air travel because of the pandemic, but expects to deliver hundreds of planes and make a profit in 2021 despite uncertainty about when

people will resume flying en masse. Airbus is also pushing to negotiate a "cease-fire" soon in its yearslong trade dispute with US Rival Boeing, amid hopes that the Biden Administration will be more amenable than Trump's government to a deal.

The dispute has led to billions of dollars in tit-for-tat cross-Atlantic tariffs on planes, cheese, wine, video games and other products.

Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury acknowledged Thursday that the company's performance last year was "far from expectations" and had to constantly adapt as airlines

grounded planes - or folded altogether — because of travel restrictions.

Airbus announced in June that it would cut 15,000 jobs, mostly in France and Germany.

"The crisis is not over. It is likely to continue to be our reality throughout the year," Faury said. "Airlines will continue to suffer" and to "burn cash," he warned.

Airbus doesn't expect the industry to recover to pre-pandemic levels until 2023-2025, and when it does, Airbus predicts that environmental concerns will be ever more important to passengers and airlines, so it's increasing invest-

ment in hydrogen and lower-emissions aircraft. Airbus sales were down to 49.9 bil-

lion euros from 70 billion euros the vear before The company also reported a

loss in 2019 because of a major multinational corruption settlement.



Airbus delivered 566 aircraft last salvage the year.

It notably suffered from continuing cancellations of its 737 Max jet, which was grounded for 21 months after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people.

With both plane makers facing a long and difficult recovery, the Airbus chief executive called the US-EU tariffs a "lose-lose situation" for everyone.

The tariffs stem from a dispute

over state subsidies to both Airbus and Boeing that each side calls unfair.After trade tensions worsened under Trump's presidency, Faury said, "We believe the situation is in place to start with a cease-fire, to suspend tariffs, to hold negotiations and move forward.

Airbus welcomed one bit of good news last year: a negotiated agreement between Britain and the EU to reduce trade disruptions after Brexit was finalised December 31.

Faury insisted Thursday that Airbus' U.K. Plants "have a very, very important role to play moving forward for Airbus.'

Overall, however, the outlook remains bleak for the aviation industry.

Also Thursday, Air France-KLM announced it plunged to a 7.1 billion euro (\$8.5 billion) loss in 2020, as travel restrictions and worries caused a 67 per cent fall in passenger numbers at the French-Dutch airline

President of CREDAI Bhubaneswar Kantilal Patel, General secretary Umesh Pattnaik, UCCI executive director Rajen Padhi, Chairman of the Exhibition Organizing Committee, BCCI Prakash Shah and CEO of G S Marketing Associates Suparna Dutta Gupta were present at the press conference. The main object of the Home & Décor exhibition is to interact directly with the customers and to understand their needs

Countries like Bangladesh, Dubai, Iran, Thailand, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Lebanon, Tunisia and of course, India are participating in IIMTF. Also participants from states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, MP UP, Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, J&K and Odisha will join the event.



year and expects to deliver about the

same number this year, the com-

pany said. It took in 268 commercial

plane orders, down from 768 the

Both figures were well down from

Boeing Co. Got a bump in orders

and deliveries of new planes in

December, but it wasn't enough to

normal recent years, but above

those from struggling Boeing.

vear before.









OrissaPOST FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 19 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

sports

Porto stun Juventus



Scorers Mehdi Taremi (L) & Moussa Marega (2nd left) celebrate after one of Porto's goal against Juventus as Cristiano Ronaldo (inset) looks dejected, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Porto (Portugal), Feb 18: Porto scored at the start of each half to beat Juventus 2-1 in the first leg of the round of 16 of the Champions League, Wednesday. The second leg will be in Turin, March 9.

Mehdi Taremi gave Porto the lead after just 63 seconds after a defensive mix-up by Juventus gifted him an easy finish, and Moussa Marega netted 19 seconds into the second half. Federico Chiesa scored what could prove to be a vital away goal for Juventus in the 82nd minute.

Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo was kept quiet on his return to his homeland as the visitors struggled to make an impact, although the Portugal international did have a penalty appeal waved away in the final seconds of stoppage time.

HAALAND LIFTS DORTMUND

SEVILLE (SPAIN): Erling Haaland scored twice as Borussia Dortmund ended Sevilla's nine-game winning streak with a 3-2 come-from-behind victory in the first leg of the round of 16 of the Champions League. The hosts took the lead early through Suso Fernandez Wednesday but Dortmund rallied with a goal by Mahmoud Dahoud and Haaland's double before halftime at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium. Luuk de Jong scored Sevilla's late second goal to improve the Spanish team's chances in the return leg. The win ended Sevilla's good run and put Dortmund back on track after a series of poor results that had left coach Edin Terzic under pressure in Germany. The second leg will be in Dortmund, March 9.

Juventus beat Porto home and away without conceding a goal the last time the two sides met at the same stage four years ago. But it gifted Porto the lead after barely a minute when Juventus midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur attempted to play a back pass to goalkeeper

Taremi was right behind him to intercept and slot home from six yards.

Juventus appeared to lack energy and ideas and their night got worse in the 35th when captain Giorgio Chiellini limped off with a calf injury. Wojciech Szczesny, not realizing

Porto were even quicker off the

mark at the start of the second half when Wilson Manafa ran down the right before rolling across for Marega to turn in at the near post.

Porto hadn't conceded a goal at home in the Champions League this season but that streak came to an end when Adrien Rabiot burst down the left and crossed for Chiesa to fire a first-time shot into the far corner.

Chiesa became the first Juventus player apart from Ronaldo to score in a Champions League knockout game since Blaise Matuidi in 2018. That appeared to wake Juventus up and it came close to snatching what would have been an undeserved draw.

Ronaldo was left furious when he went down under a challenge from Zaidu Sanusi seconds before the full-time whistle and the incident was not looked at on video review.

EPL: Man City see off Everton

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool, Feb 18: Manchester City moved 10 points clear in the English Premier League (EPL) as second-half goals from Riyad Mahrez and Bernardo Silva powered Pep Guardiola's team to a 3-1 win at Everton.

A 17th straight win in all competitions — including 12 in a row in the league — wasn't looking so clear-cut after Richarlison cancelled out Phil Foden's opener for City before halftime Wednesday. It was only the second time in the last nine league games City has failed to keep a clean sheet.

However, Mahrez regained the lead for City in the 63rd minute as he cut in from the right and bent the ball in off the far post. Silva scored with a similar strike in the 77th, also drifting in from the right and shooting low past Jordan Pickford.

With City becoming the first English top-flight side to start a calendar year with 10 consecutive league wins, it is getting harder to see who might denv Guardiola a third Premier League title.

This match should have been played in December, but was postponed at short notice due to a coronavirus outbreak within the City camp.

Everton's Yerry Mina was slow to get up and the Colombian was replaced by Seamus Coleman. The reshuffled back four was soon under scrutiny. Mason Holgate got a vital touch to stop Rodri's pass reaching the run of Joao Cancelo before



Phil Foden (No.47) is ecstatic after his opener for Man City against Everton,

Michael Keane's header prevented Mahrez's cross from finding Gabriel Jesus at the far post.

And the pressure told with 32 minutes gone. Following a corner, Everton could only half-clear Mahrez's cross and the ball fell for Foden, whose shot took a deflection off Coleman to beat Pickford on the England goalkeeper's return to the side.

City conceded six minutes later. Coleman played an altogether different role in this one, picking out the run of Lucas Digne, who fired

onto the post. The ball bounced out, hit Richarlison on the thigh and went in

It was only the second Premier League goal City had conceded in 45 days, and, given the other was a Mohamed Salah's penalty for Liverpool, the first from open play. The second half was be a dif-

ferent matter as City moved through the gears. Then came the goals from Mahrez and Silva, giving Guardiola the opportunity to ease De Bruvne back into action for his first minutes in almost a month.

that ended the first half.

Machado penalty saves NEUFC day

AGENCIES

Goa, Feb 18: Luis Machado struck from the spot in the added-on time to help NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) steal a point from Chennaiyin FC in their Indian Super League (ISL) encounter, which ended 3-3, at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim, Thursday. Chennaiyin were on course for a win until a Vishal Kaith error of

judgment allowed NEUFC restore parity at the fag end of the match. Chennaiyin goalie Kaith brought down Idrissa Sylla in the penalty box while going for a save.

Machado made no mistake and his venomous shot to the right of

Kaith finished in the net despite the custodian succeeded in touching the ball. The drama started in the eighth minute when Chennaiyin's Lallianzuala Chhangte shot from close range. An Imran Khan header in the 14th minute made it 1-1 on the

night. Deshorn Brown put the

Highlanders 2-1 ahead in the 43rd

minute with a breakaway goal and

ing on Thoi Singh in place of Rahim Ali. That change helped Chennaiyin get back into the game. They levelled it in the 50th minute as Manuel Lanzarote scored from the spot after Chhangte was brought down in the area by Ashutosh Mehta. Chhangte then doubled his tally on the night in the 52nd. However, it was Machado who stole the show in the end

The Marina Machans came out

determined after the break, bring-



Osaka sees off Serena to book a berth in final

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Feb 18: As Serena Williams walked off the court after her latest so-close-yet-so-far bid for a 24th Grand Slam title ended with a loss to Naomi Osaka at the Australian Open, the 39-year-old American paused and put her hand on her chest while thousands of spectators rose to applaud. Was this, Williams was asked at a news conference after the 6-3, 6-4 semifinal defeat, her way of saying goodbye? "If I ever say farewell," she replied with a smile, "I wouldn't tell anyone." When the next question returned the conversation to the subject of Williams' many mistakes Thursday twice as many unforced errors, 24, as winners, 12-she shook her head, teared up, said, "I'm done," and abruptly walked out of the session with reporters. Osaka will meet first-time Grand Slam finalist Jennifer Brady of the United States for the championship, Saturday. The 22nd-seeded Brady, who is from Pennsylvania and played college tennis at UCLA, prevailed in an epic, 18-point last game to edge No.25 Karolina Muchova 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in the semifinals. Brady dropped to her back at the baseline after saving a trio of break points, then converting her fifth match point when Muchova sent a forehand long. In the men's draw, Novak Djokovic had a perfect record in Australian Open semifinals, and he was playing almost flawless tennis to protect it. It didn't matter that across the net was Aslan Karatsev, a 114th-ranked, 27-yearold Russian who had come through qualifying to make his debut in a Grand Slam tournament after nine failed attempts. Djokovic finished off his opponent 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. He's now 9-0 in semifinals at the season-opening major, and one win from a ninth Australian Open title. Djokovic will have a day off Friday when No.4 Daniil Medvedev and No.5 Stefanos Tsitsipas, who is coming off a five-set win over Rafa Nadal, meet in the other semifinal. The men's final will be played Sunday. Djoko already owns an all-time record eight Australian titles, and he's aiming for an 18th major title, which would reduce the gap to Roger Federer and Nadal, who share the men's record at 20.

Money splashed in IPL 2021 auction

South African Chris Morris became the most expensive buy in Indian Premier League (IPL) history, surpassing Yuvraj Singh (₹16 crore paid by Delhi Daredevils, now Delhi Capitals, in 2015) as Rajasthan Royals won the bid with a whopping ₹16.25 crore. K Gowtham, on the other hand, became the costliest uncapped player in IPL history with Chennai Super Kings winning the bid with ₹9.25 crore. **Orissa POST** gives an overview of the IPL Auction 2021...



CHRIS MORRIS (SA)

Role: All-rounder

Price: ₹16.25cr

Team: RR

PURSE

₹18.80cr

₹13.65cr

₹6.95cr

₹3.65cr

₹3.20cr

₹2.55cr

₹2.15cr

₹35 lakh

* **OP:** overseas players; **TP:** total players;

* Overseas players: max 8; Total players: max 25.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD (SRH)

ROLE

All-rounder

Bowler

Bowler

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

(RCB)

ROLE

All-rounder

All-rounder

All-rounder

Batsman

Batsman

All-rounder

Wicket-keeper 20 lakh

TEAM

PK

RR

SRH

KKR

CSK

DC

RCB

PLAYERS

J Suchith

PLAYERS

Kyle Jamieson

Glenn Maxwell

Dan Christian

Sachin Baby

Rajat Patidar

S Prabhudesai

KS Bharat

Kedar Jadhav

Mujeep Zadran

MI

MONEY LEFT IN PURSE

POST AUCTION

OF

8

8

8

8





RILEY MEREDITH (AUS)

Role: Fast bowler

Price: ₹8cr

Team: PK

PLAYERS

Jhye Richardson

Rilev Meredith

Shahrukh Khan

Dawid Malan

Fabian Allen

Jalaj Saxena

Saurabh Kumar

Nathan Coulter-Nile

Utkarsh Singh

PLAYERS

Adam Milne

Pivush Chawla

James Neesham

Yudhvir Charak

Marcus Jansen

Arjun Tendulka

Shakib Al Hasan

Harbhajan Singh

Ben Cutting

Karun Nair

Pawan Neg

Venkatesh Iyer

Vaibhav Arora

Sheldon Jackson

PLAYERS

Moises Henriques

PUNJAB KINGS (PK)

ROLE

Bowler

Bowler

All-rounder

All rounder

All-rounder

All-rounder

All-rounder

All-rounder

All-rounder

ROLE

Bowler

Bowler

Bowler

All-rounder

All-rounder

All-rounder

All-rounder

ROLE

All-rounder

Bowler

All-rounder

Batsman

All-rounder

All-rounder

Wicket-keeper

Bowler

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS (KKR)

MUMBAI INDIANS (MI)



MOEEN ALI (ENG)

Role: All-rounder

Price: ₹7cr

Team: CSK

PRICE (₹)

14 crore

8 crore

5.25 crore

4.20 crore

1.50 crore

75 lakh

30 lakh

20 lakh

20 lakh

PRICE (₹)

5 crore

3.20 crore

2.40 crore

50 lakh

20 lakh

20 lakh

20 lakh

PRICE (₹)

3.20 crore

2 crore

75 lakh

50 lakh

50 lakh

20 lakh

20 lakh

20 lakh



Odisha Athletics Association (OAA), Thursday, felicitated their newlyelected president Dr GS Patnaik at a city hotel in Bhubaneswar. Former India men's hockey team captain Padma Shri Dilip Tirkey and Olympian Anuradha Biswal, along with other dignitaries, also graced the ceremony

Wheelchair tennis to be initiated in Odisha

Tennis Tour (IWTT)

The workshop will be followed by

a year-long wheelchair tennis train-

ing programme at the Gurukul

Tennis Resort. An MoA

(Memorandum of Understanding)

was signed by the Chocolate Group

and IWTT. The t-shirt for the event

was also unveiled on this occasion.

Tennis Association (KDTA) secretary

Asit Pradhan, IWTT chairman Sunil

Jain and instructor H Madhusudhan

were also present at the ceremony.

Besides Chinmay, Khorda District

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 18: In a first, a three-day wheelchair tennis workshop will take place at the Gurukul Tennis Resort in Mendhasal. in the outskirts of the city. The workshop will begin February 19 and it will conclude February 21.

Chocolate Group, founded by Chinmay Pradhan who was also present at the ceremony, is organising the workshop in collaboration with the Indian Wheelchair



Chinmay Pradhan (top L) and Asit Pradhan pose with the jersey as Sunil Jain (bottom L) and H Madhusudhan look on during the press meet in Bhubaneswar

KYLE JAMIESON (NZ) **GLENN MAXWELL (AUS)** Role: All-rounder Role: All-rounder Price: ₹15cr Price: ₹14.25cr Team: RCB Team: RCB

K GOWTHAM (IND)

Role: All-rounder

Price: ₹9.25cr

Team: CSK

TP

25

24

25

25

25

25

25

22

PRICE (₹)

2 crore

1.50 crore

30 lakh

PRICE (₹)

15 crore

14.25 crore

4.80 crore

20 lakh

20 lakh

20 lakh

20 lakh

JHYE RICHARDSON (AUS) Role: Fast bowler Price: ₹14cr Team: PK







Price: ₹5.25cr Team: PK		
RAJASTH	AN ROYALS	(RR)
PLAYERS	ROLE	PR

PLAYERS	ROLE	PRICE (₹)
Chris Morris	All-rounder	16.25 crore
Shivam Dube	All-rounder	4.40 crore
Chetan Sakariya	Bowler	1.20 crore
Mustafizur Rahman	Bowler	1 crore
Liam Livingstone	All-rounder	75 lakh
KC Cariappa	Bowler	20 lakh
Akash Singh	Bowler	20 lakh
Kuldip Yadav	Bowler	20 lakh

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS (CSK)								
PLAYERS	ROLE	PRICE (₹)						
K Gowtham	All-rounder	9.25 crore						
Moeen Ali	All-rounder	7 crore						
Cheteshwar Pujara	Batsman	50 lakh						
K Bhagath Varma	All-rounder	20 lakh						
C Hari Nishaanth	Batsman	20 lakh						
M Harisankar Reddy	Bowler	20 lakh						

1		DELHI CAPITALS (DC)			
		PLAYERS	ROLE	1	
		Tom Curran	All-rounder	Ş	
		Steve Smith	Batsman	2	
		Sam Billings	Wicket-keeper		
		Umesh Yadav	Bowler		

	All-rounder	5.25 crore	
	Batsman	2.20 crore	
	Wicket-keeper	2 crore	
Bowler All-rounder		1 crore	
		20 lakh	
	Wicket-keeper	20 lakh	
riwala	Bowler	20 lakh	
	Bowler	20 lakh	

PRICE (₹)

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159

Md Azharuddin Wicket-keeper





Ripal Patel

Vishnu Vinod

Lukman H Me

M Siddharth