



GOING GLOBAL

Actor Urvashi Rautela shot her debut intr'l music album titled 'Versace' with Egyptian actor Mohamed Ramadan

LEISURE **P2**



CAPITAL CONUNDRUM

CM Kejriwal says Delhi's law and order situation is in 'serious turmoil' citing the recent murder of an 8-yr-old girl

TWO STATES **P7**



US' OLYMPICS BOYCOTT

Accusing China of human rights abuses, top Rep. leaders demand that the US boycott 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing

INTERNATIONAL **P10**

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Covid vaccine at ₹250/dose

AGENCIES/ PNN

New Delhi, Feb 27: The Union Government has fixed the price of vaccines at ₹250 for a dose which would be available at private hospitals for people above 60 years of age and those above 45 years of age with co-morbidities, and will be vaccinated starting March 1, sources said.

However, the prices are subjected to change until further notice. The government has decided that the people will be vaccinated free of cost at the government hospitals.

The cost break-up is ₹150 for a dose plus ₹100 as a service charge which the private facilities can charge from the beneficiaries.

The decision was taken by National Health Mission and is being forwarded to all the states and union territories, sources informed.

After healthcare and frontline workers, the third phase of vaccination

against Covid-19 pandemic is unrolling beginning March to cover 27 crore of people at 10,000 government and over 20,000 private vaccination centres.

The vaccines will be stored at public health facilities having cold chain points. The private facilities will be able to receive the desired doses from public hospitals in their vicinity.

Resurgence worry

Meanwhile, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting with Chief Secretaries of various states and Union Territories and advised them not to lower their guard, enforce Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and deal firmly with the violations.

The meeting to review and discuss the Covid management and response strategy, held through video conference, was attended by the Chief Secretaries and senior health professionals of the states and UTs along with the Union



Health Secretary, DG of ICMR, NITI Aayog Empowered Group members, and representatives from Home Ministry.

Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Telangana and Jammu and Kashmir have been reporting a high active caseload or an increasing trend in new cases in the last week.

Six states – Maharashtra, Kerala,

Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat – have shown a surge in new cases in the last 24 hours.

25 VSSUT students test COVID +ve

SAMBALPUR: As many as 25 students of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) in Burla of Sambalpur district have tested positive for COVID-19, an official source informed Saturday.

ODISHA'S MARCH COVID GUIDELINES

- Opera parties and open air theatres can perform their shows with a cap of maximum 2,000 audience members
- Hosts of marriage and funeral events will have to provide masks to the participants who should not exceed more than 500
- Social, religious, political, sports, entertainment, academic and cultural functions and gatherings to have max 500 members
- The S&ME dept will allow conductance of intra-school class promotion examinations for 9th and 11st grades while giving the option for online examination to the students with consent of their parents/guardians

According to the source, 24 VSSUT students tested positive for the deadly virus Friday and one student tested positive Saturday morning.

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After 3-day break, fuel prices resurge

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 27: Country's petrol and diesel prices continued their northward march Saturday, after a three-day break, taking the retail rates to unprecedented levels and burning holes in the consumers' pockets.

Oil marketing companies raised the pump price of petrol and diesel by 24 paise and 15 paise per litre Saturday.

With this, petrol is now priced at ₹91.17 a litre and diesel ₹81.47 a litre in the capital.

Across the country as well the petrol and diesel prices increased between 20-30 paise per litre depending on the level of local duties at the state-level.

Sources in OMCs said that price rise Saturday followed movement in product price in global markets. The crude oil is also on boil with benchmark Brent crude still above \$66 a barrel now. It was less than \$60 a barrel just a few days back.



■ The price hike Saturday followed movement in product price in global markets

■ The crude oil is also on boil with benchmark Brent crude still above \$66 a barrel now

■ It was less than \$60 a barrel just a few days back

FUEL PRICES IN CITY	
PETROL	₹91.89 (+0.25)
DIESEL	₹88.75 (+0.17)

Petrol and diesel prices have been rising continuously since February 9. In the 14 increases since then, the prices have gone up by ₹4.22 per litre for petrol and ₹4.34 a litre for diesel in Delhi.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We will do everything to bring the prices down once we are in opposition.

\$1.9tn COVID relief bill gets US House nod, now to Senate

AGENCIES

Washington, Feb 27: The House approved a \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill in a win for President Joe Biden, even as top Democrats tried assuring agitated progressives that they'd revive their derailed drive to boost the minimum wage.

The new President's vision for flushing cash to individuals, businesses, states and cities battered by COVID-19 passed on a near party-line 219-212 vote early Saturday. That ships the massive measure to the Senate, where Democrats seem bent on resuscitating their minimum wage push and fights could erupt over state aid and other issues.

Democrats said the still-faltering economy and the half-million American lives lost demanded quick, decisive action. GOP lawmakers, they said, were out of step with a public that polling



shows largely views the bill favourably.

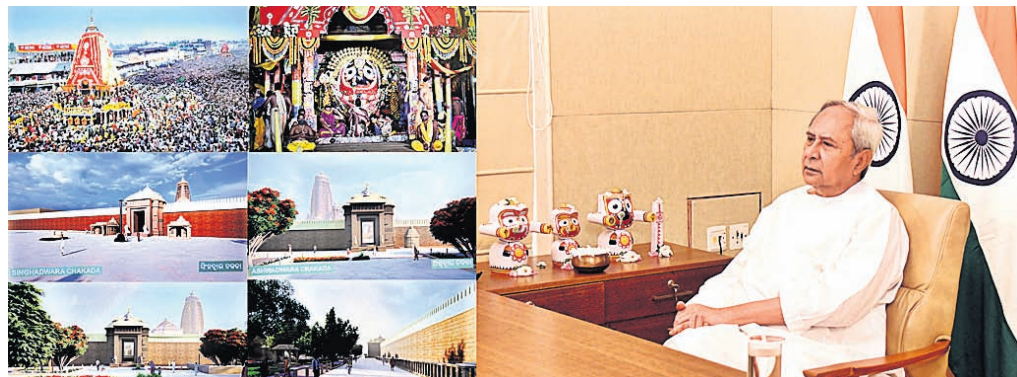
"I am a happy camper tonight," Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said Friday. "This is what America needs. Republicans, you ought to be a part of this. But if you're not, we're going without you."

Republicans said the bill was too expensive and said too few education dollars would be spent quickly to immediately reopen schools.

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
TEMP	MAX 40.6°C	38.1°C	
	MIN 19.0°C	18.5°C	
Humidity	65%	64%	Forecast
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clear sky

JAGANNATH HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROJECT

Assembly passes resolution



CM Naveen Patnaik presents the three proposals in the resolution in the House through video conference

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: The state Assembly Saturday passed a resolution unanimously regarding the Jagannath Heritage Corridor project. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik presented three proposals in the resolution in the House through video conference, which was supported by both the BJP and the Congress.

The first proposal was to take a vow to complete the Srimandir Parikrama Plan with dedication at the earliest. The second proposal was to have participation and contribution of all Odias and devotees of Lord Jagannath for the heritage corridor project.

...the government takes steps to implement the plan. I firmly believe that this plan isn't only for the government or for the temple administration. It is the plan of 4.5 crore Odias

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

The third proposal was to extend gratitude to people of Puri town who have sacrificed for the Srimandir Parikrama Plan.

"The greatest identity of Odia community is Lord Jagannath. Our history, culture, tradition and belief system are all centered on almighty He is the symbol of Odia esteem and pride," said the Chief Minister.

He added all devotees who come to the temple to see the Lord Jagannath have a desire to see the Lord in a peaceful, beautiful and spiritual environment.

"Millions of devotees pray to visit the Jagannath Temple once in a lifetime and get a glimpse of the Lord. It is the responsibility of all of us to

ensure that all devotees return with a divine feeling," he asserted. Patnaik said that three objectives were considered for Srimandir Parikrama Yojana when Justice BP Das Committee had recommended for Srimandir Security Corridor.

The recommendations were – safety of Srimandir, safety of millions of devotees visiting the temple for darshan of deities and creation of spiritual atmosphere for devotees.

Meanwhile, Puri king Dibyasingha Deb extended his gratitude to the MLAs for passing the resolution.

If sources are to be believed then the state government, to increase people participation in the project, may ask for donation from general public and corporate houses.

We are supporting the resolution to make Puri a world-famous heritage site

PRADIPTA KUMAR NAIK | LOP

It's really excellent work. Congress party supports Srimandir Parikrama Plan for preserving the culture and heritage as well as the history of Odisha

NARASINGHA MISHRA | CONGRESS LEGISLATURE PARTY LEADER

CAPITAL REMAINS THE HOTTEST CITY

BHUBANESWAR: Recording a maximum temperature of 40.6 degrees Celsius Saturday, capital city Bhubaneswar remained the hottest place in the country. Friday, the city recorded 40.4 degrees Celsius. The Met department said hot weather conditions with above normal temperature by about 5 degrees Celsius would prevail at some places over the districts of Khurda including Bhubaneswar city, Cuttack, Jaipur, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Balasore, Angul and Mayurbhanj during the next two-three days. It has advised people to take precautionary measures for hot weather while going out around noon time in these districts. The maximum temperature at Angul was 38.9 degrees while it was 38.6 degrees at Baripada. Talcher, Nayagarh and Titlagarh each recorded 38 degrees.

OWL READY TO ROLL



The captains of six participating teams (from L) Sasmita Parida (OGP Club), Eva Panna (SAI-STC), Bannya Kabiraj (Sports Hostel), Karishma Oram (Odisha Police), Manisha Panna (E.Co. Railway) & Satyabati Khadia (Rising Student Club) pose with the Odisha Women's League (OWL) winners' trophy and match ball during the press conference at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday.

BIKASH NAYAK

Myanmar's UN envoy defies junta, denounces coup

MYANMAR'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT HIS LOYALTY WAS TO THE ELECTED GOVT OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

AGENCIES

United Nations, Feb 27: In a dramatic show of defiance Myanmar's Permanent Representative Kyaw Moe Tun has denounced his country's military regime before the General Assembly and declared he would fight for democracy.

"We will continue to fight for a government which is of the people, by the people, for the people," he said during an Assembly session on Myanmar.

His speech won a round of applause from diplomats who were at first astounded by his public break with Myanmar's military government that jailed State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other leaders this month and declared the election won by their National League for Democracy invalid.

Tun said that his loyalty was to the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and was speaking on behalf of the democratically elected members of Parliament.

He called for "strongest possible action from the international community to immediately end the military coup, to stop oppressing the innocent people, to return the state power to the people and to restore the democracy."

"It is time for the military to immediately relinquish power and release those detained," he said.

He raised his three fingers in a salute that has become a symbol of the Myanmar protesters demanding a return to democracy.

UN's Special Envoy Christine Schraner Burgener told the Assembly through a video link that the situation in Myanmar was "frag-

ile" and had not yet stabilised.

The military's takeover remained only a "coup attempt" and the international community should "not lend legitimacy or recognition to this regime" because "it would appear to be roundly rejected by the people."

"If there is any escalation in terms of military brutality – and sadly as we have seen this before in Myanmar – against people exercising their basic rights, let us act swiftly and collectively," she added.

India's Permanent

Representative said that

New Delhi was "deeply concerned that the gains made by Myanmar over the last decades on the path towards democracy, should not get undermined."

He said, "Restoring democratic order should be the priority of all stakeholders in Myanmar. The international community must lend its constructive support to the people of Myanmar at this critical juncture."

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric was asked at his briefing about the danger to Tun and his family because of his speech at the Assembly.

He said, "None should be harmed. None should be thrown in jail for expressing their opinion...Families shouldn't be punished for the actions of another member. There needs to be freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and there hasn't been. And we've been very concerned about that."



Tun raises his three fingers in a salute that has become a symbol of the Myanmar protesters demanding a return to democracy

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, love will be a delightful thing for you. You would want to spend all your time with friends and family, not to forget your Lhasa Apso. This doesn't go down well with your peers, who may think you're a shirker, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

There is a bright chance that you will have a both thoughtful and rewarding day today, predicts Ganesha. Do not get upset should things not work in your favour; keep in mind that today is not apocalypse.

GEMINI

Your emotions will cloud your reasoning today, portends Ganesha. You may find refuge in activities related to religion. Money lenders and those in retail business will find their cash registers ringing. Hard work, however, continues to be an important tool for success.

CANCER

Today, there is likely to be a twist in your tale. Something is going to happen that is likely to make your life turn a corner. It may be a major breakthrough or a seemingly innocuous accident, but your life is likely to change significantly.

LEO

Falling into a routine can be dangerous if it traps you in a rut. So, bear this in mind and take a break from the usual, says Ganesha. A little change will go a long way in helping you recharge your batteries.

VIRGO

Ganesha predicts that family matters will occupy most of your attention today. Your power of persuasion and your towering persona may help you get pending work done. Emotional issues may demand your attention as well, and you will handle them with practised ease.

LIBRA

You will spin out a plan on a daily basis and prefer to go with the flow, predicts Ganesha. The afternoon may see your peers giving you some bit of unnecessary tension due to approaching deadlines. In the evening, you may consider spending some time meditating to attain peace of mind.

SCORPIO

You will tackle work and commitments with a renewed zeal today, says Ganesha. Your enthusiasm will catch on at the workplace, contagious and inspiring as it is. On the career front, things will look up later in the day and opportunities will shower a plenty.

SAGITTARIUS

Your colleagues will enjoy your flexible and positive attitude at work today, feels Ganesha. Polish your social skills and your smile, because today afternoon might turn out to be a carnival of people. Your evening may be more laid-back as you will find breathing space to relax with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN

You may wobble under the burgeoning work pressure and may have to endure tremendous stress to meet deadlines and achieve set targets. But the hellish situation will fail to affect your state of mind as well as your ability to make sensible decisions, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

Today is just not your day. Accept that nothing will work perfectly, and get on. Any bickering at your workplace can be sorted out with tact. And patience will help you tide over difficult situations. Ganesha wishes you all the best!

PISCES

The focus today is on your spouse. You may mutually give and receive pleasant surprises today. You are likely to take stock of your present and prepare for the future today, but be sure to do so in conjunction with your better half. Your business partners may bring you some good news, says Ganesha.



ANISTON REVEALS SECRET TO BEING A 'HAPPY GIRL'

Hollywood star Jennifer Aniston revealed the secret behind her happiness. She says it is coffee. In an Instagram clip, Aniston is seen making herself a cuppa Joe. "ME + COFFEE = HAPPY GIRL," she wrote alongside the image.

PALTROW GAINED A LOT OF WEIGHT OVER COVID

Hollywood star Gwyneth Paltrow confesses bingeing on pasta and alcohol after she had Covid and blames it for her weight gain. She went on to add: "I've noticed over the past couple of years that my metabolism is slowed down. I know a lot of that is perimenopause."



Taapsee thoroughly detests dubbing

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu Saturday confessed that she thoroughly detests dubbing.

Taapsee shared a post on Instagram tagging sound designer Dhiman Karmakar and opened up on her experience of dubbing for her upcoming film *Dobaaraa*.

"My #DobaaraaSeries. Coz some collaborations deserve to be repeated. Be it the chaotic and noisy lanes in *Manmarziyaan* or the deafening silence of Scotland in *Badla*, by now he surely knows that if there is one aspect of my job I thoroughly detest is dubbing. It's almost a ritual now that I tell @dhiman.karmakar make me wear how many ever mics but don't make me perform the scene in 4 walls of a tiny dubbing room #Dobaaraa," she wrote.

The actress has recently started shooting for *Dobaaraa*, a new age thriller film directed by Anurag Kashyap. The film reunites Taapsee with Kashyap, who previously directed her

in the 2018 film *Manmarziyaan*.

Dobaaraa is produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ekta Kapoor, Sunir Khetarpal and Gaurav Bose. **IANS**

Urvashi excited about her debut int'l album

Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela has shot her debut international music album titled *Versace* with Egyptian actor Mohamed Ramadan, and is naturally excited about it.

Since she was busy shooting, she had no time to celebrate her birthday February 25. "I was busy shooting but the entire Versace team and Mohamed surprised me with an on-set celebration!" Urvashi said

About shooting the song, she added: "We shot the music video at the Villa Casa Casuarina in the Former Versace Mansion. It was good working with my dear friend Ramadan and the entire team. I'm really excited about my first international music album."

Urvashi is currently shooting for the upcoming web series *Inspector Avinash*, starring Randeep Hooda. She will also be seen in the upcoming bilingual thriller *Black Rose*, and a Hindi remake of the Tamil hit *Thiruthu Payale 2*. **UWS**



FILM REVIEW Adaptation of Hawkins' bestseller a derailed drama



Among the few things that might stay on viewers' mind is Aditi Rao Hydari's act as Nusrat, in a brief but impactful portrayal

D Ribhu Dasgupta's adaptation of Paula Hawkins' bestseller *The Girl on the Train* is too lazy to recreate the slow-burn shock value of the novel.

Hawkins' written work was always a challenge to recreate on screen. Parineeti Chopra has gone over the top trying to underline the fact that the protagonist, introduced here as Mira Kapoor, is in pain. A brief prelude tells us why Mira ends up this way after we see her start off as an alpha woman in London - successful lawyer at work, and happily married at home. She has a doting husband and they are expecting their first child.

The picture of bliss is shattered when she suffers a miscarriage after an accident. Mira becomes an alcoholic and Shekhar moots divorce. She stops practising law although she continues 'going to work'. During her daily trips by train she sees the old house she

once shared with Shekhar, now occupied by a happy couple, Nusrat (Aditi Rao Hydari) and Anand Mira finds the resonance of a perfect marriage in Nusrat's life as she watches her from the window of her train every day. One day, she sees Nusrat in an intimate pose on the balcony, with a man who clearly isn't her husband.

The first of the film's major twists comes early on, when Nusrat goes missing and is subsequently found dead in a forest. However, the film, sadly, is crushed by weak screen-writing.

Film: *The Girl on the Train*
Cast: Parineeti Chopra, Aditi Rao Hydari, Kirti Kulhari, Tota Roy Chowdhury
Direction: Ribhu Dasgupta

For that reason, despite its polished look the film fails to hold attention. Sluggish editing and a couple of unnecessary songs fitted into the narrative don't help much.

Among the few things that might stay on in your mind is Aditi Rao Hydari's act as Nusrat, in a brief but impactful portrayal.

Most of the cast is strictly average, almost unsure about how to deal with the half-baked characters they get to play out.

GLOBAL ART EXPO FOR KIDS COMMENCES IN CITY

CHILD ARTISTS FROM AS MANY AS 10 COUNTRIES DISPLAYED THEIR WORKS AT THE EVENT

Bhubaneswar: Dhauli College of Art and Crafts Saturday organised the 4th International Child Art Exhibition, an online art expo, here on the eve of International Dhauli Art Festival.

The event was inaugurated by the chief guest and Dharmapada Award winning artist Vinod Moharana. Among others, Dhauli Sarpanch Purnima Sahoo, India Tourism Assistant Director Rashmi Sonia Tirkey, social activists Harekrushna Sahoo and Priyadarshi Pratyush Rathia were present on the occasion.

Applauding the kids' creative skill,



the guests said that art has always contributed to the positive changes in society.

As many as 552 entries from India and 10 other countries including the US, Nepal, Bangladesh and Indonesia were received and of them 380 qualified for the final round. The winners will receive their prizes through post, said the organisers.

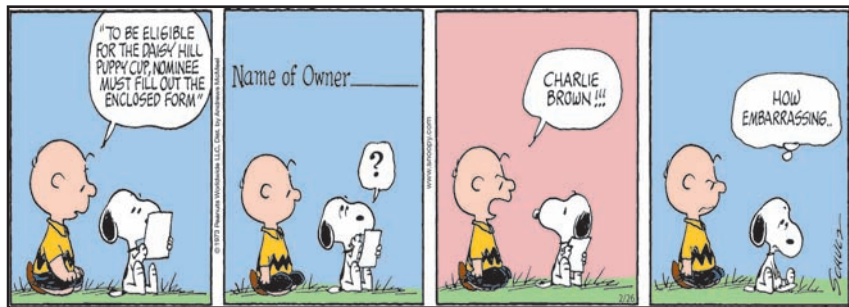
Artists Rosalin Das and Khokan Sarkar were conferred with Kala Archarya Samman on the occasion. Most of the works were on the effects of Covid-19, nature and ani-

mals and they caught the viewers by surprise.

College's principal and eminent artist Panchanan Samal delivered the welcome address. The working president of the college Harekrushna Mishra helped in lighting the lamp while secretary Mihir Kanta Praharaj explained the flow of events. This exhibition is available on YouTube, Facebook and whatsapp.

Lecturers Chandan Samal, Biswakant Panda, Manas Ranjan Nayak and Sasmita Kamila conducted the event.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

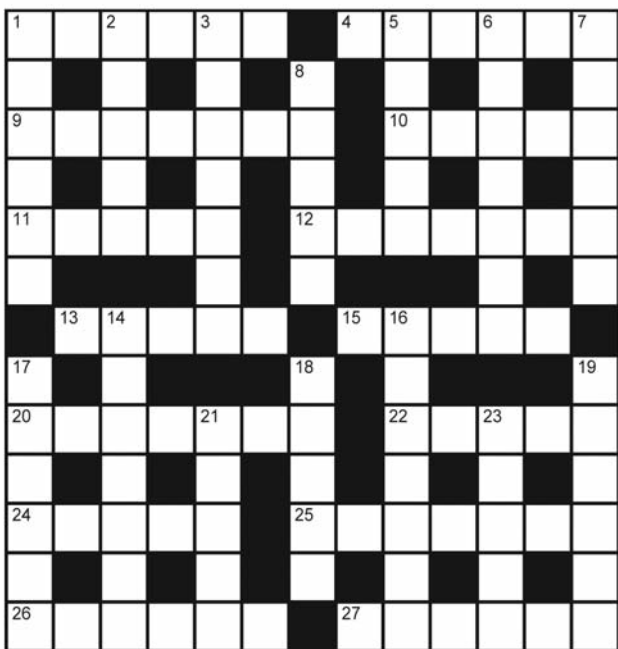


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Spectres
 - 4 Horse-drawn carriage
 - 9 Too well nourished
 - 10 Sustain
 - 11 Fill with joy
 - 12 Some exes get it
 - 13 Piece of cave art
 - 15 Dens
 - 20 Pilot
 - 22 Small goose
 - 24 Expensive
 - 25 Great circle
 - 26 Compact
 - 27 Fish hawk
 - 6 Comfort
 - 7 Joan of Arc, e.g.
 - 8 Utopian
 - 14 Employ
 - 16 Bowers
 - 17 Floor covering
 - 18 Astrological ram
 - 19 Well-built
 - 21 Rendezvous
 - 23 Thespian
- Down**
- 1 Mitts
 - 2 Wagner work
 - 3 Crisp fabric
 - 5 Excuse

SUDOKU

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

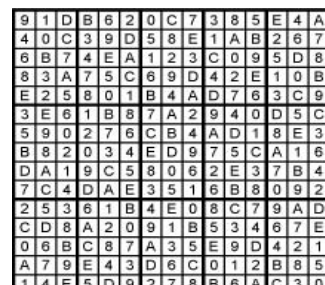


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

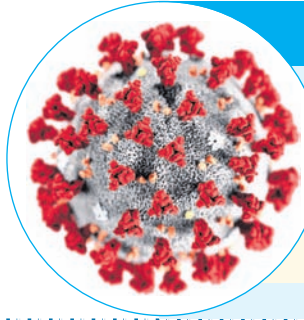


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



CULTURAL DISPLAY

Artistes from Kala Vikash Kendra, Cuttack, perform Odissi at the state-level Khadi and Gramodyog fair in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	11,40,87,468	8,96,32,751	25,31,292
India	1,10,79,979	1,07,63,451	1,56,938
Odisha	3,37,104	3,34,519	1,915

OPPN TEARS GOVT OVER LAW, ORDER

Raising Mahanga double murder case, Opposition members demand resignation of law minister Pratap Jena

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: Opposition BJP and the Congress Saturday targeted the state government over the deteriorating law and order situation across the state. The opposition members raised the issues like Mahanga double murder, missing of children, rape cases and rising atrocities against women during a debate on admissibility of an adjournment motion. However, Minister of State (MoS) for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra maintained that the law and order situation has largely remained peaceful in the state.

Initiating the debate, BJP chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi alleged that Bihar and Uttar Pradesh like situation was prevailing in the state. Everyday, rape, loot, murder, kidnapping cases are being reported, he said.

"Crimes are increasing in the state. Children and women are not safe. BJP workers are being killed.

There is no law and order in the state. Jungle raj prevails here. Cyber crime has become a nuisance and it's a matter of concern. Detection in the cyber crime is absolutely zero

NARASINGHA MISHRA | CONGRESS MLA

In Mahanga double murder case, an FIR has been registered against Minister Pratap Jena. But, no action has been taken," said Majhi. At least 16 political murders have occurred in the state in past few years, he claimed.

"Why the Chief Minister, who



claims to be clean, is silent on the issue? Will the Chief Minister ask the minister to resign," asked the BJP legislator. Another BJP member Jaynarayan Mishra said police are being used for political purposes and he himself has become a victim of this.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingh Mishra came

solutely zero," said Mishra.

Atrocities against minor girls are increasing. Drug mafias are there in every village and street of the state. However, there is no detention or punishment, he said.

Two ministers have been named in two recent crimes. It is the responsibility of the Chief Minister to either give a clean chit to them

double murder case. Replying to the adjournment motion, Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra said law and order situation has largely remained peaceful in the state in 2020 and this year so far.

Informing that Maoist situation has improved, he said five out of 15 Naxal-affected districts have been freed from Maoist menaces. The districts are—Angul, Boudh, Deogarh, Nayagarh and Sambalpur.

As many as 17 Maoists were killed in 2020 including 16 during face-offs with security forces and one in people's attack. While 34 Naxals were arrested, 21 rebels surrendered last year, he stated.

Similarly, 48 police personnel succumbed to coronavirus in the line of duty Property crimes have dipped in 2020 as compared to the previous year. Dacoity cases have dropped by 12.5 per cent, loot cases by 13 per cent and theft cases by 3 per cent as compared to the previous year, the minister said.

Similarly, cheating cases have dropped by 7.4 per cent vis-a-vis the previous year, Mishra added.

Sharing data on conviction rates in session cases, Mishra told the house that conviction in rape cases stands at 18 per cent, murder 30 per cent and 12 per cent in POCSO cases.

On cyber crime cases, he said, 1931 cases have been registered and 366 persons have been arrested in 2020 while 1475 cases were registered in 2019.

Both BJP and Congress members created a ruckus in the well of the house while the minister was making a statement. Later, expressing dissatisfaction over the statement, BJP members staged a walkout.



Conviction in rape cases stands at 18 per cent, murder 30 per cent and 12 per cent in POCSO cases

DIBYA SHANKAR MISHRA | MoS (HOME)

down heavily on the state government over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

"There is no law and order in the state. Jungle raj prevails here. Cyber crime has become a nuisance and it's a matter of concern. Detection in the cyber crime is ab-

based on evidence or sack them, Mishra said. "For a fair investigation, the minister should have to step down," he demanded not naming any minister.

Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja demanded resignation of the law minister in the Mahanga

FOR COOL WATER



With a rise in daytime temperature, the demand for earthen water pots picking up in Cuttack

OP PHOTO

Youth Congress protests against petrol price hike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: Youth Congress leaders Saturday protested against petrol price rise in the state capital. The party men Saturday tried to rake up the issue of rising petrol and diesel prices before the citizens of the state.



In a unique way of protest, the party leaders worshipped the posters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The workers accused the Union government as well as the state government of having a hand in gloves understanding with the government behind the rise of fuel prices. The protesters accused both the state government as well as the Centre for the menace.

SUTRAA LIFESTYLE EXPO BEGINS IN CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: Lifestyle exhibition Sutraa kicked off in the city Saturday. The expo showcased more than 40 stalls varying from

precious to fashion jewellery, ethnic kurta and palazzos, silk and Rajasthani sarees, food items, home decor and more.

Interacting with Orissa POST, Akash Nagdev, a seller



of fashion jewellery, said, "This year the focus is on summer collection and jewellery is lightweight yet classy in looks and is affordable for every buyer. We have already sold more than half of our products on day one and hoping to sell out more."

The expo follows each and every Covid guidelines. What really caught up the fascination of buyers is silver-coated puja idols and gift items from Luxcraft. Home decors of silver and porcelain cups and saucers were also available at the stall. Vishkha Dev, a corporate gift expert, said, "We are always on the lookout for such items for corporate gifting and this year I have found my choice at Luxcraft which is selling amazing gift items." The expo will conclude Monday and it wishes to offer a summer sale to all its clients and new buyers.

JK MOHANTY

IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST A YEAR FOR TOURISM BIZ TO GET BACK ON ITS FEET: JK MOHANTY

The hotel and the tourism sector, battered by the serial shutdowns and lockdowns in the country, is struggling to get back on its feet. Various policy initiatives by the govt and promotional measures by the industry players are helping the sector revive its business. The Swosti Group, a leader in eastern India's hotel and tourism landscape, has taken a number of initiatives to help the state's tourism industry get back its pre-Covid sheen. Excerpts of an interview with the industry veteran and Swosti Group's CMD JK Mohanty.



■ **Your views on the future of tourism and the new travel trends for 2021.**

■ Hospitality and the tourism industry was battered by Covid-19. It will take at least a year for the tourism business to get back on its feet. People are scared to travel by air and train. They are scared to attend meetings, social functions as social distancing has become a standard practice. The industry, dependent on air & rail travel, will continue to suffer for next 12 to 18 months. Tour operators need to get creative by designing itineraries that avoid public forms of transportation and crowded tourist areas.

■ **How do you reboot tourism with the new normal?**

■ The new normal of doing hotel business has completely changed with health and safety as important areas. Cleaning and sanitization are a priority now. Government is also equally concerned on health and safety of people. As domestic tourism is restarting, various state governments are in the process of announcing policies to give a new direction to tourism policies. Union ministry of tourism has also circulated a draft tourism policy seeking feedback to make it more robust. The government has incorporated new elements in its policy to promote potential investments in 13 priority areas as well as develop nine tourism circuits to world class standards.

■ **How do you think the proposed international airport at Puri will help?**

■ I am sure our government would create infrastructure for the next century. The international airport at Puri will attract a large number of people to have direct flights to the land of Lord Jagannath. The vision of our Chief Minister to make Puri an international hub is a fantastic idea. If our government



declares Rath Yatra as a national holiday, it will help Odisha tourism to attract more devotees and Puri will become a hub for spiritual tourism.

■ **Every state in the country is spending big on publicity. What makes you so confident that Odisha can become a major tourist destination?**

■ Odisha is the only state which is filled with art, craft, culture, cuisine, beaches, lakes, mountains, tribes, temple architecture, heritage tourism, Odissi dances, tussar silk woven sarees, silver filigree, stone carved statues, sand art exhibitions and eco tourist destinations. When we compare Odisha with other states, we are much richer.

■ **What is the edge of Swosti Group over other hotels?**

■ With more than 300 luxury rooms, the largest convention centre in eastern India, personalized services, 5-star rating (Swosti Premium), Swosti Group has been a pioneer in Odisha's hospitality industry since 1981. We are committed to making a difference.

■ **What is the secret behind Swosti Chilika Resort's success?**

■ Swosti Chilika Resort, operational since 2017, is the only resort certified by the Indian Green Building Council. Within a short time the resort, with its luxurious cottages and lush green landscaping, has already

made a name for itself. It has become a major tourist destination. The resort has given jobs to local villagers.

■ **What are the major initiatives of your group to attract MICE business?**

■ Odisha has emerged as a major MICE destination. Almost every hotel in the city has been equipped with a convention center. The tourism department has started spending huge amounts on advertisements to attract MICE tourists. The state tourism in coordination with entrepreneurs conducts roadshows to promote tourism. "Swosti Group has become a hub of MICE business with the largest convention hall (Chankya) at Swosti Premium, and "Swosti Chilika Resort" is a perfect venue for planning mega conferences and MICE events.

■ **What are your future plans? Any plans to put up more units?**

■ Swosti Group has been focusing on development of tourism in Odisha since 1981, by putting up hotel and resort infrastructures in different tourist places of Odisha to enable tourists to stay for a longer duration. Now we are planning to expand our hospitality business at Puri, Gopalpur-on-Sea and Bhitarkanika and we are also in the process of acquiring land at Satkosia and Deomali where the group will venture mega tourism infrastructure to attract more footfalls.

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Vaccine registration for elderly to start Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: The registration of senior citizens for Covid-19 vaccination in the state is all set to begin Monday with the Union government giving nod for the same. The district administrations have now prepared the roadmap for the vaccination drive of the third phase. The state government officials Friday said that the interested beneficiaries can log on to COWIN 2.0 website or use the mobile app besides Aarogya Setu app to register themselves. “The COWIN portal will remain closed for two days as the website and app are undergoing technical works. One has to download the app and fill in the details like Aadhaar number, voter ID number or other details. The process will start from March 1,” CBK Mohanty, Director of Medical Education and Training, said. He also said that people above 60 years of age would not need certificates of comorbidities. “Only the persons above the age of 45 years with comorbidities need to submit their health records as proof of their existing ailments,” he said. “Vaccinations and drugs often

BATTLE AGAINST COVID



Interested beneficiaries can log on to the COWIN 2.0 website or use the mobile app besides the Aarogya Setu app to register themselves

Individuals above 60 years of age would not need certificates of comorbidities

Only the persons above the age of 45 years with comorbidities need to submit their health records as proof

have some associated risks. Several vaccinations are done in the state and some of them show allergic reaction or some reactions. Lakhs of people have taken the vaccine all over the country till now. There is no direct link of death of any person from the vaccination till now in the country. Even WHO and Indian government have refuted any deaths owing to the infection,” he added. **VAX DRIVE AT 12 GOVT, 10 PVT HOSPS IN CITY**
BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary, Saturday, stated that the vaccination drive

will be conducted in 12 government and 10 private healthcare facilities in city. The private facilities include SUM, KIIMS, Kalinga, Blue Wheel, Aditya Aswini, AMRI, Utkal, Neelachal, Care and Hi Tech. Similarly, government facilities where the drive will be undertaken are: community health centre (CHC) at Unit-IV, Patia, Dumduma, IRC Village and Baramunda; primary health centres at Sahid Nagar, Pokhariput and Ghatikia; BMC Hospital, AIIMS, Capital Hospital and one hospital of Reserve Police Force (RPF).

State revises home isolation norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: The Odisha government Saturday said week-long home isolation will be mandatory for people coming by plane or train from five high-risk states even as 86 new Covid-19 cases pushed the state tally to 3,37,104, a health department official said. Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, P K Mohapatra, in a partial modification to the instructions issued Friday to district authorities and others, has clarified that at present the precautionary measures may be limited to passengers coming from five high-risk states instead of 12 states named earlier. The week-long home isolation will be mandatory for the people coming by train and flight from five high risk states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The situation is under watch and surveillance is going on strictly, Mohapatra said, adding that the government may later include other states in the category of high-risk states in future if the situation so warrants. He said the seven-day mandatory home isolation for arrivals from the five high-risk states can be dispensed with for asymptomatic



People buying masks from a vendor alongside the Mission Road in Cuttack

passengers who have an RT-PCR negative report (done not more than 72 hours before boarding) or a Covid Vaccination Final Certificate. In its Friday order, the state government had made 7-day home isolation mandatory for the people coming from the 12 states - Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Punjab,

Delhi, Chandigarh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh - to the state. Meanwhile, Odisha reported 86 new Covid-19 cases in 21 districts. Sundargarh district reported the highest of 10 new cases followed by Khurda and Sambalpur (9 each). Dhenkanal district has become Covid-19 free as no active cases existed in its jurisdiction. The state's coronavirus death toll remained at 1,915 as no fresh fa-

STRINGENT MEASURES

The week-long home isolation will be mandatory for the people coming by train and flight from five high risk states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

The seven day mandatory home isolation for arrivals from the five high-risk states can be dispensed with for asymptomatic passengers who have an RT-PCR negative report or a Covid Vaccination Final Certificate


tality has been reported since Thursday he said, adding that other 53 Covid-19 positive patients have also died in the state due to comorbidities. The state currently has 673 active cases, while 3,34,463 patients have recovered from the highly infectious disease. Odisha has tested over 83 lakh sample tests for Covid-19 cases so far, including 22,763 Friday. The state's positivity rate stands at 4.06 per cent, data released by the Health and Family Welfare department said.

FOOD SAFETY

Adulterated food market bane of public health

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: A series of crackdowns by the food safety department and police on adulterated food units in twin cities during the last six months has exposed a murky world of food business which is detrimental to public health. The food safety department has found highly toxic material used by unscrupulous traders that may cause gastro-intestinal irritation and other life threatening diseases like cancer.



Industrial synthetic dyes, if consumed for shorter period, can show acute symptoms like diarrhoea, gastritis and ulcer but longer exposure can lead to cancer

AYASHKANT SINGH | GASTROENTEROLOGIST

As per official documents of the department accessed by Orissa POST, several banned items have penetrated into the food market in blatant violation of the food safety norms set by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Senior officials at the food safety department said numerous harmful adulterated food items, contaminated substances, substandard food and beverages were found during the raids on godowns, markets and outlets in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. “The most common form of adulteration we found was in preparing sauces. Several erring outlets were found using colours beyond permissible limits and even using synthetic dye in sauces. These dyes are not allowed in food items and used in industries for dyeing clothes,” a senior food safety officer said re-



questing anonymity. The officer also explained that maida, artificial colour, monosaccharide powder and other harmful items were added while preparing paneer. Monosaccharide is the cheapest form of sugar which does not have enough nutritional value. Moreover, the levels of good fat that paneer should ideally have were too low in the seized items. It was also found that detergents were used in non-branded local milk, the officials added. A study conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi on milk adulteration claimed that detergents can act like slow poison for people living with hypertension and diabetes. Health experts claimed that several of these adulterated items added to the food items are highly carcinogenic in nature. “Industrial synthetic dyes are known to be carcinogenic in nature. Such items and other harmful chemicals present in small amounts if consumed for shorter period can show acute symptoms like diarrhoea, gastritis and ulcer but longer exposure can lead to cancer,” said Dr Ayashkant Singh, a gastroenterologist from the city. He claimed that in Odisha, doctors are seeing higher number of cases of gall bladder cancer among patients. He also said that doctors from SCB Medical College and SUM Hospital are also studying the reason behind higher number of gall bladder cancers in Odisha and their likely link to the food items like including adulterated mustard oil and others.

FOOD OR POISON		
FOOD ITEMS	ADULTERATIONS FOUND	IMPACT ON HEALTH
Sauce	Synthetic dye	Gastritis, gastrointestinal infection & cancer
Paneer	Synthetic colour, artificial flavor & non-nutritious sugar	Irritation, allergy & ulcer
Milk	Excess water, Detergents	Can damage body tissues, cancer
Ghee	Low quality oil, Chemicals	Lesser nutritional levels

WAR IS NOT OVER



With the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in some parts of the country, thermal screening being conducted on the passengers at Bhubaneswar railway station, Saturday

Waive municipal charges: HRAO to govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: In view of impact of Covid-19 on hotel industry, the Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) has demanded exemption of charges imposed by municipalities and municipal corporations for financial year 2020-21. HRAO chairman JK Mohanty has raised this demand during an

interactive meeting with senior government officials and members of HRAO held February 25 at hotel Swosti Premium here. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister and Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) Chairman Asit Tripathy chaired the meeting. During the meeting, Mohanty urged the state government to waive off municipal corporations charges including the trade licence fees.

He appraised the government of officials about the huge increase in holding tax by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and requested for an amicably settlement of the holding tax at a reasonable rate. Mohanty sought exemption of minimum energy charges during the lockdown period. The government can charge on actual consumption of electricity by the hotel industry during the period, he said.

Hotels, lodgings flout police guidelines

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: Even though anti-socials feel it safe to board a hotel or lodging before executing crimes, with the existing loopholes in the security system, the owners of such business establishments are openly flouting the guidelines issued by the police. Recently, Jharaphula Nayak, a girl student of Rama Devi University was allegedly killed by his boyfriend at a hotel in the Capital city. However, the police are yet to solve the mystery behind the alleged murder of the student. Similarly, the Commissionerate Police is still groping in the dark to trace the killer boyfriend of a woman from Khurda whose body was found in a pool of blood in a room at hotel Highway Inn under Mancheswar police limits in 2018. On the other hand, a miscreant murdered a sex-agenarian and former Railway employee by slitting his throat at a hotel near the city railway station here November 2019. Two inter-state criminals who were involved in the bank ATM



robbery in Info City area worth around ₹25 lakh in 2020 revealed before the investigating officers about their stay in different hotels in city before committing the crime. However, despite the occurrence of repeated incidents of crime in the hotels and lodgings, the owners of such business establishments are openly flouting the guidelines issued by Odisha Police in 2017. The state police have directed the hotel own-

ers to follow various security measures to stop illegal activities in their establishments. As per information available, the twin city police have a list of 259 hotels in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, though the actual number would be much higher. The hoteliers have also been asked to install high pixel CCTV cameras at all the important places including the entry, exit and park-

CHINKS IN SECURITY

THE HOTELIERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INSTALL HIGH PIXEL CCTV CAMERAS AT ALL THE IMPORTANT PLACES INCLUDING THE ENTRY, EXIT AND PARKING SPOT OF THE HOTELS

HOWEVER, THE POLICE USED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE POOR PICTURE QUALITY WHEN IT FAILED TO IDENTIFY THE ACCUSED AFTER EVERY SUCH INCIDENT

ing spot of the hotels. The hotels having low pixel CCTV cameras were directed to install advanced cameras for capturing high quality and clear videos of the visitors. However, the police used to complain about the poor picture quality when it failed to identify the accused after every such incident. Similarly, the guidelines have clearly prescribed the hotel owners to inform the local police if they

come across any suspicious guests or questionable activities by occupants. Had the hotel owners informed the local police stations in connection with the suspicious activities of the occupants, the ATM robbery incident last year could have been averted. Moreover, the police are apparently indifferent towards inspection of hotels and lodgings to ensure proper implementation of guidelines. Speaking on the issue, DCP Umashankar Dash said, “It is true that only a few big hotels have been regularly submitting the details of occupants at the local police station. However, we have started gathering information regarding the hotels and lodgings in the city. We have asked the OYO authorities to supply the list of hotels registered with it. After getting the list, we will take stringent action against hoteliers violating the guidelines.” Police sources said the Commissionerate is going to introduce a software application for registration of hotels, lodgings and other establishments.



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Salt farming in Huma stuck in stalemate

Farmers in the lurch as the state govt and the Centre are yet to resolve the issue over land ownership

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Feb 27: Thousands of farmers eked out their living from salt farming in Huma under Sadar block of Ganjam. However, the farmers have lost their livelihood over last 11 years. Salt farming has stopped in the area while hundreds of acres of salt land along the coastline have been left unused.

Notably, salt lands along the coastlines of the country are owned by the central government. The lands are leased out for salt farming for specific periods of time.


On the other hand, the state and the central governments have not taken any decision on the proposal of the transfer of land ownership.

The issue was raised in the Assembly by MLA Subash Chandra Behera Friday. Behera wanted to know what steps the government has taken to revive the age-old practice in the interest of salt farmers.

In response to a question, Minister

The lands for salt farming along the coastlines of the country are owned by the central government. The lands are leased out for salt farming for specific periods of time

Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Dibyashankar Mishra said that the Salt Commissioner (a government of India official) at Jaipur in Rajasthan had leased out 729.694 acres of land to Huma and Binchnapalli Salt Production and Sales Cooperative Society on a lease basis for 25 years since February 1, 1991



MISHRA ALSO STATED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD URGED THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO CUT DOWN THE GROUND RENT AND ASSIGNMENT FEES SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST, BUT THE LATTER HAS NOT TAKEN ANY ACTION ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL

of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Dibyashankar Mishra said that the Salt Commissioner (a government of India official) at Jaipur in Rajasthan had leased out 729.694 acres of land to Huma and

Binchnapalli Salt Production and Sales Cooperative Society on a lease basis for 25 years since February 1, 1991. "Later, the central government had increased the ground rent and assignment fee from 2010-

11 to 2014-15. Salt farmers were unable to deposit their dues. As a result, the salt commissioner revoked the lease September 16, 2014 and even rejected the lease renewal proposal from the salt cooperative society," he pointed out.

Mishra also stated that the state government had urged the central government to cut down the ground rent and assignment fees several times in the past, but the latter has not taken any action on the state government's proposal.

The central government, which owns the salt lands, had proposed the state government to take up the lease management of salt farmlands and wanted its opinion. However, the state government wanted a change of land ownership not the lease takeover, he noted.

The minister made it clear that the next course of action will be taken by the state government in this regard only after both the sides take a final decision.

Jawans avert major mishap during combing in Koraput

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Feb 27: BSF jawans in Koraput averted a major attack by recovering a huge cache of explosive materials from Pindamal-Bhitarpada jungle under Narayanpatna block in Koraput district Saturday.

According to sources, on the basis of an intelligence report, a team of BSF jawans of the 155 battalion at Tentulipadar had launched a combing operation in Pindamal-Bhitarpada jungle.

During the operation, they stumbled upon a huge quantity of explosive materials stored in the jungle. It's believed that the Maoists had kept these materials in hiding for a future attack on the jawans.

As many as 60 gelatin sticks, 50 electronic detonators, five bundles of electric wire, 2.5 kilograms of gun powder were recovered from the spot. The BSF team has returned to



As many as 60 gelatin sticks, 50 electronic detonators, five bundles of electric wire, 2.5 kilograms of gun powder were recovered from the spot

the camp safely, it was learnt. In a similar development reported from Nuapada district Friday,

CRPF jawans detected a landmine planted near Cherechuan check-gate of Sunabeda sanctuary. A major mishap was thus averted.

During the combing operation, the jawans spotted two wires visible over the ground. Safely and securely, they dug the spot and detected the landmine weighing 15 kilograms. Later, a bomb disposal squad reached the spot and defused the landmine. It is suspected that the landmine was planted targeting civilians and jawans.

Newlywed hangs self, family cries foul

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Feb 27: In an untoward incident Saturday morning, a newlywed woman died by hanging herself from a ceiling fan. The incident occurred at the residence of the woman's in-law at Kharasahapur village under Bahanaga block in Balasore district.

However, the family of the deceased alleged that the newlywed was murdered by her in-laws for not bringing ample dowry. They even alleged that her brother-in-law was often trying to establish physical relationship with her to which she had vehemently objected.

She had apprised her husband, who works outside the district, many a times about the developments. The husband rather supported his brother; the victim's family expressed.

The deceased was identified as Harapriya, daughter of Prafulla Kumar Khuntia of Ulaskharpur under Soro police limits in Balasore district.

The woman had married Uttam Jena of Kharasahapur eight months back, a police official stated.



Rapidly spreading wildfire in Kenchuanali jungle under Athamallik block in Angul district has sparked fear on loss of animal lives and vegetation in the forest

Mangroves vanish along coastline

MAFIA HAS CLEARED FOREST PATCHES MAKING SPACE FOR PRAWN FARMING



POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpada, Feb 27: Mangroves are key to maintaining coastal ecosystem in the state, but large tracts of mangroves in various reserve forests under Mahakalpada range in Kendrapara have been under illegal occupation.

Encroachers are reportedly clearing patches of mangrove forests in these areas, making the coastline vulnerable to natural disasters, a report said.

According to reports, mangroves are spread over 387 hectares in Jogidhwani area; 269 hectares in Saralikuda; 77 hectares in Nipania,

587 hectares in Sanabuti and 28 hectares in Badabuti area.

Mangrove forests are also found in 11 hectares at Barakolikhol, 164 hectares at Batighar; 1394 hectares at Kansardia; 1155 hectares at Hetamundia under Batighat Forest section.

Mangrove forests are also spread extensively in Jambu forest section too. It is spread over 505 hectares in Jambu and 105 hectares in Kandarpapata.

This forest is also spread richly in Kharinasi reserve forest section. There are 577 hectares of mangrove forest in Kharinasi; 266 hectares in Bahar Kharinasi; 137 hectares in

Kilo reserve forest and 195 hectares in Suniti.

As coastal pockets have been witnessing cyclones and other natural disasters every year, mangroves are said to be acting as a protective wall against cyclone and tidal surges. Over years, in some areas, these vital forest cover is waning because of increasing human intervention and encroachments.

The forest department has found that mangroves in 12 hectares have vanished at Bagagahan. Mangrove plants are missing in 256 hectares at Petachhela and 95 hectares at Kaunsapala. All these places are under the occupation of encroachers, according to the forest department.

At some places, mangroves have been cleared to make space for prawn farming. Such activities are found in Batighar area. Locals have alleged that prawn mafia has been making use of mangrove forests for commercial purpose. If such illegal and anti-ecological activities are allowed to flourish, mangroves will vanish along the coast, they noted.

Environmentalism Samarendra

Mahali said mangroves work as a protective wall against natural disasters in coastal parts of Kendrapara. "In 1960's and 1970's, the mangroves in the district were rich with wildlife like Royal Bengal Tigers, hyena, civets, deer, boars in large numbers. Over the years, tiger has lost its existence as mangroves are being affected by encroachment activities. However, the population of deer and boars has increased," he said.

He noted that the state government should execute long-term projects for protection of mangroves along the coastline, creating public awareness on the need for mangrove protection in disaster-prone coastal pockets.

However, Rajnagar DFO Bikash Ranjan Das said that mangrove forests in the region are increasing.

"Mangroves and saline forest survey of India conducts survey of forest status in Kendrapara in every two years. In 2015, the mangroves were spread over 190 square/km. In 2017, its cover rose to 197 square/km while its cover increased to 201.49 square/km in 2019," he claimed.

Failing to sell paddy, farmer consumes poison in Bhadrak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Feb 27: A farmer, frustrated over his failure to sell paddy despite having a token, attempted to commit suicide by consuming poison in front of Bandhagaon paddy procurement centre under Bhadrak rural police limits Saturday.

However, he was rushed to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in critical condition. He is currently undergoing treatment in the medicine ward.

According to reports, Rameswar Self Help Group (SHG) has been tasked to procure paddy from farmers in the Bandhagan panchayat.

Rama Krushna Panda, one of the local farmers, had been issued a token to sell his paddy to the SHG.

Rama Krushna urged the SHG to lift his produce, but the latter refused to do so, citing that the dateline of his token has expired.

Upset over this, he attempted to end his life by consuming poison.

Earlier in the day, a group of farmers blocked NH-53 near Basantia Chhak in Bant block alleging irregularities in paddy pro-



Officials meet the farmer at DHH

curement.

Taking serious note of the issue, the administration started an investigation into the matter.

Sub-collector Pitambar Samal and district civil supplies officer Ranjan Seth visited the paddy procurement centre Saturday afternoon.

It was learnt that 554 farmers have registered at the centre for

Taking serious note of the issue, sub-collector Pitambar Samal and district civil supplies officer Ranjan Seth visited the paddy procurement centre and looked into the issue Saturday

procurement. But Saturday, the SHG has procured 18,000 quintals of paddy from 330 farmers.

SHG president Minati Barik said that the date of the token for Rama Krushna Panda had expired. Besides, a further target was not given to the SGH, she added.

The sib-collector said that an investigation has been ordered and the report will be submitted to the Collector.

It may be noted here that the State Assembly witnessed a ruckus over the procurement issue Friday as the Opposition members alleged irregularities in the procurement process.

CM blesses newlywed HIV positive couple

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Feb 27: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday joined a video conference to bless a newlywed HIV positive couple at Gopalpur in Ganjam district.

It is for the first time that the CM was seen attending a video conference to bless a newly-married couple.

While extending his best wishes, the CM also talked to the HIV positive couple. Ravindra and Padma are presently working in Hyderabad. Earlier, they used to stay at Gopalpur Shraddha Sanjivani Daycare Home.

The administration solemnized their marriage at the same daycare home. Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange attended the event as the bride's father and did kanyadan.

Angul gets rehab centre for disabled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Feb 27: Physically-challenged persons in Angul who have disability since birth or due to any disease or road mishap will no longer have to depend on others.

The government is setting up an 'Advance Rehabilitation Centre' at Kadam Padia in Angul district. The district administration aims to help physically challenged people at this facility which is a third of its kind in the state after Bhubaneswar and Sundargarh.

The centre will start functioning from March end or the first week of April, it was learnt.

Construction work of the centre on the premises of the District Social Security and Empowerment office is underway. The district administration has signed an MoU



with BR Biomedical Private Limited to run the centre.

In the initial stage, six rooms are being constructed. Of them, two will be used for manufacturing prosthetic limbs and the remaining

four will have treatment facilities. Once the facility is made functional, the administration will take immediate steps to make the facilities available to one and all so that there will neither be any physi-

cally challenged persons nor will they depend on others for their survival. They will be provided treatment at the centre free of cost.

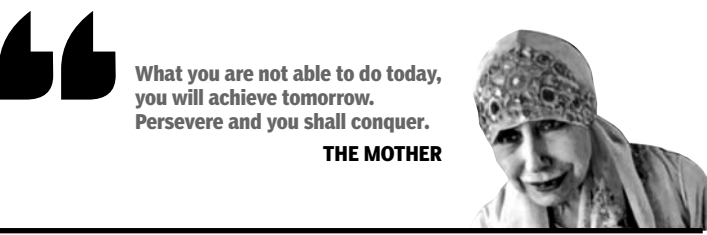
Here the measurements of the prosthetic limbs will be taken with the help of computers so that they will not face any problems in the future as it happens in case of measurements being taken manually.

The District Mineral Foundation (DMF) has released around Rs 19 crore for the setting up of the centre. While Rs 12 crore has been earmarked for procuring equipments, the rest of the fund amount will be used for developing infrastructure and maintenance, it was learnt.

Those suffering from neurological disorders will be provided with robotics therapy at the centre, the district administration informed.



A large chandelier being lit up on the concluding day of Joranda Magha Mela in Dhenkanal district as the devotees thronged the Mahima Gadi to pay their obeisance, Saturday



What you are not able to do today, you will achieve tomorrow. Persevere and you shall conquer.
THE MOTHER

Whither rights

The Washington Post’s editorial board has written that India’s claim of being a democracy should be put in question. This headline came after it summed up what was happening in India accurately across the spectrum of governance, from the farm laws being passed without voting in Parliament to young women being jailed because they edited an open-source document.

India’s ministry of external affairs did not put out a brave response to this, as it did earlier when a pop star that almost nobody in India had heard of wrote six words (“Why aren’t we talking about this?”) over a CNN headline on February 2. India’s brave soldiers like Akshay Kumar and Sachin Tendulkar did not respond to the Washington Post either; as they had done to Rihamna. Presumably the prime minister did not instruct his minions to react because he does not care about what the Washington Post writes whereas the pop star has millions of followers.

The Economist, which is the world’s most respected magazine, has carried a headline in its latest issue which reads: “The Indian government’s pursuit of its critics is not just unfair, but hypocritical.” Like the Post, this magazine is well-informed about what is going on in India. It says that the Modi government’s actions have made it globally look “mean and silly.”

The government had not responded to this either; though presumably it will have to do something. One reason is that The Economist has referred to the Indian government’s promotion of Gurujii Golwalkar through an official tribute earlier in February. The magazine told its readers that “Mr Golwalkar believed that Nazi Germany’s management of its Jewish problem represented a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by.”

Let us examine what the Washington Post has claimed, that we are not a democracy. The West does not see democracy beginning and ending at the polling station. It has to be accompanied by civil liberties, fundamental rights and access to justice. All of these ingredients together form what the government structure which they consider democracy.

In our case, we believe that elections are democracy. But there is a problem here. India achieved freedom at the group level in 1947. Independence meant that control of the State was transferred from a set of people led by foreigners to Indians entirely. This gave Indian citizens the space to determine how to govern themselves and write their own laws to enjoy individual freedoms and civil liberties.

Freedom at group level meant essentially the right to vote. This was available though restricted in the British period also. Freedom at group level liberated India from a system that had already included voting rights, legislatures and lawmaking ability for Indians. It was on limited subjects however.

After 1947 India should then have focussed on individual freedoms so that the exercise could be deepened. Here India stumbled. The State (meaning the apparatus of government) did not relinquish its rights to citizens. It contested the space and asserted itself over citizens on essential freedoms.

The rights to – freedom of speech and expression; practice any profession or occupation; peaceful assembly; form associations; freely practice and propagate religion – do not exist in India today.

These rights are fundamental, which enjoy a high degree of protection from encroachment by the State. But they are not available to Indians today despite what the Constituent Assembly wanted. The State has taken them away and many never existed in the first place.

There are so many laws that regulate and criminalise free speech that it is difficult to know where to start. Seditious, criminal defamation and criminal contempt are a start. They don’t exist in the nations where our laws were derived from (India’s Constitution is not based on Manu Smriti but constitutions of other nations).

The Supreme Court in the 1950s ruled that while the Constituent Assembly had guaranteed freedom to practice “any” profession or “carry out any occupation,” it could not allow butchery of cows because that offended Hindus and while the Constitution was supreme, Hindu sentiment was more supreme.

Protest (peaceful assembly) has been criminalised, right to propagation has been criminalised and so has right to occupation. Freedom of speech criminalised through seditious, criminal defamation and criminal contempt.

The State has sought to regulate these freedoms by so called ‘reasonable restrictions’ which have overturned the rights themselves. This has always been the case in India. However, this government has pushed the rights of the State over the rights of Indian citizens to the point where it will crush individuals who stand up to the State. This is what the Washington Post and Economist are writing about. The reason the Indian government is silent on these accusations is that they are true.

We can tell a pop singer to shut up because she is a young woman. It is slightly more difficult to tell the Washington Post and Economist to get lost and so silence is the next best option. What is left unsaid is that this is not something that will pass over. The Indian government’s continued actions and its refusal to reverse what it is doing to its citizens have come at a cost to India’s global reputation. We are too close to the story as it unfolds before us in real time today to be able to calculate what this cost is. But it is substantial, and entirely avoidable. It is a different matter that the Indian government today does not care what it does to Indians as long as it can continue on its path.

WISDOM CORNER

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.
ALBERT SCHWEITZER

However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at.
STEPHEN HAWKING

People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy.
ANTON CHEKHOV

WORDSWORTH

Marylebone stage

Marylebone is an area of London, most famous for being the titular home of the Marylebone Cricket Club – better known by its initials MCC – formerly the governing body of English cricket. Marylebone is an abbreviation of its 14th century name, St Mary-by-the-Bourne, where the bourne is the Tyburn stream, which gave its name to the infamous gallows in the parish. By the way, Marylebone is said in several different ways by Londoners – the Longman Pronunciation Dictionary gives nine variations altogether – but if you start with a stressed first syllable and half swallow the rest of the vowels, you won’t go far wrong. To go by Marylebone stage meant to go on foot. It appears in a novel by Mary Elizabeth Braddon called Charlotte’s Inheritance of 1868: “The cabmen are trying it on, anyhow, just now,” thought Mr Sheldon; ‘but I don’t think they’ll try it on with me. And if they do, there’s the Marylebone stage. I’m not afraid of a five-mile walk.’ There was indeed a stagecoach which ran (staggered would be a better term – a contemporary writer said it “dragged tediously”) the four miles from Marylebone to the City of London, taking two and a half hours to get there and three hours to come back, this duration being partly accounted for by the extremely bad roads of the period but mainly by an unnecessarily long stop at an inn along the way.



PSM Rao

GOVERNMENT SHOULD SHARE WITH THE PEOPLE THE PROFITS IT MAKES IN DIFFERENT MODES – TAX AND NON-TAX – BY KEEPING THE PRICES WITHIN THE SPECIFIED BOUNDS



Aakar Patel

The Indian government’s continued actions and its refusal to reverse what it is doing to its citizens have come at a cost to India’s global reputation

SPECTRUM NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

Need to strengthen our research base



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

FOR A COUNTRY, RESEARCH IS NOT JUST A REVENUE GENERATOR, BUT A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT EXPECTED TO BRING DIVIDENDS TO THE ECONOMY

The discovery of Raman Effect by eminent physicist Sir CV Raman on February 28, 1928 and his subsequent felicitation of Nobel Prize in 1930 came as a morale booster for researchers and scientists of a developing country like India.

It has several implications on the scientific communities of the Indian subcontinent: First, it theoretically proved the Rayleigh scattering wrong in explaining the blue colour of the sea (according to which it is only the reflection of the blue sky) and, hence, represented unfolding of a revolutionary idea from the Eastern world. Secondly, it proved to be a paradigm shift that great scientific discoveries and inventions can also crop from developing countries like India breaking the scientific supremacy of the West. Thirdly, its significance as a tool for analysing the composition of liquids, gases, and solids was recognised world over which is evident from the fact that it was designated a National Historic Chemical Landmark by the American Chemical Society in 1998 for its far reaching applications. Fourth, the fact that Raman discovered the Effect with the help of a Spectrometer that cost hardly ₹500 at that time proved that path-breaking discoveries in science can

also be achieved even by one’s own ingenuity and original approach rather than the economic and instrumentation superiority of a country. Finally, it heralded a new culture of fundamental research in Pure Science in the country and was instrumental in the establishment of a vast network of scientific infrastructure to bolster that objective with the first institute of this kind, Indian Academy of Science, being established by Raman himself in Bangalore in 1934.

Our first PM Jawaharlal Nehru, laid the foundation stone for a modern and vibrant India by formulating policies and programmes to promote science and technology in the country and more importantly to inculcate a scientific temper in the mindset of people. The post-independence period saw the ruthless growth of establishments like IITs and NITs and organisations like CSIR, ICMR, ICAR, BARC, ISRO to support and carry forward the country’s ever-growing aspirations. As a result, India conducted the first nuclear test in 1974, launched the first artificial satellite in 1975, heralded the green revolution in the sixties and sent expedition missions to Antarctica in 1981 amongst many other things thanks to the contributions of out-

standing scientists like HJ Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, MS Swaminathan, MN Saha, Vainu Bappu and others. However, it is sad that despite these early advancements, India is currently lagging far behind in scientific research as compared to other nations.

India has only 140 researchers per 1,000,000 population as compared to 4651 in the US. India ranks 34th in global spending on scientific research and development. India’s National Gross Expenditure on Research and Development in science and technology hovers around 0.7 per cent of its GDP which is far lower compared to even developing nations. According to reports, India has fewer world class research institutes and universities to support its research activities. In the list of top 500 educational institutes in the world compiled by the UK-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), 22 Chinese universities found a place as compared to only nine from India. The gap between India and China is also visible in the number of cited research publications and their impacts. India also lags in developing innovative products and processes. This is evident from the fact that in 2014, Indian research and manufacturing industries, both in the private and pub-

lic sector; filed only 1428 international patent applications as compared to 42,381 by Japan, 25,548 by China, and 13,117 by South Korea.

The dismal performance can be attributed to the poor quality of research in India, pitiable market value for its outputs and the lengthy period of research. A typical doctorate programme in India may take around six years and a subsequent post-doctoral pursuit in another four years to complete taking it nearly to a total of 10 years before a person is ready to embrace his first post-training job. For a product-based company, investment in research helps to foresee the potential and design of its products and devise strategies and processes to adapt to changes of needs of customers. However, due to lack of research, Indian products fail to bridge the gap between the product and the faith of customers.

For a country, research is not just a revenue generator, but a long-term investment expected to bring dividends to the economy. India should not only be investing more on scientific research, but also assert that a career in this domain is more secure and rewarding.

The writer is an Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

FOCUS FUEL PRICES

CRUDE & TURBID POLICY



A democratic government should be transparent enough to share all the details with the people but should not scare them with misleading assertions and information

was ₹72.90 and the per litre crude cost at that rate was ₹25.12.

Third, losses of oil marketing companies. No. No losses to them; the Petroleum and Natural Gas (PNG) statistics confirm that beyond any doubt. All the CPSEs under PNG Ministry earned a combined Profit After Tax of ₹69,714 crore in 2018-19; the profits have been constantly increasing for the seven-year period, for which the data is given, from ₹39,419 crore in 2012-13.

Fourth, subsidy burden on the government. No. Revenues to central and state governments keep rising continually as the 2012-13 to 2018-19 data compilation shows. As per the 2018-19 provisional figures, the state and central governments received: (i) Royalty from crude oil of ₹16,964 crore; (ii) Royalty from gas ₹2,364 crore; (iii) Oil Development Cess ₹18,984 crore; (iv) Excise & Custom duties ₹1,63,162 crore; (v) Sales Tax, ₹2,01,265 crore and (vi) Dividend ₹30,323 crore. All this sums up to ₹4,33,062 crore – a single-year revenue.

The subsequent revised figures have shown a still higher amount of ₹5,75,632 crore that year of which the centre’s share was ₹3,48,041 crore, equal to 22 per cent of its revenue receipts. The remaining ₹2,27,591 crore went to states which was equal to 8 per cent of their revenue receipts. That year, the

Centre’s actual subsidy to the petroleum sector as per the budget document, was ₹24,837 crore which equals 7.13 per cent of what it receives from the sector and 4.3 per cent of the total revenue of both centre and states together. This means that the government doesn’t give, but takes a lot from the industry.

The total government subsidy for fertilizer, food and petroleum was aggregated to ₹1,96,769 crore. This constitutes 56.53 per cent of central petroleum revenue and 34.18 per cent of the total petroleum sector’s revenue. This clearly shows that this sector meets the entire Centre’s subsidy burden; so, it would be wrong to say the subsidy to the sector is a burden on the government.

Fifth, the government is helpless; all this is the making of market forces. No. It could halt the prices although international crude prices went up during the election season. Strictly speaking, the government should not interfere with the prices after allowing them to the market control after discarding the administered price mechanism; but it did intervene and suspend the hike when it wanted. Also, the government can reduce the price through tax reduction if it wants.

Sixth, the ruling party, BJP, vehemently opposed when UPA hiked prices; it had protested inside

Parliament and outside. The news archives are replete with the news of this opposition and agitation.

True, India heavily depends – up to 85 per cent – on imports for its petroleum needs; it produced only 32.2 MMT of crude in 2019-20 against 214.1 MMT consumption that year. Yet, that is no justification for the current price hike.

Imports are a burden, but India exports petroleum products, too. Putting its excess refining capacities to good use, in 2019-20, for instance, India refined 48.8 MMT crude than was domestically required. It had imported 262.9 MMT crude against 214.1 MMT consumption. It could thus export petroleum products worth \$38.8 billion which accounts for 11.4 per cent of its gross exports value. The import bill of POL (Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants) that year was \$119.1 billion, equal to 25 per cent of India’s gross imports.

So, while thinking of the costs, the export earnings and the domestic production of crude should also be factored in; not just the crude import cost. A democratic government should be transparent enough to share all the details with the people but should not scare them with misleading assertions and information. Also, the government should share with the people the profits it makes in different modes – tax and non-tax – by keeping the prices within the specified bounds.

Instead of indulging in mutual accusations and holding the opponents responsible for the price hike, the political parties and the governments should understand and accept that petroleum is a key and strategic industry with its interest being closely intertwined with public interest not only because of the high import dependence of the sector but because of its potential to increase overall inflation in the country with the resultant erosion of real incomes of people. No profiteering at the cost of public interest, please.

The writer is a development economist and commentator on economic and social affairs.

Empowering consumers

Sir, The e-Daakhil portal for Consumer Grievance Redressal now operating in 15 states is a welcome move. This digital platform for filing consumer complaints has many features like e-Notice, case document download link and video conferencing hearing link, filing written response by the opposite party, filing rejoinder by the complainant, and alerts via SMS/Email. The portal empowers the consumers and their advocates to file the consumer complaints along with payment of requisite fees online from anywhere for the redressal of their complaints. It also facilitates the consumer commissions to scrutinise the complaints online to accept, reject or forward the complaint to the concerned commission for further processing. The Common Service Centers have integrated to facilitate the rural consumers. Hope that this effort will prove worthwhile in redressing consumer complaints.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA (MP)

Poll bugle

Sir, The Election Commission has sounded the poll bugle by announcing Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, West Bengal and Assam’s election schedule. Tamil Nadu will see a multi-cornered contest with umpteen parties in the fray, and the BJP and Congress will piggyback on the local players. In West Bengal, Chief Minister and Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee will have her task cut out in staving off the saffron challenge. The Congress whose fortunes are sliding downhill would fancy its chances in Kerala.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Constant vigilance

Sir, This refers to the report ‘Chokehold on digital media, OTT platforms’ (Orissa POST, February 26, 2021). The government’s step towards a constant vigilance on the contents of the Over The Top (OTT) platforms and digital media have been taken in the right direction. The OTT platforms now a days have been hugely banking on violence, bloodshed and barbarism. Sexual violence, objectification of women, brutalisation of female characters, rapes and male gaze occupy a major chunk of the screentime on their contents to cater to their target audience, the youths, but in fact are tarnishing their minds. The social media on the other hand has become a tool to breach the peace and harmony of the country. One hopes that the new stringent guidelines will make some difference.

Tushar Anand, PATNA

Delhi’s law & order situation in serious turmoil: Kejriwal

Citing the recent murder of an 8-year-old girl and stabbing of a teenage boy, the CM requested the Union Home Minister under whom the city police functions for appropriate action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday said Delhi’s law and order situation is in ‘serious turmoil’ citing the recent murder of an eight-year-old girl and stabbing of a teenage boy, and requested the Union home minister under whom the city police function for appropriate action.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia met the family of the deceased girl in Khichripur. He assured the family the case would be tried in a fast-track court and that best lawyers would be engaged to ensure death penalty to the guilty.

“Deeply concerned by the murder of a 8-yr-old girl in Khichdipur & attack on a 17-yr-old boy in Kalkaji. Delhi’s law and order situation is in a serious turmoil, I appeal to Hon’ble Home Minister & Lt. Gov (Lieutenant Governor) to take appropriate action to address the situation,” Kejriwal said in a tweet.

The minor girl was abducted from Khichripur and a complaint was lodged by her parents at Kalyanpuri police station. The body of the girl was recovered



Delhi’s law and order situation is in a serious turmoil, I appeal to Hon’ble Home Minister & Lt. Gov (Lieutenant Governor) to take appropriate action to address the situation

from Modinagar in Uttar Pradesh Friday, police said.

The four accused who kidnapped the girl for ransom and killed her were arrested, she said.

“Hurt by murder of the girl from Delhi’s Khichripur. Met the family and assured trial of the case in a fast track court. The best lawyers will be engaged to attempt for death penalty to the murderers,” Sisodia tweeted.

In another incident, a 17-year-old boy was beaten up and stabbed for allegedly opposing three boys who were stalking his sister and passing “indecent remarks” on her in southeast Delhi’s Kalkaji area, police said Saturday.

The incident took place near a school Friday, they said. The injured boy, a resident of Kalkaji, was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre, the police said. AAP MLA from Kalkaji Atishi met the family members of the boy who she said was stable and recovering.

“Met the family of the boy who was stabbed in Kalkaji yesterday. Have assured them of full support. Also spoke to the doctors at the AIIMS Trauma Centre, who said that the boy is stable and recovering,” she tweeted.

The MLA also spoke to the deputy commissioner of police of southeast Delhi and sought swift arrest of the accused.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 27: Tracing missing children is one of the prominent challenges before the Delhi. In recent times, the police have paid special attention to trace missing children with the Commissioner announcing out-of-turn promotion to policemen who trace and rescue missing children.

But why do children in various age groups under 18 go missing? A careful analysis of the above question has led to the discovery of a few important reasons why children go missing in the capital.

One of the prominent reasons includes ‘losing way’ that means many children go missing after they lose their way back home. In the recent past, many children were reunited with their parents after they lost way, and were found stranded at locations either near their house or at a distant place in the city.

The second most important factor is ‘academic pressure’. Many children are unable to cope up with the academic pressure in schools and run away from their house.

Sometimes, the strict nature of the parents regarding their annual performance at school makes them vulnerable to run away.

The third reason is ‘getting scolded by parents’. This again is a major factor as many children leave home after they do something for which they think they would be taken to



task by their parents. Unable to cope, they leave home.

‘Elopement’ is another major cause for the children in their late teens but below 18 years to go missing. Many children were traced by the police after they eloped for a wide variety of reasons including marriage.

The fifth reason is children running away on their own. This also has multiple factors associated with it depending upon the state of mind of the child and his or her capability of dealing with the given circumstances.

Family circumstances form another big reason for children to go

missing from their homes.

A careful study of missing children in various age groups has revealed that a total of 328 children under the age of 8 years went missing in 2020 which included 186 male children and 142 females. However, a total of 226 were traced by Delhi police.

Under the age of 8 years to 12 years, a total of 385 children went missing in 2020 which included 249 males and 136 females. The police managed to trace 308 children in this category.

Now upto 12 years to 18 years, a total of 3,584 children went missing in 2020 out of which 737 were males

and 2,847 were females. In this category, a total of 2,723 children were traced by Delhi Police.

In order to motivate the police personnel to trace or recover the children, who have gone missing from their home, S.N. Shrivastava, Delhi Police Commissioner has issued an incentive scheme August 5, 2020 to the effect that “Any Constable or Head Constable who recovers 50 or more missing children below the age of 14 years (15 children out of them of the age group less than 8 years) within a period of 12 calendar months will be considered for the grant of out of turn promotion.”

Further, those who trace more than 15 children in the same period shall be given ‘Asadharan Karya Puraskar’. This order has brought a sea change in tracing or recovery of missing children and more and more children have been traced since August 2020.

“Two including one woman personnel were granted out of turn promotion and seven have been awarded ‘Asadharan Karya Puraskar’ in this scheme. A total of 2,027 children were traced after August 6, 2020 whereas 1,968 children were reported missing during the same period. Recovery percentage soared to 103 per cent,” said a senior police officer.

The officer also added that 4,052 children were traced during 2020 includes 895 children of previous years and outside Delhi.

‘Ceasefire along LoC to have no bearing on counter-terror ops’



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Udhampur, Feb 27: The Army’s northern commander Lt Gen YK Joshi Saturday said the agreement between India and Pakistan to strictly adhere to the ceasefire pact along the Line of Control (LoC) would have no bearing on the counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the northern command, which looks after the security of the twin union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, remained on the highest alert and made possible what was believed impossible by the bravery, grit and determination of its personnel in the face of challenging situations along the border.

“Recently, the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOS) of India and Pakistan have announced an agreement to uphold ceasefire along the LoC from February 24 and 25 midnight. I want to assure that this ceasefire will have no bearing on the counter-terrorist operations and we will maintain our alertness,” Lt Gen Joshi said at the northern command investiture ceremony here.

During the ceremony, the Army commander presented two Bar to Sena medals (gallantry) and 50 Sena medals (gallantry) to the brave soldiers. He also presented three Sena medals (distinguished) and six Vishisht Seva medals for selfless service to the nation.

Lt Gen Joshi also awarded unit appreciation to 26 units for their overall outstanding performance in the command theatre.

“The northern command has always stood like a shield against the attempts by our neighbouring countries to spread disturbance and it will continue to remain so in the future. Whenever anyone raises an evil eye on our country, Indian

Army has replied strongly,” Lt Gen Joshi said.

Without naming China and Pakistan, he said Indian Army has maintained its domination on its borders with the neighbouring countries and helped in maintaining peace in the hinterland.

Referring to the eastern Ladakh standoff with the Chinese army, he said Indian Army stood up to the challenge on the snow-capped mountains of the Line of Actual Control during the challenging situation in 2020 and maintained the highest alert.

“Our action is a glaring example of our training, bravery and pledge (to safeguard the borders) and it will be written in history with golden words. The northern command made possible what seemed impossible. The success of the operation (in Ladakh) is the glaring example of the bravery of Indian Army,” he said.

He said 2020 was historic in many ways for the Army which demonstrated its mettle in eastern Ladakh by its ‘grit, determination, self-confidence, bravery and steadfastness’.

He said there has been a tremendous improvement in the basic deployment and preparedness and the efforts in this direction will continue. “The measures we have put in to strengthen our defences, the same efforts were made to maintain peace,” he said.

In Kashmir, he said, the overall security situation saw a great improvement in the previous year as there has been a considerable reduction in terrorist-initiated incidents, stone-pelting activities and protests as a result of tireless efforts of the security forces and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the Army also played a key role in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

Will continue my fight for JK statehood: Azad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

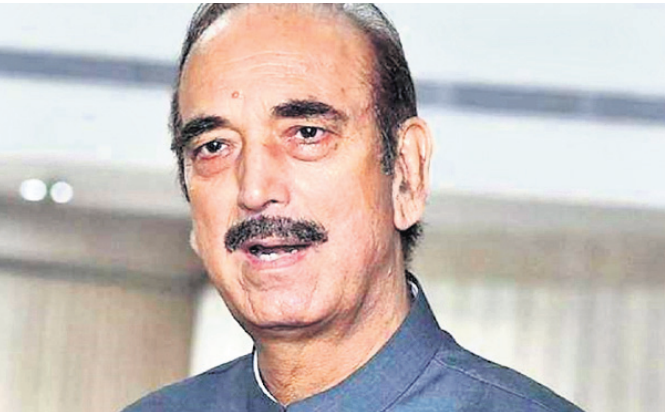
Jammu, Feb 27: Asserting that he had retired only from Rajya Sabha and not politics, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad Saturday expressed a resolve to continue his fight for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood and its residents’ special rights over jobs and land.

The former chief minister also stressed the importance of unity among the residents of the Union Territory to fight the threats from China and Pakistan and said “we need to stand with our forces against the enemies”.

Ghulam Nabi Azad retired from the Upper House February 15. “I have retired from Rajya Sabha but not from politics. This is not for the first time that I retired from parliament. Till my last breath, I will continue my services for the nation and will continue my fight for the rights of people,” Azad told a ‘Shanti Sammelan’ organised by the Gandhi Global family here.

He was joined by senior party leaders including Kapil Sibal, Manish Tewari, former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Raj Babbar and Anand Sharma.

In an apparent reference to the August 5, 2019 development when the Centre revoked J&K’s special status and split it into two Union Territories, he said, “We have lost



World leaders like US President Joe Biden make a reference to Kashmir soon after taking over. They do not talk about any other place of the country but we have now lost our identity and have to fight for its restoration

GHULAM NABI AZAD | CONGRESS LEADER

our identity but we will not give up and continue our fight for the restoration of the statehood within and outside parliament.”

“We want representatives of the people of all the three regions of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir - Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh - to form the government. Leh supported the UT status but Kargil is against it. Every party in Jammu - from BJP to RSS and National Conference to PDP and Panthers Party wants statehood back,” he said. “It is the voice of the people and I challenge anyone to come out

with a statement that they do not want the restoration of statehood to J&K,” he said. He also said he will continue his fight for the locals’ rights over land and jobs.

“Jammu and Leh face the immediate threat if outsiders start settling in J&K and Ladakh. We are not against the people coming from outside to get jobs here, but in Jammu and Kashmir, resources are limited as we do not have any big industry here,” Azad said.

In politics, he said the fight continues to ensure that the people get their rights.

Work on India’s first cable-styled bridge in full swing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 27: Work on India’s first cable-styled bridge, also called the Anji bridge, is going on in full swing in Jammu and Kashmir’s Raesi district, and 85 per cent of the work was completed by January this year.

The bridge is being touted as one of the engineering marvels of the Indian Railways. Taking to Twitter, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said, “Infrastructural Marvel in Making: Indian Railways is well on track to achieve another engineering milestone with the steel arch of Chenab bridge reaching at closure position. It is all set to be the world’s highest Railway bridge.” He also attached a photograph of the Chenab bridge.

According to Northern Railway officials, the work on the Anji bridge, which is coming up on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) section of Northern Railway in Jammu and Kashmir, is in full swing and the major arches of the bridge will be completed by March this year,



while it is supposed to be completed by 2022. An official said that about 85 per cent work of the bridge was completed by January this year. The bridge is being built on the Katra-Banihal railway line in Kauri village in Reasi district.

Officials said that the bridge will be 359m above the Chenab riverbed -- 30m higher than the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris. An official said that the bridge has been designed to withstand wind

speeds of up to 260 kmph and its lifespan will be 120 years.

According to Railway Ministry officials, it is the seventh-largest arch-shaped bridge in the world as there is no support except on both sides of the river banks. The arch is supported by piers and trusses. One of the supporting RCC and steel pillars is 133m high.

The officials said that the Chenab bridge has been designed by consultants from Finland and Germany

and the work is being executed by the Konkan Railways. Three agencies -- IRCON, KRCL and Northern Railway -- with extensive experience in construction of rail lines are involved in this project.

Railway Ministry officials said that many international agencies and premier Indian institutes like IIT Roorkee, IIT Delhi, DRDO and Geological Survey of India are providing expertise in planning and implementation of the project.

465 electric four-wheelers registered in national capital

Incentives of up to ₹3 lakh are provided under Delhi’s EV policy, which includes ₹1.5 lakh subsidy, registration, and road tax exemption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: A total of 465 electric four-wheelers have been registered since the notification of Delhi’s electric vehicle (EV) policy last year, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said Saturday.

He said incentives of up to ₹3 lakh are provided under Delhi’s EV policy, which includes 1.5 lakh subsidy, registration, and road tax exemption.

Since the launch of the policy, 465 new electric four-wheelers have been registered, Gahlot said.

“This is the highest subsidy in India and makes the total cost of ownership of an electric car in Delhi the same as a diesel car. Subsidies provided on electric

cars under the EV policy reduce the total cost of electric cars by up to 30 per cent,” the minister said.

An individual can save ₹1,050 per month by switching to electric vehicle from a diesel car, he said.

“The third week of the Delhi Government’s Switch Delhi electric vehicle campaign received overwhelming support from Delhiites,” a Transport department statement said.

Delhiites have started switching to electric four-wheelers in “large numbers”, it said, adding that since the launch of the Delhi EV policy in August 2020, 465 new electric four-wheelers have been registered and more are being registered every day.



of the day quote

People have been hit by the double whammy of low growth and high inflation for which the Modi government's "gross mismanagement" is responsible

RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS' CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

The speciality of our democracy is that there is dialogue and discussion, but our effort is to prevent that discussion from coming to a halt

OM BIRLA | LOK SABHA SPEAKER

(Then Prime Minister) Manmohan Singh faced such a situation (high fuel prices) during the UPA rule but he fought it and you (BJP) are running away

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Cop shoots self dead in Delhi

New Delhi: A policeman on duty in a PCR van allegedly shot himself dead early Saturday morning in west Delhi's Moti Nagar area. Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Tejpal, 55, was rushed to the hospital but was declared brought dead, a police officer said. "Information regarding self firing was received at Moti Nagar police station at around 7.05 a.m. On reaching the hospital, it was learnt that ASI Tejpal was brought to the hospital in an unconscious state by the PCR van driver, and was declared brought dead," a senior police officer said. The ASI was residing at Rajnagar in Ghaziabad.

Eight held for cow-slaughter

Hyderabad: Eight people were on Saturday arrested for allegedly slaughtering 16 cows in Siddipet district of Telangana, police said. Acting on information that the cows were slaughtered on the outskirts of Siddipet Friday, a police team reached the spot and arrested the eight. Citing preliminary information, police said the arrested people used to purchase aged cows from farmers and took them to a poultry shed for allegedly slaughtering them to sell beef.

U'khand disaster toll rises to 72

Gopeshwar: One more body was recovered from the banks of the Alakananda at Marwadi near Joshimath taking the toll in the recent avalanche in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district to 72. The 72nd body was recovered late on Friday evening, Chamoli's Disaster Management Officer N K Joshi said Saturday. So far 72 bodies and 30 human body parts have been recovered from different places in the avalanche-hit areas out of which 41 bodies have been identified, he said adding 132 persons are still missing.

Lawyer hacked to death

Hospet (Karnataka): A lawyer was hacked to death at the district court of Hospet in Vijayanagara district of Karnataka Saturday morning allegedly over a family feud, police said. T Venkatesh (48) was writing something when the assailant came with a machete and attacked the lawyer in the neck, killing him on the spot. The accused Manoj N (21) has been arrested and a case of murder registered against him, the police added.



The RSS has been making its presence felt like a drop of sugar in a solution. Everyone realises this like sugar

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

WARM FAREWELL FOR SNIFFER DOG AFTER 11 YEARS OF SERVICE

A sniffer dog, part of Nashik Police's bomb detection and disposal squad, received a warm farewell after 11 years of meritorious service. Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh led the tributes online by tweeting a video of 'Sniffer Spike', who was paraded on the bonnet of a police vehicle



EC ACTS TOUGH AS MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT SETS IN

The announcement of the election dates restricts state governments from declaring populist programmes and ordering the transfer of bureaucrats and police officers

Transfers of 18 officers blocked in Assam

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 27: The transfers of 12 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and six Assam Police Service (APS) officers have been stopped by the Election Commission since the orders came after the announcement of dates for the March-April state elections. "The commission vide its press note dated 26th February 2021, had announced the schedule of General Elections to Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pondicherry," the Election Commission said in a news release.

"With this announcement, the provisions of Model Code of Conduct has come into force with immediate effect, which includes a total ban on the transfers/postings of all officers connected with the conduct of elections," it said.

"It has come to the notice of Commission that Govt. of Assam has, on 26th February 2021, or-



dered the transfer of 12 IPS and 6 APS officers. The Commission has therefore decided to keep the transfer/posting of these police officers in abeyance till further orders," the Election Commission added. The announcement of the election dates kicks in the model code of conduct for political parties and candidates and restricts state governments from declaring populist programmes and ordering the transfer of bureaucrats and

police officers. Assam will see three-phased assembly polls from March 27 to April 6. Counting for all three phases will take place on May 2. The ruling BJP will try to retain power in the state while the Congress will try to win Assam back.

Both parties and even the state's people, however, wanted the elections to take place before the festival of Rongali Bihu that happens in mid-April.

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER REPLACED IN BENGAL

Kolkata: A day after it announced Bengal election dates - spread over eight phases starting March 27 - the Election Commission has replaced the top cop in charge of law and order for the state.

Jag Mohan, who was previously DG (Fire Services), has been named as the new ADG and IGP (Law and Order), replacing Jawed Shamim "with immediate effect and in the interest of public service".

Shamim will now take over the DG (Fire Services) position.

On Friday the Election Commission said elections would be spread over eight phases because over concerns - voiced loud-est by the opposition BJP - of electoral violence.

The poll body, however, declined to say if voting had been stretched out because of the BJP's very public comments on the mat-

ter, but suggested that security had played a role in its consideration.

"We avoid taking names of political parties. We had an assessment of law and order on several factors. Last time it was seven phases, so eight is not a big deal," outgoing Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has questioned the move.

"Bihar has 240 seats and had elections in three phases. Tamil Nadu has 234 seats and will have election in one day. Why eight phases here? Who is benefitting?" she said.

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora in his news conference said the election body will be sending two observers to keep an eye on police operations and a third one can be sent if needed.

COVID-19: 16,488 new cases, 113 deaths

The number of recoveries reached 1,07,63,451, which translates to a national COVID-19 recovery rate of 97.14 per cent and the case fatality rate stands at 1.42 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: India registered a single-day spike of over 16,000 COVID-19 cases for the third day in a row Saturday, pushing the infection tally to 1,10,79,979, while the recoveries surged to 1,07,63,451, according to Union Health Ministry data.

A total of 16,488 novel coronavirus cases were reported in a day, while the number of deaths rose to 1,56,938 with 113 new fatalities, showed the data updated at 8 am Saturday.

The active case count has further increased to 1,59,590, which comprises 1.44 per cent of the total infections, the data stated.

The number of recoveries reached 1,07,63,451, which translates to a national COVID-19 recovery rate of 97.14 per cent and the



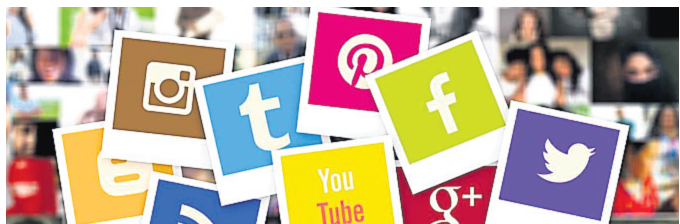
case fatality rate stands at 1.42 per cent.

A total of 16,577 new COVID-19 cases were reported in India Friday, while 16,738 fresh infections were registered in the country Thursday. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed

the 20-lakh mark August 7; 30 lakh on August 23; 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28; 70 lakh on October 11; crossed 80 lakh on October 29; 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed one crore on

Centre defends digital media rules

The govt claims that rule on blocking contents not new, been around since 2009



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Saturday clarified that the provision in the new digital media guidelines to block internet content in a case of emergency nature has been around as a rule since 2009 and was not recently introduced.

Certain misgivings are being raised regarding Rule 16 under Part III of the guidelines which mention that in a case of emergency nature, interim blocking directions may be issued by the Secretary, Ministry of Information

and Broadcasting, a ministry statement said.

"It is hereby clarified that this is not a new provision. For the past eleven years, since 2009, this provision has been exercised by the Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009," it said.

Under the rules issued on February 25, this provision has only been replaced with Secretary, Ministry of I&B because Part III of the Information Technology

(Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 would be administered by the I&B Ministry, the statement said.

"It is reiterated - no change in provision has been made nor any new provision has been added on blocking of content under Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021," the I&B ministry said.

The government on Thursday had said a 'code of ethics' and three-tier grievance redressal mechanism would be applicable for news publishers, over-the-top (OTT) platforms and digital media.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 were announced at a joint press conference here by I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad earlier this week.

War of words over jobs heats up Telangana politics

A war of words has broken out between Telangana's ruling and Opposition parties over jobs created in the state during the last six years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Feb 27: A war of words has broken out between Telangana's ruling and Opposition parties over jobs created in the state during the last six years, increasing the political heat ahead of next month's elections to two seats of Legislative Council and ensuing by-polls to the Nagarjuna Sagar Assembly seat.

Where are the new jobs created, asking the Opposition Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) disputing the claims of ruling

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) that the government provided 1.32 lakh jobs since 2014.

Open letter, challenges, counter-challenges and 'data war' among the parties have heated the state politics in the run up to March 14 elections to two graduate constituencies of the Council.

The leaders are reeling out statistics in support of their claims while their supporters are also waging a war on social media.

Unemployment has been a major issue in Telangana ever since its for-

mation as a separate state in 2014. In fact, water, funds and jobs were the three slogans of the TRS during the Telangana movement.

After forming the first government in the new state, TRS leader K Chandrasekhara Rao had promised to provide one lakh jobs by filling all vacancies in the government departments. The TRS claims that it has done much more. Two days ago, the Chief Minister's son and Industry Minister KT Rama Rao rejected the argument that the TRS had failed youngsters on jobs and said that



1.32 lakh jobs were given in the government sector in the last six years. He said Congress could fill up just 10,000 posts in Telangana from 2004-

2014 when it was in power in undivided Andhra Pradesh.

KTR, as the minister is popularly known, said he was ready for a debate on this issue.

Congress spokesperson Sravan Dasoji was quick to accept the challenge. He asked KTR to come to the Telangana Martyrs Memorial at Gun Park on Friday for debate. "We will not believe in your false statement. Come with your team and the figures on the recruitment and current vacancies," he said.

KTR, who is also Working

Parvo virus strikes in UP, 8 dogs dead

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur, Feb 27: After bird flu hit the avians, now the canines in Kanpur are reportedly affected by a deadly virus called Parvo.

Eight dogs have reportedly died in Kanpur due to the deadly Parvo virus. The post mortem of two of the eight dead dogs, has revealed that their intestines had decayed and the dogs had vomited blood before their death.

Parvo is a highly contagious virus. It causes an infectious gastrointestinal (GI) illness in puppies and young dogs, and without treatment, it is potentially deadly. What makes the virus so dangerous is the ease with which it is spread through the canine population.

The infected dogs belong to the Kyotnara village in Bhitargaon block. In the same village, scores of crows had been found dead a few weeks ago.

A team of veterinary experts that is visiting the village to look about the behavioural changes in the infected dogs said that the virus mainly affects the intestines. Veterinarian Sarvendra Sachan said that Parvo virus does not affect bigger animals but proves fatal for canines.

during the period.

In one such case in Kondagaon district, a lower-level revenue officer was suspended for allegedly making a mistake in crop girdawari and (land) record documentation, Choubey said.

Hitting out at the government, Kaushik said an investigation should be conducted in all such cases of suicides and compensation should be given to kin of the deceased farmers after probe.

To this, the minister said this was not a matter of politics, but unfortunately, the BJP was trying to politicise farmer suicides.

Suicides had taken place earlier (during the BJP rule) as well, but did they consider giving compensation at the time, Choubey said.

Congress MLAs then pointed out incidents of farmer suicides during the previous government's rule and claimed that no compensation was given to the kin of deceased farmers.

JUBILATION



Students pose for photographs during the 16th graduation and placement day celebrations at Gurunak Institution in Hyderabad, Saturday

PTI PHOTO



I will discuss with my family what to do next. I will definitely go to Singhu, sit with farmers. I have not done anything illegal in the past and will not do anything illegal in the future
NODEEP KAUR |
LABOUR RIGHTS ACTIVIST

of the day quote

Historians have grossly ignored Indian sources while writing history. The major texts covering India's millions of years of history were in Sanskrit, but most historians did not have knowledge of Sanskrit and so they ignored these texts



RAVISHANKAR PRASAD |
UNION LAW MINISTER

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



MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

I know him (Modi) from very close quarters. He is very upright, corruption free, committed, very passionate about the country's interests, very hardworking and very forward-looking



E. SREEDHARAN |
TECHNOCRAT-TURNED-BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Woman gangraped, set on fire

Sitapur (UP): A woman was allegedly gang-raped and later set on fire by a father-son duo after hitching a ride on their cart on the way home in Mishrikh area here, police said. Both the accused have been detained while the woman was admitted in the district hospital with critical burns. Sitapur Superintendent of Police RP Singh said the incident happened Thursday after information was received on 112 emergency service that a woman in her thirties was allegedly raped and set on fire by two persons in Mishrikh area in Naimisharanya.

1 killed in Delhi factory fire

New Delhi: One person died in a massive fire at a plastic and nail polish factory in Delhi's Pratap Nagar area Saturday. "A fire Service personnel is injured and admitted to hospital. We have successfully contained the fire," an official said. The fire was reported at around 3.47 AM. The body was found on the first floor of the building. 28 fire engines were sent to the spot for the fire-fighting operation. "Eyewitnesses say that an LPG cylinder exploded following which the fire broke out," the official added.

Landslides close down highway

Jammu: Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was suspended Saturday after heavy rains triggered landslides along the Ramban-Ramsoo stretch, officials said. The authorities concerned said that the restoration work on the highway will resume once the rain stops completely. "Landslide debris clearance will start as soon as the rain stops."

Impersonator ends life after arrest

Bangalore: A 60-year-old accused allegedly committed suicide by jumping off from the balcony of his flat in Vidyaranyapura, in Northern Suburb of Bangalore Friday, the police said. The police had arrested him in connection with a case pertaining to impersonation of a government official working with Bangalore Development Authority.

Centre finalises 'One District One Focus Product' policy

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 27: The Centre Saturday said that the list of One District One Focus Product (ODOFP), which will be promoted in a cluster approach through convergence of the various schemes, has been finalised. The products have been identified from agricultural, horticultural, animal, poultry, milk, fisheries and aquaculture, marine sectors for 728 districts across the country.

Fruits have been identified for 226 districts, the highest in the list, while vegetables for 107 districts and spices for 105 districts are at the second and the third position in the list. The chief food crop paddy has been identified for 40 districts while wheat for 5 districts.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in consultation with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has finalised the products for One District One Focus Product (ODOFP), said an official statement.

The list of products have been fi-



nalised after taking inputs from the States/UTs and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These products will be promoted in a cluster approach through convergence of the Government of India schemes, to increase the value of the products and with the ultimate aim of increasing the income of the farmers. These identified products will be supported under the PM-FME scheme (PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries which provides incentives to promoter and micro-enterprises.

Many products also include convergence of resources and approach from the other departments. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will support ODOFP from its ongoing centrally sponsored schemes such as Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission' (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). The implementation of ODOFP by State Governments will benefit farmers and provide support for realizing the expectations of value addition and subsequently enhancing agricultural exports.

The ODOFP will be promoted in a cluster approach through convergence of the various schemes

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in consultation with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has finalised the products for One District One Focus Product

Fruits have been identified for 226 districts, while vegetables for 107 districts and spices for 105 districts are at the second and the third position in the list

List of identified the products and number of districts

Paddy - 40 districts	Floriculture - 2 districts
Wheat - 5 districts	Honey - 9 districts
Pulses - 16 districts	Coarse cum Nutri Cereals- 25 districts
Oilseeds - 41 districts	Commercial crops - 22 districts
Vegetables - 107 districts	Animal husbandry/Dairy products - 40 districts
Spices - 105 districts	Aquaculture/Marine fisheries - 29 districts
Plantation - 28 districts	Processed Products - 33 districts
Fruits - 226 districts	

BJP's counter slogan: Bengal wants its daughter, not aunt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Feb 27: A day after the Election Commission (EC) announced poll schedule for West Bengal, Bharatiya Janata Party Saturday launched a counter campaign targeting its arch rival and state's ruling Trinamool Congress' slogan "Bangla Nijer Meyeke Chai" (Bengal wants its own daughter).



The BJP released a poster featuring nine women leaders from Bengal like Rupa Ganguly, Deboshree Chaudhury, Locket Chatterjee, Bharati Ghosh,

Agnimitra Paul among others with a counter slogan that read "Bangla Tar Meyekei Chai, Pishi Ke Noi" which loosely translates into "West Bengal want its daughter, not aunt".

Earlier, Trinamool Congress had launched its poll slogan "Bangla Nijer Meyekei Chay" portraying the Chief Minister as the "daughter of Bengal". Posters and large billboards were also hung all across Bengal with Mamata Banerjee's photo and the slogan mentioned as the high-octane election approaches.

The BJP has been targeting Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, who is also Trinamool Congress' Lok Sabha MP, for rampant corruption and deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Many senior leaders like former state Transport Minister Suwendu Adhikari, Forest Minister Rajib Banerjee had already defected from the Trinamool Congress alleging that the party has "become a private limited company that is ruled only by Pishi-Bhaipo (West Bengal CM and her nephew)".

Cong says leaders respected but should do more in polls

THE CONGRESS FRIDAY TRIED TO SMOOTHEN THINGS OUT AFTER THE GROUP OF DISSENTERS CHOSE TO ATTACK THE PARTY LEADERSHIP OVER IGNORING THEM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 27: The Congress tried to smoothen things out after the group of dissenters chose to attack the party leadership over ignoring them and not consulting the party leaders in decision making or not building a consensus on any decision.

Senior spokesperson of the party Abhishek Manu Singhvi said at a press conference that the leaders are highly "respected" in the party but they should have done more to "strengthen" the party in the poll-bound states.

Singhvi played down the issue and said, "Each of the persons who are in Jammu is well regarded in the party. We are proud to have them in our party and I believe they are equally proud to be members of the Congress Party therefore they are part of this Congress family and therefore whatever I say is with



the greatest respect to the leaders."

"I respect the traditional legacy between Congress and them over these last three-four decades. The principal person in whose honour this (Jammu) rally was organised, nobody has used the word 'istamal' (use) in relation to Azad, he has

never complained. Those who use the word 'istamal' betray certain things, lack of knowledge and ignorance about the contemporary history of the Congress and about the older history of the party. We are proud and he is proud that he has held the Congress flag for more

Mrithik Roshan records statement in fake e-mails case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 27: Actor Hrithik Roshan Saturday visited the office of the Mumbai Police Commissioner to record his statement with the Crime Branch in connection with his 2016 complaint that someone impersonating him had been sending mails to actor Kangana Ranaut, using a bogus mail id.

In 2016, Roshan had sent a legal notice to Ranaut - his co-star in Kites and Krrish-3 - following a public fight on social media over her referring to him as "silly ex". He had denied having any relationship with the national award-winning actress. He also claimed that Ms Ranaut had sent him hundreds of absurd emails.

Later, Roshan filed a complaint alleging that someone impersonating him had been sending emails to Ranaut between 2013 and 2014.



A case under sections of laws that deal with cheating, identity theft, cheating by impersonation using computer resources, was registered over Roshan's complaint.

In 2016, the Cyber Cell had also taken Roshan's laptop and phone for investigation. In December last year, Roshan's lawyer had approached the Mumbai police commissioner regarding the pending probe, after which it was transferred to the Crime Branch's Crime Intelligence Unit.

HOLY DIP



Devotees gather to take holy dip in the River Ganga at Sangam on the occasion of 'Magh Purnima' festival during ongoing Magh Mela in Prayagraj, Saturday
PTI PHOTO

RARE COIN GOES UNDER HAMMER

A rare 10.9 gram gold coin of Kam Bakhsh, the fifth son of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, is going under the hammer here. Marudhar Arts, a leading numismatic auction house here, is holding the auction at a price ranging between ₹45 lakh and ₹50 lakh



Kam Bakhsh • Bijapur Dar-uz-zafar Mint • Gold Mohur

Countdown begins for PSLV rocket's 'longest mission'



AGENCIES

Chennai, Feb 27: The countdown for India's one of the longest rocketing by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket carrying 19 satellites began at 8.54 a.m. Saturday, said a top official of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The Indian rocket numbered PSLV-C51 carrying the 637-kg Brazilian satellite Amazonia-1 and 18 other satellites (including 13 from USA) is scheduled to lift-off from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 10.24 a.m. Sunday.

"The countdown for the rocket's flight started at 8.54 a.m. for the launch at 10.24 a.m tomorrow (Sunday)," K. Sivan, ISRO Chairman told the media.

India's first space mission for 2021 is one of the longest for a PSLV rocket is expected to conclude 1 hour, 55 minutes and 7 seconds into its flight.

If all goes well with the Sunday

morning rocketing of PSLV-C51 then India would have slung a total of 342 foreign satellites, all for a fee.

The rocketing is a fully commercial one of NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) with the primary passenger being the Amazonia-1 satellite. Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE).

This satellite would further strengthen the existing structure by providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory, ISRO said.

The 18 co-passenger satellites include four from IN-SPACe (three UNITYsats from consortium of three Indian academic institutes (Jepia Institute of Technology, Sriperumbudur, G.H. Raisoni College of Engineering, Nagpur and Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore) Aand One Satish Dhawan Sat from Space Kidz India) and 14 from NSIL.

Indians allowed choosing vaccination sites

REUTERS

New Delhi, Feb 27: India said it will let people choose their coronavirus vaccination centres when the campaign expands next week, effectively letting beneficiaries pick either a home-grown shot or the AstraZeneca one, unlike now.

The country will halt vaccinations this weekend to upgrade software used to coordinate its campaign, as it prepares to widen coverage beyond the 11.5 million health and front-line workers immunised since Jan. 16.

But the inoculation campaign has progressed slower than expected due to a reluctance of health and front-line workers to take the home-grown COVAXIN shot that was approved without late-stage efficacy data. Only 11% of vaccinated people have opted for the product developed by Bharat Biotech and the state-run Indian Council of Medical Research.

With the world's highest tally of infections after the United States, India wants to vaccinate 300 million of its 1.35 billion people by August. The decision to give people a choice of vaccines could now speed up the roll-out, officials believe.



"The fundamental shift in this phase is that citizens in the identified age groups, as also those healthcare workers and frontline who have been missed out or left out of the present phase of vaccination, can select vaccination centres of their choice," the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said in a statement.

From Monday, India will start covering people aged 60 and those over 45 with medical conditions. They can register through the government's Co-Win 2.0 portal or walk into vaccination centres; states will also actively mobilise people.

Bharat Biotech has said efficacy data from a late-stage trial on nearly 26,000 volunteers who took COVAXIN shot will be out soon.

of the day quote

Afghan security forces have played a prominent role in fighting terrorism and that they can protect the values the country has achieved over the last 20 years



ASHRAF GHANI | PRESIDENT, AFGHANISTAN

Although the new progress can only add a few thousands jobs for now, the figure is expected to expand significantly down the road when more Pfizer vaccines are supplied here



CHUN EUN-MI | PROFESSOR, EWHHA WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY, SOUTH KOREA

We need to envision a future and an optimistic way of giving people hope again – that we are building back better



GINA MCCARTHY | NATIONAL CLIMATE ADVISER TO US PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Canada authorises AstraZeneca vax

Toronto: Canadian regulators Friday authorised AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine for all adults. It is the third COVID-19 vaccine given the green light by Canada, following those from Pfizer and Moderna. "This is very encouraging news. It means more people vaccinated, and sooner," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, adding that the nation of 38 million people will now get 6.5 million vaccines in total before the end of March, 500,000 more now with the new approval.

Taylor Swift cancels concerts

Los Angeles: Pop star Taylor Swift has officially cancelled all of her pending Lover Fest tour dates due to the "unprecedented pandemic." The singer-songwriter had a few shows planned for summer 2020 in support of her 2019 album "Lover", but had postponed the gigs to June and August this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. In a statement shared on her Instagram Stories, Swift said she was "disappointed" that she won't be able to see her fans in person.

'42 abducted people freed'

Lagos: An official says 42 people including 27 students who were abducted two weeks ago from a school in northern Nigeria have been freed. The chief press secretary for the Niger state governor, Mary Noel-Berje, told The Associated Press Saturday that those released have arrived in the state capital, Minna. "We have received them," she said. The students, teachers and family members were abducted by gunmen from the Government Science College Kagara.

Hungarian Prez receives vax jab

Budapest: Hungarian President Janos Ader got vaccinated against Covid-19, news agency MTI reported. In a short message aired by Hungarian public television M1, Ader called on all Hungarians to register for the vaccination as soon as possible, Xinhua reported. "Anyone who gets the chance to receive the first and then the second vaccine with any product approved by the Hungarian authorities and Hungarian experts should do so," Ader said. "Let's trust our doctors, let's trust our healthcare system," he said.



Iran will keep supporting the Syrian government in fight against terrorism

MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF | FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

AUCKLAND LOCKS DOWN

New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Saturday that the country's biggest city, Auckland, will go into a seven-day lockdown from early morning Sunday after a new local case of the coronavirus of unknown origin emerged



Haley, top Republicans call for US boycott of China Winter Olympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Feb 27: Accusing China of "horrific" human rights abuses, some top Republican leaders, including Indian-American politician Nikki Haley, have demanded that the US boycott the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing and called on the International Olympic Committee to select a new site for the event.

Beijing is scheduled to host the Winter Olympics from February 4 to 20, 2022.

The White House, however, said that no decision has been taken yet on the demands of the leaders.

It is no secret that China wants to use the Winter Olympics as part of its "massive communist propaganda campaign," Haley, a former US ambassador to the UN, said Friday as she launched a campaign to demand President Joe Biden, a Democrat, announce a boycott of the games.

"We cannot sit back and watch China use the Olympics to cover up its horrific human rights abuses," the Republican leader said.

Senator Rick Scott in a letter to President Biden has requested a meeting to discuss the "horrific human rights atrocities" occurring across China and called for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to select a new site for the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Haley said that "we need to stand up to China, and we need to do it now. That's why I'm asking you to



If the US boycotts the Winter Olympics, it will send an unmistakable message that China's tyranny and threats are unacceptable. It will show that actions have consequences

NIKKI HALEY | FORMER GOVERNOR, SOUTH CAROLINA

join me and sign our petition calling on President Biden to boycott the 2022 Winter Olympics in China".

If America participates in the Olympic Games in Beijing, the "Chinese Communist Party will claim it as further proof of China's good global standing and world leadership," she said.

In his letter, Senator Scott stressed that under no circumstance should the global community give China an international platform to "white-wash its crimes, which is what will happen if they are allowed to host the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing".

"I continue to urge the International Olympic Committee to move the games out of Communist China and to a country that respects basic

human rights," he said.

"I request your immediate attention and the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the horrific human rights atrocities occurring across Communist China and the effort to select a new site for the 2022 Winter Olympics Games," Scott said.

Many human rights organisations have called for a boycott of the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing in protest against China's mass human rights abuses.

The coalition of groups - regional associations in support of Tibet, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Uighur community in Xinjiang - said the hopes in 2015 that awarding Beijing the Games would be a catalyst for progress, had faded.

Myanmar police launch most extensive crackdown



REUTERS

Yangon, Feb 27: Police launched their most sweeping crackdown in three weeks of protests against military rule on Saturday in towns and cities across Myanmar, and one woman was shot and wounded and dozens of people were detained.

Three domestic media outlets said earlier that the woman shot in the central town of Monywa had died but an ambulance service official said she was in hospital. The circumstances of the shooting were not clear and police were not available for comment.

The violence came after Myanmar's U.N. envoy, saying he was speaking for the ousted civilian government, urged the United Nations to use "any means necessary" to reverse the February 1 coup. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army seized power and detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and much of her party leadership, alleging fraud in a November election her party won

in a landslide.

The coup, which stalled Myanmar's progress toward democracy, has brought hundreds of thousands of protesters onto the streets and drawn condemnation from Western countries, with some imposing limited sanctions.

Police were out in force in cities and towns from early on Saturday in their most determined effort yet to stamp out the protests.

In the main city of Yangon, police took up positions at usual protest sites and detained people as they congregated, witnesses said. Several journalists were detained, their media organisations and colleagues said.

Confrontations developed as more people came out despite the police operation.

Crowds chanted and sang then scattered into side streets and buildings as police advanced, firing tear gas, setting off stun grenades and shooting guns into the air, witnesses said.

"People are protesting peacefully but they're threatening us with weapons," youth activist Shar Yamone told Reuters.

"We're fighting to end to this military bullying which has been going on for generation after generation."

Some protesters threw up barricades across streets. Crowds eventually thinned but police in Yangon were still chasing groups and firing into the air in the late afternoon, witnesses said. Police detained numerous people through the day and set upon some with clubs.

PASSIONATE PROTEST



Women wearing flamenco dresses take part in a protest against the crisis in the flamenco fashion sector generated by the coronavirus disease pandemic, in Seville, Spain

REUTERS

Onus rests with India to push bilateral talks: Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Feb 27: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Saturday welcomed the ceasefire agreement with India but said the onus of creating an "enabling environment" for further progress in bilateral relations rests with New Delhi.

In his first comments since the militaries of India and Pakistan jointly announced on Thursday that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors, Khan said Pakistan remains ready to move forward to resolve "all outstanding issues" with India through di-



alogue. "I welcome restoration of the ceasefire along the LOC. The onus of creating an enabling environment for further progress rests with India. India must take necessary steps to meet the long-standing demand & right of the Kashmiri people to self determination according to UNSC resolutions," Khan tweeted.

"We have always stood for peace & remain ready to move forward to resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue," Khan said in a series of tweets.

India has told Pakistan that "talks and terror" cannot go together and has asked Islamabad to take demonstrable steps against terror groups responsible for launching various attacks on India. India, Thursday, said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to resolving all issues bilaterally in a peaceful manner.

"India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

'Under no obligation to accept stranded refugees'

REUTERS

Dhaka, Feb 27: Bangladesh is under "no obligation" to shelter 81 Rohingya Muslim refugees adrift for almost two weeks on the Andaman Sea and being assisted by India, said Bangladesh foreign minister AK Abdul Momen.

India's coast guard found the 81 survivors and eight dead crammed onto a crippled fishing boat and were trying to arrange for Bangladesh to take them, officials said Friday.

But Momen told Reuters late Friday that Bangladesh expects India, the closest country, or Myanmar, the Rohingyas' country of origin, to accept them.

"They are not Bangladesh nationals and in fact, they are Myanmar nationals. They were found 1,700 km (1,100 miles) away from the Bangladesh maritime territory and therefore, we have no obligation to take them," said Momen, who is in the United States.

"They were located 147 km (91 miles) away from Indian territory, 324 km (201 miles) away from Myanmar," he said by phone, adding other countries and organisations should take care of the refugees.

Indian foreign ministry officials did not respond to requests for comment.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said Thursday that India was "in discussions with the Government of



India's coast guard found the 81 survivors and eight dead crammed onto a crippled fishing boat and were trying to arrange for Bangladesh to take them

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said Thursday that India was "in discussions with the Government of Bangladesh to ensure their safe and secure repatriation"

Bangladesh to ensure their safe and secure repatriation."

New Delhi did not sign the 1951 Refugee Convention, which spells out refugee rights and state responsibilities to protect them. Nor does it have a law protecting refugees, though it currently hosts more than 200,000, including some Rohingya. More than 1 million Rohingya refugees from predominantly Buddhist Myanmar are living in teeming camps in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, including tens of thousands who fled after Myanmar's military conducted a deadly crackdown in 2017.

Iran expects 250,000 doses of vaccine from China

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tehran, Feb 27: Iran's Health Ministry says the country expects to receive 250,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine from China Saturday. Alireza Raisi, deputy health minister, says the country will receive doses of other vaccines, including from India, in the "near future" as the country struggles to fight the worst outbreak of the pandemic in the Middle East.

This month, Iran imported 120,000 doses of the Sputnik V vaccine from Russia. Reports have said Iran has purchased a total of 2 million doses.

Iran in December began human trials on the first vaccine manufactured in the country, which is expected to be distributed in the spring. The country is also work-



ing on a joint vaccine with Cuba.

Iran plans to import some 17 million doses of vaccine from the international COVAX program and millions more from individual countries.

Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari put Iran's death toll from COVID-19 at 59,980 after 81 more died from the disease since Friday.

59-year-old Khashoggi, who lived in the US as a legal permanent resident, was critical of the prince's policies and was killed by operatives linked to the crown prince in the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Istanbul October 2, 2018

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Feb 27: Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman approved an operation to "capture or kill" exiled journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's consulate in Turkey, according to a declassified US intelligence report released by the Biden ad-



ministration on the grisly murder of the leading dissident in 2018.

Fifty-nine-year-old Khashoggi, who lived in the US as a legal permanent resident and wrote for The Washington Post, was critical of the prince's policies and was killed by operatives linked to the crown prince in the Saudi Arabian Consulate in

Istanbul October 2, 2018.

His body was dismembered, and his remains have never been found. Riyadh eventually admitted that Khashoggi was mistakenly killed in what it called a rogue operation but denied the crown prince's involvement. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI)

said in the report submitted to Congress that at the time of the Khashoggi murder, the prince probably fostered an environment in which aides were afraid that failure to complete assigned tasks might result in him firing or arresting them.

This suggests that the aides were unlikely to question the prince's orders or undertake sensitive actions without his consent, said the report dated February 11, a declassified portion of which was submitted to Congress Friday.

"We assess that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey, to capture or kill Saudi journalist Khashoggi," it said.

The ODNI said it bases the assessment on the prince's control of decision making in the Saudi Kingdom, the direct involvement of a key adviser and members of prince

Muhammed's protective detail in the operation and his support for using violent measures to silence dissidents abroad, including Khashoggi.

"Since 2017, the crown prince has had absolute control of the Kingdom's security and intelligence organisations, making it highly unlikely that Saudi officials would have carried out an operation of this nature without the prince's authorisation," according to the report.

Reacting to the US intelligence report, the Saudi foreign ministry in a statement said, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia "completely rejects the negative, false and unacceptable assessment in the report pertaining to the Kingdom's leadership, and notes that the report contained inaccurate information and conclusions."

Soon after the report's submission, US Secretary of State Antony

Blinken announced the "Khashoggi Ban" that imposes visa restrictions on 76 Saudi individuals believed to have been engaged in threatening dissidents overseas, including but not limited to the Khashoggi killing.

Blinken said in October 2018, the world was horrified by the murder of Khashoggi, a lawful permanent US resident, in Istanbul.

Individuals should be able to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms without fear of government retribution, retaliation, punishment or harm. Khashoggi paid with his life to express his beliefs, he said.

"President (Joe) Biden said in a statement released last October on the second anniversary of the murder that Mr Khashoggi's death would not be in vain, and that we owe it to his memory to fight for a more just and free world," he said.

of the day quote

We are backing this (UK Infrastructure Bank) bank with the finance it needs to deliver modern infrastructure fit for the 21st century and create jobs

RISHI SUNAK | CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, UK

I would suggest that we look at India as a potential addition to the TPP. We've grown much closer to India. Of course, they're the world's largest democracy, one that believes in the rule of law as we do, and a great counterweight as well

JOHN CORNYN | REPUBLICAN SENATOR, US

The non-ferrous metals are in great demand in the international market thanks to their usage in electric vehicles and their batteries as the world moves towards cleaner energy

MAHESH DESAI | CHAIRMAN, EEPIC INDIA

SHORT TAKES

CDC Group pares stake in Equitas

New Delhi: UK's development finance institution CDC Group has pruned its stake in Equitas Holdings Ltd by 2.61% through sale of over 89 lakh shares in open market earlier this week, according to a regulatory filing. "We have on February 25, 2021, sold (in open market) 8,930,410 equity shares of Equitas Holdings Ltd, constituting 2.61 per cent of the paid-up share capital of Equitas Holdings Ltd," CDC Group PLC said in a regulatory filing Saturday.

KVIC achieves over ₹1 cr turnover

New Delhi: The e-market portal unveiled by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has achieved a gross turnover of over ₹1.12 crore in just eight months of its launch, the MSME Ministry said Saturday. "Launched on 7 July 2020, Khadi e-portal has delivered orders to over 10,000 customers out of the 65,000 people who visited the e-portal till date. KVIC has also delivered more than 1 lakh articles/commodities to these customers," an official statement said.

MSI crosses 20L cumulative exports

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Saturday said it has achieved the milestone of 20 lakh cumulative exports. The auto major achieved the milestone as a batch of products comprising S-Presso, Swift and Vitara Brezza left for South Africa from the Mundra Port in Gujarat. "The company has been exporting vehicles for past 34 years much before India became a prominent player in the global automobile business," MSI MD and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said.

Govt sets 50L users threshold

New Delhi: The government has fixed 50 lakh registered users as the threshold for defining 'significant social media intermediary', which will have to adhere to additional obligations and compliance under the new IT rules that seek to crack down on misuse of social media platforms. The new rules, announced earlier this week, require 'significant social media intermediaries' to follow additional due diligence



The perception that the industrial scenario in West Bengal is still not good needs to be changed and industry bodies and chambers of commerce should take the lead in addressing the problem

VANDANA YADAV | INDUSTRY SECRETARY, WEST BENGAL

ECONOMIC FORMS ROBUST

Beijing's new economic forms have displayed robust performance in 2020 despite the Covid-19 epidemic, official figures showed. The added value of the Chinese capital's new economic forms stood at about 1.37 trillion yuan (around \$211 billion), accounting for 37.8% of Beijing's GDP last year



Global growth to be hit if IP norms not waived to deal Covid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: India Saturday said if members of the WTO would fail to deliver on a proposal on waiving certain intellectual property obligations to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, it would impact global growth and livelihood.

In October 2020, India and South Africa submitted a proposal suggesting a waiver for all WTO (World Trade Organization) members on the implementation, application and enforcement of certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19.

The agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights or TRIPS came into effect in January 1995. It is a multilateral agreement on intellectual property (IP) rights such as copyright, industrial designs, patents and protection of undisclosed information or trade secrets.

"If we fail in the next one or two quarters or not delivering on that, let me tell you that it is not the question of equity; we are coming in the way of global growth and livelihood. It is not that we are coming in the way of life.

"It is a very simple economics that for a commercial interest of let us say USD 30 to USD 40 billion of annual vaccine output of few companies, we are coming in the way of USD 6-7 trillion of global GDP output in one year," Indian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, Brajendra Navnit, said at



Industry Minister Piyush Goyal recently stated that on one hand, the developed countries talk about supporting each other and multilateral fight against the pandemic

the Asia Economic Dialogue.

Developed and rich nations are opposing the proposal.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had recently stated that on one hand, the developed countries talk about supporting each other and multilateral fight against COVID-19 pandemic, but on the other hand, they are looking at protecting the interests of a few companies.

The minister has added that the world is fighting the pandemic which could potentially cost USD 9 trillion to the world economy.

Further, Navnit said that it

does not make any sense that on one side countries are providing USD 1 trillion or USD 1.5 trillion worth of fiscal stimulus, but on the other hand they are not willing to compensate for design a remuneration for IP rights' holder and expand the manufacturing by just putting USD 30-40 billion in bucket.

Speaking at the event, Xolelwa Mlumbi-peter, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the WTO, said that IP should not become a barrier to access affordable medicines.

Suggesting for holding frequent meetings of political leadership at WTO, the Ambassador said: "I strongly feel that diplomats and bureaucrats have taken over the system and they want to keep the political leadership slightly away".

He added that the general council of the WTO has totally taken over the mandate of MC (ministerial conference), which is the highest decision making body of the WTO.

State's telecom revenue stands at ₹1,272 cr in Q3

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) stated that Odisha registered a total revenue of ₹1,272 crore in telecom sector during third quarter (October-December) of current financial year.

The report claimed that out of total revenue of the sector, Reliance Jio posted the highest share of ₹669.7 crore followed by Bharti Airtel with ₹452.9 crore, Vodafone-Idea with ₹79 crore and BSNL with ₹67 crore.

As per the report, the overall gross revenue in the sector in Odisha during Q3 witnessed an increase of over 4% than the previous quarter, wherein Reliance Jio achieved nearly 6% growth in gross revenue followed by nearly 4% growth witnessed by Airtel.



Both VI (previously Vodafone Idea) and BSNL witnessed decline in gross revenue during this period, said the report.

Jio extended its revenue market share leadership in the state with 52.6% share of gross revenue in the sector followed by Bharti Airtel with 35.6%, VI with 6.2% and BSNL with 5.3%.

We must continue to trade with China: Bajaj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 27: Favouring continuation of trade with China, Bajaj Auto Managing Director Rajiv Bajaj Saturday said goods should be procured from wherever they are most competitively available.

He was speaking at a session on 'Building Reliable Supply Chain' at the second day of the three-day virtual Asia Economic Dialogue 2021, jointly convened by the Ministry of External Affairs and Pune International Centre.

Bajaj also said that in terms of ease of doing business, operating something in one of the ASEAN countries is certainly easier than "what we encounter here in India."

"We like to believe that we are a global company, and therefore, this to my mind, from a cultural point of view, and an operational point of view, demands completeness or inclusiveness not just of employee gender, but also of having dealers, distributors and equally suppliers from all over the world.

"And that is why I believe that we must continue to trade with China. Because if we conduct our business at the exclusion of such a large country, such a large market, we will find ourselves incomplete over time, and we will be poorer for the loss of that experience," Bajaj said.

Stating that in supply chain, commitment is important, he said that a sense of mutuality and reciprocity is indispensable to building, at least, the kind of very intricate supply chain that the auto industry needs to deliver the final product to the customer.

Emphasising on the continuity



We like to believe that we are a global company, and this to my mind, from a cultural and operational point of view, demands inclusiveness not just of employee gender, but also of having dealers and equally suppliers from all over the world

RAJIV BAJAJ | MD, BAJAJ AUTO

in the supply chain, Bajaj said, "I say this in the context of what happened in around June or July, when our government for whatever reasons, suddenly came down hard on imports, especially from China."

"Now, to my mind, doing something like that is to cut your nose to spite your face. Because overnight, how can one source components that are simply not made in the domestic market, that you need to deliver product to domestic or export customers?" he said.

So, maintaining continuity is the second important aspect of the holistic view of supply chain, he added. Noting that if it is cheaper to make something out of China or procure something from Thailand, Bajaj said, "we must always procure stuff from wherever it is most competitively available."

Tata Nexon EV posts 300% growth in eastern India

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: The Tata Nexon EV continues to expand its presence across India, exhibiting a significant growth across the eastern region. Since its launch in January this year, the company has registered a volume growth of over 300% in the eastern part of the country, commanding a market share of 98% (Year-till-date FY21).

The car is witnessing maximum acceptability in West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. This compact electric SUV is being appreciated for its design, accessibility, performance, technology and above all, its lower operating costs.

Ramesh Dorairajan, Head -



This compact electric SUV is being appreciated for its design, accessibility, performance, technology and above all, its lower operating costs

Sales, Marketing and Customer Car, Electric Vehicle Business Unit, Tata Motors said, "The Nexon EV has found its place as the best-selling electric vehicle in India.

The EV has also become the preferred car for several state government bodies in the country. We hope that we can leverage this growth to contribute towards the adoption of EVs in India by encouraging awareness among customers regarding the inevitable need for an electric future in coming years."

Tata Motors has a strong network presence in eastern India with eight sales outlets and eight authorised service setups covering the zone.

The customers will soon have access to fast-charging stations in some of the major eastern corridors like Kolkata, Patna, Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Guwahati, by the end of this fiscal year.

Kutchina inaugurates new showroom in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 27: Leading & encompassing kitchen solution brand, Kutchina, inaugurated its biggest and exclusive showroom in the city at Bapuji Nagar. Friday. The showroom is spread across 870 sq. ft and offers all the new and improved range of kitchen appliances with the advanced innovations from the house of Kutchina.

Beginning from modular kitchens and chimneys, the showroom will offer other big appliances like built-in hobs, dishwasher, cook tops & built-in ovens.

Namit Bajoria, Director, Kutchina was present to officially inaugurate the showroom and to address the media. The price range of the modular kitchens and the appliances are set up suiting to the affordability & adaptability of the consumers with utmost satisfaction delivered.

The entire range of the kitchen offered captures the beauty and strength of the best contemporary designs thus providing thought full designed product with distinctive design, premium qual-



ity of International standards and of course simplicity in its usage.

The exclusive showroom is equipped to cater to the changing tastes and preferences of the people who dwell across the region. The showroom thus, offers all the modern kitchen needs under one roof closer to the doorsteps of the people of the area.

"Our aim is to transform the cooking scenario in Indian kitchens and make it a lifestyle experience. We have witnessed changing pref-

erences and increasing demand for our products everywhere and so we are continuously striving to offer better products and make contemporary Indian cooking a lifestyle experience," said Bajoria.

Kutchina, now an international kitchen brand, has built over 3500 sales point across the country in addition to its presence in the on-line business. Brand Kutchina has won numerous accolades for its excellence both in quality and service.

'Large corporates changing supply-chain strategy'

SAFETY AND SECURITY CHALLENGES AND MARKET ACCESS WILL PLAY A DOMINANT ROLE IN THE FUTURE AND WORLD WILL SEE 'REGIONAL COOPERATION' AND HIGHER LEVELS OF 'PROTECTIONISM'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 27: Companies are changing their supply-chain strategy from low-cost to the one based on de-risking on issues around security and market access post the pandemic, Senior Advisor to Mahindra Group in South Korea, Inbom Choi, said Saturday.

Choi was speaking at a panel discussion on 'Building Reliable Global Supply Chains' during the second day of the Asia Economic Dialogue 2021, jointly convened by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Pune International Centre.

Bajaj Auto MD Rajiv Bajaj, Nguyen Thanh Hung, Chairman-Sovico Group of Vietnam and Mamoru Yokoo, Director and Executive VP - Mitsubishi Corporation, also participated in the panel discussion chaired by Ganesh Natarajan, Chairman 5F World and Trustee, Pune International Centre (PIC).

"For the last 10-20 years, the cor-



porate strategy for the supply chains was based on low-cost. That is why most of the companies went to China. Many corporations are now changing this strategy," Choi said.

He said that today the large corporations are looking at their supply chain strategy from the security issue and market access point of view.

Therefore the priority is shifting and because of that probably companies are moving away from

China for sourcing to countries like Vietnam, India and South Korea, Choi stated.

He said that a particular large US company, which is a Tech Mahindra customer, is asking it to change the sourcing from China to other countries, and such a trend is expected to pick further.

He pointed out that digitalisation is transforming the services sector such as banking, online retail and the quick service restaurant space,

which is a direct result of the pandemic which has driven changes in consumer behaviour.

The South Korean government is supporting and promoting the digital and green economy, he added.

Safety and security challenges and market access will play a dominant role in the future and world will see 'regional cooperation' and higher levels of 'protectionism' as compared with global multilateral arrangements in the near future, he said.

For the last 10-20 years, the corporate strategy for the supply chains was based on low-cost. That is why most of the companies went to China. Many corporations are now changing this strategy

INBOM CHOI | SENIOR ADVISOR TO MAHINDRA GROUP IN SOUTH KOREA

Bumrah, Woakes out

Indian star out of squad showing personal reasons, while the Englishman ruled out following ECB's rotation policy; both to miss final Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Feb 27: Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah will miss the fourth and final Test against England, beginning here Thursday, as he was released from the Indian squad, owing to personal reasons. England all-rounder Chris Woakes also left the Test tour of India without playing a match as part of the ECB's rotation policy.

The BCCI said no addition to India's squad will be made for the final Test at Motera despite the exit of Bumrah. "Jasprit Bumrah made a request to BCCI to be released from India's squad ahead of the fourth Test owing to personal reasons," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a media release Saturday. "Accordingly, the fast bowler has been released and he will not be available for selection for the fourth Test."

The Indian team is leading the four-match Test series 2-1. Bumrah has already been rested for the limited-over series, comprising five T20Is and three ODIs, beginning on March 12 here as part of the team's extensive workload management programme.

The 27-year-old Indian pace bowling spearhead has been inside bio-secure bubble since August prior to the Indian Premier League in the UAE. After the IPL, he straight-away went to Australia, along with the team, where India clinched a historic Test series win last month.

He took 11 wickets from three matches in Australia and did not play in the series-clinching Brisbane Test due to an abdominal strain.

In the ongoing series against England, Bumrah took four wickets in the first Test in Chennai which India lost by 227 runs. He was rested for the second Test, also in Chennai, which India won by 317 runs.

Bumrah did not take any wicket in the third Test here which India won by 10 wickets inside two days Thursday. He bowled just six overs in the spin-friendly track as the spinners took 19 wickets and the



remaining one was grabbed by Ishant Sharma.

The 31-year-old Woakes, who was with the England squads for the tours of South Africa, Sri Lanka and India, has not featured in any match. He last played in an ODI against Australia in September last year.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed that Woakes has returned home as per pre-arranged plan. England's much-debated rotation policy has drawn a lot of flak from several former players, including Kevin Pietersen and Ian Bell.

The rotation policy saw wicket-keeper Jos Buttler and all-rounder Moeen Ali return home after the first and second Test against India respectively. Batsman Jonny Bairstow and pacer Mark Wood, who missed out on the opening two fixtures, joined the squad for the remainder of the series.

Motera likely to escape ICC sanctions despite criticisms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: The Motera track may have received a lot of flak after the pink ball Test ended inside two days but it is unlikely to attract any severe sanctions from the game's governing body ICC with the pitch for the final game set to be a batting beauty.

With India 2-1 up in the four-Test series and needing a draw to qualify for the World Test Championship final at Lord's from June 18-22, another turner is currently out of question as the home team will be aiming to take minimal risks as far as the track is concerned.

"Expect a good hard surface which will be firm and even bounce. It will be a batting beauty and since it's a traditional red ball match, one can expect a very high scoring contest here from March 4-8," a senior BCCI official privy to the developments told this agency on conditions of anonymity.

Also the BCCI bigwigs along with the team management understands the fact that another dust bowl won't augur well for the new



venue which is expected to host a lot of important matches during IPL as well as ICC T20 World Cup.

"If there are two matches played at the same venue, you can't hold one result in isolation. Let the final Test be over and then only based on match referee Javagal Srinath's report can ICC decide its course of action. Also as of now, the England team hasn't lodged any official complaint," the BCCI official said.

If there has been one good and one bad pitch at the same venue, the

ICC is unlikely to take any action. While India would be happy with a 3-1 margin, they will not require a result oriented turner as a draw would suffice their purpose.

Also the Indian team management doesn't want to prepare a track that can ideally backfire on them in a very high-stake game of cricket.

"The pink ball Test went well because it was more about the ball and the way it skidded rather than the pitch which many English former greats are panning. It was straight deliveries that they couldn't counter. But having said that these kind of tracks have a tendency to backfire and BCCI is well aware of that," he said.

The team combination for the next Test will be an interesting one after Jasprit Bumrah was released from the squad due to personal reasons. Mohammed Siraj has a better chance than Umesh Yadav of being Ishant Sharma's new ball partner, while it is expected that all three spinners will be automatic picks. Washington Sundar's superior batting skills might come in very handy in the middle order for the last Test.

INDIA EVES TO PLAY 5 ODIs, 3 T20Is AGAINST SA Shikha axed, Shafali dropped for ODIs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: Veteran medium pacer Shikha Pandey was on Saturday dropped from India's ODI and T20I squads that will take on South African women in a twin series starting March 7.

The most debatable decision by the Neetu David-led selection committee, however, was the exclusion of teenage batting sensation Shafali Verma in the ODI squad which has plodders like skipper Mithali Raj and Punam Raut, whose strike-rates have come under the scanner time and again.

With 19 T20Is under her belt and an amazing Women's T20 World Cup last year, Shafali is a box-office cricketer. The selectors, though, have included a lot of

THE SQUADS

For ODIs: Mithali Raj (C), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Punam Raut, Priya Punia, Yastika Bhatia, Harmanpreet Kaur, D Hemalatha, Deepti Sharma, Sushma Verma (wk), Swetha Verma (wk), Radha Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Jhulan Goswami, Mansi Joshi, Poonam Yadav, C Prathyusha & Monica Patel;

For T20Is: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh, Harleen Deol, Sushma Verma (wk), Nuzhat Parveen (wk), Ayushi Soni, Arundhati Reddy, Radha Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Mansi Joshi, Monica Patel, C Prathyusha & Simran Dil Bahadur.

rookies based on their last season's domestic performances as well as A and B team series against Bangladesh.

Rookie keeper-batsman Shwetha Verma, along with the seasoned Sushma Verma, are the two keepers in both formats.

Pandey's exclusion was more to do with the selectors wanting to check out the pace bowling bench strength and rookie right-arm medium pacers C Prathyusha and Monica Patel were included in both the squads.

All matches will be played at Lucknow's Bharat Ratna Shree Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana International Stadium.

The ODIs will be played March 7-17 while the T20Is will be played March 20-23.

ISSF WORLD CUP 7-DAY QUARANTINE FOR UK SHOOTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: The quarantine period for shooters from the United Kingdom, who are going to participate in the upcoming ISSF World Cup in Delhi, will be seven days instead of two weeks.

A source close to the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) said that the federation has got a positive feedback from the concerned authorities after it had requested for seven days hard quarantine for the shooters from UK.

The government also recently issued fresh guidelines for international arrival in a bid to stem the spread of the coronavirus, focussing specifically on those arriving from UK, Brazil and South Africa where new and more contagious strains of the virus have been detected.

The latest notification issued by the government stated that all international travellers from UK and Brazil will do hard quarantine for seven days after testing negative for COVID-19 on arrival.

On its arrival in India for a full-fledged tour, the England cricket team was also quarantined for seven days and hoping for a similar privilege, the British shooting contingent had approached the NRAI with a request to reduce their numbers of days in isolation.

"Yes, shooters from UK will not have to quarantine themselves for 14 days," the source said, Saturday. The combined world cup for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooters is scheduled to be held at the national capital's Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range from March 18-29.

More than 40 countries have so far confirmed entries for the International Shooting Sport Federation tournament. Prominent among the countries competing are Korea, Singapore, USA, United Kingdom, Iran, Ukraine, France, Hungary, Italy, Thailand and Turkey.

The tournament will see as many as 30 finals being held at an ISSF World Cup stage for the first time with the new team formats approved by the global body last year.

Odisha end campaign on high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bambolim, Feb 27: Odisha FC prevailed over SC East Bengal 6-5 in a crazy 11-goal thriller as the Indian Super League on Saturday recorded the most goals in a match through teams whose season was blighted by their inability to score.

Doubles from two Indian youngsters Paul Ramfangzaava (49th & 66th minutes) and Jerry Mawihmingthanga (51st & 67th) enabled Odisha to end the season on a high, with SLalhzreuzuala (33rd) and Diego Mauricio (69th) chipping in.

Goals from Anthony Pilkington (24th), Aaron Joshua Holloway (60th & 90th), Jeje Lalpekhlua (74th) and an own goal from Ravi Kumar (37th) made up East Bengal's tally. East Bengal who started brightly scored first. Pilkington showed some great skill, striding forward into the box and unleashing a shot past Odisha keeper Ravi. SCEB dominated play soon after the goal and it looked like Odisha was in for another long night.

However, they managed to turn the narrative on its head when S Lahlrezuala found the net. The goal came from a corner that the East Bengal defence failed to deal with properly, something that has cost



OFC scorers Jerry Mawihmingthanga (R) & Diego Mauricio celebrate a goal

them all season.

But they were soon to retake the lead and the goal, which came just minutes later, was Odisha's season in a nutshell.

Their defence failed to clear a corner properly and the ball fell to Manuel Onwu near the goalline. His clearance, though, smacked keeper Ravi in the face and went right in. East Bengal would carry the lead into the half-time break, but it would not last too long afterward.

The equaliser was a magnificent individual effort from Ramfangzaava, who bent one in past SCEB keeper Subrata Paul. Then it was another

Indian youngster's turn to hand Odisha the lead, Jerry headed in Onwu's well-crafted cross.

SCEB though weren't behind for long and it was Holloway who found the net for them. His low shot from outside the box eluded Ravi and trickled into goal after hitting the upright.

But Ramfangzaava was not done yet. After an Odisha shot was blocked at the edge of the box, the youngster got the ball and unleashed a shot that went through the legs of a couple of defenders before beating Subrata.

Jerry was not to be undone by his teammate though. A wonderful chipped pass from Mauricio found Jerry free in the box and the youngster smashed a shot past the hapless Subrata.

Any hopes of an SCEB comeback was quickly killed by Mauricio, who converted a free-kick, driving a low shot past Subrata. Odisha had scored three goals in three minutes for a remarkable turnaround.

There was still time for more drama as SCEB pulled one back. Jacques Maghoma found Pilkington at the far post and the latter squared it to Jeje, who scored his first Hero ISL goal in East Bengal colours. Holloway, then scored again in injury time, but it was too late for East Bengal.

Deepak secures silver at Strandja Memorial

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 27: Indian boxer Deepak Kumar's stupendous run at the 72nd Strandja Memorial tournament ended with a silver medal in Sofia, Bulgaria after he lost a fiercely-contested flyweight (52kg) final, Saturday.

Deepak, an Asian silver-winner, was up against Bulgaria's Daniel Asenov, a two-time European championships gold-medallist. The bout ended in a split verdict in favour of the local favourite.

The Indian had created quite a flutter in the tournament when he stunned reigning Olympic and world champion - Uzbekistan's Shakhbodin Zoirov - in his semi-final showdown.

The Bulgarian seemed the busier of the two boxers in the opening round Saturday and was sharper in his counter-attacking game. Asenov's consistently high guard also denied Deepak a clear shot for most part.

Deepak's second round was better and he also put up a stronger defensive performance but the judges ruled in favour of Asenov.

In the final three minutes, how-



ever, it was Deepak who called the shots for most part, effortlessly dodging his rival's relentless attacks and also launching some strong ones of his own.

But Asenov, despite being visibly jaded, had done enough to seal the issue by that point. A Naib Subedar in the Indian Army, Deepak is also a former India Open gold-medallist.

Earlier, Naveen Boora (69kg) settled for a bronze medal after going down to Asian Games gold medalist Bobo-Usmon Baturov of Uzbekistan in his semifinal bout.

With this, India signed off with two medals at the event this year, one less than what the country managed in the previous edition.

Sreejesh happy with games vs quality teams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Krefeld (Germany), Feb 27: Indian men's hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh feels playing against quality sides like Germany and Great Britain will help the team prepare a plan for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics by testing itself tactically, physically and mentally.

After a year-long hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian men's team, ranked No.4 in the world, will play against world No.6 Germany in the first of their four-match tour of Europe starting Sunday.

After facing the Germans once again Tuesday, the Indian team will travel to Antwerp, Belgium, where they are scheduled to play against Great Britain March 6 and 8.

"These matches against Germany and Great Britain are super important for our preparations. It is an opportunity to test ourselves tactically, physically and mentally,"



Sreejesh said.

"We are very lucky to be able to play against quality teams, despite the ongoing pandemic. This outing will help us set the parameter

and enable us to plan our months leading up to the Olympics," he added.

India last played in the FIH Hockey Pro League held in January

and February last year where the team took on the Netherlands, Belgium and Australia on home ground in Bhubaneswar.

"Not playing competitive matches in over a year has been very difficult, mostly mentally than physically. Though we played a lot of matches internally over the past few months in SAI, the next few weeks in Europe will show exactly where we are in terms of performance," Sreejesh said.

On the match against Germany, Sreejesh said, "We have watched this team closely, analyzed their game and replicated how we must play against them during the past few weeks in camp."

"They play man-to-man and our style of play will be slightly tweaked in order to succeed against them. The whole idea is to implement what we have been doing in camp these past few months and the focus will be on ourselves."

India-England ODIs at Pune to be held without spectators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Feb 27: The three-match ODI series between India and England in Pune will be played without spectators due to a spike in COVID-19 cases in Maharashtra, the state cricket association said Saturday.

The three ODIs are slated to be played at the MCA Stadium in Gahunje on the outskirts of the city March 23, 26 and 28.

"Keeping the seriousness of the current spike in COVID cases in Maharashtra, after inputs from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, it was decided that permission will be granted for these matches without spectators," the Maharashtra Cricket Association said in a media release.

The cricket body also said that the chief minister has asked them to take all the necessary precautions with regard to players and officials.

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