

Let elected govts function: CM

AVEEN PATNAIK WAS ADDRESSING TH AAYOG'S SIXTH GOVERNING COUNCIL M



Prime Minister Modi speaks during the 6th meeting of the Governing Council of Niti Aayog, via video conferencing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday said it's high time the country got out of the electionmode and allowed the elected governments to function.

"Every crime is being politicised every action of an elected government is being seen from a political angle. This kind of atmosphere is one of the biggest threats to the pace of development and peace in the country. It's high time the country got out of this election-mode and allowed elected governments to function," the Chief Minister said.

He was addressing the NITI Aayog's sixth Governing Council meeting, via video conferencing mode, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday.

RREGULAR by MANJUL

Stating elections are an essential

feature of a democracy, Patnaik said, "The hallmark of a mature democracy is that once elected, the government is meant to work for people, beyond party lines. It's high time that we as a country had serious introspection on whether we are able to do the same."

He called upon a serious deliberation on the past promises of national parties on women's reservation both in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies. "History will not forgive us if we renege on this commitment. This calls for a serious deliberation and taking it forward," he added. Notably, his party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has been demanding passage of the Women's Reservation bill in the Parliament.

"If the country has to really move forward, regions which are neglected and populations that are vulnerable have to be taken along. Committed

and targeted action is needed for that. NITI Aayog has a major role to play in this. Specific sections that need focus like malnutrition, connectivity, sex ratio imbalances etc." he advised the planning body.

Stating that lakhs of young people appear for national-level exams every year -UPSC exam, NEET, and JEE-Patnaik said that a critical look is needed to re-evaluate the examination pattern for these prestigious and highly sought-after exams.

'Shouldn't we have exams that focus on equality and attracting merit as opposed to exam patterns that are heavily dependent on highly paid coaching classes? This will truly eliminate merit in the long run and deny justice to lakhs of our children who live in rural areas and don't have physical or economic access to coaching classes," said Patnaik

NITI Aayog should look into this very serious issue or else in a few years there will be serious distortions, he warned. Patnaik further said NITI Aayog should develop into a repository of innovations drawn from the country and across the world and help replicate it.

"Many critical issues are being raised in the NITI Aayog deliberations and excellent suggestions are also being made." Therefore, he urged the NITI Aayog to share an action taken report to everyone concerned so that deliberations will be more meaningful and action oriented.

The Chief Minister also urged the think tank body of Union government to take decision on the proposals of different states made on inclusion of tribal communities in the ST list, which have been pending since 1978. Citing how India has set an exam-



Every crime is being politicised, every action of an elected government is being seen from a political angle

This kind of atmosphere is one of the biggest threats to the pace of development and peace in the country NAVEEN PATNAIK | CM. ODISHA



ple with its unified response against the Covid-19 pandemic, Patnaik said that the same unified response and inclusive approach should be adopted for all major challenges facing the country in the true spirit of cooperative federalism.

"History will remember us on what our response has been on critical issues affecting our people and the country, rising above political considerations," said the Chief Minister.

Economic Survey predicts negative growth for Odisha

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POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: The Economic Survey of Odisha tabled in the state Assembly Saturday predicted negative economic growth in the current fiscal, majorly attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic.

from 2012-13 to 2019-20 The survey predicted the The expected growth state's growth rate is likely rate is - 4.92 pc in to come down by 4.92 per 2020-21 cent in 2020-21 as per the Advance Estimates (AE). The country at large

All sectors of the economy is expected to see -7.7 pc growth are said to register negative growth. The governthe devastating impact of ment has cited the pandemic and cyclones as prime rea-Covid-19 on the state economy," the report added. sons for the dip in growth of the state economy.

The annual survey by the "The economy of Odisha Finance department said that the dip in Odisha's real has grown at 7.1 per cent per annum during 2012-13 to Gross State Domestic 2019-20 and the expected Product (GSDP) is lower growth rate is (-) 4.92 per than that of the national cent in 2020-21 (AE). The deaverage. The country at large cline in the growth rate for is expected to see -7.7 per cent growth. MORE P11 2020-21 (AE) is attributed to

Fuel prices keep skyrocketing AGENCIES

Paddy procurement issue to be discussed in Assembly Monday



Cement



at 7.1 pc per annum



on't tell me how to bring down the prices. Tell me how to pass the blame on to our rivals



New Delhi, Feb 20: Petrol and diesel prices have begun to pinch consumers harder with oil marketing companies (OMCs) reserving the weekend for effecting the steepest hike in last several months. Accordingly, the price of petrol

and diesel were raised by 39 paisa and 37 paisa per litre respectively in Delhi Saturday.

With this increase, petrol is now priced at ₹90.58 and diesel ₹80.97 per litre (s) in the national capital. At this price in Delhi, petrol has

breached ₹90 per litre-mark across all metros and around all major cities of the country. In fact, retail price of petrol has crossed ₹100 a litre-mark in several cities of Maharashtra, Madhva Pradesh and Rajasthan. These states also have one of the highest levels of local levies on petroleum products in the country. In the last 12 days (since February



PETROL ₹91.29 (+0.40p) DIESEL ₹88.23 (+0.41p)

9), the price has gone up by ₹3.63 per litre for petrol while the diesel rate has risen by ₹3.84 a litre.

Across the country as well, the surge in fuel prices ranged from

35-40 paisa per litre depending on



It's a vexatious issue in which no answer except for fall in fuel price will convince anyone. It is also a fact that (global) crude rate has been recovering since November

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | **FINANCE MINISTER**

the level of local taxes on the two petroleum products. Diesel prices in New Delhi are closing in on ₹90 a litre (₹88.06 a litre).

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: Stalemate continued in the Assembly for the third consecutive day of the Budget session Saturday as the opposition BJP and the Congress created a ruckus in the House over alleged irregularities in the process of paddy procurement by the state government.

As soon as the House assembled for the Question Hour, the opposition members rushed to the well, demanding an announcement from the government that all paddy bags would be procured from farmers in the next seven days.

Amid the agitation by the opposition legislators, the Speaker asked Food Supplies, Consumer Welfare and Cooperation Minister RP Swain to make a statement on the pro-



curement of paddy.

The minister informed the House that the government will procure paddy till March 31, 2021. He also said 55.03 lakh MT of paddy has so far been procured, up by 21 per cent from 45.61 lakh MT lifted last year.

The opposition members, however, continued their agitation despite the minister's announcement that the government will receive paddy from farmers till March 31.

The BJP members expressed their displeasure over the minister's statement and sought a discussion through a motion in the House.

Meanwhile, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra wrote to the Speaker on decisions taken at the all-party meeting held Friday on the issue.

'...it was decided that the Food Supplies Minister will make a statement relating to paddy procurement. I protested immediately and said that I hadn't agreed to your proposal for directing the Minister to make such statement in the House." said the CLP in the letter.

Later, an all party meeting was conveyed by the Speaker for smooth functioning of the House. After the meet, it was announced that two hours will be devoted Monday for detailed discussion on the issue.

No bail for 22-yr-old activist Disha, next hearing Tuesday

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 20: Twenty-two vear-old climate activist Disha Ravi - who spent five days in police custody and two days in jail in the 'Toolkit' case – did not get bail Saturday. The order was reserved shortly after an hour-long argument between the judge and the Delhi Police, in the middle of which, judge Dharmendra Rana said he "Can't move ahead unless I satisfy my conscience." Later, he reserved the order for Tuesday, which would mean another day in TOOLKIT CASE jail for the climate

activist At the hearing Saturday, the

Delhi Police's reasoning about the activists being in league with secessionists and conspiring to cause the violence during the farmers' tractor rally on Republic Day was severely put to test, with the judge dubbing it "conjecture".



Starting with "What is a toolkit" and whether it was "incriminating in itself", the judge went on to ask a series of tough questions.

The Delhi Police told the court Saturday that climate activist Disha Ravi covered her track and deleted evidence, which, as per the prosecutor, shows her "guilty mind."

Ravi, who faces charges of conspiracy and sedition in the 'Toolkit' conspiracy case related to the farmers' agitation, was arrested from Bangalore February 13.

Bloodiest day of anti-coup protests in Myanmar

AGENCIES

Yangon, Feb 20: Two anti-coup protesters in Myanmar were shot dead Saturday by riot police who fired live rounds, local media reported.

The deaths occurred in Mandalay, the country's second-largest city. One of the victims was shot in the head and died at the scene, according to Frontier Myanmar. Another was shot in the chest and died en route to the hospital.

Several other serious injuries were also reported. The shootings occurred near the Yadanabon dock, where tear gas and rubber bullets were used on protesters earlier in the day.

Security forces in Myanmar ratcheted up their pressure against anticoup protesters Saturday, using water cannons, tear gas, slingshots and rubber bullets against demonstrators and striking dock workers in Mandalay.

At least five people were injured



Anti-coup protesters hold identical posters with an image of deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi as they gather outside the Hledan Centre in Yangon, Myanmar, Saturday

by rubber bullets and had to be carried away in ambulances, according to an Associated Press journalist who witnessed the violence.

Some 500 police and soldiers descended on the area near Mandalay's Yadanabon dock after dock workers joined the national civil disobedience movement, refusing to work until the military junta that seized power in the coup reinstates the democratically elected government. The deaths occurred in Mandalay, the country's second-largest city

- One of the victims was shot in the head and died at the scene, according to Frontier Myanmar
- Another was shot in the chest and died en route to the hospital

Protesters and residents were forced to flee the neighborhood amid the violence, as security forces chased after them.

There were reports of sounds that resembled gunfire, but it was not immediately clear whether it was tear-gas canisters being fired or live bullets. A group of journalists was forced to flee after being hit with tear gas and slingshot projectiles.

Earlier in the week in Mandalay, security forces cracked down on state railway workers in a similar fashion after they joined the civil disobedience movement.

Less than an hour after the 8 pm curfew started Wednesday, gunshots were heard as more than two dozen police officers with shields and helmets marched past railway workers' housing. Numerous videos posted on social media showed muzzle flashes as shots were heard, and some police shot slingshots and threw rocks at the buildings. Marching chants of "left, right, left, right" could be heard along with shouts of "shoot, shoot.'

Also Saturday, anti-coup protesters in Myanmar's two largest cities paid tribute to a young woman who died a day earlier after being shot by police during a rally against the military takeover.

An impromptu memorial created under an elevated roadway in Yangon attracted around 1,000 protesters. A wreath of bright yellow flowers was hung beneath a photograph of Mya Thwet Thwet Khine, who was shot in the capital,-Naypyitaw, February 9, two days before her 20th birthday.

















SHIA'S APOLOGY REMINDS TWIGS OF **GASLIGHTING SHE FACED WITH HIM**

Singer FKA Twigs, who had earlier filed a complaint against ex-boyfriend Shia LaBeouf of sexual assault and infliction of emotional distress, says his apology only brings back the wrong memories.

KIM KARDASHIAN FILES FOR DIVORCE FROM KANYE WEST

Reality TV star Kim has filed for divorce from her rapper-husband Kanye West, according to reports. Kim and Kanye have been married for about seven years. The news was broken by website TMZ after months of rumours of marital difficulties, reports bbc.com.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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focus on your finances and savings, and today, you might remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesha, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film

TAURUS

Your think tank will be running on overdrive today. Your possessive

ness might kick in to cause a conflict. Keep your anger under the carpet to avoid any unnecessary complications. Introspection will also play upon your thoughts, leading you to explore your problems and pry for solutions, predicts Ganesha

GEMINI

Today may not be very meaningful and productive for you, though you will get to spend plenty of guality time with yourself in the afternoon, which may not necessarily be to your liking. By evening you may feel a little extra sensitive

You are likely to be at vour inventive best today, feels Ganesha You are likely to taste success, much to the delight of your colleagues at work and loved ones back home.

LEO

Agreed that home is where the heart is. But today, your home is here your troubles will

be. The faster you try to run away from them, the quicker they seem to catch up with you, says Ganesha. So, scooting off may not be the best solution.

Open the mind gates and let your imagina tion flow, says Ganesha. At your creative best, you will pursue innovation and creativity today. Luck will be on you side and even those things that you took a risk on may lean your way.

LIBRA

There is a very strong possibility of major improvements in your public standing and

image today. But it all depends so much upon your personal character, and therefore, you must guard it zealously, even with your own life.

'Theatres have their own magic'

Mumbai: Actress Aditi Rao Hydari will next be seen in the film The Girl On The Train, which drops on a digital platform soon. She attributes the popularity of streaming platforms to the fact that the OTT space became the best friend during last year's lockdown, although she can't wait to see people returning to theatres to watch films.

"During lockdown, we realised that OTT platforms are like our best friends. Having said that, I feel that theatres have their own magic, so I am waiting to see people going to theatres and watching films in large numbers. In the meantime, I think OTT platforms have been amazing because we can watch really good content there," she told us, on the sidelines of interacting with the media at a special screening of The Girl On The Train.

The film is written and directed by Ribhu Dasgupta and produced by Reliance Entertainment, and stars Parineeti Chopra along with Aditi, Kirti Kulhari, Avinash Tiwary and Tota Roy Chowdhury in key roles. Aditi plays a woman who gets murdered under mysterious circumstances, thereby triggering the suspense in the script. IANS

Sanya learns Thai boxing during Maldives vacation



"Sanya is exploring all fitness activities in Maldives. She went scuba diving and also learnt Thai boxing, for which she took two to three classes from the native expert Uaichai

Prangsuwan there," said a source. The actress "usually practices boxing in Mumbai regularly with her trainer Tridev Pandey, a national level athlete", the source added. Sanya will next be seen in Guneet Monga's Pagglaitt, and Meenakshi Sundereshwar opposite Abhimany Dassani, besides Love Hostel with Vikrant Massey. IANS

amisha Daryani Ahuja, director producer of the recently-reeased Indo-Nigerian film Namaste Wahala says the growing culture of watching films on streaming platforms has enabled budding filmmakers across the world to find a voice as storytellers.

The film had a Valentine's Day premiere on Netflix and it has been garnering massive attention. Fans across India and Nigeria are super excited to watch the film. The 2020 film is the first of its kind as it features a crosscultural romance drama between an Indian man and a Nigerian woman. Helmed by Ahuja, the film stars Ini Dima-Okojie (Nigeria) and Ruslaam Mumtaz(India) in the lead roles.

"I think it is a great sign for us, for budding filmmakers, who are finding voice through the streaming platforms. When I made my film, being a debutant, I wanted my Nollywood (as the Nigerian

film industry is popularly known) film to be released theatrically, in all over Nigeria and all of Africa. Our film was ready by April 2020 but then pandemic took over and it kept delaying. Eventually we had to take a different

way to release our film. When we show it to Netflix they loved it and that is how we have got a chance to release the film worldwide. That was phenomenal about it - the wide exposure," said Ahuja.

Namaste

Wahala, a

movie on

romance

and a

been

Nigerian

between an

Indian man

woman, has

garnering

massive

attention

cross-cultural

She is highly inspired by Hindi film romance and Shah Rukh Khan is one of her favourite superstars.

"My inspiration of making a film comes from watching SRK on screen. Though I did not approach any Bollywood star, you never know what I do in my next film." she

Ipsita's new song an ode to independent women

Mumbai: Singer Ipsitaa, who made her singing debut with Yo Yo Honey Singh track, First kiss, released

her

song

Solo

Laila Saturday. She says the number is an ode to independent and fearless women.

'Girls are taught at a young age to settle down and tether their wings, to find their security and happiness in their partners. It's high time we reject and change that narrative. Women are self-sufficient and we alone are responsible for our happiness. Solo Laila is a track dedicated to all the women who dare to fly high,"says Ipsitaa.

Tanishk Bagchi has composed the song on lyrics by Vayu. The music video has been directed by Viraf Sarkari and Sabreena Sarkari. IANS



find voice in OTT space:

Hamisha Daryani

A ili a

SCORPIO

Today promises to be an exceptional day for those involved in business. With sheer brilliance, you will steer deals right to your door step, and will display great finesse in negotiations and bartering. Bring out the leader in you and take charge when you introduce new products or market them in business, suggests Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

To do or not to do? That will be the question for most of today as you find vourself pulling out of one dilemma only to trip into the next one. Controversy will surround you and you may find yourself at the cross roads, where you are unsure of which direction to take.

CAPRICORN

The most intimidating of ventures can prove suc-cessful if fortune favours you; you will be fortunate today, says Ganesha. Those of you dealing in stocks and shares can expect a profitable day ahead, but don't forget to give credit to your spouse; it will be their luck working wonders for you.

Contraction of the second

BE HA

POOR I

Bursting with new ideas, you want to make the world a better place! You will give your best in a team and will come up with great schemes and solutions.



Running away from your problems will simply have you out of breath: it would be wiser to take a stand and find solutions to petty



conflicts without losing your perspective.





BREVITY			
WELL, TODAY, WE'LL BE HAVING OUR MUSICAL FUNERAL PARADE FOR YOOR MRS. MCGILLICUTTY, WHO WAS PANCAKED BY A STEAMROLLER. I'M LOOKING FOR SONG SUGGESTIONS.		DOESN MATTEL LONG AS PLAY IT B-FLAY	R, AS S WE IN
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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD D B C MEL F G E 6 3 / SUDOKU 9 2







ENDANGERED SPECIES

A dead Olive Ridley sea turtle washed ashore in Puri, Saturday. Mechanised fishing in the prohibited zone has become a threat to the turtles



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
Vorld	11,13,65,979	8,62,35,452	24,65,986
ndia	1,09,77,387	1,06,78,048	1,56,212
disha	3,36,578	3,33,880	1,914

People now feel the difference: Naveen

CHIEF MINISTER LAUDS 5T AND MO SARKAR INITIATIVES: SAYS GOVT LAUNCHED SEVERAL ONLINE SERVICES AND TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVES ACROSS DEPTS DESPITE COVID CONSTRAINTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: The state government has been taking proactive steps towards transformation of all government departments and services through its 5T and Mo Sarkar initiatives, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said here, Saturday. People are able to feel the difference in quality and efficiency of service delivery as reflected in Mo Sarkar feedback, he added.

Participating in the discussion on motion of thanks on Governor's address through videoconferencing, Naveen said, "In spite of Covid related restrictions and constraints, our government has been able to launch various online services and transformative initiatives across the departments.'

Elaborating the steps taken by his government for Covid-19 management, the Chief Minister said, "Our Government, with great foresight, has taken several proactive steps right from the beginning to tackle the situation. This was a completely new type of war and we were fight-



ing against an invisible and unknown enemy. However, with courage and determination, we as a society have been able to rise to the occasion.'

The hallmark of Covid-19 management has been free service to all from testing to the treatment. This helped in early detection, isolation and treatment of the Covid positive cases, said the Chief Minister, adding that this is the primary reason for low mortality rate in Odisha as compared to other states.

With the recent rise in Covid cases in Maharashtra and other parts of the country, the Chief In spite of the pandemic, Odisha emerged as a leading investment destination with over **₹1.2 lakh crore** investments in the last one year, the **CM** asserted

Minister appealed to the people to follow precautionary measures like wearing of masks, social distancing and frequent hand washing. Emphasising on recovery of state

economy from the impact of the pandemic, Patnaik said, "We have been able to rebound the economy. Our revenues have increased by 7.3 per cent as compared to the corresponding period last year. We are in a much better fiscal position compared to many other states in the country."

The state government has provided special financial support to the MSME sector to help them tide over

this crisis. There was a continuous engagement with the industry to ensure that their production and logistics must not get affected by the lockdown, he pointed out.

In spite of the pandemic, Odisha has emerged as leading investment destination with over ₹1.2 lakh crore investments in the last one vear. claimed the Chief Minister.

Highlighting the state government's initiatives for heritage conservation and development, Patnaik said, "With cooperation from people, we have taken up large-scale development projects at Puri, Ekamra Kshetra, Maa Samaleswari temple, Harishankar temple, Nrusinghanath temple, Konark and Tara Tarini among others.'

The state government has taken up 27 mega water supply projects at a cost of more than ₹7,200 crore. Besides, the Capital city of Bhubaneswar has become the first major city in the country to achieve water supply to all houses, he said. However, opposition BJP and Congress members staged walked out during the Chief Minister's speech.

IIL will imbibe culture of continuing edu: Justice Lalit



Dignitaries including Supreme Court Justices Uday Umesh Lalit, Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai and V Ramasubramanian at the foundation ceremony for the establishment of Indian Institute of Law at KIIT auditorium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: The foundation plaque of Indian Institute of Law (IIL) was unveiled by Supreme Court Judges Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Justice V Ramasubramanian

law teachers and practising lawyers. Speaking on the occasion, Justice UU Lalit said, "Change is the only constant in life. Continuing education is important in every profession; it is part of everybody's life. Perhaps, this is the first step which will again imbibe

said there are currently more than 1,000 law colleges in the country producing about 2.5 lakh law graduates every year. The IIL will address disconnect between academicians and professionals, he added. In his welcome address, Manan

Kumar Mishra said, currently there

Polavaram: Plea in SC for

POST NEWS NETWORK

early hearing

New Delhi, Feb 20: Aggrieved by the delay in listing of controversial Polavaram dam case in the Supreme Court, a counsel of one of the parties has written to the Registrar of the apex court seeking early listing of several cases filed against the project.

Advocate Shravan Kumar, who appeared for voluntary organisation RELA in the matter, submitted in the letter that Polavaram Irrigation Project related cases are pending before the Supreme Court since 2006.

"The first petition was filed by Retired IAS officer Late BD Sharma (WP (C) No. 144 of 2006), Thereafter. several petitions were filed by Prof Kodandaram (SLP (C) No.958 of 2008), RELA NGO (WP C No. 65 of 2017) and others. Besides the individuals, State of Odisha (OS No. 4 of 2007), State of Chhattisgarh (OS No.3 of 2011 & Writ Petition), State of Telangana (OS No.1 of 2019) have also filed suits before the Supreme Court on lack of adequate backwater studies," the advocate said.

BIJAY KUMAR SAHOO BLENDED LEARNING IS THE NEW NORMAL

School education is not just about a teacher teaching and students learning. It's much more than a classroom and blackboard set up. SAI International School, a leading educational institute in the state, adopted several methods to teach its students during Covid-19. The school's founder, Bijay Kumar Sahoo, shared with Orissa POST its new ways of teaching during the pandemic.

How did Covid-19 affect school education?

As soon as Covid-19 emerged as a pandemic, SAI International School, without wasting even a day came up with the SAI Cloud School under its pre-existing robust IT infrastructure. However, education of students at schools that were not IT-enabled or did not have such a vision suffered during the period. Apart from online classes we also uploaded the course material online for the students' reference in terms of assignments and modules. And recently we have launched SAI Home School which consists of chapter wise (lecture) videos and much more.

Do you think online education can replace the offline method?

■ I believe that the school is not just a place where there is an exchange of academics or a learning process between the teacher and the student. There are various aspects in school learning

and nothing can be ignored or taken lightly. Online learning is only an enabler in aiding the learner's educational needs and I believe blended learning will be the new normal as both offline and online education

Was it easy to provide study materials during online classes?

are two sides of the same coin.

■ The journey from offline to online mode was not easy but since we already had the IT infrastructure in place the transition was smooth and fast. Yes, there were glitches at times but the motivated IT team sailed us through each hurdle seamlessly. From Experts' Sessions to Alumni Talks to e-Summer

Camp to e-SAI MUN, we conducted each event with the same zeal and enthusiasm. Our international dimension activities doubled during the

pandemic as connecting with other countries became easier thorough Zoom. The main challenge for me was reaching out to my OAVian in remote villages

where there was little access to internet.

ଧରିତ୍ରୀ | OrissaPOST

BUSINESS

EMINENCE

AWARDS

Safety precautions for students

Schools are set to reopen for Classes IX & XI after Classes X & XII. We have organised screening of students, teachers, and other staff at entry points. We ensure strict adherence to social distancing norms, both within the school premises and outside the gate. Use of face masks at all times has been made mandatory. We also ensure periodic disinfection of school premises and maintenance of a high standard of hygiene. Also, doctors and qualified nurses are available in campus. Isolation rooms have been assigned as per the state government guidelines. We are ensuring strict compliance of the hostel reopening SOPs issued by the state government.

Suggestions for development of education in state

These measures need to be taken to improve education in the state: IT Enabled Learning: Blended learning is the new normal. To be further prepared we need to rapidly adapt ourselves to technology in education; Hiring of teachers: Seeking BEd and MEd qualified people should not be the only criterion for hiring teachers. Teachers need to be technologically sound and technically literate; Training of teachers: The existing teachers need to be retrained with newer technology: Attention to students' mental health: The government and schools need to set up

on KIIT premises here, Saturday. Senior advocate and chairman,

Bar Council of India (BCI) and Bar Council of India Trust (BCIT), Manan Kumar Mishra, Odisha Advocate General Ashok Parija, senior advocate and executive chairman, BCIT Debi Prasad Dhal, associate managing trustee, BCIT and founder, KIIT & KISS, Achyuta Samanta and a host of legal luminaries graced the foundation ceremony.

IIL, being set up by BCI through BCIT with the support of KIIT Deemed to be University, will be a model institute of law teachers' academy for promoting continuous legal education and research along with skill development of

the culture when we will be having more and more such institutes, and more and more the idea of continuing education taking root in everybody's mind.'

Justice BR Gavai congratulated BCI and KIIT for this very important step. "National Law University in Bengaluru set up by BCI in 1988 brought a sea transformation in legal education and quality of lawyers. Similarly, establishment of IIL is also a milestone in the history of Bar Council of India." He expressed confidence that the IIL

with the support of BCI and KIIT will produce the faculties who would provide quality education to the students throughout the country. Justice V Ramasubramanian

is no training institute in law in the country to cater to the skill development needs of law teachers and advocates. He expressed his gratitude to Samanta for his generous support to the initiative. KIIT is providing all necessary assistance in terms of land and infrastructure for this one-of-its-kind institute. he mentioned. Mishra admired Samanta's selfless service to the society through Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), which is providing education to 30,000 underprivileged tribal children in a

fully free and residential setting. "Establishment of an institute of national importance like IIL in Bhubaneswar is a matter of pride for the state of Odisha," said Samanta.

The counsel termed it very unfortunate as the project is scheduled to complete by December 2021 but the pending cases are not disposed. He said adverse effects of Polavaram project have begun from 2019-20 because of lack of appropriate studies and precautions. Massive backwater effect was witnessed by hundreds of tribal villages after the construction of coffer dam of the project.

The Supreme Court had last taken up the matter for hearing in February 2020 and directed Odisha to file rejoinder affidavit. Since then, the matter has not been come up for hearing.



SCW received 127 dowry death cases in 3 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: The State Commission for Women (SCW) received 127 dowry death complaints during the last three years of which it solved 124 cases, Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu informed the Assembly, Saturday.

The SCW received 1,877 complaints of dowry torture by the husband or in-laws between 2018 and 2020. As many as 1,534 dowry torture

of rape were filed of which the

SCW succeeded in solving 127 cases.

SCW managed to dispose of 48

sexual harassment plaints out of

The minister also said that the

above period.

the total 57 cases reported during 2018 and 2020. The commission received 391

related cases were solved by the complaints related to outrage of modesty of women during commission during the the last three years. On the other hand, 181 complaints

The commission received 2,822 domestic violence cases while it disposed of 1,765 cases, said Sahu. Similarly, the SCW received 189 kidnapping cases out of which it disposed of 133 cases.

Centre releases ₹91.78Cr to state for GST shortfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 20: The Union government has released ₹91.78 crore to Odisha as 17th weekly instalment to meet the GST compensation shortfall.

With the release of this instalment, the Centre has released ₹3675.95 crore to the state till now to meet the shortfall in GST compensation.

The Centre has also allowed ₹2,858 crore additional borrowings to Odisha to meet GST compensation shortfall to help it in mobilising additional financial resources.

According to the Ministry of Finance.₹5.000 crore as back-to-back loan

to states to meet the GST compensation shortfall has been released as 16th weekly instalment last Monday.

The Union government has released ₹4,730.41 crore to 23 states and ₹269.59 crore has been released to three Union Territories (UTs) with Legislative Assembly (Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir & Pondicherry) that are members of the GST Council. The Finance ministry said that remaining five states, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim do

not have a gap in revenue on account of GST implementation. The ministry also in-



to the states and UTs with Legislative Assembly. "Out of this, an amount of ₹91,460.34 crore has been released to the states and borrowings to Odisha to meet an amount of ₹8,539.66 GST compensation shortfall crore has been released to the three UTs with

Legislative Assembly," the Finance ministry said.

Significantly, the Centre had set up a special borrowing window in October last year to meet the estimated shortfall of ₹1.10 lakh crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of GST.







downtown/state

ELEPHANT DEATHS

Central team visits site, holds parleys

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Feb 20: A threemember fact-finding team which arrived at Karlapat Sanctuary in Kalahandi district Friday evening held meetings with the district administration and the forest officials Saturday before going to probe deaths of six elephants in the sanctuary.

The team, comprising Centre for Wildlife (ICAR-IVRI Bareilly), scientist Karikalan Mathesh. MoEF & CC Elephant Cell national coordinator Prajna P Panda, head of department of epidemiology and preventive medicine at OUAT Prof Niranjan Sahoo, held a meeting through video conferencing with DFO, T Ashok Kumar, the ranger of Karpat and other officials of the forest department Friday evening.

However, senior veterinarian from Guwahati Veterinary College KK Sarma could not be part of the team as he was indisposed.

They also held a meeting Saturday where detailed information about the casualties was provided to the team. Later, the team visited Tentulipadar village inside the sanctuary where the death of the first elephant was reported February 1.

କର୍ଲିପାଟ ଅଉ୍ପାର୍ଶ୍ୟ ସାର୍

After the visit, they will hold a review meeting with the DFO, RCCF, Bhawanipatna and other senior officials of the Forest and Wildlife department today. The expert team will conduct a

ures to stop the fatalities.

POST NEWS NETWORK

such areas were illegal in nature.

Supreme Court ruling in 1968 to

maintain the status quo. It is a

grave constitutional crisis. Andhra

ground-zero study of the possible reasons behind the elephant deaths. Notably, this is the first and the highest ever elephant deaths in the

wildlife sanctuary. As many as six pachyderms have died reportedly due to infection leading to Hemorrhagic Septicaemia. Following the deaths. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had asked the authorities to take immediate meas-



probe by February 22. They will find out the factors leading to sudden deaths of the elephants in the bacterial disease in the Karlapat. In the sanctuary, the source of spread of the pasteurella multocida bacteria - the cause of the dis-

ease - is yet to be ascertained. The team will submit a detailed report with specific inputs on the causes, prevention and treatment of the disease to the MoEF Ministry.

Meanwhile, the forest department is making use of thermal scanners in the drones that are being used for tracking the movement of the elephant herds for ef-

FACT FILE

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fective monitoring of their health and body temperature.

Besides, the cattle immunisation drive in 32 nearby villages has been expedited as the veterinarians and experts are assuming that the bacterial infection could have spread in the wild from the domestic animals

3 die, as many hurt in road mishap at Tangi

JOB STIR

କୋଭିଡ କେୟାର ହୋମ ସାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକର୍ମୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ବିଯୁକ୍ତି

ସ୍ଥାନ : ଲୋୟର ପି.ଏମ୍.ଜି., ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର କୋଭିଡ କେୟାର ହୋମ ମହିଳା ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକର୍ମୀ ସଂଘ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

Dismissed women health workers of Covid Care homes stage a demonstration demanding reemployment at PMG

safe while three critical injured

persons are undergoing treatment

in the hospital. Locals with the

help of some shopkeepers rescued

the injured persons and rushed

them in a highway ambulance to

On being informed, Tangi po-

lice rushed to the spot and rescued

the child patient and cleared the

highway for traffic. A case has

been registered in this connection

and further investigations are on,

SK Nasir Ali, one of the rela-

tives said. "Five members from

our village were coming to AIIMS

in an ambulance when it met with

an accident near Tangi. Driver and

Ali further said that, "We do not

how the accident occurred but

heard a large thud after the mishap.

The family members were coming

to AIIMS to seek medical advice for

GI tag for 17 state products: Minister

the child patient.'

my uncle died in the mishap.'

SI Akshaya Kumar Swain said.

the hospital.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Square in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Tangi (Cuttack), Feb 20: Three persons were killed and as many sustained critical injuries after an ambulance carrying a patient from Midnapore in West Bengal rammed a stationery container truck parked on highway side at Bainchua village near Tangi toll gate under Tangi police limits in Cuttack district in the wee hours of Saturday.

The deceased persons were identified as Iqbal Hussain, 28, driver Sk Tarif Ali, 26, and Sk Ramzan. One of them died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

The ambulance reportedly carrving six persons including a child paralytic patient and the driver from a village in Midnapore district was on its way to AIIMS in Bhubaneswar when the mishap occurred.

The minor patient is stated to be

FREEDOM FIGHTER DEBANANDA **GUPTA DEAD**

ଦାବୀରେ

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Feb 20: Freedom fighter Debananda Gupta passed away Saturday afternoon while undergoing treatment at the VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla. He was 95. Gupta is survived by his adopted daughter Nilotpala Gupta and son-in-law Prafulla Mahana. He had lost his wife Madhavi seven years back

Family members said Gupta was unwell for last three days and was admitted to the district headquarters hospital after his health

condition

worsened,

Saturday

was



Gupta was born at Patapali village in Hirakud of undivided Sambalpur district in 1926 but shifted to Mura village under Maneswar block of Sambalpur after he was displaced for the construction of Hirakud dam.

Gupta joined the freedom movement at the age of 16 in 1942 after being inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. He was arrested by the British the same year.

AIC-Nalanda organises startup summit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: In a bid to boost startups in the state and in the country, Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) of Nalanda Institute of Technology Foundation (AIC-Nalanda) organised the Fundflow East Summit 2021 here at Swosti Premium, Saturday

The initiative which received 1287 nominations, 367 applications and 56 investors saw startups from more than 12 states participating in the event. Attending the summit as chief gest, Hemant Kumar Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries elaborated on the steps taken by the state government in providing a healthy environment and opportunities created for the welfare of startups.

"Odisha being one of the leading states among the fastest growing startup ecosystems in the country has multi-sectoral opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship and is surging ahead to be the 'Startup Capital of the East.' The event will surely boost the future prospects of the state," said Durga

Prasad Gouda, CEO-AIC-NITF. The summit saw about 28 start

KOTIA ISSUE

Naik writes to Andhra CM

Bhubaneswar. Feb 20: Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik Saturdav of the consent of both the states,' wrote to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y Jaganmohan Reddy on he said. The BJP leader termed the disthe issue of Kotia and other interstate land disputes and claimed that

pute on Kotia as baseless. "Andhra elections conducted by the state in Pradesh government is demanding these areas as part of Andhra's "This is not only against the which is a baseless demand. Kotia spirit of the Constitution, but also Gram Panchayat has always been against the spirit of the federal a part of the history of Odisha. structure of the country. The ac-Prior to 1 April 1936, the villages of tivities of Andhra government are Kotia Panchayat were part of Jeypore Estate," he said. going against the spirit of the

The allegation is that Andhra Pradesh has taken over some villages under Kotia grama panchayats named them and added them to of the Supreme Court," the BJP leader said

intrusions show complete expansionist mindset of the Andhra government. "Andhra and Odisha have a very strong cultural relationship for thousand years. We should carry forward our relationship by not fighting for land. So, I request you again to instruct those above three district administrations to obev the Supreme Court ruling and also respect the spirit of the cooperative federal structure of the nation," he said

State logs 63 fresh Covid-19 cases

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: The state ecorded a significant fall in the daily new positive cases, a Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said. It reported 63 new cases Saturday.

Odisha's Covid-19 tally is 3.36.513 after 53 people tested positive for the virus Friday, while one more fatality pushed the death toll to 1,914,

Strict enforcement of Covid norms in City: DCP

BHUBANESWAR: Following a spurt in Covid-19 cases in various parts of the country, the Commissionerate police Saturday announced stricter enforcement of the Covid guidelines here. Speaking to the media, DCP Umashankar Dash said the city cops will ensure strict adherence of the Covid-19 norms like wearing of masks, social distancing by the citizens. Similarly, Dash also stated that the congregation of more than two persons at busy market places would be avoided. The city police will set up a special team that will check the violation of Covid-19 guidelines in the city. He warned of stringent action against persons found flouting the

belonging to Odisha and have re-Pradesh has violated this status quo which was passed on the basis

AP by violating the status quo order Naik said the recent incidents of

ups pitching ideas before the delegation of investors, industry experts and associations. Brahmananda Mishra, President of Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (UCCI), also attended the event and explained the challenges of the industry and how startups can be the new solution-providers. Alina Alam, founder of Bangalore-based café, Mitti, that employs specially-abled individuals said, "Our initiative has crossed the incubation stage and has gained a lot of traction.

he said.

The state also registered recovery of 92 patients taking the number of cured persons to 3,33,980, which is 99.24 per cent of the caseload. Odishas case fatality rate (CFR) stands at 0.56 per cent. while the state's positivity rate is 4.14 per cent

Of the new cases, 31 were reported from various quarantine centres and the remaining are local-contact infec-

norms as well. However, Dash denies deployment of cops at important places of the city for checking on the commuters.



19 patients have died due to comorbidities, the official said.

A total of 53 other Covid-

A total of 1,914 fatalities have been reported so far, the official said adding Khurda district accounted for 337 deaths, followed by Ganjam (248), Sundergarh (173), Cuttack (142) and Puri (117).

Odisha now has 566 active cases, which is 0.16 per cent of the caseload. The state has conducted over 81.23 lakh sample tests for Covid-19, including 22,486 Thursday, the official added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Feb 20: Seventeen products including Odisha's Rasagola got Geographical Indication (GI) registration so far, Science and Technology Minister Ashok Panda told the Assembly, Saturday.

The government has got GI certification for Kotpad Handloom Fabric, Odisha Ikat, Konark Stone Carving, Orissa Pattachitra, Pipili Appliqué Work, Khandua Saree & Fabric, Ganjam Kewda Rooh, Ganjam Kewda Flower and Dhalapather

Parda & Fabric, he said. Similarly, other handicraft products including Sambalpur Bandha Saree & Fabric, Bomkai Saree & Fabric, Habaspuri Saree & Fabric and Berhampur Patta Saree & Joda have got GI tag, he said. Besides, Orissa Pattachitra (logo) and Kandhamal Haldi have received GI certification.

The department has written to the Collectors of Keonjhar, Nabarangpur, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nayagarh, Koraput, Puri and Kendrapara dis-

tricts to submit details of products originated from their districts for GI certification, the minister said in his written reply to the House. The department has received 37 applications for patent filing, four for GI registration, two for industrial design, two for copyright registration and one for trademark registration between 2015 and 2020.

For Intellectual Property Rights and patent registration, the department has opened IPR cells in seven universities and two government-run engineering colleges

TH HOME 'N' DECOR KICK-STARTS IN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: The 17th Home and Décor exhibition and the 17th India International Mega Trade Fair were inaugurated by Panchayati Raj and Law Minister Pratap Jena here Saturday

Nine countries and 19 states are participating in this 11-day extravaganza. There are 250 stalls showcasing 50,000 unique products encompassing interior and home décor, lifestyle and food, health and beauty, handicrafts and handlooms, electronic and finance. The participating countries included Bangladesh, Dubai, Iran, Thailand, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Lebanon, Tunisia and India.

The states participating in the exhibition are Bihar, Jharkhand,



Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and the host state Odisha.

Interacting with Orissa POST,	
Suprana Dutta Gupta, CEO of GS	
Marketing Associates said, "This fair	
is the ultimate destination for every	
home décor lover and the fair is an	
11-day long day affair. From expert	
advice to detailed support one can	
avail all and we are organizing the	

pecting a great response post Covid. Our partner state is Bihar and partner country is Bangladesh while focus is on countries like Afghanistan and Iran.'

Other guests who were present at

Jammu & Kashmir and the host state Odisha the function were Ananta Narayan Jena, MLA Bhubaneswar Central, Susant Kumar Rout, MLA Bhubaneswar North, Ruma Dey, CGM, State bank of India, CREDAI Bhubaneswar foundation president Kantilal Patel, General secretary

Umesh Patnaik, Bramhananda Mishra President, Utkal Chamber

of Commerce and Industry, Prakash Shah, chairman of the organizing committee and Suprana Dutta Gupta, CEO, GS Marketing and Associates

It may be noted here that the main object of the Home & Décor exhibition is to interact directly with customers and to understand their needs. The quest of quality homes of the customer ends here a complete answer to all the requirements of the customers in relation to homes. The Home & Décor 2021 provides the best platform for the finance companies to impart knowledge of their finance schemes, making this an interesting proposition for the customer as it will convert their dreams to reality. The fair observes all Covid guidelines and it's open from 12 pm to 8 pm.

Childline foils minor's marriage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, Feb 20: The Childline officials foiled a marriage bid of minor girl with the groom of her elder sister at Badakhuri village under Soro police limits in Balasore district Saturday afternoon.

According to sources, parents of the minor girl decided to give her in marriage after their elder daughter allegedly eloped with another boy a few days before the solemnisation of the latter's wedding.

The elder daughter was to marry a boy of Meghamadhab village under Soro police limits. Preparations for the wedding were over, but their elder daughter eloped. Subsequently, they decided to get their youngest daughter married with the groom.

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OrissaPOST SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 21 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

state

Jolt to SIT as court denies nod to conduct LVA test on juvenile

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Feb 20: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe the sensational Pari murder case Friday withdrew its application requesting for the Layered Voice Analysis (LVA) test on the iuvenile accused.

The move came after a local court in Nayagarh district denied the SIT to conduct a Layered Voice Analysis (LVA) test on the juvenile accused.

Notably, the SIT filed a chargesheet in Pari murder case February 15. Prior to it, the SIT had applied for the LVA test.

Judge Itishree Mohapatra of Children's Court, Nayagarh, did not allow the SIT to conduct a scientific test on the minor boy.

The rule says that neither police nor any investigating agencies are allowed to take the accused on remand again after submission of the chargesheet to the court.

The SIT headed by senior IPS officer Arun Bothra had applied for the LVA test but it did not mention about the test in its chargesheet.

POLICE NOR ANY ALLOWED TO TAKE THE

The SIT headed by senior IPS officer Arun Bothra had applied for the LVA test but it did not mention about the test in its chargesheet

As the SIT did not follow the profrom a spot only 50 metres away cedure, it was not allowed to carry from the place where she went missout the scientific test to collect ing June 23. The SIT cracked the case in

more evidence against the accused. December last year by arresting Notably, the SIT was also not allowed to conduct narco analysis the accused. After it was proved and brain mapping tests on the acthat he is a juvenile, the case was transferred to the Juvenile Justice Notably, Pari was a five-year-old Board. Subsequently, the Juvenile

girl who went missing from her Justice Board transferred the case house at Jadupur under Sadar poto the Nayagarh Children's Court lice limits in Nayagarh district since the juvenile accused belongs June 14. Her body was recovered to the age group of 16-18 years.



INVESTIGATING AGENCIES ARE ACCUSED ON REMAND AGAIN AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE CHARGESHEET TO THE COURT

Elderly man dead, son critical in group clash

Kamakhyanagar, Feb 20: An elderly man was hacked to death and his son critically injured at Kankadasoda village under Parjang police limits in Dhenkanal district Friday night.

Some youths had allegedly passed lewd comments on the elderly man's granddaughter. When the father-son duo confronted the youths, they were brutally attacked.

The deceased has been identified as Purnachandra Bai and the injured as his son Mohan. The deceased's injured son is struggling for life at Talcher government hospital.

Bhajaman Bhoi and Sipun Bhoi had passed comments on Mohan's daughter when she was returning home February 11. The girl told the matter to her father and grandfather.

Friday evening, Purnachandra asked the youths why they had eve teased his granddaughter.

The duo picked up a quarrel with Purnachandra. Later four more joined Bhajaman and Sipun and attacked him with sharp weapons and clubs. Hearing his father's cries. Mohan rushed to the spot and tried to save his father. He was also beaten up severely.

Police recovered the body and started an investigation.



A woman and her son buying attractive ring-light balloons from a hawker in Rourkela Saturday evening

Police SI held for forging judge's sign to release murder accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 20: Buguda police Friday arrested a sub-inspector (SI) of police in connection with allegedly forging a local magistrate's signature on a fabricated order granting bail to a murder accused in Ganjam.

The accused police official was identified as Surya Narayan Behera. He was arrested Friday afternoon after the magistrate of Buguda Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court lodged an FIR with the local police against Behera over the alleged incident of forgery.

2 die, one hurt as bike rams onto tree POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, Feb 20: In a tragic incident, two persons died and one was seriously injured after the bike they were riding on hit a roadside tree on NH-59 near Bataguda under Baliguda police limits in Kandhamal district Saturday. One of the deceased was identified

as Rubin Majhi and the injured as Ananta Maihi.

The trio was from Kurtamgarh Danungia village. The other deceased's identity is yet to be ascertained.

The trio was heading from Baliguda towards Kurtamgarh. Due to some reasons. the rider of the bike lost control, resulting in the bike running into a roadside tree.

On being informed, police recovered

Mao posters strike panic in Rayagada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Muniguda, Feb 20: Seven posters allegedly put up by Maoists appeared at Dimiriguda village under Ambadola police limits in Rayagada district Saturday. In the posters, the ultras held Police DG in the evening and put behind the Abhay and police intelligence chief RK Sharma responsible for Notably, a case the deaths of Bhawani Patra and of the murder ac-Hemanta Patra of Belghar area in cused was pend-

Kandhamal district. The posters released by Ghumussar divisional committee of the outlawed outfit caused panic in the area. Notably, a group of ultras had killed Bhawani and Hemanta at Gochaguda in Kandhamal on January 29 night.

Political outfits point fingers Farmers fret as leaf blight disease at admin for alleged apathy hits tomato crop POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

cused

Rasulpur, Feb 20: Leaf blight disease affecting tomato crop when it is nearing harvest has left the farmers worrying about their crops here in Jajpur district, a report said. It is apprehended that the disease might result in reduced output and lead to heavy loss for the farming community in the area, farmers Sisir Rout. Prafulla Mallick, Tapan Mohanty, Lalu Rout, Abhiram Parida and Samit Rout alleged. Farmers are also afraid that all their hard work and money they have put into cultivation might go down the drain if the disease is not checked from spreading further.

According to farmers, they incur a minimum of Rs 5000 in purchasing seeds and in preparing saplings for tomato cultivation on an acre of land. Moreover, they have to spend Rs 25000-30,000 in buying seeds, Rs 30-35,000 in pesti-



Pottangi, Feb 20: In the wake of Andhra Pradesh claiming three villages of Kotia panchayat and holding panchayat elections there, various political parties in the state have started debating on the issue. Many have pointed accusing fingers at the block and the district administration of Koraput, raising questions on their role and their apathy towards development of the fringe areas.

According to reports, a row had broken out over Kotia between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha in 1960/61 and the issue has still remained unresolved. The matter is now sub judice at the Supreme Court.

The dispute took an ugly turn in 1967-68 when police of both the sides had faced angry confrontations. Then Collectors of Srikakulam district and Korpaut had to hold an emergency meeting to sort out the issue. Bothe sides unanimously agreed



Supreme Court in 1968. One of the cases (11/68) was related to a tourism spot like Bora.

In 1988, the apex court ordered both sides to maintain status quo, which has been ignored by both the sides. As a result, the row has come up vigorously after a long gap, they lamented.

There are 40 villages under Kotia panchayat while 21 are revenue villages. But 21 of the revenue villages are said to be disputed or unsurveyed.

Since 1968, the AP government had been trying to lure the people of three of the 21 disputed villages with various welfare schemes and

like Ganjeipadar, Fagunasineri and Fatusineri. In fact, the AP government was nominating sarpanchs in three panchayats. But people of three panchayats (as recognized by AP) were unshaped on the activities of the nominated sarpanchs.

Later, they had approached the AP government for holding elections. Taking this into account, the AP government dared to hold elections. Then various outfits raised their voice against the state government, leaving it to reel from pressure.

The state government again moved the apex court against the AP to prevent the panchayat polls. But the state's bid was unsuccessful, they added.

On the other hand, the state government has started development works in Kotia after announcing a Rs 180 crore package to get closer to the people.

Now, people of these villages say that development work in Kotia panchavat has no meaning until people are ensured with livelihood.

The block administration has executed 61 projects in 21 disputed Kotia villages

यूको बैंक 🚱 UCO BANK ZONAL OFFICE, BALASORE POLICE LINE CHHAK, O.T. ROAD, DIST.: BALASORE **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Sealed tenders are invited from all Empanelled Interior/ Electrical Contractors / Firms for Interior Furnishing, Electrical LAN work etc. of ASURALI Branch & ATM. Name of the work: Civil, Interior Furnishing, Electrical 8 LAN work

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- Tender documents can be downloaded from UCO Bank website i.e. www.ucobank.com. The interested bidders are required to submit a DD of Rs.500/- in favour of UCO BANK, ZONAL OFFICE, BALASORE (Non-Refundable) towards tender documents cost along with the bid, during working hours, except Sunday & Bank Holidays.
- Address at which tender papers are to be submitted: UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Balasore.
- Time & Date of Opening of tender : 11.00 AM on 02.03.2021 at UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Balasore.

ing at Buguda

JMFC Court. The

magistrate realised

that a fabricated order

was issued by forging his signa-

ture on the day when he was not

present in the court

Acting on the FIR, Buguda police registered a case in this connection and launched a probe leading to Behera's arrest. He was later forwarded to a local court

cides. Rs 30000-35.000 towards labour payment (from the start of the cultivation till the completion of the harvest), Rs 5000-10,000 in irrigation and Rs 10000-15,000 towards transportation of their harvested tomatoes to various markets. The total cost incurred in raising the crops hovers around Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh.

The farmers could reap 20-25 tonne of tomatoes per acre if fortune favours them but the reverse happens if the crops are affected by disease or any bad climatic condition. A farmer could earn profits if the per kg price of tomato remains at Rs 10 during the harvest period but loss if the price goes down.

The block agriculture department has allegedly failed to be of any help to the farmers. The farmers are also equally not seeking the assistance of farm experts to contain the disease

Lalit Mohan Mohanty, scientist at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Jajpur said that the disease has affected the crop as the farmers do not treat the seeds before use.

ting up police outposts. But the dispute continued to be acute.

Some intellectuals and political leaders pointed out that then Chief Minister Rajendra Narayan Singhdeo moved two petitions in the

to settle the issue and maintain

peace in the fringe areas by set-

quality development works.

Some intellectuals pointed out that the neighbouring government had on his own side had accorded panchayat status to three villages

The block administration claims to have created 72.565 workdays under MGNREGS and paid wages of over Rs 1.50 core through their savings accounts.

the bodies for post mortem and shifted the injured to Baliguda government hospital.

Police have started an investigation in the maishap, it was learnt.

Baripada, Thakurmunda,

Rairongpur and even Musabani (In

ally place orders at me for finger-

lings. I have engaged three to four

Adopting modern methods, a

farmer can make good profits from

producing three to four tonnes of

fish fingerlings twice a year from

self-sufficient in fish farming, apart

from producing quality fingerlings.

But one needs to work with perse-

verance, determination and dedi-

cation to get success," he observed.

forward to help out the youths keen

The government should come

"My aim is also to make youths

an acre of land, he noted.

to take up this farming.

local youths to look after the farm,

"Farmers from these areas usu-

Jharkhand)

he added.

The Bank reserves the right to cancel the entire tender process without assigning any reason thereof. Place: Balasore, Date: 20.02.2021 **Zonal Manager**

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.11 OF 2020-21 No.O-1113 Building 01 (One) work 1. Name of work 2. Total No. of work Rs.54.00 lakhs 3. Estimated cost 4. Period of completion 06 (Six) calendar months 5. Class of contractors 'B' & 'A' Class only Other details as follows: a) Procurement Officer Executive Engineer, Rural works Division, Cuttack. b) Availability of tender 22.02.2021 to

03.03.2021 upto 17.00 hours. online for bidding 02.03.2021 upto 17.00 hours. Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification d) Date & time of opening : 04.03.2021 at 11.00 A.M. technical bid Date & time of financial : e) Will be intimated later.

bid Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www

tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Cuttack OIPR-25053/11/0015/2021

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

Notice is hereby given for advancing Loan to Sri Gopabandhu Mohapatra and Sri Suraj Kumar Mohapatra on their property at Mouza - Satya Nagar, Unit - 10, Tahasi Bhubaneswar, Dist.- Khordha in respect of Plot No. 613/1376, Khata No.- 303/271, Area: Ac.0.044 decimals. That, at present, they have lost the Original link deed bearing No. 11081304252 Dt.08.03.2013 executed by Trinath Sahoo in favour of Ramesh Chandra Sahoo and ROR No. 03/271 in the name of Ramesh Chandra Sahoo on 17.02.2021 while coming from Madhusudan Marg to his residence by his bike at Bhubaneswar and inspite of their best efforts failed to trace the same. Therefore notice is hereby given to general public that if anybody has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing document or on the above property they have to claim before the LICHFL, Chandrasekhapur, Bhubaneswar within 15 days from the date of publication and after that the documents will lose its legal force and LICHFL at Chandrasekhapur, Bhubaneswar will not be responsible for any claim. Waht-so-ever on the property after 15 days

LICHFL, Chadrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar N.C. Pattnaik, Advocate Mob.: 9853311189

Techie scripts success through fish hatchery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saraskana, Feb 20: After the outbreak of Covid pandemic, thousands of youths lost their jobs and came to their villages in Mayurbhanj district. Many are still struggling to get foothold in various incomegenerating activities while others are still iobless

But a young engineer of Saraskan area has scripted success in production of carp fry and fingerlings in his hatchery, which has made him self-sufficient. His story has shown others the way of income in the area

Within a short period, Ashini Mohant, an electrical engineer, has carved out a niche as fish spawn farmer in the area.

Mohant is a native of

Kendumundi under Umadeipur panchayat. After completing his electrical engineering, he served in different private companies for three years. But he was not happy with his jobs in companies.

He wanted to do something that can make him

self-sufficient. His father Ananta Prasad Mohant and his uncle Krushnachandra Mohant encouraged him to take up fish spawn farming, which hold much importance for fish farmers in the district and even neighbouring districts. Then he took a 45-day training in fish fry farming at Kailash Fisheries,

a Skill India project at Baisinga. Then, he went to Inland Fisheries

Research Centre at Barakpore in Kolkaota for a seven-day training in fish spawn farming.



His own initiative started June 19, 2020. He took 10 acres of land on a lease basis and started Abani Fisheries in his village. He dug five ponds with modern techniques in place

He grew fingerlings of a variety of fishes such as common carp, puntius saran, Red Rohu and Grass Carp

His fish fingerlings have high demand among farmers in Saraskana, Bangiriposi, Kuliana,

> "I am earning something between Rs 1000 and 1,500 a day. During shut-

he said.

The hotel has enabled them to give their children education and earn a reputation among their relatives

People love him for another reason. He never turns down poor and hungry persons. He treats them with free but sumptuous meals.

Katinana's hotel in Balasore a gourmets' favourite

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Feb 20: Even as there are no superlative furnishings or lavish interiors like other hotels and restaurants, this eatery with an asbestos roof in front of Bhograi police station in Balasore district has been the gourmands' first choice.

'Katinana's Bhojanalay's claim to fame is its easy-to-stomach type homely preparation. Hygiene and cleanliness is an added feature.

A 35-year-old resident of Dehurdda village under Bhograi police limits, Manas Kumar Dash is the owner of this hotel. People affectionately call him Katinana.

Like other children, he also dreamt



of higher studies and becoming a white-collar job holder. But the family's financial problems forced him

to discontinue with his studies after matriculation Then he helped his parents run the hotel. It was when the financial condition of the family was improving, he lost his father. Thereafter, a dispute separated him from his brother.

"After separation from my brother. I decided to set up my own hotel like the one my father had. I had 25 years of experience in cooking. It was a plus point for me. I took loans from friends and relatives and started a hotel. Mv wife Sulochan has been a guiding force for me," admits Manas.

He also admits that their never-tosay-die attitude, honesty and good behaviour with the customers are the makings of their success.

The hotel offers a table d'hôte menu comprising five items including rice, dal and fish curry.

downs and lockdowns, I suffered a lot. However, the situation is limping back to normalcy," he added. 'Besides giving priority to clean

liness, I always make it a point to give my customers tasty and at the same time healthy food so that they don't feel upset while leaving my hotel,"

Address for Communication:









power post

FOCUS POLAND

Trust the divine power, and she will free the godlike elements in you and shape all into an expression of divine nature. SRI AUROBINDO



Aakar Patel

would be

The reality is that

Nehru or Indira or

Vajpayee did, we

dependent today

on petrol and diesel

no matter what

FUEL ON FIRE

The price of petrol has crossed ₹100 in parts of India for the first time. A parallel development is that of the total revenue that the government receives, 33 per cent or one-third now comes from tax on fuel. India's consumers pay the highest rate of tax on the petrol and diesel that they consume. The nations that follow India on the list of those with high taxes are all European nations and America and Japan. These are of course places where the consumers are much better off than us and the government can in fact extract money from them without significant hurt.

In India, the majority of consumers are poor. And a tax on fuel affects all of us equally and hurts the poor disproportionately. The auto-rickshaw owner and the Uber driver pay the same to fuel up their vehicle as the corporate executive and the business tycoon. This makes little sense. Ideally taxation should be focussed on those who can afford to pay more, and this is through direct taxes like income tax. But this

has not happened in India for a variety of reasons. The base of people who file their returns has gone up but the actual money that has come in as direct taxes has not gone up proportionally

The other reason that taxes from fuel have gone up in share is what happened to the Goods and Services Tax. This was meant to replace a series of other taxes and create a single market where more trade and more commerce would happen, expanding the economy. But the GST was not able to produce as much revenue as the taxes it replaced. And the market has not grown. Indeed, in the last 36 months the Indian economy has slowed significantly, falling from around 8 per cent growth in the quarter starting January 2018 to around 3 per cent in the quarter starting January 2020 And in the period after that the economy has actually contracted for the first time in decades And so the short term prospects for growth are not good, and the government must look around for immediate ways in which it can fund itself. The easiest way is through fuel

Petrol and diesel had been deregulated be-

fore Modi took office. The logic of deregulation was that the Indian state kept subsidising the consumer even when the price of crude rose globally, putting the mostly state-run oil businesses here at a loss. The consumer was protected no matter what the price of crude. But now the reverse has happened. The government is protected no matter what the price of crude. If the price goes down it takes more profit and does not lower the retail rate of petrol and diesel. If the price goes up, it hikes up the rates further. This was not the purpose of deregulation.

The prime minister says that it is not his fault and previous governments are to blame for keeping India dependent on imported crude. But that is the case with all the world's nations who do not have a reserve of oil that can be tapped into. Alternative sources of energy are a recent phenomenon and their ability to match fossil fuels in terms of price is something even more recent. We should know that in the area of petrol and diesel in automobile use, this parity has still not come. Petrol and diesel are very energy dense. About 50 litres of fuel or a full tank can take the car for 700 km. For an electric car to do that, it requires a lithium ion battery pack that must be at least 45 or so kilo watt hours. The price of this battery alone is around 5000 America dollars and so about ₹4 lakh. Add the rest of the car and the minimum cost of a vehicle that can do the same range as a petrol and diesel car can do today is around ₹10 lakh which is out of the budget for three fourths or more of India's car buyers. This will change over time and the cost of battery packs will fall as more and more nations take to electric vehicles for environmental reasons. But it is wrong to assume that it could be done today and certainly wrong to assume it could have been done in the past.

The last aspect is that of infrastructure. Lithium ion batteries in cars take about 10 hours to charge at home, assuming all car buyers have a garage with access to electricity. America, Europe and China have tens of thousands of direct current fast chargers in networks that span their nations. This enables cars to charge up in about half an hour or so. India does not have these networks because the government has not built them. Even if all cars today were to magically become electric and not dependent on fossil fuel, where would they be charged? That the prime minister did not say. The reality is that no matter what Nehru or Indira or Vajpayee did, we would be dependent today on petrol and diesel. The question is whether the government should extract such a large share of tax from us. That is a question only Modi can answer and not Nehru.

DEMOCRACY IN CROSSHAIRS

ruled by law was transformed into

Orbán, the PiS is no longer satis-

fied with control of public media

independent news outlets.

corruption scandals is not enough.

times by the government and some

times by individuals or groups at

the government's behest-against

critics of the government is not

enough. All media organisations

that are not under the PiS regime's

control, and that do not serve its

Viewed against this background,

the regime's planned advertising

tax, which triggered the current

round of media protests, is yet

another slice of the salami. The tax

interests, must be destroyed.

here has been nothing like it before in Poland. On February 10, newspapers and magazines suspended publication, news websites went dark, and dozens of radio and television stations ceased broad casting. Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the abolition of censorship, and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Poland's civil society is again defending its hardwon democracy from a state determined to do away with it.

The policies Poland's independent media outlets are now protesting have made them as vulnerable as their counterparts in Russia and Hungary. In fact, as Deputy Prime Minister Jarosław Kaczyński, Poland's de facto ruler, has publicly admitted, the template for his regime is that of Hungary under Prime Minister Viktor Örbán. So, to understand the Polish media's protest of silence, the Hungarian experience is worth recalling.

After returning to power in 2010, Orbán, determined to consolidate what he called an "illiberal democracy," relied on the "salami" tactics invented by Mátyás Rákosi, the so-called Hungarian Stalin, to establish Communist rule after World War II. In the fight against the "class enemy," Rákosi's Communists methodically diminished free institutions. slice by slice, until nothing but the casing remained. Orbán adapted these tactics for the twentyfirst century, and Kaczyński has followed him.

The first slice, then and now, was the public media, which has been turned into a mouthpiece of Kaczyński's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party. Poland's official news outlets now peddle a steady stream of lies and slander, reminiscent of master propagandists like Joseph Goebbels and Andrei Zhdanov. The Constitutional Tribunal, the prosecutor's office, and cultural insti-



Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the abolition of censorship, and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Poland's civil society is again defending its hard-won democracy from a state determined to do away with it

tutions were next to be politicised is not just a heavy, discriminatory and subordinated to the ruling financial burden, but also a weapon party. Bit by bit, a democratic state to stifle criticism and free speech. The survival of most independent

an authoritarian Potemkin village. news outlets depends on advertis-Following the lead of Russian ing revenues, which have already President Vladimir Putin and plummeted in a pandemic-ravaged economy. Depriving these outlets of even more income will force and the fealty of pro-government them to lay off journalists and cut websites and newspapers, and is budgets for core tasks, like fact turning its attention to strangling checking government statements and conducting investigations of of-Falsifying history and concealing ficial wrongdoing. To add insult to injury the revenue from the ad-The string of lawsuits - somevertising tax is to be transferred to the pro-government media The government's claim that

> the tax primarily applies to America's tech giants, which avoid paving levies on their turnover in Europe, is an obvious lie. The PiS government, utterly servile to former US President Donald Trump, actually declined to tax the tycoons of Silicon Valley. Moreover, collection of such a tax would have to be agreed by many countries, particularly those within

the European Union. Poland has no chance of being effective against the US tech giants without the EU, from which the PiS government is estranged.

The PiS regime's attack on the economic underpinnings of free media is no less an assault on democracy than the January 6 storming of the US Capitol by Trump supporters. Behind both are lies, violent rhetoric, and the perversion of politics and public life. The PiS government, too, has demonstrated its contempt for the rule of law and human rights, to say nothing of independent media. The evidence is a plethora of government scandals, widespread corruption (including in the fight against the pandemic), the transformation of school curricula into nationalist kitsch, and the use of the police as a tool and as body guards of the PiS regime. At the root of such policies

wherever they are adopted - is not only fear of freedom and truth, but also the desire to instill this fear in our societies. All Polish courts are to be as controlled as those in Moscow, which can try, convict, and sentence the Kremlin's opponents in record time, as the recent case of Alexei Navalny demonstrated. All Polish media are supposed to speak with one voice, like those praising Putin or Orbán.

A colleague of mine, an insightful observer of contemporary politics, told me: "As an analyst, I will tell you that they, the enemies of freedom, could win As a citizen, I will ask you to promise me that you will do whatever it takes to prevent that from happening.

I replied: I promise.

The writer, a leader of Solidarity in 1989 and a participant in the round-table talks that ended communist rule in Poland, is Editor-in-Chief of Gazeta Wyborcza. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Adam Michnik

THE PIS

REGIME'S

ECONOMIC

ATTACK ON THE

UNDERPINNINGS

OF FREE MEDIA

IS NO LESS AN

ASSAULT ON

DEMOCRACY

THAN THE

JANUARY 6

BY TRUMP

SUPPORTERS

STORMING OF

THE US CAPITOL

Neglect of mother language has cost us a lot _

That makes a society, com- challenges than those from numunity or nation great? Not just its economy, natural resources, leadership, patri-

clear families. Reason is simple; they are more accommodating and generous towards their friends, otism, culture, military power or relatives and others they come in

tailing hundreds of casualties. In November 1999, UNESCO declared cation systems and in public do-21 February as International main, while fewer than a hundred Mother Language Day to be ob- are being used in the digital world.

opened fire on public rallies en- few hundred languages have actually been given a place in edu-

WISDOM CORNER

- Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present.
- The more you like yourself, the less you are like anyone else, which makes you unique WALT DISNEY
- Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left PABLO PICASSO

WORDS**WORTH**

Man date

he New York Times seems to have started something with an article by Jennifer Lee under the headline "The Man Date; What do you call two straight men having dinner?" The article discussed the issue that two male friends enjoying certain kinds of public activity together - going for a walk, visiting a museum, or having a meal - are automatically assumed by onlookers to be gay if there is no obvious business- or sports-related reason for them to be together. The fear of being thought gay, the article suggested, made it difficult for men to create the kind of one-onone close friendships that women take for granted. The story has been picked up by papers worldwide as a peg for discussing these issues and for relating them to social attitudes, metrosexuality (changing male views on fashion and personal grooming), and other matters. Whether Ms Lee's invention of man date for a non-sexual male assignation is going to become a permanent part of the language is much too early to say. Like the now passé "metrosexual," man date is sure to cause some consternation and self-consciousness among males everywhere. Social behaviours once considered mundane will be subjected to a man-date litmus test. Watching a football game with another man will be kosher; watching a foreign film will be a man date. Cooking outdoors on a grill will be normal masculine socialising; cooking indoors on a range will be a man date. Of course, Lee and The New York Times aren't trying to promote homophobia by bringing "man date" into the national vocabulary, but one can see little sociological use in the term other than exacerbating homosexual panic (University Wire, 13 April, 2005). 'Sideways', the recent highly acclaimed film from Alexander Payne, is perhaps the best example of the Man Date movie. Two buddies, Jack and Miles, hit the road for a week of wine tasting and fine dining before Jack's wedding. These are average guys, but are unabashed about sharing a good bottle of wine over dinner and talking about their feelings (The Observer, 17 April, 2005).



EVERY TWO WEEKS A LANGUAGE DISAPPEARS **TAKING WITH IT A** WHOLE CULTURAL **AND INTELLECTUAL** LEGACY

pool of talent. Along these attributes to varying degrees, at back is the umbilical bond of its people with nativity: native land, native language, native resources, parents and kin. To whatever level you have arrived in life thus far, a plethora of people and institutions were instrumental in your growth and development, besides clarity of your goals and adjunct efforts. Among all entities you owe gratitude (without which none can reach higher echelons), towards parents, mother land - and by corollary – mother language stands atop. Staying rooted to one's nativity imparts enormous strength to the individuals since they have the belief of belonging to a value system, something not available to those with no concern with nativity. Disgusted at the people with scant or no regard for nativity, Walter Scott thus remarked: "Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who never to himself hath said, this is my own, my own native land.

The same rationale is true of those with strong family ties; many studies have shown that those hailing from joint families are better at resolving their conflicts and

contact with.

At work place we routinely find the very senior officials communicating in mother tongue when the action brooks no delay. Admittedly, use of language that our mother taught us provides us ease and felicity that no other language can. It is in this background that Nelson Mandela said, "If you talk to [someone] in a language [he or she] understands, that goes to [the person's] head. If you talk to [somebody] in [his or her] language, that goes to [the] heart.

Although UNESCO believes in promoting indigenous systems and languages, declaration of 21 February as International Mother Language Day has an interesting origin. It so happened that with Bangladesh having merged with Pakistan after the India-Pakistan partition in 1947, Urdu was decided to be the sole national language in 1948, despite Bengali speakers being in majority. The ruling led to widespread unrest, rallies and protests with demand for Bengali to be one of the country's national languages with active involvement of students at the University of Dhaka. On the black day of 21 February 1952, the police

served globally to protect mother languages and to commemorate the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in Bangladesh for their mother language.

Espousing mother language does not imply grudge towards other languages, it is just not to accord pariah status to mother language. It has been repeatedly demonstrated by linguists that learning of second or third language does not impinge upon growth of mother language. In fact, learning of language other than native language uses other portions of the brain so that two or more languages can be learnt especially in formative years. Learning other than mother language also helps shed prejudices against speakers of other languages that set in unawares.

Thus bilingualism or multilingualism has many benefits. Learning another language entails exposure to a different culture, the ethos and pathos of another community or nation, and certainly widens our mental horizons and understanding of life. There are reasons why from about 6,000 languages in the world still in vogue, 43 per cent are at risk of extinction. It is so because only a

Every two weeks a language disappears taking with it a whole cultural and intellectual legacy.

The theme of International Mother Language Day this year, "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society." is essential, because when 40 per cent of the world's inhabitants do not have access to education in the language they speak or understand best, it hinders their learning, as well as their access to heritage and cultural expressions. This year, special attention is being paid to multilingual education from early childhood, so that for children, their mother tongue is always an asset." said Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO.

English is certainly the most important language of communication the world over, especially in scientific and technological domain. However, the way it is being espoused with it is becoming a threat for growth of native languages and linguistic diversity.

> The author, a blogger (www.bluntspeaker.com), writes on social, spiritual and health issues.

etters

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 postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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

'Anti-people' policies

Sir, It is no longer possible to meet the needs of the government through direct and indirect taxes. The treasury is empty and the Budget is consistently low. The only way is to sell all government initiatives to private investors. This is the last piece of advice from mixed economics scholars, but the results are the same as before -- unemployment, inflation, and devaluation of currency. The Union government has chosen to privatise four government-owned banks -- Bank of Maharashtra, Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank and Bank of Baroda. These banks have 1.22 lakh employees. It is important to note that 23 government banks have been merged with large banks since the beginning. The question is will the private players who are going to be the owners of these banks serve the general people? It is unlawful to sell these banks arbitrarily. The rule of economics is that a person cannot make a profit unless he has exploited the labour force. This will also apply to banks -- workers will be forced to retire, interest rates on loans will be raised, interest rates on deposits will be reduced, and so on. These measures are 'anti-economic and anti-labour'. This is why bank employees are constantly protesting against this 'anti-people' policy. When the country's unemployment rate is growing, the government's policies are going to create an army of educated unemployed that will create a catastrophic situation for the country. The solution to this problem is only possible with the help of constant agitation. Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

'Metroman' in BJP

Sir, This refers to the news report "Metroman to join BJP," Orissa Post, February 19. E. Sreedharan, fondly known as India's Metroman is set to enter the political field through BJP in his home state Kerala. A technocrat of high calibre, and with a successful professional life. Sreedharan is a familiar figure among certain sections of the society. The octogenarian evinced interest in switching over to the political arena to serve society. His enthusiasm shows his battle-ready instinct. Further, messaging readiness to ascend to the chief minister's post in an opportune time, even as disfavoring the gubernatorial post amply describes his ambition - to deliver tangible benefits to the state. The saffron party, with an eye on emerging as a third alternative in the 'God's own country' hasfound a gentleman to induct into its fold. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE



Fissures out in open in Raj Congress

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Feb 20: It was a different 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' at the Kotkhawada area of Chaksu town in Jaipur district Friday where a huge crowd gathered to catch a glimpse of their 'hero' -- Congress leader Sachin Pilot -- cheering loudly to give a loud shout of approval to every word the former Deputy CM uttered. The same crowd also hooted when MLAs from Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's camp were seen joining Pilot on the dais.

However, as thousands of people from all caste and creed, and not all necessarily farmers, joined the Mahapanchayat, it gave a clear indication that a new farmer leader is born in Rajasthan who is none other than Pilot.

Though Pilot denied any such thing while speaking to IANS and said, "I'm strongly attached to the farmer community. In fact, my father and I have received full blessings from the farmer community across castes. Farmers are the backbone of our country's economy. This agrarian community plays a strong role in our country's development and hence the Congress is fully committed to their cause. As a Congress worker, I feel that it is my duty to remain

FARMER LEADEF As thousands of people from all caste and creed

joined the Mahapanchayat, it gave a clear indication that a new farmer leader is born in Rajasthan who is none other than Sachin Pilot

> committed to the farmers' issue and hence I am here addressing this rally.

> "We passed three resolutions in today's rally. First, all the three laws farm should be withdrawn:

The crowd at the meeting cheered loudly to give a loud shout of approval to every word the former Deputy CM uttered The same crowd also hooted when MLAs from Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's camp were seen joining Pilot on the dais second, farm purchase should be

made on MSP; and thirdly, the hike in petrol and diesel prices should be rolled back. Everyone raised their hands and passed

these three resolutions.

"This movement goes beyond caste and religion. Everyone in the country is now saying that the government of India should reconsider its decision and withdraw the farm laws, shedding its stubborn nature. In fact, they should frame three new laws after consulting all the stakeholders,' Pilot said, adding that every Indian feels that the farm bills were passed in haste without any consultation.

Almost 200 farmers have lost their lives while trying to convince the government to repeal the farm laws, he added.

Meanwhile, the Mahapanchayat also reflected the strong confrontation brewing between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy, indicating that the 'political war' is still not over. In the Mahapanchayat, Pilot had 16 MLAs with him on the stage, which gave a clear message to the Congress high command about his grip and strength on the ground.

Similarly, Gehlot, PCC president Govind Singh Dotasara and several leaders of the Gehlot camp were invited to the event, but none arrived. Pilot and Gehlot's confrontation became all the more evident when two MLAs from Gehlot camp joined the

Mahapanchayat Friday.

While the pro-pilot MLAs in cluded Vishvendra Singh, Hemaram Chaudhary, Murarilal Meena, Brijendra Singh Ola, Ramesh Meena, Ved Prakash Solanki, Harish Meena, G.R. Khatana, Indraj Gurjar, Rakesh Pareek, Amar Singh Jatav, Suresh Modi, Mukesh Bhakar and P.R. Meena, the presence of two other MLAs surprised many -- Niwai MLA Prashant Bairava and Dantaramgarh MLA Virendra Singh, the son of former Congress state president Narayan Singh.

As soon as they arrived, the Pilot supporters started raising slogans against them as Bairava was initially in the Pilot camp, but joined the Gehlot fraction after a political crisis erupted in the state in July last year.

Three other MLAs belonging to the Pilot camp -- Deepender Singh Shekhawat, Ramnivas Gavadia and Bhanwarlal Sharma -- could not make it to the Mahapanchayat.

When Vishvendra Singh, an MLA from the Pilot camp, indirectly commented on Gehlot and said "first we got 99 seats, then 101", slogans were raised in support of Pilot. Looking at the response, Singh said, "You are smarter than me.

Gehlot attacks Centre over rising fuel prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur. Feb 20: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Saturday said fuel prices have been increasing for 11 days and the common man is suffering as a result of "wrong" economic policies of the Centre. In a series of tweets, Gehlot tar-

geted the Centre and cleared his stand on the rumours that Rajasthan levies highest tax on fuel prices. "The Modi government imposes

excise duty of Rs 32.90 on petrol and Rs 31.80 per litre on diesel. Whereas during the UPA government in 2014 there was an excise duty of only Rs 9.20 on petrol and just Rs 3.46 on diesel. The Modi government should reduce excise duty in the interest of the public without delay," he tweeted in Hindi.

"People are affected by petrol and diesel prices. Prices have been increasing continuously for the last 11 days. This is the result of wrong economic policies of the Modi government. Crude oil prices in the international market are currently half of what it used to be during the UPA rule, but petrol-diesel prices have reached an all-time high," Gehlot said in another tweet. The chief minister claimed that



the Centre has continuously reduced the part of basic excise duty of the states and increased the additional excise duty and special excise duty on the central portion "only to fill its treasury". Consequently, the state governments have to increase VAT (valueadded tax) to raise their economic resources, the chief minister said. Gehlot said the economy of

Rajasthan has been badly affected due to COVID-19 and the state's revenue has decreased. But, the state government reduced VAT by 2 per cent in the last month to give relief to the common people, he added. "Instead of giving any such relief, the Modi government is increasing the prices of petrol and diesel every day," Gehlot said.

AIKS mahapanchayats Glacier disaster highlights Himalayan dangers in Rajasthan next week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Feb 20: The All India Kisan Sabha will hold several kisan mahapanchayats in Rajasthan next week under the leadership of farmer leaders, including Rakesh Tikait.

The kisan mahapanchayats will be held in the state from February 22 to 26 and the first one will take place in Nohar in Hanumangarh district February 22. the Kisan

farmers' movement and listen to the leaders of the United Front," the spokesperson said

All India Kisan Sabha national vice president and former MLA Amra Ram will also address mahapanchayats. A large number of farmers from Rajasthan are also participating in protest against the agricultural laws of the Centre and are holding a sit-in protest on the Shahjahanpur border near Alwar.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Chamoli, Feb 20: Long before this month's deadly flash flood in a remote Indian Himalayan valley, Kundan Singh Rana knew that all the construction work in the fragile region would one day mean disaster.

"The rivers, mountains and trees are like our gods and any sacrilege will have consequences," Rana told AFP in his village, overlooking the hydroelectric project that was obliterated by what was believed to be a glacier collapse Feb 7. "The Rishiganga river and our mountains have been scarred beyond repair by human greed. This flood is God's retribution," the 43-year-old farmer said.

Scientists may not share his belief in divine punishment, but they agree that the blame for this latest disaster which killed 60 people and left 150 others missing lies largely with human activity.

The anthropogenic impact includes the shrinking of glaciers in the Himalayas, one of the regions hardest hit by global warm-



shaped valley, sweeping away homes, roads and bridges as well as around 200 people, many of whom have still not been found al-

The runoff can form glacial 20 Indian soldiers dead. lakes which can then burst their banks in spectacular and de-

retribution

NDAN SINGH RANA

An 800km highway is also being built to connect four religious sites - a pet project of Prime Minister and our mountains Narendra Modi. have been scarred But the biggest beyond repair by human greed. This flood is God's problem is the con-

are planned - many without proper attention to the potential risks, experts say.

NO TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Experts say that these projects make other devastating flash floods more likely, while also increasing the risk of landslides.

The dangers were plain to see in 2013 when a flash flood killed 6,000 people in Uttarakhand and devastated the region.

In its wake, India's top court appointed a scientific committee that recommended no more hydro plants be built in the area - advice which is being ignored.

Locals in the area - home to a famous 1970s campaign to protect trees - say that they have seen none of the promised economic benefits of the development and that their concerns have been_ ignored.

They launched a campaign in 2019 and petitioned a court over illegal sand mining and the dumping of muck in the Rishiganga river that they said was contributing to landslides and floods. But deforestation for infrastructure projects, sand mining struction of hydroand quarrying continues. "We used to trust the governelectric plants across the vast network of ment and believed that it was Himalayan rivers, part working for our welfare but that's not the case," Surinder Singh, 55, of India's drive to boost renewable energy. told AFP. More than 75 small and large "Any dam or road that threatens our lives and the mountains power projects are operational in Uttarakhand and dozens more will be fought tooth and nail.'

Sabha spokesperson said.

Meetings will be held at Sardarshahar (Churu) and Sikar February 23, Mehendipur Balaji (Dausa) February 25 and Padampur Mandi (Ganganagar) and Ghadsana Mandi (Ganganagar) February 26, according to the spokesperson.

Rakesh Tikait, the national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, will also address these mahapanchayats.

"You must also join to support the

a march in all districts of Rajasthan to mark its protest against the farms laws enacted by the Centre and the rising fuel prices. In Jaipur, the protest was led by Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas and Congress Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi. The Congress leaders were seen riding on tractors, camels and elephants besides participating in a "Paidal March" as party workers and protestors raised slogans against PM Narendra Modi.

The Congress Saturday organised

ing. The recent disaster is thought by experts to have been caused by a chunk of glacier 15 football fields long and five across breaking off, bringing with it part of a rock face.

This dammed up a small river high in the mountains until the mass of backed-up water broke through with awesome ferocity and speed

The roaring deluge of water, rocks and soil hurtled down a V-

most two weeks on.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

The latest catastrophe "is clearly a fallout of climate change and in itself a tell-tale of our future,' HC Nainwal, one of the several glaciologists who visited the site. told AFP.

In the Indian Himalayas, about 10,000 glaciers are receding at a rate of 30m to 60m per decade.

structive fashion. The other factor can be heard in the regular thuds of dynamite ringing through the valleys of Uttarakhand.

Some of this explosive activity is for new roads to beef up the disputed border with China following last year's clash that left

Haridwar 'Kumbh' to be held Researchers to inspect artificial lake for 28 days amid pandemic **TAPOVAN TOLL RISES TO 65** GOPESHWAR: Three more bod-Magistrate Swati S Bhadauria on

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 20: In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 'Kumbh Mela' in 2021 would be held in Haridwar for a span of 28 days which includes four 'Shahi Snans'. The Uttarakhand government has taken this decision after discussions with Hindu sages.

'Kumbh Mela 2021' would be organised from April 1 to 28, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said. The Uttarakhand government would soon issue a notification regarding the dates of the 'Kumbh Mela'.

In the past, the 'Kumbh Mela' in Haridwar has been held for a period of four months.

At the same time, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) regarding the 'Kumbh Mela'. The devotees visiting the Kumbh would have to follow the SOP issued by the Ministry

The Uttarakhand High Court had also asked the state government to limit the duration of the 'Kumbh Mela' in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. Significantly, this time in Haridwar, the 'Kumbh Mela'

is taking place after 11 years instead of 12 years. Usually, the Kumbh Mela is held after every 12 years.

The first 'Shahi Snan' will take place March 11 which is celebrated as 'Mahashivaratri'. March 11, seven akharas of the sants would be taking the first 'Shahi Snan' and April 27 during the occasion of Vaishakh Purnima, three akharas of 'Bairagi Sadhus' would take bath in the Kumbh. All the 13 akharas would take bath in the Kumbh at Haridwar April 12 which is observed as 'Somvati Amavasya' and April 14, the main 'Shahi Snan' would be observed on 'Mesha Sankranti'.

The 'Kumbh Mela 2021' will be quite different from the past Kumbh Melas. During this year's Kumbh Mela, bhajans and 'bhandaras' (religious feasts) would be prohibited at any place. The Uttarakhand government has issued the new rulesto prevent the spread of coronavirus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raini (U'khand), Feb 20: A team of researchers arrived in Pang village Saturday to inspect the artificial lake formed over Rishiganga after the recent avalanche and gauge how big a threat it poses to areas downstream.

The team led by USAC Director MPS Bisht and consisting of four scientists each from the Geological Survey of India and Uttarakhand Space Application Centre will try to reach the lake on foot by Sunday. With roads in the area around Raini Gram Panchavat washed out in the recent flash flood and vast stretches turned into swamps, the

team is being accompanied by a mountaineer from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and SDRF jawans to ensure their safe journey to the lake.

'We will inspect the lake formed over Rishiganga by the huge volume of sludge that came from Rauthi stream due to the avalanche," USAC Director Bisht

told PTI "We hope to reach Udiyari by the evening which is located above

the lake. By Sunday, we may reach the lake to inspect it and take its geographical measurements. How big a threat the lake can pose to the population living downstream of Rishiganga is something that can

ies were recovered from the NTPC's flood-ravaged Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project site Saturday taking the toll in the February 7 glacial disaster in Uttarakhand to 65, officials said. The bodies were recovered from the desilting tank near the Tapovan project barrage Saturday, NDRF Commandant P K Tiwari told PTI. Search operation at the project site has been underway on a war footing for more than 13 days since it bore the brunt of an avalanche triggered by a glacial burst over Rishiganga river in Chamoli district

The 13.2 MW Rishiganga hydel project was totally demolished in the avalanche while the Tapovan-Vishnugad hydropower project suffered extensive damage.

With the recovery of three more bodies, the toll in the tragedy has gone up to 65 while 139 people are

still missing. Meanwhile, Chamoli District

be measured only by how much water it contains," he said.

Sonographic equipment from the Indian Navy are being used to measure how much water is contained in the lake. he said. Sonography experts from

Saturday asked the NTPC to press into service additional equipment and divert the course of Dhauliganga river to the other side so that its water does not flow through the barrage into Tapovan tunnel hampering sludge clearing efforts.

River water flowing into the tunnel from the barrage has been a major headache for rescuers at the tunnel making the muck clearing operations even more challenging, Bhadauria said.

Deploying additional equip ment at the tunnel and diverting the course of the river will speed up the debris removal exercise which has been underway for more than 13 days, the DM said. She said rescue operations at the main project site in Raini have

been completed. The DM added that the debris on the upper side of Rishiganga is now being scoured for any bodies that could be trapped, if any.

Hyderabad are also expected to measure the volume of water in the lake, Bisht said.

Bisht said his team will also incorporate the findings of a DRDO team which has visited the lake into its analysis.











We are not opposing the government just for the sake of opposition. We oppose the government's wrong policies affecting the common man MALLIKARJUN KHARGE **OPPOSITION IN RAJYA SABHA**

FORMER BSP MP AKBAR **AHMAD 'DUMPY' BOOKED**

A case has been registered against former BSP MP Akbar Ahmad 'Dumpy' on a complaint by Delhi BJP vice-president Shazia Ilmi accusing him of misbehaving with her at a private party, police said Saturday



uote

People started feeling afraid of telling the truth in front of him (Narendra Modi)... they would be grovelling. It seems our Prime Minister has also become

an arrogant king of that type PRIYANKA GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

RJD does not have any relevance in neighbouring states and if they want to contest elections in West Bengal and Assam, then it should make their intentions clear SUSHIL MODI

Party (TDP) is continuing its relentless fight against the mind games, atrocities and unchecked violations of the ruling YSRCP in the ongoing panchayat elections N CHANDRABABU NAIDU TELEGU DESAM PARTY CHIE

SHORT TAKES

AI Express flight hits electric pole

Vijaywada: major mishap was averted when an Air India Express flight, carrying 64 passengers, lost control and met with an accident in Andhra Pradesh today. The flight hit an electric pole on the runway following landing. The accident took place at the Vijayawada International Airport in Gannavaram around 4.50 pm. "All 64 passengers on board the flight and the crew are safe," airport director G Madhusudan Rao said. Following landing, as the flight was heading towards bay number 5, it met with an accident on the runway and rammed into to an electrical pole.

Demo to protect Tamil language

Coimbatore: Perur Mutt Pontiff. Maruthachala Adigalar Saturday led a

Mehbooba Mufti calls for dialogue with Pak

THE FORMER J&K CHIEF MINISTER SAID AT THE LEAST, A **DIALOGUE SHOULD BE STARTED TO STOP VIOLENCE IN THE UNION TERRITORY**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Feb 20 : A day after three policemen were killed in terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Saturday asked the Centre to start a dialogue with Pakistan and also engage the local public to ensure there is no violence in the Union Territory.

The PDP president visited Logripora Aishmuqam area of in Kashmir's Anantnag district to express her sympathies with the bereaved family of J&K Police constable Suhail Ahmad who was killed in the terrorist attack in the Baghat area of the city Friday.

Besides Ahmad, another policeman lost his life in the Baghat attack. Separately, a policeman died



during an encounter with ultras in Budgam district during the day. Three terrorists were also killed in a gunfight with security forces at Badigam in Shopian district of south Kashmir Friday.

Speaking to reporters after her visit, Mehbooba asked the Centre to hold talks with Pakistan and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the government must think as to when the people of J&K, its policemen and youth will continue to sacrifice their lives.

"This (the Kashmir issue) is a huge issue and this issue should be resolved so that the bloodshed in J&K stops and the people here live in peace," she said.

Talking about Ahmad, she said.

their lives "He has (left behind) two small children. His father was also killed when he was just four years old. What will they do?

The former J&K Chief Minister said at the least, a dialogue should be started to stop violence in the Union Territory.

he PDP president

Saturday asked the

Centre to start a dialogue

engage the local public to

ensure there is no violence in

Mehbooba said that the government must think

J&K, its policemen and youth

as to when the people of

will continue to sacrifice

with Pakistan and also

the Union Territory

"The BJP government should think and start the process of dialogue, so that the bloodshed is stopped. Our graveyards have become full," she said.

"They should start the dialogue process - be it (with the people) here or with Pakistan because they often say that Pakistan perpetrates violence here. At least, the dialogue process can be started to stop the violence," she told reporters.

HOSHANGABAD TO BE RENAMED AS NARMADAPURAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Hoshangabad city in the state would be renamed as Narmadapuram and a proposal to that effect would be sent to the Centre.

He made the announcement during the Narmada Jayanti programme held in Hoshangabad Friday evening.

While addressing a gathering on the banks of Narmada, Chouhan asked whether the government should change the name of Hoshangabad, to which the people present there replied in the affirmative.

"What should be the new name?" Chouhan asked, and the people replied, "Narmadapuram!"

The Chief Minister then said. "We are now sending a proposal to the Centre to change the name of Hoshangabad as Narmadapuram." The state government will not allow "cementconcrete structures" to be built along the Narmada river, he said, adding that sewage treatment plants are also being constructed in the cities located on its banks.

Meanwhile, BJP workers, led by protem Assembly Speaker Rameshwar Sharma, expressed happiness over Chouhan's announcement and burst firecrackers Saturday morning.



New Delhi, Feb 20: India and China Saturday held another round of military talks with a focus on taking forward the disengagement process in Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang in eastern Ladakh and bring down the tensions in the region, official sources said.

The 10th round of Corps Commander-level talks are taking place two days after the Chinese and Indian militaries completed the withdrawal of troops, weapons and other military hardware from the North and South banks of Pangong lake areas as part of an agreement. The meeting started at 10 am at

the Moldo border point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control and it was continuing, the sources said

They said India will insist on a faster disengagement process in remaining areas like Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang to bring down tension in the region that has witnessed a tense standoff between the two militaries for over nine months. "The focus of the talks is on car-

rying forward the disengagement process," said a source. On February 11, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced in Parliament that India and China

reached an agreement on disen-

gagement in the North and South

that were agreed upon by both the sides. The disengagement process began February 10. The Indian delegation at Saturday's talks is being led by Lt Gen PGK Menon, the Commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps. The Chinese side was to be headed by Maj Gen Liu Lin, the commander of the South Xinjiang military dis-

trict of the People's Liberation

Army (PLA).

banks of Pangong lake that mandates

both sides to "cease" forward de-

ployment of troops in a "phased, co-

ordinated and verifiable" manner.

China will pull back its troops to east

of Finger 8 areas in the northern

bank of Pangong lake while the

Indian personnel will be based at

their permanent base at Dhan

Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 in

the region. Similar action would

take place on the south bank of

sides have retreated to positions

The sources said troops of both

the lake as well, he said.

Under the agreement, he said

Farmer, son die by suicide over debt, farm laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hoshiarpur (Punjab), Feb 20: A debt-ridden farmer and his son allegedly died by suicide in Punjab's Hoshiarpur village, saying in a note that they were upset over the Centre's new farm laws and the state government's failure to waive their loans.

The farmer, Jagtar Singh (70), and his son Kirpal Singh (42) were found dead at their residence in Muhadipur village Saturday morning, Deputy Superintendent of Police Munish Kumar said.

They had allegedly consumed a poisonous substance, police said. In a suicide note recovered from their residence, they wrote that they were taking the extreme step because of debt They also accused the Congress government in Punjab of not honouring its promise of waiving

their farm loans.

IPFT ditches BJP, forges alliance with others

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, Feb 20: Antagonising the ruling BJP, its junior ally IPFT Friday night forged an alliance with another smaller tribal based parties to fight the upcoming polls to the tribal autonomous body.

Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) president Narendra Chandra Debbarma and general secretary Mevar Kumar Jamatia, both are ministers of the BJP led council of ministry headed by Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, however, said that they are still in coalition with the saffron party.

Bharatiya Janata Party spokesman Nabendu Bhattacharjee

POLITICAL CIRCLES OBSERVED THAT THE IPFT TOOK THE DECISION AFTER BJP LEADERS DID NOT ALLOT MAJORITY OF THE SEATS TO FIELD PARTY (IPFT) CANDIDATES IN THE

media that they are still with the BJP led government and part

TTAADC POLLS



Bhopal, Feb 20: Madhya Pradesh

demonstration here seeking to protect Tamil language and make it compulsory till eighth standard in Tamil Nadu. The protest was organised by Coimbatore Tamil Sangham and Joint Committee for Protection of Tamil. Addressing the protesters. Maruthachala Adigalar demanded that the government take steps to make Tamil compulsory in schools till the eighth standard. The protesters raised slogans against imposing Hindi.

No VIP movement on Shahi Snan

Dehradun: No VIP movement will be allowed on Shahi Snan days during the forthcoming Kumbh in Haridwar. The decision was taken at a coordination meeting with police officials of different states and security agencies held at Uttarakhand police headquarters here on Friday to discuss measures that need to be taken for smoothly conducting the event. If VIPs come to Haridwar on a Shahi Snan day during Kumbh they will be treated as common devotees.

3 of family killed in road mishap

Mathura (UP): Four people, including three of a family, travelling from Budaun in Uttar Pradesh to Mehandipur Balaji temple in Rajasthan were killed when their vehicle hit a truck in Raya area here, police said Saturday. The van driver was among three people who were injured in the accident that occurred near Koval railway crossing on the intervening night of Friday Saturday, around 2.30 am.

told this news agency late Friday night that the IPFT did not share their decision with them. "However, our senior leaders

are discussing the latest political development," Bhattacharjee said. Tripura royal scion Pradyot

Bikram Manikya Deb Barman, who was earlier state president of Congress but subsequently quit the party in 2019, Friday formed an alliances of few tribal-based parties and named TIPRA, the Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance. Deb Barman told the media that

for the greater cause of the "Tipra land" (a territory for the tribals) they would fight together in the ensuing elections to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), a politically important constitutional body. Deb Barman later in the Friday evening held a closed door meeting with Debbarma and Jamatia and other senior IPFT leaders before he announce to contest the TTAADC polls together.

The IPFT leaders also told the

BJP floated regional body Northeast Democratic Alliance (NEDA), convener of which is Assam Minister

Himanta Biswa Sarma. Political circles observed that the IPFT took the decision after the BJP leaders did not allot majority of the seats to field party (IPFT) candidates in the TTAADC elections likely to be held before May 17. BJP leaders are also keen to contest a majority of the 28 TTAADC seats to strengthen their political base in the tribal areas.

The BJP in alliance with IPFT won the 2018 Assembly polls defeating the CPI-M led Left Front. In the 60-member Tripura Assembly, BJP has 36 seats and the IPFT eight and CPI-M has16. Another tribal based anti-BJP party - Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT) leaders also on Friday night announced to maintain alliance with the grouping floated by Pradyot Bikram Manikva Deb Barman

Turncoats in Bengal given VIP security cover PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 20: Over a dozen MLAs and MPs from West Bengal, including those who recently joined the BJP from the TMC and other parties, have been given VIP security cover by the Centre, officials said Saturday.

The security has been approved by the Union Home Ministry after analysing a "threat assessment" report and recommendations prepared by the central security agencies, they said.

All the political leaders have been granted the lower categories of central VIP security cover like 'X' and 'Y' for their movement

within West Bengal, they said. They said the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been

A woman shows a diamond-studded mask at the gems and jewellery exhibition Sparkle 2021 in Surat, Saturday

tasked with providing the cover. The paramilitary force has a dedicated VIP security unit called the special security group (SSG) and it protects high-risk personalities like NSA Ajit Doval and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat among others.

Sources told PTI these latest VIP security arrangements are "temporary keeping in mind the protection and well-being of the politicians during the forthcoming elections season and once the activities at the hustings are over, the cover will be reviewed". Elections to the 294-seat West Bengal as-

sembly apart from that in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry are due in April-May. Those provided the cover in-

PTI PHOTO

clude CPI (M) MLA from Tamluk Ashok Dinda, TMC MLA from Kanthi Uttar seat Bansari Maity, Congress MLA from Purulia Sudeep Mukherjee, Gazole TMC MLA Dipali Biswas, TMC MLA from Bally (Howrah) and daugh ter of former cricket administrator Jagmohan Dalmiya Baishali Dalmiya, TMC MLA from Monteswar Saikat Panja, CPI (M) MLA from Haldia Tapasi Mondal, TMC MLA from Kalna Biswajit Kundu and TMC MLA from Barrackpore Assembly seat.



They further mentioned in the note that they were also distressed as the Centre had not repealed the new farm laws.

The two owned one acre of land. Their bodies were sent to Dasuya civil hospital for post-mortem, police said, adding they are investigating the matter.

CAN'T CONTEST, BUT SASIKALA HAS SPICED UP TN POLLS

SASIKALA IS EYEING TO TAKE BACK THE CONTROL OF THE RULING AIADMK IN TAMIL NADU

AGENCIES

Chennai, Feb 20: Considering a request from VK Sasikala, a Chennai court has agreed to hear her petition challenging her expulsion from the AIADMK March 15. Sasikala had filed that petition in 2017 after she was expelled by the EPS-OPS combine following her conviction in a corruption case. Sasikala was the AIADMK general secretary at the time.

Her conviction in the corruption

case came with a ban on contesting

election for 10 years. This means 66-

year-old Sasikala cannot contest

the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly

election or even the next state polls

At 72, Sasikala would be eligible

chief ministerial post for the matter. This makes her battle for recapturing the AIADMK interesting and her only hope to remain relevant in Tamil Nadu politics in which she has been a stakeholder for about 30 years as and under J Jayalalithaa's shadow. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister E

Palanaswami and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam are her first obstacles. After her release from a Bangalore jail, Sasikala has placed her moves carefully.

for contesting election or holding a

Sasikala flaunted the AIADMK party flag on her car as she took a road journey to Chennai after her release. Palaniswami, who now controls the party, said Sasikala did not have the right to use the party



flag or symbol as she is not a member of the AIADMK. This is where the legacy battle is being fought. Her camp has dismissed EPS's claim saying the EPS-OPS combine did not

have the power to expel Sasikala after she had been elected as the AIADMK general secretary by the vote of all party functionaries. The fact that Javalalithaa con-

tinues to be the revered "Amma" figure for the AIADMK cadre makes Sasikala a formidable force as she tries to reclaim the party. Her entry into Chennai happened with scores of AIADMK workers including MLAs welcoming her.

Sasikala, the wife of a government PRO, M Natarajan, was introduced to Jayalalithaa by a former bureaucrat in 1980s. Jayalalithaa was a rising star in AIADMK back then. Sasikala was trying to set up a video rental outlet business. Her introduction to Jayalalithaa changed her fortune.

During the times, when Jayalalithaa was targeted within the AIADMK and outside. Sasikala stood by her as a constant companion. She helped Jayalalithaa

checkmate MG Ramachandran's wife, VN Janaki, who made a claim on the AIADMK after MGR's death.

OPS, as Panneerselvam is referred to, was made the Chief Minister after Jayalalithaa's death in 2016. When Sasikala wanted the transfer of power, he resisted claiming "blessings" of Jayalalithaa.

Sasikala was elected as the AIADMK general secretary in December-end 2016 by the party's general council. In early February 2017, she was elected as the AIADMK Legislature Pary leader, practically becoming the Chief Minister-designate

Finally, OPS resigned but with a verdict in the corruption case against-Sasikala pending, the Governor decided to delay her swearing-in.

in 2025













'Bengal wants its own daughter':

The party's campaign in this

election has been about fighting

bohiragato" or "outsiders", while

also retaining its most faithful

vote bank - women

In all her campaign speeches

anerjee has reached out to female

oters and asked them to take on

'goons from outside'

In what is set to be a battle of

slogan as much as one of

said the Trinamool's was created

to present the Chief Minister as

someone who belongs to the

people of Benga

daughter to surrender Bengal's

pride, worth and faith before Delhi?

Some people from outside are try-

ing to finish off Bengal's culture? Do

you want these people to do that?"

Banerjee, who is the Lok Sabha MP

Nijer Meyekei Chaye," he said in

Bengali, which translates as "Send

"Bohiragotoder dao biday, Bangla

from Diamond Harbour, asked.

elopment issues, sources have

We need to go for a massive national campaign for change of life style. Also food habits.. Our forefathers who lived for thousands of years have given us wonderful food M VENKAIAH NAIDU VICE PRESIDENT

CYBERABAD POLICE TO SET UP SEPARATE DESK FOR TRASNGENDERS

The Cyberabad Police Friday decided to set up a separate desk at the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate to address the problems of transgenders. The decision to launch the unique initiative was taken at an interaction Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar and other officials had with over 150 transgender people





We will overcome all designs (to overthrow our govt) and we have faced successfully all attempts of the

Centre to rock the boat in Puducherry in association with the AIADMK and the AINRC in Puducherry

V NARAYANASAMY | PUDUCHERRY CHIEF MINISTER

Bhopal rape victim is miles away from iustice even after one month because the BJP always holds the victim responsible for rape and shows laxity in taking action which benefits the culprits RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

Foundation of India's development is that Centre and states work together and head towards a certain direction and make cooperative

federalism even more meaningful NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Man, son killed in crash on highway

Jammu: A 70-year-old man and his son were killed while three others suffered injuries when a van and a truck collided on the Jammu-Pathankot highway in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district in the early hours of Saturday, police said. Both the vehicles were coming from Kathua and the accident took place near Mansar Morh around 2 am.

Group clash leaves 2 dead

Kanpur: Two youths were killed in a clash between two groups in Nawabgani area of Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district, police said Saturday. The incident took place late Friday night at Ujyarapurwa.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Feb 20: The Trinamool Congress Saturday launched its slogan for the 2021 Bengal Assembly election. The slogan is "Bangla Nijer Mevekei Chave", which translates as "Bengal wants its own daughter", and pitches Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in that role. Banerjee is usually referred to

With the slogan in place, the ruling Trinamool has also highlighted what was unsaid.

The party's campaign in this election has been about fighting "bohiragato" or "outsiders", while also retaining its most faithful vote bank - women. In all her campaign speeches Banerjee has reached out to female voters and asked them

to take on "goons from outside". Shortly after the slogan was released Abhishek Banerjee, who is the Chief Minister's nephew, addressed voters in north Bengal's Nagrakata, and made an emotional appeal.

away the outsiders as Bengal wants "Do you want a daughter of its own daughter" Banerjee also attacked the BJP Bengal to surrender before Delhi? I want to ask my mothers and sisover the controversial 'Jai Shri ters here... do you want Bengal's Ram' slogan and said: "We will make vou sav 'Jai Hind' and 'Joy Bangla'. I promise you we will make them say 'Jai Siya Ram'".

That particular comment was a direct retort to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who last week declared that Mamata Banerjee "will begin chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' by the time election is over'

"The people of Bengal have not heard 'Jai Shri Ram', we have heard 'Jai Siya Ram'. They say 'Jai Shri Ram'. They leave Sita out. They insult women. In their rule women are raped and denied all rights. That's why they won't say 'Jai Siya Ram'. Do you want to elect such a party?" Banerjee asked.

In what is set to be a battle of slogan as much as one of development issues, sources have said the Trinamool's was created to present the Chief Minister as someone who belongs to the people of Bengal, while simultaneously casting the opposition as being controlled by outsiders.

The slogan was launched at the Trinamool HQ in Kolkata in the presence of senior leaders like Subrata Mukherjee, Subrata Bakshi, Partha Chatterjee, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar. Sukhendu Shekar Roy and Derek O' Brien.

Speaking to the media, O' Brien said: "The Chief Minister has been around for ten years now. She is looking at a third term... and she will be sworn-in in May after she is blessed by the people. The people will interpret and absorb the slogan. We will take this simple slogan to the people.

The line states a fact... this is what the people have been telling us. How this will be interpreted and what the opposition will do is for them to chase. We have got this positive, honest and direct message from the heart," he added.





A jockey guides his buffaloes on the slush track during Kambala competition at Moodabidri in Dakshina Kannada district. Saturday PTI PHOTO

ULFA-I WARNS EXECUTION OF 2 ABDUCTED EMPLOYEES

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Feb 20: The family members of the two employees of an oil drilling company, who were abducted by banned militant outfit United Liberation Front of Asom - Independent (ULFA-I) December 21 last year, have appealed to the ULFA-I to release them on humanitarian grounds. This comes after the banned outfit Friday issued a press release and said failure of the talks with the oil drilling company would result in execution of the duo.

"The NSCN/GRPN and ULFA-I inform the people of Assam, the Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

governments, the family members of the two abducted persons as well as the Quippo authorities that the talks with Quippo authorities from February 16 to 19 have failed. Therefore, we have decided to take action against the Quippo's two employees. Ram Kumar and Pranab Kumar Gogoi, in the coming week in a phased manner as decided earlier," the press release said.

Pranab Kumar Gogoi - a drilling superintendent at the Quippo Oil and Gas Infrastructure Limited. and Ram Kumar - a radio operator at the company, were kidnapped by the armed militants of ULFA-I and NSCN from a drilling site near Innao in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district December 21 last vear.

Pranab Kumar Gogoi is a resident of Assam's Sivasagar district, while Ram Kumar hails from Bihar's Khagaria district and both are now captive of the rebel outfits.

'We had appealed ULFA-I, Assam government and Quippo company, but didn't get any response from them. I appeal Paresh Baruah to release my husband, we have now just an option that we can only give vou just a honor with Tamul-Paan-Sarai and the amount which we will get after selling our home-land. We again appeal him to release my husband," Pranab Kumar Gogoi's wife said.

India's first Digital varsity comes up in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 20: Kerala took a major step forward in its progress towards a knowledge society with theinauguration of the country's first Digital University, based in Technocity at Mangalapuram near here Saturday. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan presided over the function, where Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, who is also the Chancellor of the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (KUDSIT), unveiled the varsity plaque.

Bengal BJYM leader Pamela arrested with drugs worth ₹10L AGENCIES

Kolkata, Feb 20: A BJP youthwing leader Pamela Goswami along with her associate was arrested Friday with 100 gram cocaine worth of ₹10 lakh from south Kolkata's posh New Alipore

Five states seeing spike in daily coronavirus cases, warns Centre

Over the past week, Kerala. Maharashtra. Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhva Pradesh have



as "didi", which means 'elder sister' in Bengali.

they said. The deceased were identified as Rai Kumar (28). a resident of Uivarapurwa. and his friend Ravi (27), a resident of Parmiyapurwa, police said. Tension gripped the area after the killings. prompting the authorities to rush heavy police force including Provincial Armed Constabulary to ease the situation.

Plus II student found dead

Idukki (Ker): A 17-year-old girl who went to school in the morning was found dead under mysterious circumstances at Pallivasal in this high range district late last night, police said Saturday. The body of the Plus II student was found in a pool of blood at an isolated place, about half a km away from her home, they said. She had left her home Friday morning in her uniform, but did not return at the usual time, prompting her parents to lodge a missing complaint with police. The exact cause of death can be ascertained only after the post-mortem, the official said.

area, police said Saturday. Police officials said that

Goswami, the General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), along with an associate Prabir Kumar Dey were detained while they were moving in a car. "Acting on a tip-off, police intercepted the car and around 100 gm of cocaine was found in her handbag. The approximate market value of the contraband drugs

would be around ₹10 lakh," police officials said. She was being framed, Goswami shouted, as the police detained her and then took her

away in their custody. A personal security guard of Goswami has also been detained as he too, was accompanying the Bharatiya Janata Party leader. Police said that as the investigation is in early stages, details cannot be revealed at this juncture

BJP MP Locket Chatterjee and

party spokesperson Samik Bhattacharjee separately said that at the moment they were unaware about the incident.

"Pamela is a voung girl. She might be framed by the Trinamool Congress led government police. Law would take its own course, Chatterjee told the media.

Trinamool leader and Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said that it was a shame that even women leader of BJP are being found involved in drug related illegal acts.

"Earlier, we have seen the involvement of several BJP leaders in child trafficking, Bhattacharya claimed. A model turn actor Goswami along with some Bengali film actresses joined BJP in July 2019 and last year she was appointed general secretary of the BJYM.

witnessed an upsurge in daily coronavirus cases, triggering worries

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 20: Not only Maharashtra, but four other states in the country are also witnessing a spike in daily coronavirus cases. Over the past week, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have witnessed an upsurge in daily coronavirus cases, triggering worries.

According to a statement issued by the Union Health Ministry, similar to Maharashtra, "Punjab has also shown a sudden spike" in the number of daily coronavirus cases recorded in the past seven days with 383 new cases in seen in 24 hours. In the past week, Maharashtra

has witnessed a spike in new coronavirus cases, prompting the

Uddhav Thackeray government to impose fresh restrictions in parts of the state

Maharashtra has accounted for the highest number of daily coronavirus cases in India as of Friday. In the past 24 hours, 6,112 daily new cases were reported from the state.

India's present active caseload now consists of 1.30% of India's total positive cases, said the Centre on Saturday. India's total active caseload is pegged at 1,43,127 as of now. The government has now said

that some states are "seeing an upsurge in daily new cases". There has been rise in daily cases in Kerala. Maharashtra, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

The Centre has said in its state-

ment that while Kerala continues to report a high number of coronavirus cases, over the past seven days, Chhattisgarh has also seen a rise in daily new cases. In last 24 hours, 259 daily new cases have been reported in Chhattisgarh. The health ministry has further

stressed on the importance of adhering to the Covid protocols and appropriate behaviour for breaking the chain of transmission and containment of the spread of COVID-19.

Only two states, Maharashtra and Kerala, account for 75.87% of total number of active COVID-19 cases, the ministry added.

The ministry said 18 states/UTs have not reported any COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours



Both the Governor and the Chief Minister addressed the function through video conferencing.

Khan said the launch of the Digital University is part of the state's resolve to embrace new technologies and desire to use them for bringing positive changes in the life of people and become a global hub for higher learning and technology.

Trouble mounts for Vijayan govt over deep-sea fishing deal

OPPOSITION LEADER RAMESH CHENNITHALA SATURDAY CAME OUT WITH A PICTURE OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE STATE FISHERIES MINISTER J MERCYKUTTY AND A US-BASED FIRM ON A PROPOSED PROJECT OF HANDING OVER THE DEEP-SEA FISHING IN THE STATE TO THE LATTER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Junagadh: A court in Gujarat's Junagadh district Saturday sentenced a Congress MLA and his three sons to one year in jail for attacking three members of a family in a dispute over a panchayat election in 2008. The court of judicial magistrate (First Class) Dilipgiri Goswami at Mendarda found Congress MLA Bhikhabhai Joshi guilty under Sections 452 and 324 of the IPC, and sentenced him to one year in jail.

Cong MLA, sons get 1-year jail term

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 20: Trouble seems to be mounting for the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayanled Kerala government after the **Opposition leader Ramesh** Chennithala Saturday came out with a picture of a meeting be-

tween the state Fisheries Minister J Mercykutty and a US-based firm on a proposed project of handing over the deep-sea fishing in the state to the latter. However, Mercykutty denied the allegation of any such meeting and

said that Chennithala has lost his bearings as he came out with this project Friday.

"On Friday, both Mercykutty and the state's Industries Minister EP Jayarajan replied that they are not aware of any such company. Now I have released this picture of Mercvkuttv having discussions will be releasing two more documents which say that a four acre plot of land was handed over to this US firm. If needed I will release the meeting pictures among Mercykutty and those US officials,' the Opposition leader said.

Chennithala said the precious fisheries wealth of Kerala has been handed over on a platter to an US firm-Emcc, which has operations in India.

'The present Left government



has cheated the hapless fisher folk who eke out their living by engaging in fishing. If we hadn't I know that this would not have

found out this, everything would have been given to this US firm. All

happened without the knowledge of Vijayan. The Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) has been a key player in this project and none should forget its chairman Tom Jose, who was also the former Chief Secretary," he said

"Since I came up with this, what's turned baffling is all the details of this project have disappeared from the website of Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation and KSINC. Vijayan should break his silence as he knows everything. We demand that this project be cancelled and the land given to this company be taken back," added Chennithala

Chennithala has also released an MoU that was inked last year between the Kerala government and Emcc International India Pvt Ltd for the project, "Fisheries Research & Development for the up-gradation and Promotion of Deep Sea Fishing Industry" in Kerala with an outlay of ₹5,000 crore.

According to this project, it is envisaged is 400 trawlers and five mother ships which will be fishing in the Kerala seas.

Meanwhile, various groups who are engaged in the fisheries sector are meeting at a few places Saturday to decide the future courseof action, as they feel their livelihood will be affected.





OrissaPOST SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 21 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR international



The US joins the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia. Japan and other countries in expressing concern with China's recently enacted **Coast Guard law, which may** escalate the ongoing territorial and maritime disputes

NED PRICE US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

52 PILOT WHALES FOUND DEAD

52 short-finned pilot whales, stranded on a beach in Indonesia, died Friday morning. A whale in the school was injured or sick, the rest were guarding it. They ended up stranded until 52 were found dead



uote 77

This is something that we've never seen before. It was stunning, and the team was

awestruck. There's just a feeling of victory that we were able to capture these and share it with the world

AARON STEHURA FLIGHT SYSTEM ENGINEER NASA

Today is a day of hope, as the United States officially rejoins the Paris Agreement. This is good news for the United States - and for the world

ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Innovation labour, risk appetite and entrepreneurship will play a critical role in driving Singapore's

economic growth and ensuring that we remain at the forefront of global competitiveness

ALVIN TAN SINGAPORE MINISTER OF STATE

SHORT TAKES

Italy probes 'vaccine scam'

Rome: Italian police investigating fake Covid-19 drugs and vaccines have interviewed a Veneto regional official who reported receiving offers to buy 27 million doses of Pfizer shots outside the European Union procurement system. Even though the EU anti-fraud agency has warned about scammers offering vaccines amid shortages in Europe, Veneto's regional governor, Luca Zaia, has boasted for over a week that he had been contacted by unnamed intermediaries offering to sell him Pfizer, Russian and Chinese jabs.

Argentine health minister resigns

Buenos Aires: President Alberto Fernández asked Argentina's health minister

US cities in deep freeze now hit with water crisis



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Austin, Feb 20: Southern cities slammed by winter storms that left millions without power for days have traded one crisis for another: Busted water pipes ruptured by record-low temperatures created shortages of clean drinking water, shut down the Memphis airport on Friday and left hospitals struggling to maintain sanitary

conditions. In Texas, 7 million people — a quarter of the population of the nation's second-largest state — were under orders to boil tap water before drinking it because low water pressure could have allowed bacteria to seep into the system. A man died at an Abilene health care facility when a lack of water pressure made medical treatment impossible. About 260,000 homes and businesses in the Tennessee county that includes Memphis were told to boil water because of water main ruptures and pumping station prob-

International Airport to cancel all incoming and outgoing Friday flights. In Jackson, Mississippi, most of the city of about 161,000 had no running water. Crews pumped water to refill city tanks but faced a shortage of chemicals for treatment because icy roads made it difficult for distributors to deliver them, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said.

He said the city's water mains are more than 100 years old and not built to handle the freezing weather that hit the city as multiple storms dumped record amounts of snow across the South. "We are dealing with an extreme challenge with getting more water through our distribution system," said Lumumba. The city was providing water for flushing toilets and drinking, but residents had to pick it up, leaving the elderly and those living on icy roads vulnerable.

The water woes were the latest misery for people across the South who went without heat or electricity for days after the ice and snow storms earlier in the week. forcing rolling blackouts from Minnesota to Texas.

Moscow court rejects Navalny's appeal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Feb 20: A Moscow court Saturday rejected Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny's appeal against his prison sentence, even as the country faced a top European rights court's order to free the Kremlin's most prominent foe.

Speaking before the verdict, Navalny urged Russians to stand up to the Kremlin in a fiery speech mixing references to the Bible and "Harry Potter."

A lower court sentenced Navalny earlier this month to two years and eight months in prison for violating terms of his probation while recuperating in Germany from a nerve agent poisoning that he

blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have rejected the accusation.

Navalny, 44, an anti-corruption crusader and President Vladimir Putin's most vocal critic, appealed the prison sentence and asked to be released. The Moscow City Court's judge on Saturday only slightly reduced his sentence to just over 21/2years in prison, ruling that a monthand-half Navalny spent under house arrest in early 2015 will be deducted from his sentence.

His arrest and imprisonment have fueled a huge wave of protests across Russia. Authorities responded with a sweeping crackdown, detaining about 11,000 people, many of whom were fined or given jail terms ranging from seven

BLUE BALLERINA



Vitoria Bueno, a 16-year-old dancer born without arms, performs with classmates from the Andrea Falsarella ballet academy at the Inatel Theater in Santa Rita do Sapucai, Brazil. REUTERS PHOTO

UK urges UNSC for pause in conflicts for virus jabs PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

lems. Restaurants that can't do so

or don't have bottled water were or-

dered to close. And water pressure

problems prompted Memphis

United Nations, Feb 20: Britain



EAM Jaishankar arrives in Maldives on two-day visit

Male. Feb 20: India's time-tested relationship with the Maldives is poised to take a quantum jump, External Affairs Minister S



100,000 additional doses of Covid-

19 vaccine to the Foreign Minister

and Health Minister Kerafa Naseem.

1,00,000 doses of Covisheild vac-

cine, manufactured by the Serum

Institute of India (SII), to the

Maldives as part of India's grant as-

In the Maldives, Jaishankar

will call on President Solih and

have substantive discussions with

the ministers for defence, finance,

economic development and plan-

ning and infrastructure, the

Ministry of External Affairs said

in a statement in New Delhi ear-

sistance.

lier this week.

India last month had provided

stepped up attacks on security_ personnel in recent days. A similar armed attack on an FC checkpost in the remote area of Kuch a soldier killed a soldier and injured others February 15.



to 15 days.

Speaking before the verdict. Navalny referenced the Bible as well as "Harry Potter" and the animated sitcom "Rick and Morty" as he urged Russians to resist pressure from the authorities and challenge the Kremlin to build a fairer and more prosperous country.

scare you and then persuade you that you are alone," he said. "Our Voldemort in his palace also wants me to feel cut off," he added, in a reference to Putin. To live is to risk it all," he con-

"The government's task is to

tinued. "Otherwise, you're just an inert chunk of randomly assembled molecules drifting wherever the universe blows you." Navalny also addressed the judge and the prosecutor, arguing that they could have a much better life in a new Russia.

"Just imagine how wonderful life would be without constant lying," he said. "Imagine how great it would be to work as a judge when no one would be able to call you and give you directions what verdicts to issue.

5 Pak soldiers killed in **Balochistan province**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Feb 20: At least five Pakistani soldiers were killed and two others injured when suspected terrorists carried out attacks through remote-controlled bombs in two separate areas in the restive Balochistan province.

The attacks targetting Frontier Corps (FC) soldiers took place Thursday on the outskirts of Quetta and in a remote area of Kohlu district.

The first attack took place in the Bypass area outside Quetta when a remote-controlled bomb fixed to a motorcycle was detonated near a Frontier Corps (FC) convoy in which a soldier was killed and two others injured, security officials said.

The explosion took place near a vehicle of the FC, which was on a patrol duty.

In the second attack in the remote Kahan area of Kohlu district, terrorists attacked a FC checkpost late at night in which four soldiers were killed.

"The armed men opened indiscriminate firing on the checkpost from where soldiers also retaliated.' Terrorists and separatists in

the province which is the hub of

the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) activities have

local journalist said he had been given a coronavirus vaccination preferentially after requesting one from the minister, a government official said Saturday. The president "instructed his chief of staff to request the resignation of health minister" Ginés González García, who is in charge of the government's Covid-19 strategy, said the official.

Ghana vax drive from March

Accra: Ghana will begin to vaccinate some 20 million persons against Covid-19 from the first week of March. said Kwame Amponsa-Akvianu, Ghana's program manager for the Expanded Program on Immunization Friday, Speaking at an engagement on Ghana's Covid-19 roll-out plan, he observed that the vision of the country is to vaccinate the entire population of about 31 million but will begin with 20 million and vaccinate the remaining population in due course, the Xinhua news agency reported.

Five killed in

Kabul blasts

claimed responsibility.

circulated a draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council Friday demanding that all warring parties immediately institute a "sustained humanitarian pause" to enable people in conflict areas to be vaccinated for Covid-19.

The proposed resolution reiterates the council's demand last July 1 for "a general and immediate cessation of hostilities" in major conflicts from Syria and Yemen to Central African Republic, Mali and Sudan and Somalia. The appeal was first made by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres March 23, 2020, to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

The draft "emphasizes the need for solidarity, equity, and efficacy and invites donation of vaccine doses from developed economies to lowand middle-income countries and other countries in need, including through the COVAX Facility," an ambitious World Health Organization project to buy and deliver coron-



avirus vaccines for the world's poorest people. The British draft stresses that "equitable access to affordable Covid-19 vaccines, certified as safe and efficacious, is essential to end the pandemic." It would recognise "the role of extensive immunization against Covid-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing, and stopping transmission, in order to bring the pandemic to an end.'

The draft, obtained by The Associated Press, follows up on British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab's appeal to the 15-member Security Council on Wednesday to adopt a resolution calling for local cease-fires in conflict zones to allow

cluded from coronavirus vaccinations because they live in countries engulfed in conflict and instability. "Cease-fires have been used to vaccinate the most vulnerable communities in the past," Raab said. "There's no reason why we can't... We have seen it in the past to deliver polio vaccines to children in Afghanistan, just to

take one example.' At Wednesday's council meeting, Guterres sharply criticized the "wildly uneven and unfair" distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, saying 10 countries have administered 75% of all vaccinations and demanding a global effort to get all people in every nation vaccinated as soon as possible

The UN chief told the high-level council meeting that 130 countries have not received a single dose of vaccine and declared that "at this critical moment, vaccine equity is the biggest moral test before the global community.

Jaishankar said Saturday as he held talks with his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation and handed over 100,000 additional doses of Covid-19 vaccine to the country.

The two ministers discussed Covid-19 recovery, various projects being undertaken under Indian assistance, and cooperation in multilateral platforms. The two sides witnessed the exchange of agreements on a wide range of domains the two countries are working on together, including fish processing, public broadcasting, sustainable urban development, road infrastructure and housing.

Jaishankar said the signing of these agreements is emblematic of the strong and multi-faceted development partnership between the two countries. Jaishankar, who arrived here on the first leg of his two-nation tour that will also take him to Mauritius, handed over

Thai PM survives no-confidence vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Feb 20: Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chanocha survived a no-confidence vote Saturday in parliament amid allegations that his government mismanaged the economy, bungled the provision of Covid-19 vaccines, abused human rights and fostered corruption

Nine other ministers also survived the vote.



It marked the second no-confi dence test Prayuth's government has faced since taking office in July 2019, following a contested election after Prayuth seized power in a 2014 coup as the army chief. In February last year, Prayuth and five Cabinet ministers easily defeated a no-confidence vote in the lower house

In the latest motion, his government was also criticized for misusing its power to promote police officials and for establishing a cyber unit to attack government critics on social media, among other complaints. But a more serious allegation was that Prayuth has deepened divisions in society by using the monarchy as a shield against criticism of his government.

A student-led protest movement has campaigned since last year for Prayuth and his government to step down. They want the constitution to be amended to make it more democratic, and for themonarchy to be reformed to make it more accountable.

Extreme weather tests Biden's disaster management skills

A month into the job and focused on the coronavirus, Biden is seeing his disaster management skills tested after winter storms plunged Texas, Oklahoma and neighboring states into an unusual deep freeze

Washington, Feb 20: Add Mother Nature to the pile of crises on President Joe Biden's plate.

Kabul: Three separate explosions in the Afghan capital Kabul Saturday killed at least five people and wounded two others, a police official said, amid a surge in violence in the war-torn country. Kabul police spokesman Ferdaws Faramarz said the first two explosions took place 15 minutes apart and a third targeting a police vehicle took place two hours later. No group immediately

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A month into the job and focused on the coronavirus, Biden is seeing his disaster management skills tested after winter storms plunged Texas, Oklahoma and neighboring states into an unusual deep freeze that left millions shivering in homes that lost heat and power, and in

many homes, water. At least 69 deaths across the U.S. have been blamed on the blast of unseasonable weather.

Biden came into office Jan. 20 promising to tackle a series of brewing crises, starting with the coronavirus pandemic and its ripple ef-

fects on the economy. He tacked on systemic racism and climate change as top priorities. And now he's contending with storms that have not only imperiled Americans but also delayed the shipment and administration of millions of doses of coronavirus vaccines.

Biden said Friday that he hopes to travel to Texas next week but doesn't want his presence and the accompanying presidential entourage to distract from the recovery. "They're working like the devil to take care of their folks," Biden said of Texas officials. He said he'd make a decision early next week

about travel. Biden, who offered himself during the campaign as the experienced and empathetic candidate



the nation needed at this moment in time, is working on several fronts to address the situation — and to avoid repeating the mistakes of predecessors who got tripped up by inadequate or insensitive re-

sponses in times of disaster. Part of the job of being president is responding to the destruction left behind by earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters, or events like

deadly mass shootings, or even acts of terrorism.

Some have handled such situations better than others. George W. Bush earned praised for his leadership after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks but stumbled during his administration's halting response to the humanitarian disaster that unfolded in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast four years later. Barack Obama said he should

have anticipated the blowback he got for going to the golf course right after he condemned the beheading of a kidnapped American journalist by Islamist militants in 2014. Obama was vacationing on Martha's Vineyard at the time.









I do not think we should have a legal mandate for companies to do CSR. Philanthropy or charity or contribution to society must come from within, and it cannot be mandated from outside. But that's my personal view AZIM PREMJI IT CZAR AND PHILANTHROPIST

EPFO NET NEW ENROLMENTS GROW

Net new enrolments with retirement fund body EPFO grew by 24% to 12.54 lakh in December compared to the same month in 2019, according to the payroll data released Saturday, providing a perspective on formal sector employment amid the pandemic



MARITIME SUMMIT

Mumbai Port Trust

to sign MoUs



Vaccine is the only weapon available to gain immunity and help reduce mortality rate due to the infectious disease. There is still a lot to do and

I think there has to be more private public partnership RANDEEP GULERIA DIRECTOR, AIIMS

The Covid-19 pandemic could provide India an opportunity to scale up the healthcare industry and be a major supplier of pharmaceutical products to the world

SANJIV MEHTA CHAIRMAN & MD. HINDUSTAN UNILEVER

It's time to embark on Mission 'One Nation One Standard' and make India the leader in setting global benchmarks in setting standards

PIYUSH GOYAL FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

SBI to launch YONO Merchant App

New Delhi: SBI Payments, a subsidiary of India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI), will launch YONO Merchant App to provide lowcost digital payments infrastructure to merchants, the bank said Saturday. YONO Merchant App will expand digitisation of merchant payments in the country, SBI said in a release. "Aiming to enable merchants through mobile-led technology, to accept digital payments, SBI plans to deploy low-cost acceptance infrastructure in next 2 years targetting 20 million potential merchants in retail," read the release.

NTPC commissions 5 MW solar project

New Delhi: State-owned NTPC Saturday announced commissioning of 5 mega

Odisha's economy likely to contract by 4.92% in 2020-21

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: The Economic Survey of Odisha tabled in the State Assembly Saturday predicted negative economic growth in the current fiscal, majorly attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic by the government.

The survey claimed that the growth rate is likely to come down by 4.92% in 2020-21 as per the Advance Estimates (AE). All sectors of the economy are expected to register a negative growth. The government has cited the pandemic and cyclones as prime reasons for the dip in growth.

'The economy of Odisha has grown at 7.1% per annum during 2012-13 to 2019-20 and is expected to grow at (-) 4.92% in 2020-21 (AE). The decline in growth rate this time is attributed to the devastating impact of Covid-19 on the state econ-

omy," read the report. The annual survey of the Finance Department said that the dip in state's real Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is lower than that of the national average. The country at large is expected to see -7.7% growth.

The report also hinted a lower flow of income to the citizens during the pandemic-hit fiscal year. The per capita income seems to have dwindled in 2020, hinting at the



NEGATIVE GROWTH

The decline in growth rate this time is attributed to the devastating impact of Covid-19 on the state economy

The government has cited the pandemic and cyclones as prime reasons for the dip in growth

The annual survey of the Finance Department said that the dip in state's real Gross State Domestic Product is lower than that of the national average

loss of wages or jobs.

"The per capita income of Odisha in 2020-21 is estimated at ₹1,02,156 in comparison to ₹1,04,566 in 2019-20. The per capita income of the state is expected to decline by 2.30% as

Unleash animal spirits: FM urges private sector

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 20: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday exhorted the private sector to take advantage of corporate tax rate cut and other initiatives of the government, and unleash 'animal spirits' by enhancing investments to make India one of the fastest growing

items which are required for the economy. I would invite business leaders...Post the corporate tax rate reduction I've been waiting to see expansion happening," she said. In the biggest reduction in 28 vears, the government in September 2019 slashed corporate tax rates

more production of many such



pansion...need more

against the decline of 5.41% at national level," the report said.

The survey which comes days before the Budget, talked about the impact of Covid-19 on all forms of the economy: primary, secondary and tertiary. The report said that the while the share of agriculture, industry and service sector to the state GDP is likely to remain the same, other sectors are likely to see a dip in their growth rate.

"Overall, the agriculture sector, contracted by 6.54% as per the constant price. Industry sector contracted by 8.83 % in constant prices of (2011-12) as per 2020-21 (AE) while the services sector recorded a decrease of -3.18% in 2020-21(AE) because of decline in trade and repair services, transport, storage, communication and real estate activities," the report said.

Huawei to cut phone production by over half in 2021: Report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, Feb 20: Chinese tech giant Huawei has reportedly told suppliers that smartphone production will drop by about 60 per cent in 2021. According to Nikkei Asia, citing people familiar with the matter, Huawei has notified its suppliers that it plans to order enough components for 70-80 million smartphones this year.

The company is reported to have shipped 189 million handsets in 2020 which was already a sizable decrease from the 240 million phones sold in 2019. The report did not mention if any specific Huawei smartphones will be affected by the cut. In regards to its upcoming 2021 releases, the company is set to launch its foldable smartphone successor with the new Mate X2 February 22. Meanwhile, Huawei is planning to step into the gaming segment with a set of gaming notebooks and a gaming console of its own. Its first-ever console tentatively named the 'MateStation' could be launched alongside the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X in China sometime in the second quarter (Q2) of 2021. It would probably rely on some of its in-house silicon to do the heavy lifting. Ahead of the release of the gaming console, the Chinese tech giant may be launching a new line of laptops that are designed for gaming.

Centre, states need to work closely to boost growth: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday made a strong case for repealing archaic laws and making it easier to do business in India, stating that the centre and states need to work closely to boost economic growth.

Addressing the sixth Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog, the Prime Minister said that the private sector should be given full opportunity to become a part of government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme.

"Čentre and states should work together for the nation's progress... The government has to respect and give due representation to the private sector for economic progress," Modi said.

He said that the positive response to the Union Budget 2021-22 indicates that the country wants to move forward on the path of development at greater speed.

Modi said that the initiatives taken by the government would provide opportunity to everyone to participate in nation building to its full potential.

Referring to the farm sector, the Prime Minister said that efforts should be made to produce agriculture items like edible oil and reduce their imports.

"This can be done by guiding farmers," he said, adding the money being spend on imports can go to the accounts of farmers." he said.

The Prime Minister said government policies will help farmers raise productivity and cut imports, adding that reforms needed to pro-

Participatory Notes

84,976

83,114

87,132

Investments in Indian markets

(equity, debt and derivatives)

21

Dec

Nov

Oct

Centre and states should for the nation's

progress. The government has to respect and give due representation to the private sector for economic progress

NARENDRA MODI I PRIME MINISTER

vide funds and technology for the

farm sector. The Prime Minister also un-

derlined the need for reducing compliance burden and repealing obsolete laws. He asked the states to form committees to reduce regulations which are no longer relevant in the wake of technology growth. Modi said states should attract

investment using production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. He said the government is spending on infrastructure to boost demand and create jobs.

Further, the Prime Minister noted that bank accounts, free electricity and gas connection and proper vaccinations have brought changes in the lives of the poor.

Stressing on need to strengthen startups and MSMEs. Modi said. Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not just to make India self-reliant, but also to meet the world's needs.'

The council of the apex body of NITI Aayog includes all chief ministers, lieutenant governors of Union Territories, several union ministers and senior government officials



MoUs of ₹1,860 crores at 2nd Maritime India Summit 2021 scheduled between March 2-4, 2021. These MoUs will be majorly

signed between MPT and HPCL, BPCL, India Coast Guard and Cordella Cruises Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd.



MoU with HPCL and BPCL will be signed for Setting up Crude Oil tankages at Jawahar Dweep. Cordella Cruises Waterways is getting into the MoU for the Home Port operations of Cruise Ship.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways is also in process of finalizing more than 80 MoUs to be signed in conjunction with the summit. These MoUs will be signed with different coastal states and stakeholders of the sector. The MoPSW is looking forward to closing over 400 MoUs during the Maritime India

Summit 2021 These MoUs are focused on attracting investment, skilling, and generating employment in the sector. The signing of these MoUs will help in streamlining the process of ship manoeuvering resulting in more business to the ports and economic stability to the sector and its stakeholders.

State's mobile subscriber base touches 3.35cr: TRAI

Iio and BSNL added 2 lakh and 41,492 new subscribers respectively in December, 2020

mobile subscribers in 2020, while BSNL added about 4 lakh subscribers in 12 months. On the other hand, both Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea lost over 9 lakh subscribers each during this period.' says TRAI's report.

watt (MW) solar capacity at a project in Auraiya, Uttar Pradesh. The capacity is part of its 20 MW Solar PV Project located in Auraiya, about 200 km from the state capital Lucknow. "We wish to inform that consequent upon successful commissioning, 5 MW last part capacity for 20 MW Auraiya Solar PV Project at Auraiya has been declared on commercial operation," NTPC said in a BSE filing.

Centre buys paddy worth ₹1.23L cr

New Delhi: The Centre has procured 651.07 lakh tonnes of paddy worth nearly ₹1.23 lakh crore, so far in this kharif marketing season at minimum support price (MSP) amic farmers protest at Delhiborders against three new farm laws. The kharif marketing season starts from October. Paddy is mainly grown in Kharif (summer sown) season. "In the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21. Government continues to procure Kharif 2020-21 crops at MSP from farmers as per existing MSP Schemes." the Food Ministry stated.

📕 Treat Goa as special: Goa CM

Panaji: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Saturday urged PM Narendra Modi to treat Goa as a special case and provide relief by way of legal reform to the coastal state in order to revive the non-functioning mining sector while virtually addressing the governing council of the NITI Ayog. Sawant also said that Goa, was wedged between the Western Ghats as the Arabian sea on the west, which left very little landmass for development purposes and urged the PM to provide relief.



economies of the world.

cluding corporate tax rate cut, pol-

icy consistency, ease of doing busi-

ness, among others to facilitate

up, we need expansion, we need

"We need capacities to be ramped

investment.

vigorate the sagging economy. The The government has been waittax break resulted in financial implication of ₹1.45 lakh crore on the ing for the expansion by the private sector, she said while reminding exchequer. India Inc of various measures in-Base corporate tax rate for ex-

isting companies was reduced to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March 31, 2023.

78,686 69,821 Sep Grores 74,027 Aug 63,288 Jul 62,138 Jun 60,027 May 57,100 Apr \48,006 Mar 68,862 67,281 Jan 2020 Source: SEBI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 20: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recently reported that the total mobile subscriber base in Odisha has crossed over 3.35 crore. with the addition of new subscribers from Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and BSNL.

The total subscriber base surpassed over 3.35 crore after adding 1.6 lakh new subscribers in December, 2020. Jio added highest number of subscribers, with an addition of nearly 2 lakh mobile subscribers in December, TRAI said. While, BSNL added 41,492 new subscribers, Airtel added 3,833 subscribers. Vodafone Idea lost 81,632 subscribers in December, 2020. "Overall, Jio added over 19 lakh



It was also reported that Jio holds nearly 41% subscriber market share and over 50% share of the gross revenue in the sector in the state.

Reliance Jio is presently the market leader in Odisha with highest 1.37 crore mobile subscribers followed by Bharti Airtel with 1.08 crore subscribers, BSNL with 64.14 lakh subscribers and Vodafone Idea with 25.36 lakh subscribers in the state

Understand your property insurance contract better

eneral insurance policies are contracts which have both financial "and legal lingos. If you belong to the vast majority of the Indian crowd that does not believe in reading the insurance policies pre/post the policy purchase, this article is written just for you!

■ Insurance offers protection to your property and other assets against impending losses. The cover is provided against the sum insured declared, at the time of policy issuance. If you are being issued an insurance policy, through an agent/through your bank/through an insurance broker, check for the term SUM INSURED in the policy. Sum insured is the maximum liability to be incurred by the insurance company in the event of a total loss. As insurance is a legal contract, the insured is expected to insure his property for its full value and pay premium on that. If in the event of a claim it is found that the property has not been insured for its full value, the amount of loss payable is proportionately reduced. This is called underinsurance, according to which,

if the sum insured at the time of loss is less than the actual value of the property, insurers are liable to pay only the proportionate loss that the sum insured bears to the actual value

- TAKEAWAY: No matter which channel provides you with the insurance policy, always check for the adequacy of the SUM INSURED. If the Sum Insured is not up to the actual valuation of your property, the claim would not be settled in full as explained above.
- **Basis of Valuation:** Generally, there are two methods of valuation of the property to be insured, one is Market Value and the other is Reinstatement Value. In case of Market Value, in the event of a loss, depreciation is levied on the asset depending on its age. Under this method, the claim amount paid is unlikely to be sufficient to buy the replacement. In the Reinstatement Value method, the insurance company will pay the cost of replacement, subject to the Sum Insured opted. Under this method, no depreciation is levied. One

TA RAMALINGAM

condition is that the damaged asset should be repaired / replaced in order to get the claim.

- TAKEAWAY: In case of the Reinstatement value method, the premium can be higher, but then so is the Sum Insured that can help you recuperate better from the loss as against Market Value method; which may or may not be enough.
- Coverage: The insurance policy typically lists down the perils against which the policy covers you. The perils may be flood, earthquake, fire, short circuiting etc. If it is an ALL RISK POLICY, you are covered for everything except the exclusions mentioned under the policy. Insurance policies are usually annual policies but can be issued for shorter periods. Hence, also check for the period of insurance along with the contents insured under the policy. Approach the insurance company if something is missed out from the insurance coverage.

TAKEAWAY: Check if the insurance policy provides you with adequate coverage.

If not, approach your insurer to get it endorsed in your insurance policy.

- Exclusions: Just like an insurance policy lists what all it covers, it also lists the things/perils that fall out of its scope. These vary from policy to policy andare mentioned specifically in the policy wordings.
- TAKEAWAY: One needs to understand what each exclusion stands for, so as to seek specific coverage against the excluded itemif permissible orbe prepared for out of pocket expenses in case of an emergency.

As insurance is a financial investment to protect you in case of a future loss scenario, it is of utmost importance for you to understand the insurance contract offered to you. And to understand the contract, one has to read through the document, before signing up for it, ALWAYS!

(The writer is Chief Technical Officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)









sports





Osaka bags 4th Grand Slam title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Feb 20: The trouble for Naomi Osaka at Grand Slam tournaments comes in Week 1. Get beyond that at the hard-court majors, though, and start preparing to etch her name on the trophy.

OrissaPOST

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 21 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

Osaka won her fourth title in her past eight appearances at a Slam, emerging from what initially was a tight Australian Open final and pulling away by grabbing six consecutive games to beat Jennifer Brady 6-4, 6-3 Saturday.

With strong serving that produced six aces, Osaka improved to 4-0 in major finals, the first woman to start her career that way since Monica Seles did it 30 years ago. For Osaka, that is part of a 12-0 record so far in the quarterfinals and beyond at the majors.

The 2020 AP Female Athlete of the Year is also on a 21-match winning streak that dates to last season. That includes a championship at last year's US Open. She also won the US Open in 2018, and the Australian Open in 2019. The 23-year-old was born in Japan and moved to the United States

with her family when she was 3.

Brady is a 25-year-old American who was playing in her first Grand Slam final. She had to go through a hard quarantine for 15 days when she arrived in Australia in January because someone on her flight tested positive for COVID-19 when they arrived.

This was a big step up in competition during this tournament for Brady, who had not faced anyone ranked in the Top 25 nor anyone who previously appeared in so much as one Grand Slam semifinal.

During the pre-match coin toss, the silver women's trophy stood on a clear, plastic pedestal not far from Osaka on her side of the net. After beating Serena Williams in the semifinals, Osaka had made her intentions clear: "I have this mentality that people don't remember the runnersup. You might, but the winner's

name is the one that's engraved." And she keeps making sure that name is hers. It was cooler than it's been in Melbourne recently, with the temperature down below 70 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Celsius) and a breeze that made

serve tosses difficult for both players, who would catch the ball instead of hit it and say, "Sorry!

The stadium was allowed to be at half capacity — about 7,500 fans after spectators were barred entirely earlier in the tournament for five davs during a COVID-19 lockdown.

Only two active women own more Slam titles than Osaka: Williams, with 23, and her sister, Venus, with seven. Next task for Osaka is improving on clay and grass: She's never been past the third round at the French Open or Wimbledon.

The final was locked at 4-all, when Brady used an on-the-run lob winner that she punctuated by waving her arms to request more noise from the crowd. That earned a break-point - convert that, and she would serve for the opening set. But Osaka erased the chance with a cross-court forehand winner, and two errors by Brady made it 5-4.

Osaka then broke to grab the set. helped by Brady's double-fault and a netted forehand on a short ball to end it. That was part of the sixgame run that put Osaka ahead 4-0 in the second and she was on her way.

Manu seeks action against AI employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 20: Tokyo Olympics medal prospect Manu Bhaker has demanded action against two Air India employees for allegedly 'harassing' and 'insulting' the pistol shooter while she tried to board a flight to Bhopal from Delhi.

The 19-year-old Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympics gold medallist pistol shooter eventually managed to board the aircraft Friday evening after the intervention of Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Manu, one of the country's brightest medal hopes at the upcoming Games, thanked Rijiju for his prompt intervention but is also hoping for action against the Air India officials at Delhi airport. Later, Air India, too, apologised for the conduct of its staff.

'They can be held accountable for the harassment and insult I endured as trying to save their officials (Manoj Gupta and another security person of the airline) will only further damage Air India's reputation," Manu told this agency from Bhopal.

The champion pistol shooter added, "Air India is now claiming that they were just asking for documents and doing their job but I am sure everything was captured by the CCTV cameras. You can check. They snatched my mobile and deleted the picture which my mother clicked



as the harassment went on."

Having addressed the issue, Rijiju called Manu 'India's pride'. Air India also tendered an apology. "Ma'am we are really sorry that you have faced inconvenience while travelling with us. We request you to kindly share details of the issue along with your contact details over DM for us to assist you." Air India tweeted.

Manu said she had to go through the 'ordeal' despite carrying all

Yadav, Kishan, Tewatia named in T20I squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 20: Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Rahul Tewatia Saturday earned their maiden India call-up for next month's five-match T20 series against England as the selectors rewarded them for their stupendous performances in the IPL.

Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel and pacer Bhuvneswar Kumar also returned to a fresh-looking squad. The selectors named a 19-man squad for the series starting March 12 in Ahmedabad. Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson and Manish Pandey have been dropped while pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been rested.

THE SQUAD: Virat Kohli (C), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Yuzvendra Chahal, Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Rahul Tewatia, T Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini & Shardul Thakur.



Boris Singh (No.2) is surrounded by his teammates while celebrating his goal

Aitor Monroy's resultant freekick from the left was heading flat and low into the six-yard area when Farukh Choudhary's bright intervention diverted the ball on goal. However, MCFC custodian Amrinder Singh parried away, only for Boris who was alert and pounced on the loose ball to smash it into the back of the net.

'Their conduct was unacceptable, I mean at least give some respect to athletes and don't insult them every now and then. The main problem was not money but his behaviour. The ministry takes care of all our expenses," she said.

In another post, the air carrier wrote, "Dear Ms Bhaker Our Delhi Airport team has confirmed that the official at our counter had only sought for valid documents as per rules for carriage of your weapon on board.'

ISSF World Cup gold medallist Manu had lashed out at the AI officials Friday and sought help from the authorities in a series of tweets.

"Not allowing me to board flight AI 437 at IGI Delhi and asking now 10200rs despite all valid Documentation and DGCA permit. Top of that Manoj Gupta Air India in-charge and other staff is humiliating me despite I have 2 guns and ammunition," she wrote tagging Rijiju and Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri.

valid documents and clearance from "Think this type behaviour is the Directorate General of Civil not acceptable .Manoj Gupta is not Aviation (DGCA) for travelling with even human. He is treating me like her weapons and ammunition. I am a criminal. Also his security "But then they refused to recogin-charge. Such people need basic nise even DGCA and when I told training of behaviour hopefully

Aviation ministry will find out & will send him to right place.' "Top of that Manoj Gupta Air india in-charge doesn't recognise India in Olympics, they said DGCA. Shall I pay this Bribes or," she had tweeted.

Boris, Grande lift Jamshedpur

them that I travel frequently with

my ammunition and that I am a

shooter who is going to represent

'whether you play in nationals or

Olympics it doesn't matter to us'.

Goa, Feb 20: Boris Singh (72nd minute) and David Grande (90th) scored apiece in Jamshedpur FC's 2-0 victory over Mumbai City FC (MCFC) in their ISL encounter at the Tilak Maidan here, Saturday.

AGENCIES

The result meant that secondplaced MCFC (34 points) couldn't reduce the five-point deficit set by ATK Mohun Bagan (39). Jamshedpur, on the other hand, moved to sixth with 24 points, but seventh-placed Bengaluru FC could move up if they win their next match as they have played a game in hand compared to Jamshedpur.

Despite being a goalless half played out, Jamshedpur were the happier of the two dressing rooms as they executed their plans to perfection to stymie the free-flowing Islanders. The Red Miners allowed only one shot on goal and none on target. They have done well to keep the Islanders quiet.

The first half show allowed them to push the momentum they created further as they continued to trouble MCFC defense. And in the 72nd, Jamshedpur finally broke the deadlock through Boris.

In the added-on time, Grande doubled the misery on MCFC. Isaac Vanmalsawma and Aitor Monroy exchanged passes around the edge of the box before the latter played a delightful ball into the feet of Grande on the right side of the box. Following a lovely first touch,_ Grande turned and shot the ball past the diving Amrinder.

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PRIDE









