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Remove PM's photo from vaccine certificates: EC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 6: Weeks before Assembly elections start in four states and one Union Territory, the Election Commission has asked the government to remove Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo from coronavirus vaccine certificates in these states where model code of conduct is already in place, sources have said.

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress earlier this week had alleged "blatant misuse of official machinery by the Prime Minister" in the state in a complaint to the Election Commission.

A report was first sought by the powerful election body from the West Bengal Electoral Officer in the matter and then the Union Health Ministry was asked to remove the photos, as per sources. The government has been told to adopt a system so that PM Modi's photo does not appear on vaccine certificates in poll-bound states.

The certificates, however,

can carry PM's photos in other states. Alleging violation of the poll code, Bengal's ruling party has cited photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on certificates of vaccination distributed by the

'appropriating their dues".

"By placing his photograph, name and message on the provisional certificates, he is not only exploiting his post and powers but also stealing commendable credit from the producers of COVID vaccines, Trinamool MP had alleged.

Man infected – with nCoV after 2nd dose of vax

Bhubaneswar, March 6: The Capital city seemed to have turned a happy hunting ground for criminals with the regular occurrences of snatching, murder and other heinous crimes during the past some months. In continuation of this trend, two siblings Saturday brutally stabbed a 26-year-old youth to death in broad daylight at VIP Colony near the CRP Square here. The deceased, identified as Tukuna Das alias Jatia, was a resident of Janta Nagar in Salia Sahi area under the jurisdiction of Nayapalli police. The police have detained the accused duo - Sagar (32) and Sudhir Prusty (28), from the same slum.

LOCALS' VERSION

According to the local residents, they came out of their homes hearing screams of the victim from inside the pick-up van begging for help. The victim was profusely bleeding with deep stabbing marks on his neck, chest and other body parts. Some claimed that they witnessed the accused stabbing the victim with a sharp weapon when the pick-up van suddenly stopped near a roadside eatery at VIP Colony due to the scuffle between the accused and the deceased.

The bystanders rushed towards the vehicle to rescue the victim. Some people managed to collar the duo when they were trying to flee the spot after committing the crime. Later, they handed over the accused to the PCR staff doing patrolling in the locality. **POLICE CLAIMS**

Meanwhile, Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi claimed that Sagar and Sudhir met the deceased at Maila Tanki Sahi where the trio engaged in a heated argument over a fight they had Friday night. When the deceased Tukuna attacked the accused siblings, they managed to grab him. Sagar and Sudhir intended to hand over Tukuna to police and forced the latter to sit in their pickup van. They tried to take Tukuna to police station via VIP Colony fearing retaliation from Tukuna's aides midway

- The police as well as the victim's sister claimed that past enmity between the accused and the victim lead to the crime
- A close relative of the victim claimed that Tukuna was irked over the fact that one of the accused was in a relationship with his sister

Not to be cowed into submission. Tukuna reportedly attempted to attack the accused brothers with a big knife concealed in his dress. Subsequently, the siblings snatched away the knife from Tukuna and, in a fit of rage, started stabbing the victim on his neck and chest. The attack was in self-defence," Sarangi said.

The victim's sister, however, narrated a different story alleging that the accused and their brother-in-law hatched a conspiracy to kill Tukuna several days back. She claimed that the accused, armed with various sharp weapons, were looking for his brother Friday night as well. They allegedly planned to kill Tukuna to avenge a fight they had 15 days back.

REASONS BEHIND THE MURDER Meanwhile, a close relative of Tukuna claimed that the younger sibling Sudhir was reportedly in a relationship with the victim's sister. Sudhir is also said to possess some objectionable videos of the victim's sister. Sudhir was irritated that Tukuna had confronted him over the issue some days back.

On the other hand, some locals informed **Orissa POST** that Tukuna and the accused fought several times over the issue of parking of their vehicles in front of the victim's house. LYNCHING BID

Angered by the gory murder scene, the seething mob dragged the accused out of the PCR van and started beating them mercilessly with plastic pipes and whatever else they found nearby. The policemen on duty at the crime site also faced the wrath of the angry mob, which damaged the police vehicle. Subsequently, more policemen were rushed to the spot to rescue the injured accused,

which they did after pacifying the angry locals.



One of the accused, Sudhir Prusty, pleading for mercy from an angry mob that attacked him and his brother after the crime OP PHOTO

INDIA ENTER WTC FINAL



Union Health Ministry and accused him of stealing credit from doctors, nurses and healthcare workers and

potable water projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: In a major leap forward to provide, the state Cabinet Saturday approved six mega drinking water projects with an estimated cost of ₹1,485.15 crore.

We invited you to announce that we

have finalised the seat sharing

Sarpanch disgualified

for not knowing Odia

GANJAM: On the occasion of

Panchayatiraj Divas Friday, a

sarpanch from Ganiam district

not knowing Odia, having two

to the 1994 Odisha Gram

Panchayat Act, a person is

was disgualified from his post for

wives and six children. According

ineligible of holding any position

in a gram panchayat if he or she

does not know how to write and

speak Odia, have more than two

children and illegally has more

than one husband/wife. Such a

person cannot contest any post

too. P Simadri was elected as the

sarpanch of Agastinuagam gram

panchayat under Chhatrapur

block of Ganjam district during

the panchayat polls held in the

a max 40,4°⊂ 37,5°

СТК

59%

Forecast

Mainly clear sky

₹1,485cr granted for 6

year 2017.

WEATHER

The Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved 16 proposals, including tender for the six drinking water projects, which will be executed by the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department.

These projects will be executed in different villages of Jajpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, CABINET Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Kalahandi DECISION districts within 24 months, said Women and Child Development

Minister Tukuni Sahu said. The state government has pri-

oritised on providing safe drinking water to people living in the rural areas with funds from the Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM) funding, she said.

She said two such projects have been approved in Kendrapara district and on their completion. 2,74,836 people from four blocks of the district will be benefitted.

Raped 27 yrs

ago, woman

moves court

after son asks father's name

The total cost of this project is ₹227.91 crore

Another water supply project worth ₹348.10 crore has been approved for the Khurda district. Nearly five lakh people of 505 villages in six blocks of the district will be benefited from the project.

Similarly, drinking water project of ₹296.93 crore has been approved for Dhenkanal district to provide safe drinking water to 1,52,021 persons in 166 villages.

The state government has decided to execute another such water supply project to cover 1,43,000 people in 26 GPs of Sambalpur district and two GPs of Jharsuguda district at a cost of ₹188.38 crore.

The Cabinet has also approved tender of ₹177.83 crore for implementation of the drinking water project for Kalahandi district while ₹245.98 crore has been approved for undertaking similar project in Jajpur district.

Execution of these two projects, will help 1,30,555 people of 28 GPs of Kalahandi and 3.23.710 people in 53 GPs of Jajpur district to get safe MORE P3 drinking water.

BYJU'S

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, March 6: Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin once again made a mockery of an eternally confused English batting line-up as India cantered into the inaugural World Test Championship final with a resounding innings and 25 run victory on the third afternoon of the fourth and final Test here on Saturday.

All India needed was a draw to book a Lord's date in June with

Kane Williamson's New

Zealand but Patel (24-6-48-5), in company of Ashwin (22.5-4-47-5), lit-

> I got wickets in the 1st game and kept on carrying the confidence. When me and Washi were batting, the pace variation wasn't there. I only bowled faster ones more often in the previous games but here we needed to vary our pace AXAR PATEL | ALL-ROUNDER, INDIA

erally blew England away in a session and half for a paltry 135 in 54.5 overs to complete a 3-1 rout, ensuring that the Anthony De Mello Trophy will stay at the Cricket Centre in Mumbai.

It was another two and half days finish but even the most partisan England experts like their former skipper Michael Vaughan have admitted that the 22-yard strip had almost nothing to do with their side's abject surrender.

first innings score of 365 and a lead of 160 on the same track where England could cumulatively manage only 340 runs across two innings.

A case in point could be India's

"The comeback in Chennai pleased me the most. The first game was an aberration and England outplayed us," said India skipper Virat Kohli at the postmatch presentation.

Atrocious application and unbelievably poor mindset while playing spinners cost the Englishmen dearly during the last three Tests and skipper Joe Root had little to offer in terms of **MORE P12** explanation.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, March 6: A health official in Gujarat has tested positive for coronavirus days after taking the second dose of the vaccine against the infection, officials said Saturday.

The man, a health officer in Gandhinagar's Dehgam taluka, had taken the first dose on January 16 and the second one February 15. He had fever and his samples were examined, which detected the COVID-19 infection February 20 said Gandhinagar's Chief Health Officer Dr MH Solanki.

"He is in home isolation as his symptoms are mild. He has told me that he is fit to join work from Monday," Solanki added.

The CHO said it generally takes around 45 days for antibodies against the infection to develop after both the doses of the vaccine are administered.

MISSION SHAKTI A SEPARATE DEPT NOW

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: As per the announcement made by the Chief Minister March 8 last year, the state Cabinet has approved creation of Mission Shakti as a separate department. At present, Mission Shakti is a part of Women and Child Development department.

"A new department will help to go long way in strengthening the SHG initiatives already undertaken by departments and agencies and bringing them under one platform, providing greater focus, synergy and avoiding duplication in activities," said W&CD Minister Tukuni Sahu.

It will help to ensure linkages at all levels and to establish effective interactive platforms for the community and the government and forstrengthening of the SHG movement across the state, she said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shahjahanpur (UP), March 6: Raped on several occasions by two men at the age of 12 about 27 years ago, the victim, who had become a mother, has now lodged a case against the accused on court orders after her son enquired about his father's name.

About 27 years ago, the victim was living in the city with her sister and brotherin-law. One Naki Hasan of her locality had entered the house when she was alone and allegedly raped her, Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar told this news agency Saturday.

Referring to the police report lodged on the basis of the woman's complaint, Kumar said after the accused, his younger brother Guddu also raped her. The victim has alleged that she was raped by both the accused on multiple occasions.

She was 12 years of age at the time of the incident, the SP said.

According to the complainant, she became pregnant at the age of 13 and gave birth to a boy in 1994. The infant was given to a person belonging to the victim's native village Udhampur, located within the Shahabad police station limits, while she moved to Rampur as his brother-in-law got transferred there.

The SP said the victim's brother-inlaw got her married to a man in Ghazipur district, but after 10 years, when her husband came to know that she was raped, he divorced her and she returned to Udhampur.

Meanwhile, the boy who had grown up by now enquired about his mother and father and was told his mother's name.

The boy met the victim and got to know about the incident, the SP said,



adding that Friday evening, a case of gangrape was lodged against the two accused at the Sadar Bazar police station after the police refused to entertain her

gating the case and the DNA test of the boy would be conducted. The woman had moved the court

complaint.







on the basis of her complaint. Kumar said the police are investi-





RAJA KUMARI TEAMS UP WITH RITA WILSON, CLAUDIA LEITTE

American-Indian rapper Raja Kumari has teamed up with Hollywood actress Rita Wilson and Brazilian singer Claudia Leitte, for a song titled Hello World, which will release on the occasion of International Women's Day March 8.

'MODELLING WAS AN ESCAPE FROM ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Fashion model Lisa Snowdown has revealed that her ramp career started because she wanted to escape an abusive relationship. The 49-year old, who is also a television presenter, started her modelling career in early twenties.



FORTUNE FORECAST





inner voice. As a result, you will able to execute all your plans with precision. Besides being cheerful, you will even take disappointments vith a pinch of salt.

TAURUS

As a manager, you may able to outclass your colleagues by a great margin, predicts Ganesha. You will soften your approach with time and move towards a more democratic style of decision-making rather than the arbitrary protocol that you are used to.

GEMINI

Interactions with member of the opposite sex may yield positive and pleasurable results today. Public servants wil get the much-needed encouragement and moral support from bosses and family members. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problem you set your mind to

Today, you are likely to

remain open-minded while dealing with others. However, it doesn't mean that you will always be soft on others. Later in the day, your approach may be different and stubborn.

LEO



even Picasso couldn't make a masterpiece every day. So make the most of this auspicious day, urges Ganesha, during which your imagination peaks and touches new heights.

VIRGO A single-headed mission to be the master of your destiny will drive you ahead. Your management skills will be immaculate. and the fire to succeed will get you up and running. Your skill in the managerial post will be accentuated by your quick decision-making and superior analytica ability, says Ganesha.



Katrina bats for women's 'me time'

New Delhi: With game nights, workout videos and fun with family and friends, Katrina Kaif's social media platform has been followed avidly by fans. The Bharat actress talks about women and what she's looking forward to in

2021 'While 2020 has reminded me about the joys of little things, 2021 is a very exciting year for me as well. I'm thrilled about the work I'm doing and cannot wait to share it with the world," said the Namstey London actress.

women should celebrate International Women's Day, Katrina said, "The lockdown period has been challenging for everyone and these times have been really hard for so many people. I'm glad to see how women have realised the importance of 'me time' and hope they continue to take time for themselves even post the lockdown.'

Katrina has recently

Asked how she feels the

completed the shoot for the horror comedy *Phone* Bhoot in Udaipur. She costars Ishaan Khatter and Siddhant Chaturvedi in the film. Her next release is the Akshav Kumar-starrer cop action drama Soorvavanshi.

cast of The Empire Mumbai: Rasika Dugal has joined an international cast including Stephen Fry, Michelle Gomez and Alexander Owen in the BBC audio comedy series, The Empire. The Channel X production for BBC Radio 2 is written by Anuvab Pal and

directed by Ed Morrish. The

Empire is set in Imperial India where the new district magistrate of Darjeeling grapples with responsibilities of his new post with the help, and sometimes hindrance, of colleagues

Rasika joins int'l

Dugal will be voicing over for the character of Sapna, a proto-revolutionary

"Anuvab Pal's script had me in splits when I read it. I had come off a three month long shoot for an intense drama series and comedy is just what I needed," Rasika

> Rasika's character is a bright and intelligent woman in Darjeeling in 1911, who stands up to the new British magistrate and this leads to things neither were expecting. The Empire will release March 7.

> > IANS

How Dil Chahta Hai broke jinx for Shaan

Mumbai: Singer Shaan has opened up on why Dil Chahta Hai will always be special for him.

"Dil Chahta Hai's success was extremely important for me because till then I believed that something had jinxed my movie soundtracks. No matter how super hit my songs were at that time, the movies didn't do so well at the box office. So, I was really hoping for this curse to break and that happened with Dil Chahta Hai," he said, while opening up on his playback career in Hindi films.

Working on the film, he said, was fun. "Farhan Akhtar, had a vision that every actor should have a separate voice for himself in Koi kahe kehta rahe. I was brought on board to sing Akshaye Khanna's part in the song, but after the recording Farhan felt that my voice matches Saif Ali Khan's more than Akshaye's," Shaan recalled.

STREAMING PLATFORMS DIG INTO HUSH-HUSH TOPICS

THERE IS A MENTALITY THAT GIRLS ARE ONLY THERE TO GET **MARRIED AND HAVE KIDS BUT THESE** SHOWS HELP **PEOPLE BECOME AWARE OF HOW** THINGS ARE ACTUALLY **CHANGING IN THE**



story stars Riddhi Dogra and marriage between Seema Khan and Monica Dogra.

Live-in relationships

In the series Little Things, the lead couple, essayed by Dhruv Sehgal and Mithila Palkar, stays together and the arrangement is openly accepted by their families.

Erotic stories

The show Gandii Baat, exploring eroticism in rural India, is a perfect example of this. Controversial and popular at the same time, the show is currently streaming its fifth season, and has been directed by Sachin Mohite. Each episode features an eroticismthemed story from rural India.

actor Sohail Khan. While the two did not appear to live together, he did come in at times to spend time with the kids.

Unwed mother

There is a story angle in the show Four More Shots Please! where Saiyami Kher discovers that she is pregnant.While she has a miscarriage later on, the topic of an unwed mother is explored as she decides to keep the baby. Her family supports this move.

Godman as a conman

The show Aashram is based on a godman played by actor Bobby Deol. Issues such as rapes and drug trafficking by conmen passing off as gurus are explored in the series. IANS



Few and rare are the

foresees a plethora of marriage proposals coming your way on this day full of special occasions, as you turn up your charisma and sweep the enthralled opposite sex off their feet with vour charm.

SCORPIO

Friends in influential positions will be of much help today. You may plunge into a new business ven ture without much ado. Appreciation for your abilities and efforts will fly in thick and fast. Your reputation is sky-rocketing among the opposite sex

SAGITTARIUS

The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. You may have a few fam ily friends over for lunch or dinner, and end up chatting a good deal with them. Ganesha says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN

The day will sail smooth but your mind will wreal havoc by forcing you to act on the spur of the moment, says Ganesha. However, this will not ruin your reputation with bosses and peers

AOUARIUS

Your dream house or car may well be on its way! The stars proclaim that it's a good time to acquin new assets. So bring out those attractive brochures and check out your loan prospects.

PISCES

A good day awaits you. You will finish your work and beat your deadlines by miles on account of the luck favouring you. There are chances that a family holiday, which has been in the planning for a long time, will eventually come to fruition today, says Ganesha.



PEANUTS

YOU WANT ME TO

WRITE A LETTER RECOMMENDING YOU

FOR 'NEIGHBORHOOD

DOG OF THE YEAR'

CALVIN AND HOBBES

HEWWO! IS HOBBESIE WOBBSIE SWEEPY? OOH, HE'S JUST A

BIG SNOOGIE . WOOGIE, ISN'T

HE ? YES HE IS! HEWWO,

SNOOGIE . WOOGIE !

Homosexual relationships The Married Woman is a show

OW! LEGGO, YOU

OW

OH!

BLOODTHIRSTY CARNINGRE!

that explores the relationship between two women. Based on the

back:

WHEN DID YOU EVER

SAY ANYTHING NICE

ABOUT BEETHOVEN

book by Manju Kapur of the same kiss, which has been spoken about name, the show's teaser featured a in detail. This unconventional love

Unconventional marriage

Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives showcases an unconventional



I CAN SEE WHY LITTLE

TABBY CATS ARE SO MUCH MORE POPULAR





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

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SOL	UT	101	VS

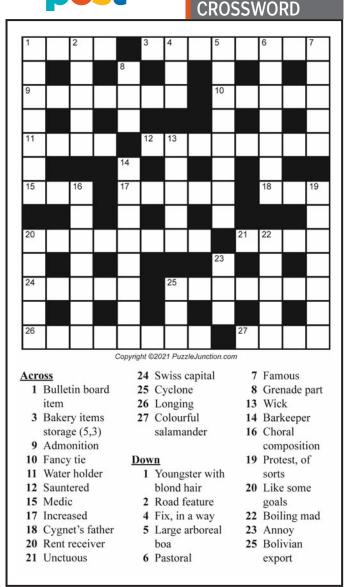
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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW











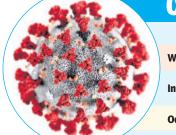






EVICTION IN CITY

Civic authorities demolish illegal structures near Kalpana Square in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	11,67,84,201	9,23,76,318	25,93,991
India	1,11,92,088	1,08,54,128	1,57,656
Odisha	3,37,674	3,34,990	1,917

CABINET DECISIONS

2 more excise dists, 5 excise stations to be set up

₹200 CRORE CORPUS FUND TO PROVIDE SEEDS AND FERTILIZERS TO FARMERS; ODISHA LOKAYUKTA ACT TWEAKED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: March 6: The state government will create two new excise districts and five excise stations to strengthen excise enforcement activities in Odisha.

The two excise districts will come up a Bhubaneswar and Rourkela carved out of Khurda and Sundargarh districts respectivelydue to their large areas and locations, said Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra. The government has also pro-

posed to create five new excise stations at Tihidi, Baliapal, Bhuban, Begunia and Panposh in the districts of Bhadrak, Balasore, Dhenkanal. Khurda and Sundargarh, he said, adding, the new stations have been created considering the inter-state border and growing duplicate liquor manu-



facturing/brown sugar activities. Restructuring of the Odisha Excise Service cadre has also been approved by the Cabinet. Additional 304 regular posts have been created increasing the cadre strength from 1906 to 2210. It has also approved separation of office of the excise commissioner from the Board of Revenue. The government has created a corpus fund of ₹100 crore for Odisha

State Seeds Corporation Ltd for production/procurement of seeds and quality planting materials for the framers. It will help in increasing production and productivity of different crops benefiting the farming community of the state, Mahapatra said. Similarly, another ₹100 crore cor-

pus fund has been created to pre-position and supply fertilizers to the

farmers in time as per their demand. he said.

The Cabinet has approved the proposal to allow Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) to sell the entire quantity of bauxite ore meant for sale through national e-auction for the financial year 2020-21 to long-term linkage supplier at the rate of Rs1000 per MT.

Considering the interim order passed by the Orissa High Court and to avoid damage to leftover stock of bauxite, the Cabinet has approved the proposal. And, this shall be done as one time measure limited to the financial year 2020-21, he said. The government has further de-

cided to set up a power substation at Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Paradip. The substation will be set up with a total estimated cost of ₹637.45 crore which includes

30 per cent (₹191.23 crore) equity support from the state government and the balance (₹446.21 crore) to be met by OPTCL through loan.

The project will also cater to the power demand of the upcoming industries in Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapada districts and industries linked to Haridaspur-Paradeep railway line, the Chief Secretary said.

The state government has decided to lease out government land measuring 25 acres under Remuna Tehasil of Balasore district free of all charges in favour of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for establishment of a satellite centre of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

The panel has decided to amend the Odisha Lokavukta Act. 2014 to remove the restrictions on re-employment or further employment of chairperson and members after ceasing to hold office.

BJP poser to govt on crime against women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: The BJP's state leadership Saturday accused the state government of apathy towards the safety of women in the state. BJP leader Pravati Parida told reporters that the government had been talking about women's day celebrations but had been floundering on the issue of women's safety.

'The whole world observes International Women's Day March 8. The CM has called to celebrate the day especially by the women leaders of the party. However, the rise in the cases of crimes against women hints to a different picture of women in the state," she said. "Will the CM through its women

leaders be capable of answering how minors have been raped and murdered in the state. Can the women leaders during such celebrations of women's day inform us about the crimes against women

The party said that it was the BJP government at the centre where respect for women has been given priority

in the state," she said.

The BJP leader said the state government had been clamoring for women empowerment but reality is different. "They had been talking about SHGs. Can the government inform us more on such issues. In the name of women's rights the government has been doing such events for vote bank politics," she said.

She also said that it was the BJP government at the centre where respect for women has been given priority by giving a hand holding support to them. They have been given clean energy, aid in their Jan Dhan Yojana bank accounts and several other schemes.

WE'LL OFFER ONLINE PLATFORM TO ODISHA CUSTOMERS SOON: GUPTA

Post Covid-19, there was a rush for online platforms. Consumers hurtled towards digital platforms to buy products. However, this did not dent the moral of traders selling products offline. They have quickly adapted themselves to the changing demands of the time what with attractive prices and offers. Gupta Distributors, a reputed brand in the state, has lined up an ambitious plan to jack up its sales. Excerpts of an interview with its owner Rajesh Gupta.



How is Gupta Distributors different from others?

We have been working to ensure delivery of good products at reasonable prices laced with offers. This sets us apart from others. We have been in this trade from 1972 and have since maintained good rapport with our customers. We are indebted to our customers for this. We provide a variety of products to customers under one roof. Apart from electronics products, we deal in home appliances, digital products and furniture (in select stores). Customers rely on our products because of guarantees on quality. Besides post-sale services, we are giving special offers to our customers.

government promotes offline sales, traders can manage to save their businesses. There is a stiff competition among commercial traders. big format traders and online sellers. There is a big difference in purchase of products from big format traders and from traders like us. There is a need for a policy to ensure that manufacturers do not sell the same products at low prices to platform sellers. Due to sale price differences, carrying out business has been difficult. Due to competitive prices, we have marginal profits. As this problem continues, it will be difficult to tackle management costs

customers. Customers think buying products through online platforms is cheaper, but it is not true. We also sell products at prices being offered by online platforms. We are going to prepare an online platform for Odisha customers soon

Due to pandemic, sales of electronic products have seen a rough time. How big is this challenge for you? How do you brace yourself up to tackle the

Staff crunch ails healthcare facility at Kanas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kanas, March 6: Shortage of doctors, nurses and other staff at a community health centre (CHC) and a few primary health centres (PHCs) of Kanas block in Puri district has been affecting healthcare facility in the locality.

Around 1.6 lakh people of 28 gram panchayats of Kanas block are being denied proper healthcare due to the staff crunch at the CHC and the PHCs, sources said.

Around 1.6 lakh people of 28 panchayats of Kanas block are being denied proper healthcare due to the staff crunch

The state government has established a CHC at Kanas and five PHCs at Mandarbast. Birakesharpur, Sahupada, Gadishagoda and Nandigoda



What kind of help do you expect from the government?

■ The government is now laying a lot of importance on 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local'. If the

After outbreak of Covid, people prefer online platforms. What is your take on this market trend?

Yes. It is a big challenge for us. Now, many customers are found coming to nearby stores to buy products as personal care products are involved in their buying menu. Touch and feel matters

> most to

> > the

After Covid outbreak, sales of consumer electronic products are witnessing a lot of problems. There is a two-digit fall in sales. After July, 2020, we saw a recovery in the market. But the volume of business that we had logged last year has not been done this year. Most electronic products are from China. As a result, brand partners face problems in supply of products. Such problems will continue in future. As prices of raw material are going up, prices of electronic products will go up. Such price rise will be applicable for most brands.

■ Is there any expansion plan in future?

Our services are available through 22 stores in the state. Apart from urban areas, we are also focusing on rural areas. Earlier, people from villages used to come to towns to buy electronic products. After expansion of the store network, customers are getting products at their doorsteps. Prices are the same. There is a scope for store expansion in Odisha. We are yet to make our presence in southern and western Odisha. We have a plan to open 50 more stores in future.

to provide healthcare facility to the people of the block. However, the posts of medicine specialist, child specialist and surgery specialist at Kanas CHC have been lying vacant for last several days. This apart, the Health

department is yet to fill up four vacant posts of staff nurse and that of several other health workers at the CHC, said the locals. Moreover, the PHCs at Gadishagoda and Nandigoda do not have doctors. Similarly,

the posts of eight male health workers, five female health workers, three attendants, three supervisors and one block coordinator are lying vacant at various health centres in Kanas block, added the locals. "Shortage of doctors and trained staff at various health

centres has become a matter of concern. Very often the patients from the locality are referred to hospitals in Puri and Bhubaneswar. This has added to the woes of the patients. The Health department should look into the issue at the earliest," said a social activist.

Rural women a major contributor to our economy: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: With the implementation of various activities including Mission Shakti for women empowerment, the rural women in Odisha are now increasingly becoming a major contributor to the state's growing economy, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here, Saturday.

Naveen said this while launching the first FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) Odisha Women's Awards instituted to acknowledge contributions of the women achievers of Odisha

Remembering Biju Babu, he said, "Biju Babu, all through his life, championed the cause of women empowerment in India. In Odisha, he reposed faith in women to run Panchayati Raj Institutions. He envisioned women leaders in every sphere of society. Today we are much ahead in women empowerment." In fact, the empowerment model for women in the state is one amongst the best in the country, he said.

Stating that his government has always been a champion of the cause of women empowerment, the Chief Minister said, "Mission Shakti, one of

the key initiatives of our empowerment model, has successfully brought over eight million women from the four walls of family to socio-economic vibrancy.

With the launching of the initiatives like Make-in-Odisha, Start-Up Odisha and Skilled-in-Odisha, more and more women in Odisha are coming to entrepreneurship, he said, adding, "Our women have also been achieving great feats in national and international sports."

Moreover, he said, Odisha became the first state in the country to walk the talk and made a resolution in the

State Assembly to allocate 33 per cent of seats in Parliament and the State Assemblies, last year.

Since 2011, Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the state are represented by over 50 per cent women, he further stated.

Patnaik assured that his government would continue to ensure women in Odisha have the best possible supporting policies and programmes to be successful in the various sectors.

National president of FLO Janhavi Phookan and state president Dharitri Patnaik also spoke on the occasion.

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downtown

POST NEWS NETWORK

ers of Odisha.

New Delhi, March 6: Union

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan has written to Union

Agriculture Minister Narendra

Singh Tomar requesting the later

to ensure disbursement of PM-

KISAN benefits to all eligible farm-

In the letter, Pradhan urged Tomar

to convene a meeting between Odisha

government and officials of the

Agriculture ministry for resolving

"I also request your personal in-

tervention in facilitating additional

bulk window clearances to the state

government to enable them to ex-

peditiously rectify the details of all

beneficiaries whose records were

Tomar, through social media,

informed that he has taken cogni-

sance of the matter and instructed

officials to resolve the issue at the

earliest so that all eligible farm-

ers of Odisha are benefitted with

put in 'stop payment' mode,'

Pradhan said in the letter.

payment related issues.



COPS EXPECT NEW VANS UNDER EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT **SYSTEM AFTER THE LAUNCH OF PAN-INDIA HELPLINE NUMBER 112**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: The Police Control Room (PCR) vans that are supposed to be the first respondent at the crime spot after receiving a distress call have now become a burden on the police due to their moribund condition.

OrissaPOST

SUNDAY | MARCH 7 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

The PCR staffers have received many accolades in the past for successfully averting violent incidents or criminal activities and saving the lives of many through swift action during emergencies.

The PCR staffers carry out patrolling across the cities and adjoining areas to ensure safety and security of common man. The vehicles play a major role in arrest ing robbers, snatchers and other criminals. The Commissionerate Police in Bhubaneswar has 35 PCR vans attached to about 23 police stations

However, the vans have now turned a burden on the cops in city due to their poor condition. Recently, a police official revealed that they failed to catch some snatchers who were on high-speed bikes. The official blamed it on the decrepit PCR van carrying the cops. The snatchers managed to give the cops a slip as the PCR van failed to match the speed of the bike the snatchers were riding. He also claimed that



BHUBANESWAR

- Inauguration of pharmaceutical cluster of common facility centre (CFC), D-2/18 Mancheswar Industrial Estate, 9 am
- Swami Dayananda Saraswati's birth anniversary celebration by Abhibhakti Trust, DAV School, Chandrasekharpur, 9 am
- Senior Citizen Award programme by Odisha International Centre. Soochana Bhawan, 10.45am
- Annual Literary Fest by Tapasva Foundation, Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) auditorium, near Crown Hotel, 11am
- Bhajan Samaroh by SriJagannath Sanskruti Parishad, Vishnu Mandir, Sahid Nagar, 6pm
- Women Empowerment Conclave, Idcol Auditorium, 6.30pm
- Guru Deviprasad Das Samman by Nrutyarchana, Bhanjakala Mandap, 6.30pm
- 15th Guru Pranam Utsav by



TOUGH TO CHASE CRIMINALS

he vehicles play a major role in arresting robbers, snatchers and other criminals

A police official, however, revealed that they failed to catch some snatchers who were on high-speed bikes

The vans have now turned a burden on the cops in city due to their poor condition and are gulping huge amount of fuel

the van even broke down midway. Speaking on the issue, a top po-lice official on condition of

of Mo School Abhiyan led by its

chairperson Susmita Bagchi

Saturday visited a Balianta-based

school to review the implementa-

According to details, the school

received a total of ₹2.94 lakh from

their alumni. It also received

around 5,000 sq feet land for the de-

velopment and expansion of the

POST NEWS NETWORK

tion of the scheme.

anonymity told Orissa POST that they have already informed the state police headquarters about the urgent need for the replacement of such vehicles. "However, we are yet to receive any positive response in this regard," he added.

He said that there was no issue in supplying fuel to the vehicles. But, the vehicles are gulping huge amount of diesel/petrol as compared to other vehicles that are in good condition. The average amount of diesel sanctioned to each police

station is 10 litres per day. "However, we hope to get seven new vans under Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) after the launching of 112, the Pan-India helpline number.



ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Pradhan writes to Tomar over PM-KISAN

PM-KISAN

Earlier, Pradhan had written to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik seeking resolution of administrative and non-compliance issues for ensuring payment of PM-KISAN instalments to the eligible farmers. In response to his letter, he said, the state Agriculture minister had

written to him stating that total disbursement of PM-KISAN instalments to many eligible farmers in Odisha has come down due

to factors like delays in lot opening, transaction failures, non-integration of banks with PFMS, rejection of beneficiaries with discrepancies in Aadhaar card name and registered farmer name, changes in LGD codes, low level of automation in some banks and non-receipt of payment success information from banks, amongst others.

"I understand that PM-KISAN beneficiary lots are opened to the states before the disbursal of each

OMAR. THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, INFORMED THAT HE HAS TAKEN COGNISANCE OF THE MATTER AND INSTRUCTED OFFICIALS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AT THE EARLIEST

PRADHAN HAD WRITTEN TO CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK SEEKING RESOLUTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-COMPLIANCE ISSUES FOR ENSURING PAYMENT OF PM-KISAN INSTALMENTS TO THE ELIGIBLE FARMERS

instalment for making minor modifications. However, I also learnt that the Odisha government had issued 'stop payment' instructions with respect to records of 14.5 lakh farmers for 'physical re-verification', an unusually large number of such cases among all Indian states,' Pradhan said.

He added that this effectively reduced the number of PM-KISAN beneficiaries in the state to only 23 lakh.

SHOW FOR CLEANLINESS Website Desi jning ପୁରୀ ପ୍ରତି ମଁ ଅଳିଆକ ୟର ପବିତ୍ର ମାଟିରେ

Dancers perform at a function 'Badadanda Seva' aimed at raising awareness on cleanliness of the Holy city of Puri, Saturday

COVID-19: NO FATALITY IN With 40.4 degrees, Cong demands toilets **Bhubaneswar** near Puri Srimandir STATE SINCE WEDNESDAY hottest in country

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 6: Odisha Saturday reported 54 new Covid-19 cases, pushing the coronavirus caseload to 3.37.674, a Health and

school which was donated by the local villagers. Bhubaneswar, March 6: Officials The Mo School wing of the gov-

Mo School team visits Balianta school

ernment is now on a special mission to review around 200 schools in 50 days. The school was part of the Mo

School initiative since 2018 and also received financial assistance from some business personalities. Bagchi presented appreciation certificates to 95 alumni members for

their outstanding works

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. March 6: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Niranjan Patnaik Saturday appealed to the state government to construct toilets near Puri Srimandir for the visitors to the Pilgrim city.

The Congress leader also attacked the state government for allegedly misleading people on the matter of Similipal forest fire. He said, "We had sent a seven-member committee to ground zero to

Bhubaneswar, March 6: The Capital city Saturday recorded a maximum day temperature of 40.4 degrees Celsius - the highest in the country for the day. According to the data provided by the Regional Meteorological Centre here, Cuttack city registered 37.5 degrees Celsius whereas Talcher and Malkangiri recorded 38.7 and 38.5 degrees Celsius respectively. The other places that recorded a maximum temperature above 35 degrees are-Balasore (35.5), Chandbali (37.5), Angul (37.7), Baripada (37), Jharsuguda (36.6), Sundargarh (36), Hirakud (36.7), Bhawanipatna (36.5), Bolangir (37.3), Koraput (35.4), Phulbani (36), Titlagarh (37), Sonepur (36), Nayagarh (37), Boudh (36.5) and Sambalpur (36.8), the Met centre said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

OP PHOTO

Sushama Sangeet Sadan, Rabindra Mandap, 6.30pm

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LOST

I, Gitanjali Dash, W/o -Simanchal Dash, At-Simanchal Marg, P.O.-Buguda, Dist.- Ganjam, inform that my land document in Mouza-Khainchipada having Khata No. 29/42, Plot No. 190/205, Sale Deed Registered No. 288/1987. dated 03/02/1987 has lost somewhere. If any kind person get it, may contact with Mobile No. 9437561557 / 8763651634

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit I, Sagar Ranjan Pattanayak, S/o. Mahesh Chandra Pattanayak, LB-80, Stage -4, Laxmisagar, BBSR have changed my name from Sagar Ranjan Pattnayak to Sagar Ranjan Pattanayak for all purpose.

Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said.

The new cases were detected in 15 of the state's 30 districts, with 32 cases reported from different quarantine cases while the remaining 22 were local contact cases.

Only Sundargarh district reported new positive cases in double digits at 10 followed by Balasore (7) and Khurda (6).



The Covid-19 death toll remained at 1,917 as no fresh fatality has been reported since Wednesday. The state has also reported the death of 53 other Covid-19 positive patients due to comorbidities, he said. Currently, the state has 802 active

cases while 3,34,902 patients have

10 followed by Balasore (7) and Khurda (6)

cases in double digits at

Only Sundargarh district

reported new positive

recovered from the highly infectious disease.

The state has so far tested over 84.51 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 24,222 Friday. The state's positivity rate stands at 4 per cent, data released by the H&FW department said.

The OPCC President said, "There is need to develop the heritage sites like Puri Jagannath temple. This is an age old temple of the country. People are now politicising the issue of development of Puri Srimandir which witnesses thousands of devotees every day." However, he said, several visitors are facing inconvenience due to lack of toilets.

"I want that a hygienic toilet complex is constructed near the temple. The existing temples are not very clean and people suffer when they visit such areas. I am also eager to help in the exercise, if needed."

look into the matter. They are reviewing the issue. They have informed us that massive destruction has been reported from the area. The state government however has been hiding facts on Similipal forest fire."

Niranjan also said that the party has started a series of events (farmer Samavesh) to understand the woes of farmers from across the state. "We want to hear the issues of farmers. The Union government however is adamant on the issue. We are doing samavesh in all districts on the issue and trying to get insights from the farmers at a time when the government has become deaf to their demands," he said.

STADIUM FACELIFT



Development and upgradation work for the Barabati Stadium underway in Cuttack, Saturday

Farmers block road, disrupt water supply

PROCUREMENT BLUES

they had intimated the Collector and

the district civil supplies officer

about the non-procurement of paddy some days ago, no step was taken

It was learnt that 569 farmers

have registered themselves at

to procure paddy.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, March 6: Alleging that paddy is not being procured, farmers blocked the Taratarini-Chhatrapur road Saturday by stacking paddy sacks on the road.

Besides, the agitating farmers disrupted water supply from a drinking water project meant for Berhampur, Chhatrapur and Golabandh.

People in these areas faced a lot of problem as water supply to these areas was halted. Vehicular movement on the route came to a standstill due to road blockade from 6 am till 4 pm.

The farmers alleged that though

Potalampur Cooperative Society, but paddy has been procured from 287 farmers. 62 tokens given to farmers have gone invalid, it was alleged.

A team off officials including assistant civil supplies officer Pitambar Sethi, additional tehsildar Jasmin Pradhan, Chhatrapur civil supplies inspector Jayram Lenka and IIC Priyas Ranjn Chhotray tried to convince the farmers

The officials assured the farmers that the district administration set a target for the cooperative society to procure 2000 quintals of paddy while the left out paddy will be procured within seven days.

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ଧରିତ୍ରୀ | OrissaPOST

BUSINESS

EMINENCE

AWARDS

How do you find online

education? Will it eclipse the

importance of offline format?

KIDS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PURSUE THEIR OWN AREAS OF INTEREST: SIKATA

The pandemic has thrown up multiple challenges to our education system. However, with better infra, training and quick adaption to emerging challenges, some schools have beaten the challenges hands down. Sikata Das, Member Entrepreneur of Takshila School, talks about a range of subjects impacting the new age

education. Excerpts of an interview with her

for offline education. The importance of classroom teaching will always be there. Sport is also essential for students till Class VIII. As there were no alternatives left, students were forced to switch to online edu-

How has Covid affected school

- During a crisis situation like Covid-19 pandemic, offering education through online became a necessity. However, young kids are not used to this type of teaching. Especially, homes where there are multiple kids, making devices available to each one of them was not feasible. Schools had no infrastructure for online teaching. Teachers had to be trained in online teaching. Even now, lots of classes run online. However, there is no substitute
- cation during Covid times education? The Covid pandemic has affected education. Our country does not have enough infrastructure for online education. Those in urban
- areas could avail online teaching. But students in rural areas were deprived of this as they don't have access to smart phones. Network issues had also nagged the process. Reducing the size of the course curriculum was not a solution. After schools were

shut for a full year, there is no point cutting the size of the curriculum. Students who were not taught the full syllabus will sure find it difficult to fare in their later life.

- Corona situation has improved now. However, the virus has not completely gone. In view of this, what sort of safety measures should be taken in schools?
- Science has made rapid progress. In this time, we have to move with caution. Vaccines have come early. Yet, it will take a while before everybody has been vaccinated. All safety measures must be practiced in schools. Students must be told to stick to safety norms as before. To ensure social distancing in schools, there is a need to split large classes into

small sections. Social distancing in schools must be adhered to even in next year. This may be a challenge, but it is a necessity. Mask usage has already caught on with students. They are seen wearing face masks even during play classes. Parents must do their bit when it comes to practicing safety norms.

state

There has been a lot of pressure on kids and parents alike during Covid time. What is your advice for this?

Students and parents were under tremendous pressure during Covid. To help matters, we have arranged motivational classes. talks and seminars in schools to boost mental strength of students and parents. Besides motivational talks, we have organised webinars for parents. Students come under pressure as they confine themselves to indoors.

- How do you think the new education policy will catalyze changes in education?
- This is a well-considered move by the government. It will



Worried over fires, forest dept takes help of VSSs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, March 6: Fires have already destroyed flora and fauna in various forests in Keonjhar district Major causes of the forest fire are said to be poachers who set afire forests to hunt animals. In some cases, people collecting mahula flowers set the forest floor on fire to clean the ground under trees.

As such incidents are on the rise, the problem has become a cause of concern for the forest department. It has taken a host of measures to prevent forest fires.

According to reports, fires often break out in forest under Anadapur wildlife division and Hadagad sanctuary.

Now, the department has been trying to reorganize members of various Vana Surakhya Samitis in the forested areas to keep vigil on miscreants indulging in such acts. Besides, their help is being sought for firefighting exercise day and night. Most importantly, the members of the VSS will also create public awareness among people to refrain from setting fire on leaves or grass in forests before collecting minor forest produce.

The department is on its toes after the central and the state governments expressed deep concern over the fires in Similipal Sanctuary of Mayurbhani.

(For Immovable Property)

After Similipal, forest fire rages in Boudh



properties.

the area

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh/Talagaon, March 6: Even as dousing forest fire in Similipal National Park has posed a stiff challenge for the state government, the inferno is spreading rapidly in the reserve forests in Boudh district before the start of the summer season, a report said.

The district has a vast forest cover over of 92,477 hectares over five forest ranges in Boudh district. Reports said the forests in over seven forest ranges like Kantamal, Manmunda. Boudh, Purunakatak and Madhapur have come under the grip of wildfire. This has happened despite the spending by the government

ing

Meher of Tarabha area in Sonepur district, was returning in a car from Puri Swargadwar after per-Four other occupants of the car were also injured in the mishap.

as Chhabi Meher of Rugudipali area in Bolangir district and and Ram Meher of Belapadar area

forming his father's last rites at Swargadwar in Puri, Arun and his four relatives were returning home in a car. They were crossing Karadakotha where a trailer was parked by the roadside. The driver of the car failed to avoid the sta

Soon after dad's funeral, Boudh youth killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh. March 6: In a shocking incident, a youth, 30, was killed in a road mishap hours after his father's death at Karadakotha under Purunakatak police limits in Boudh district Saturday morn-

The deceased, identified as Arun forming his father's last rites.

The injured have been identified Bidubhushan Meher: Ashok Meher

According to sources, after per-

Central Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003 Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction

of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) reac with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following Borrower(s). Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notices The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Central Bank of India for an amount stated and interest thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

<u>BRANCH</u> / Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address	Name and Address of Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagors	Amount demanded in Securitisation Notice / Possession Notice	Date of Securitisation Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
CUTTACK PURI ROAD BRANCH/	Borrower/Mortgagor:	₹25,00,070/-		All that part & parcel of the proper
M/s. Jagannath Foods and	Sri Alok Choudhury, S/o.:	as on 05.03.2020 /	1	consisting of Mouza: Jadupur, P.
Aquaculture Pvt.Ltd, Prop.:	Sri Ajaya Kumar Choudhury,	₹ 27,64,478/-	02.03.2021	Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dis
Sri Alok Choudhury, At:	Plot No.: 261, Forest Park,	as on 02.03.2021	Khurda, Khat	ta No.: 306/391, Plot No.: 391, Are
98,Kharvel Nagar, Keshari Talkies Complex,	Bhubaneswar-751009	plus interest thereon		c., standing in the name of Sri Ale
Bhubaneswar-751001	bluballeswal-751009	& other expenses etc.		Bounded by East: Plot No.: 390, We Plot No.: 392 and North: Road
KHURDA BRANCH/	Borrowers/Mortgagors:			
	Borrowers/Mortgagors:	₹11,30,068/-	05.12.2019	All that part & parcel of the proper consisting of Mouza: Kadalibadi, P.S.
		as on 05.12.2019 /	03.03.2021	Tahasil/Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 26
Kumar Mandhata, Both are	Mandhata, 2) Sri Pradipta	₹ 12,68,306/-		54/814, Area: Ac.0.176 dec., standing
S/o.:Sri Srinibas Mandhata,	S/o.: Sri Srinibas	as on 02.03.2021		ri Alok Kumar Mandhata & Sri Pradip
At: Kadalibadi, P.O.:	Mandhata, At: Kadalibadi,	plus interest thereon		dhata, Bounded by East: Plot
Daleiput, Dist.: Khurda -	P.O.: Daleiput, Dist.:	& other expenses etc.	Rajanikanta M	andhata,West: Plot of Rakesh Mandhat
752056	Khurda - 752056	a other expenses etc.	South: Govt. L	and and North: Village Road
KHURDA BRANCH/	Guarantor/Mortgagor:	₹41,77,957/-	20.01.2020 /	All that part & parcel of the proper
Smt. Pratima Sarangi,		as on 20.01.2020 /	03.03.2021	consisting of Mouza: Mahatapalla, P.S.
N/o.: Sri Durga Prasad	Senapati, S/o.: Late	₹ 49,11,368/-		Khurda, Khata No.: 410, Plot No.: 160
Sarangi, At: Rairang, P.O.:	Ananda Senapati, At-	as on 02.03.2021		dec., standing in the name of Sri Suba
Bajpur, P.S./Dist.: Khurda -		plus interest thereon		apati, Bounded by East: Vendee, We
752060	P.S./Dist.: Khurda-752055	a other expenses etc.		South: Public Road and North: Anaba
KHURDA BRANCH/	Guarantor/Mortgagor:	₹25,22,120/-	20.01.2020	All that part & parcel of the proper
M/s. Maa Chandi Suppliers,	Sri Subash Chandra	as on 20.01.2020 /	03.03.2021	consisting of Mouza: Mahatapalla, P.S.
Prop.: Durga Prasad	Senapati, S/o.: Late	₹ 30,22,624/-		Tahasil/Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 66
Sarangi, S/o.: Sri Naba	Ananda Senapati, At:	as on 02.03.2021		605/1839, Area: Ac.0.095 dec., standi Sri Subash Chandra Senapati, Bound
Kishore Sarangi, At: Rairang, P.O.: Bajpur, P.S./	Mahatapalla, P.O.: Bajpur,	plus interest thereon	by East: Upor	ndra Barik, West: Schedule B proper
Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752060	그는 것이 같은 것을 알 것 같아. 같이 집에 집에 있는 것을 못했다. 것이 같아.	& other expenses etc.		Road and North: Anabadi
KHURDA BRANCH/	Borrower/Mortgagor:		part part of the second second	
1) Smt. Basanti Bairiganjan,		₹14,06,419/- as on 20.01.2020 /	20.01.2020	All that part & parcel of the proper
N/o.: Sri Naba Kishore	W/o.: Sri Naba Kishore	₹ 14,15,219/-	02 02 2021	consisting of Mouza: Gokulpur, P.S.
Bairiganjan, 2) Sri Naba		as on 02.03.2021		Tahasil/Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 35
Kishore Bairiganjan, S/o.:		plus interest thereon		256/864, Area.: Ac.0.108 Dec., standi
Sri Hata Bairiganjan, 3) Sri		& other expenses etc.		of Smt. Basanti Bairiganjan, Bound
Santosh Kumar Bairiganjan				or, West: Narasinghadev, South: Vend
Durgapur, P.O.: Gadagudum			and North: Ro	000
BANKI BRANCH/	Borrower/Mortgagor:	₹4,15,383/-	15.10.2019	All that part & parcel of the proper
Sri Madan Mohan Rout,	Sri Madan Mohan Rout,	as on 15.10.2019 /		consisting of Mouza: Brahmapura, P.S.
S/o.: Sri Bhikari Rout, At/P.O.:		₹ 4,99,697/- as on 24.02.2021	03.03.2021	Tahasil: Banki, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No
Brahmapura, P.S.: Banki,		plus interest thereon		No.: 1348/3296, Area: Ac.0.08 dec
Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754008	Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754008	& other expenses etc.	standing in th	ne name of Sri Madan Mohan Rou
Bounded by East-Meria Mud	uli,West-Village Road, South	-Village Road and	North-Banki K	alapathar Road
JTTARA CHHAK BRANCH /		₹9,90,745/-	20.09.2019	All that part & parcel of the proper
Smt. Bijaylaxmi Biswal,	Smt. Bijaylaxmi Biswal,	as on 19.09.2019 /		consisting of Mouza: Gelanur, P.S.
N/o.: Sri Bichitra Baliarsingh,	W/o.: Sri Bichitra Baliarsingh,	₹ 11,62,070/-	04.03.2021	Lingaraj, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dis
At: Om Swastim Apartment,	Dm Swastim Apartment,	as on 04.03.2021	Khurda, Khata	No.: 96/208, Plot No.: 112/300, Area
Block-2(C), Lingipur, P.O.: Sisupalgarh, P.S.: Lingaraj,	Sisupalgarh P.S. Lingarai	plus interest thereon	Biswal Bound	standing in the name of Smt. Bijaylax
Bhubaneswar-751002	Bhubaneswar-751002	& other expenses etc.		Plot No-360 and North : Road
COLLEGE SQUARE BRANCH/		Construction of the		All that part & parcel of the proper
)Sri Pratap Chandra Behera,		₹6,25,595/-	/	consisting of Mouza: Unit No : 6 Utta
2)Sri Prasanta Kumar	Behera, 2) Sri Prasanta	as on 07.03.2020 /	03.03.2021	Deula Sahi, P.S.: Bidanasi, Tahasil/ Dis
Behera, Both are S/o.: Sri		₹ 6,73,864/-	Cuttack, Khata	No.: 111/603, Plot No.: 75/3097, Are
Sudarsan Behera, Plot No.:	S/o.: Sri Sudarsan Behera	as on 24.02.2021		, standing in the name of Sri Prata
75/3097, Lane-3, Chahata	At: Plot No.: 75/3097.	plus interest thereon	Chandra Beh	era & Sri Prasanta Kumar Beher
Nagar, P.O.: Tulasipur, P.S.:	Lane-3, Chahata Nagar,	& other expenses etc.	Bounded by Ea	ast: Road, West: Niranjan Behera, Sou
Bidanasi, Dist.: Cuttack	P.O.: Tulasipur, P.S.:		Plot No.:75 an	d North: Rama Chandra Behera
		allai, W/o.: Sri Pra	atap Chandra E	Behera, 2) Smt. Laxmipriya Behera, V
o.: Sri Prasanta Kumar Behe		TP AS AS I	22 12 2010	All that part 0 accord of the
COLLEGE SQUARE BRANCH		₹5,00,904/-		All that part & parcel of the proper
Sri Prasanta Kumar Behera, S/o.: Sri Sudarsan	Mortgagors:	as on 22.12.2019 / ₹ 5 65 496/-	03.03.2021	consisting of Mouza : Cuttack Town U No.: 6, Uttara Deula Sahi, P.S.: Bidana
Behera, Plot No.: 75/3097,		₹ 5,65,496/- as on 24.02.2021	No · 4 Tabaci	: Cuttack Sadar No.: 207, Dist: Cuttac
ane-3, Chahata Nagar,		plus interest thereon		a No.: 111/603, Plot No.: 75/3097, Area
				2 links, standing in the name of Sri Prata
	Plot No.: 75/3097, Lane-			nta Kumar Behera, Bounded by Ea
3, Chahata Nagar, P.O.: T		Easemile Road, W	est: Rest Portio	n of Plot No.: 75/2980, South: Rest Porti
Dist.: Cuttack		of Mula Plot No .:		Rest Portion Plot No.: 75/2980
	Guarantor:	₹4,80,999/-	20.01.2020	All that part & parcel of the proper
) Sulochana Nayak, D/o:	Smt. Manini Nayak, W/o :	as on 20.01.2020 /		consisting of Mouza: Cuttack Sadar, Un
Sri Laxmidhar Nayak, 2) Sri		₹ 4,29,237/-		11,Odia Bazar, P.S.: Cantonmer
axmidhar Nayak, S/o: Sri	Mortgagor:	as on 24.02.2021	Thana No.: 4,	Tahasil: Cuttack Sadar, Dist.: Cuttac
Bhikari Nayak, Both are At:	Sri Laxmidhar Nayak,	plus interest thereon		124/16, Plot No.: 1068/1517, Are
Fhoriasahi, P.O.: Buxibazar, P.S.: Mangalabag, Dist.:	S/o- Sri Bhikari Nayak, Both	Ruvibozor DC.		standing in the name of Sri Laxmidh
Cuttack, PIN-753001	Mangalabag, Dist.: Cuttacl			led by East: Road, West: Pond, Sout North: Jalir Khan
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
COLLEGE SQUARE BRANCH	Guarantors:	₹5,84,907/-		All that part & parcel of the proper
I) Sri Pravat Kumar Das,	1) Sri Pratap Chandra Das, C/o: Sri Hari Narayan	as on 20.01.2020 / ₹ 6 18 514/-	03.03.2021	consisting of Mouza: Sartol, P.S.: Cuttar Sadar, Tahasil: Cuttack Sadar, Dis
and and a second a second a second	Sahoo, 2) Poonam Shree		Cuttack Khat	a No.:199/159, Plot No.: 130/1176, Are
C/o: Sri Hari Narayan Sahoo,	Das, C/o: Sri Hari Narayan			standing in the name of Smt. Sanjuk
-,,,,,,			Das. Bounder	I by East: Kanchanbala Mohanty, Wes
Sri Pratan Chandra Dae				
Sri Pratap Chandra Das, C/o: Sri Hari Naravan Sahoo	Bamphi Sahi, P.O. Teler	nga Bazar, Dist	Shivani Bhoun	IIK, SOUIII. HOAU AND NOTIT. FIOL NO.
C/o: Sri Hari Narayan Sahoo,				
	Cuttack, PIN-753009 / Mo			V/o: Sri Pratap Chandra Das

Students suffer from the burden of parental expectations. How do you view this?

to 10 years to fully implement the policy. Our state does not have an

education policy. If implemented

well, the new policy will bring in

a lot of benefits to our country.

■ It is not correct for parents to

for protection of forests.

The wildfire is showing no sign of abetment causing serious loss of vegetation, wildlife and medicinal plants inside the reserve forests. The forest officials have failed in extinguishing fire despite their best efforts. As a result, wild animals and birds stray into human habitats to save their lives. The rush of wild animals to human habitats has spread panic among residents. This has sparked fear of rise in man-animal conflict in the area. Residents in the villages close to the forest are passing through tense moments least the fire does not spread to their

damage to the biosphere and the flora and fauna in the jungle. This is highly indicative of the condition of other forests in the remote and interior corner of the district. Observers said a major portion of the district is locked by hills and forests and inhabited by tribals where the majority of the residents earn their living from cultivation, working as a casual labourer and by collecting minor forest produce. However, the inferno has dealt a heavy blow to their livelihood by burning the forest produce into ashes. The fire is raging with a corresponding rise in atmospheric temperature.

villages and burn down their houses and

tried all tricks in the book to douse the

fire but in vain which is spreading fast in

Flames can be seen raging in the

Mundeswar reserve jungles on the roadside

of national highway about 2 km from the

Madhapur forest range office while the

forest officials despite their best efforts

have failed to douse it. The fire has given

rise to heavy smoke in the area which has

caused serious discomfort to the com-

The raging forest fire is likely to wr

muters on travelling on the highway.

The forest and the fire personnel have

tionary trailer and the car collided head-on with it.

After getting information, fire personnel from Harabhanga fire station and a police team from Purunakatak police station reached the spot and rescued the inured persons. The police recovered the body for post mortem. The injured were rushed to Purunakatak community health centre (CHC) and later shifted to Boudh district headquarters hospital (DHH) as their condition deteriorated

Sambalpur labourers reluctant to work under MGNREGS

DUES OF ₹28CR PENDING; NUMBER OF WORKDAYS COMES DOWN



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, March 6: After the outbreak of Covid pandemic, the state government has laid stress on implementation of projects under the MGNREGS so as to provide scope of work and earning in Sambalpur district. Thousands of migrants had come back to the district from different states after lockdowns.

After relaxation of the Covid norms, the importance of MGNREGS scheme seems to be ineffective as daily wagers who have worked for various projects are allegedly unable to get their payments in time. Most of them are not interested

to work under the scheme in coming days, a report said.

Though officials have been trying to convince the beneficiaries to work under the scheme, they are reluctant to do it. As a result, the number of workdays is coming down in the district.

Under such situation, achieving the target has been difficult. Sources said wages of Rs 13 crore are pending for clearance while payment of Rs 15 crore towards use of various tools in the projects is to be cleared.

A recent review meeting on the MGN-REGS revealed that over 45.000 labourers were being engaged in work on a

daily basis earlier. In January, the number of labourers getting work daily came down to 15,000. About 50 per cent of the workdays has come down in the district. The administration has set a target to create 55,02315 workdays in the current year. But 48, 94, 750 workdays have been created till a week ago.

Now that the current fiscal is left with a few weeks only, achieving the target in the MGNREGS seems impossible where labourers are unwilling to work over delay in payment of wages.

Wages to the tune of Rs 2.12 crore are pending in Bamara block; Rs 51 lakh in Dhankad block; Rs 2.39 core in Jamankira block; Rs 1.88 crore in Jujumara block; Rs 1.55 crore in Kuchinda; Rs 57 lakh in Maneswar; Rs 1.05 crore in Rairakhole; Rs 75 lakh in Naktideula and Rs Rs 1.66 crore in Rengali

As per guidelines, wages are paid to labourers within seven days of the work. Since January 4, wages have not been paid to labourers.

Many projects have been taken up in panchayats, but they are incomplete.

MGNREGS district coordinator Sobhit Bisi said the process of payment has started and it will be cleared soon.



Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the

performer, the Infinite All is the composer and audience.

and The Economist, and also the government's own data.

data source used by the publishing agencies.

"working to improve India's ranking on 29

global indices, and it wants the message to

reach everyone loud and clear." The way it

would do this was "a massive publicity campaign"

that would "shape India's perception" through

advertising and "micro-sites of ministries"

and it would also "publicise the problems, pa-

rameters and data sources of global indices.

Would this address the problem at hand? It

would not. The issue was not one of perception

or bias, but one of fact. The world was not con-

spiring to show us in a bad light. The solution

lay in acknowledging that India had been de-

clining in several areas since 2014 and working

on trying to improve them. Spending money on

a media campaign would not change the num-

bers. India's discrediting the data of all these

agencies and institutions was unlikely to reverse

the views of those who had looked at and un-

Under Modi, India's ranking rose on three in-

dicators (including the World Bank's Doing

Business index), it remained the same on two

and fell on 41. The decline was so broad and so

pronounced that organisations captured sim-

ilar results through different methodologies. India

since 2014 has done poorly on six indices that

tracked civil liberties and pluralism, five that

tracked health and literacy, two tracking reli-

gious freedom and minorities, two tracking in-

ternet denial, six tracking national power of var-

ception globally.

derstood the facts

SRI AUROBINDO

India's global image

n 2020, the Modi government decided to improve India's standing on var-

ious indices that showed a deterioration in governance. These indices that

were upsetting Delhi spanned from those produced by non-profits work-

ing in specialised areas, multilateral bodies like the United Nations, insti-

tutions traditionally seen as being on the Right, like the World Economic Forum

The government was clearly concerned about its drop. We know this be-

cause it put out a press release on 10 July with the headline: "NITI Aayog or-

ganizes a virtual workshop to monitor performance of 29 select Global

Indices." At this workshop it was decided that the government would pre-

pare a "single, informative dashboard for all the 29 Global Indices" which would

allow for "monitoring of the parameters as per official data as well as the

This monitoring exercise was "not just to improve rankings but to improve

The government appeared to believe that the issue was one related to

systems and drive reforms to attract investments and to shape India's per-

FOCUS DIGITAL SPACE

SAVE JOURNALISM FROM BIG TECH

t is easy to forget that for a long time-long before Google and Facebook went head-to-head with the Australian government last month - there wasn't a proven business model for the internet. That, after all, is why the dot-com bubble popped. But then Google and Facebook found a way to transform their biggest asset. user data, into a lucrative product: advertising that targets consumers with far more nuance and precision than traditional TV or print

> The Australian experience represents a significant step forward when it comes to reining in overly powerful digital platforms. Facebook and Google finally have had to come to the negotiating table

The way you share news is changing

rald S

0

nalism, the Big Tech firms vehemently opposed the move. At the same time that Google and Facebook are running ads professing their support for new digital regulations, they both threw a tantrum as soon as a government actually proposed rules that didn't align with their current

ened to leave the Australian market entirely, Facebook went with the nuclear option of blocking all news from its platform in Australia (both have since backed down somewhat). Putting aside the disturbing implications of a media distributor blocking reliable information during a pandemic, neither company's response is sustainable over the long term. If the platforms' answer to regulation is to deny their users access to information, their products will become less attractive over time. Still, one can debate whether the Australian approach represents good public policy. On the surface, its "News Media Bargaining Code" is a fairly simple and potentially effective way to address a market failure by redirecting funds from platforms to publishers. The policy's use of forced arbitration to level the playing field has many precedents in Australia, and certainly makes sense in principle. But this ap-

proach has three limitations that other countries should bear in mind before adopting similar models.

tends to privilege big publishers more than smaller, innovative companies and organisations that are pioneering new journalistic business models. Among the biggest news publishers in Australia (and thus one of the biggest beneficiaries of the new law) is Rupert Murdoch, whom no one would ever mistake for a champion of democracy or publicinterest journalism. Major newspapers tend to advocate policies that serve their (and their shareholders') own interests, rather than the interests of independent journalism generally. In Australia's case, the new media code says nothing about how licensing money from the platforms should be distributed, raising the possibility that smaller start-ups and innovators will be left out in the cold. A second problem with the

Australian approach is that it encourages ad hoc and unaccountable deal-making that could result in platforms co-opting independent media organisations. We do not want publishers to become so dependent on the money they receive from platforms that they can no longer hold those companies to

account

Finally, the Australian media code treats the market failures in advertising and journalism as one issue, when they are actually sep arate problems. Yes, Facebook and Google have amassed so much market power with their unrivaled ad delivery that they have managed to avoid entering into licensing agreements with publishers. But while mandated arbitration might address this particular problem, it would not suddenly restore the traditional news business model; nor would it do anything about the broader range of platform based harms, from disinformation to data-privacy violations and election interference.

There are some easy fixes. Governments should not give platforms a get-out-of-jail-free card for making a "significant contribution" to the news-media ecosys tem. Publishers should be mandated to use any revenue they gain through the code for journalism. And the arbitration panel could favour proposals from smaller organisations and those in "news deserts." But a broader, more promising solution is for governments and platforms (by government mandate, if necessary) to pay into a civic media fund that would independently and transparently allocate funding to a broad range of journalistic outlets. If Facebook and Google are going to put billions of dollars into news, an independent and impartial body representing the public interest should distribute the money.

The Australian experience represents a significant step forward when it comes to reining in overly powerful digital platforms. Facebook and Google finally have had to come to the negotiating table. But Australia's new media code does not solve the crisis in journalism. To do that, we will need to think even bigger than we currently are.

The writer is Director of the Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy at McGill University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

While Google initially threat-

First, mandated arbitration

In response to Australian government legislation, Facebook restricts the posting of news links and all posts from news Pages in Australia. Globally, the posting and sharing of news links from Australian publications is restricted.

Delaic

business models.





Aakar Patel

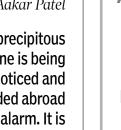
Our precipitous decline is being noticed and recorded abroad with alarm. It is strange that within India we are carrying on as if it is business as usual

ious types, four tracking rule of law and corruption, four tracking sustainability and the environment, four tracking gender issues and their safety, four tracking economic freedoms of Indians

and four tracking urban spaces. The record leaves little room for debate or dispute. The scale and rapidity of decline in governance is manifest. It may appear strange the Modi government should have thought that reversing this performance required "a massive publicity campaign" which would "shape India's perception" through advertising and more websites, but it is how the government thought. A more credible response might have been to say that the decline was not the Modi government's doing entirely; to deny it in total was to run away from the problem. The solution was not 'image correction' but improving performance through governance

After the publicity strategy had fallen through for whatever reason the government then decided around the end of 2020 that if it asked ministries to 'ensure swift and updated data" it would help on the indices. This was based on the assumption that the government's work was excellent; it was merely data lag that had caused it to plummet. This was also of course wrong, and the indices that have come out after that showed continued decline.

The latest report has come this week from Freedom House which says India s not free but 'partly free'. This is not opinion: it is based on a set of indi cators. India says it is democratic. Freedom House agrees. It gives India 34/40 on political rights. Full marks for free and fair elections, election commission impartiality, freedom to start political parties, opportunities for Opposition to increase their power. Not full marks on whether voting is hampered by violence and affected by communal tension. All this we already know. The fact is that we do very well on political rights, and in fact the government gets 3/4 on transparency which is hardly accurate. The problem is that political rights are only 40% of the Freedom House score. The other 60% is civil liberties. Here we perform poorly (33/60). On the issues of freedom of expression, religion, academic freedom, freedom of assembly, freedom for NGOs to work (the report names the attack on my former organisation Amnesty India specifically), rule of law, independent ence of judiciary, due process by police and so on our rating is poor. Can we disagree with this? We cannot. The answer is not to deny as the government has done through a one page response. This will not work because another report is coming next week, the reputable Varieties of Democracy report from the University of Gothenburg. Last year's report said "India has continued on a path of steep decline, to the extent it has almost lost its status as a democracy." Our precipitous decline is being noticed and recorded abroad with alarm. It is strange that within India we are carrying on as if it is business as usual.



FACEBOOK HAVE GAINED **MONOPOLY-LIKE** DOMINANCE **OVER DIGITAL**

ADVERTISING IN SEARCH AND SOCIAL

NETWORKING, **RESPECTIVELY**, **IT IS NOW NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO BARGAIN** WITH THEM

ads ever could Much can be said about this type of micro-targeted advertising, its impact on society, and whether it should even be allowed But one thing is clear: it has been wildly successful in commercial terms. Having captured almost all of the advertising revenue in

Taylor Owen the market, Google and Facebook BECAUSE are now two of the most profitable companies in history, so power-**GOOGLE AND** ful that they can strong-arm many national governments. Because Google and Facebook

have gained monopoly-like dominance over digital advertising in search and social networking, respectively, it is now next to impossible to bargain with them. Worse, a business model that is not based on the distribution of reliable information has come at the expense of reputable journalistic institutions and others in the business of providing this crucial public good. We are thus left with a dual market failure that harms not only the advertising business, but also democracy.

To address both of these problems, the Australian government recently mandated that socialmedia platforms enter into negotiations to pay news publishers for their content, and introduced measures to ensure more transparency with respect to ad sales and algorithmic changes that could affect the news business. Implicit in this response is the idea that you can solve the market failures in both journalism and advertising by tackling the problem of market dominance.

Though Australia offered a capitalist solution to the crisis in jour-

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

The missing links in women's empowerment-

WISDOM CORNER

- Where is the life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

TS ELIOT

- Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it. LOU HOLTZ
- You come into the world alone and you go out of the world alone yet it seems to me you are more alone while living than even going and ming

EMILY CARE

WORDS**WORTH**

Mechatronics

his term is a blend of mechanics and electronics, which describes its subject area pretty exactly. It's a cross-disciplinary combination of mechanics, electronics, electrical engineering and computing - in essence the use of microelectronics to control mechanical devices. Since the majority of machines we use today contain embedded electronic control systems, mechatronics specialists can be involved with the design and construction of a huge range of equipment: video recorders and washing machines, traffic control systems and anti-lock brakes, medical scanners and artificial organs, photocopiers, automatic production systems, industrial robots and computer-controlled machine tools. The word, though relatively new, is now common in the field but it is as yet rarely seen outside universities and other specialist groups. A more formal term for the discipline is mechatronic engineering, which employs the singular form mechatronic as an adjective. As with many other similar terms, mechatronics is usually treated as a singular noun.



SN Misra

BEREFT OF POLITICAL WILL GENDER JUSTICE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT **HAVE REMAINED A TROUBLED SCRIPT**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Orissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

ne is reminded of the important legal provisions in the ticipating in the workforce. **Beijing Declaration in September** 1995 which aimed at advancing the goals of equality development and peace for all women. Equal rights and inherent human dignity of women are embodied in the UN charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and most importantly, in the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against women. The critical areas of concern that were addressed are poverty, education, health, violence, decisionmaking power and mechanism for women's advancement. This year's Women's Day seeks to "Achieve an Equal Future in Covid-19 World, by Choosing to Challenge."

The Indian Constitution promises equality of women before law. It also enjoins upon the government to make special provision for women. Besides equal pay for equal work, maternity relief, renouncing practices derogatory to the dignity of women was introduced as a fundamental duty in the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1976. However, the most definitive move towards political empowerment has been creation of third tier of democracy at the Panchayat level, with an assured

IPC. However, the most defining legislation was passed to deter sexual harassment in workplace in 2013. This was a follow up to the Vishakha judgement (1997), where the judges wearing the robes of activists identified a few activities which manifest sexual harassment and called upon the employer to take a more proactive role in following up such complaints

It would be interesting to note that as late as 2006 there was no report which addressed gender gap by identifying their criteria. The World Economic Forum started the Gender Gap Report in 2006, which included parameters like economic participation, education attainment, health and survival and political empowerment. The UNDP in its 2010 report brought out how gender inequality can be quantified in terms of reproductive health, political empowerment and labour market participation.

The Gender Inequality Index is generally considered the most definitive template for measuring gender inequality. The HDR (2020) has calculated India's gender inequality to be of the order of 50%, largely because of poor Parliamentary representation (11.6%), very high ma-

Startling revelation

Sir, One of the prime accused

Scandinavian countries lead the global list in terms of gender equality with countries like Sweden having GII of only 4%.

s the world will celebrate 33% reservation for women in PRIs ternal mortality rate (174 out of one sage from this programme is that

Women's Day on March 8, in 1992. There are also quite a few lakh) and only 23.5% women par-only 40% have taken a repeat refill

The Global Gender Gap Report (2020) has identified that the largest disparity between men and women is in terms of political empowerment. Even a country like the US has only 19.7% women represented in the Congress

The decelerating female workforce participation is a serious concern in India. As per data released by CMIE, during demonetisation out of 11 million who lost their jobs close to 8.8 million (85%) were women. They were mostly engaged in agriculture and small informal businesses. The nutritional status, particularly of adolescent girls, is a matter of serious concern. The RSOC (2013) had brought out how only 1/3rd of the girls were found to be of normal health, while severely thin and thin girls accounted for 62%. The Ujjwala Yojana has been a landmark decision by the government which envisaged substitution of traditional cooking methods like firewood and biogas with gas connection. Around 30 million

BPL families have been benefitted

by it. However, the distressing mes-

and biogas. This clearly shows that indiscriminate sanction of free LPG and politics trumping over economics will not work to make this programme viable.

and have gone back using firewood

Amidst such economic despondency, the 9 lakh ASHAs acting as frontline health warriors, are like a whiff of fresh air: A field study has revealed that only 62% of ASHAs had gloves and 25% had no masks. Despite such severe constraints they have been the flag bearers in distributing iron tablets, checking immunisation schedules and creating awareness for prevention of Covid-19. These workers receive ₹2000-3000 as honorarium and are promised an extra ₹1000 for their Covid-19 activities. Very often they do not get paid. Besides, they are stigmatised in public places and subjected to stalking and lewd comments.

A report from the Niti Aavog reveals how in terms of skilling only 4% women are trained as against 40% men. Reservation for women in Assemblies and Parliament is caught in the quick sand of caste politics. Bereft of political will, gender justice and women empowerment have remained a troubled script.

The writer teaches Economics.

4-day Tests

Sir, Ticket holders of five-day Test matches feel cheated when the match finishes in two or three days. Forty years ago, half of the Test matches concluded in a draw. However, after the advent of fast cricket (One-day and T20), Test matches played for the fifth day have become a thing of past. Serious thoughts should be given to reduce the period of Test matches to four days. Gopal Mittal. BHUBANESWAR

in the Kerala gold smuggling case, Swapna Suresh's revelation that the smuggling of foreign currency was carried out at the behest of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Assembly Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan is startling. Swapna also alleged the CM had a close connection with the previous Consul General of UAE. The disclosures coming ahead of the Assembly elections could put the ruling Left Democratic Front on a sticky wicket. NJ Ravi Chander.

BANGALORE

Lenient FATF

Sir, Pakistan has failed to wriggle out of its bugbear - the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an intergovernmental organisation seized of the policies to monitor and fight global money laundering and terror financing. Keeping Pakistan's history of terror financing in mind, and its old game of providing fertile ground for terror breeding. India desired Pakistan be in the black list of FATF: New Delhi hoped the terror financier par-excellence, Pakistan, would be blacklisted by the FATF. It can be assumed that the terror funding watchdog is quite lenient; its actions are broad and measured though it has gone overboard in its repeated leniency to Islamabad. The task force has said Pakistan has to clear only three of the 27 tasks the watchdog entrusted the latter to free \rightarrow itself of the 'grey country' tag. Islamabad has been found wanting in exhaustive financial sanctions against all terrorists. Half-hearted efforts of that country in demonstrating an accurate terror-funding prosecution has not missed the FATF eye. Another three months is what Pakistan has got to complete 'unfinished tasks' and extricate itself from the haunted grey list. Meanwhile, is Imran Khan trying to be in the good books of the FATF $-\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!$ by agreeing to the ceasefire along the LoC with India?

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA





LOK SABHA SEAT WHICH WILL GO TO BY-POLL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, March 6: The ruling AIADMK has allotted 20 Assembly constituencies and the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat to its ally BJP for the April 6 Assembly elections, after several rounds of negotiations.

Following up with the release of its first list of six candidates for the polls Friday, the AIADMK firmed up the electoral agreement with the saffron party late Friday night.

An AIADMK release pledged its full support to the candidates of the BJP in the polls and the pact was signed by O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami from the ruling party side and the saffron party's national general secretary, CT Ravi and state unit chief L Murugan.

Days ago, the AIADMK concluded seat-sharing with the Pattali Makkal Katchi and allotted it 23 seats.

Out of the 234 Assembly seats, the AIADMK is keen to contest from at least 170 seats including 134 it won during the 2016 polls, sources said. The negotiations on seat-shar-

ing, initiated in a meeting between BJP's top leader Amit Shah and



public meetings. He is set to visit

Kanyakumari March 7 and hold a

road show. The Congress' H

Vasanthakumar who represented

AIADMK's Palaniswami and Pondicherry recently and addressed Panneerselvam here was taken forward by Ravi, and poll in-charge for Tamil Nadu, G Kishan Reddy with the leadership of the state's ruling party

the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat, The BJP eyed a number of condied due to coronavirus last year and stituencies in the western belt of the constituency fell vacant. With seat arrangement finalised Tamil Nadu, considered the strongbetween the BJP and AIADMK, the hold of the AIADMK and where the national party is also perceived poll fever is gradually building up to have pockets of influence. in Tamil Nadu. The Union Home

Shah visited Tamil Nadu and Minister and BJP stalwart Amit

Shah will reach Kanyakumari Sunday after flying down to Thiruvananthapuram. He will be travelling by road from Thiruvananthapuram amidst heavy security cover.

Shah will conduct a series of meetings with the party office-bearers and selected representatives from the public including prominent personalities of Kanyakumari.

Shah will participate in a dharshan at "Sthanumalayan" Temple in Sucheendram and will participate in a road show from Beach road to Veppumoodu.

He will address party workers at Vadasseri in Kanyakumari constituency

BJP leader and former Union minister P. Radhakrishnan will be accompanying Shah from Thiruvananthapuram airport and participate in public programmes with the Union Home Minister.

The BJP leadership has made elaborate preparations on the visit of Shah and has made proper ground work on the social, economic, political and communal equations in each constituency.

On family's request,

AIADMK seals poll pact with BJP SAFFRON PARTY GETS 20 ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES AND THE KANYAKUMARI Diped water by 2022, says CM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, March 6: Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani told the Assembly Saturday that the state government will ensure piped water in every household in Gujarat including those in the slums and shanties by 2022.

Rupani said this while responding to a question on providing water connectivity to the tribal areas under the 'Swajaldhara' and 'Sector Reform' schemes, asked by Congress legislator from Khedbrahma constituency, Ashwin Kotwal.

'While Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the 'Nal Se Jal' scheme from the Red Fort and is committed to its completion by 2024, the Gujarat government has decided to complete this scheme in the state by 2022 itself. This scheme will be made available to each and every household in the state, including those in the slums and shanties," Rupani said. "Due to the salinated water in the Saurashtra region problems like kidney stone, chlorinated water in North Gujarat with problems like



government has decided to complete this scheme in the state by 2022 itself VIJAY RUPANI

elephantiasis and yellowing of teeth were faced by people constantly. Our government is making constant efforts towards providing the entire state with 100 per cent filtered water," added Rupani.

Rupani said 82 per cent of the state has already been covered under the scheme. "The rest of the 17 per cent mostly consists of

hilly terrain, where through 'Lift Irrigation', work is ongoing to complete the network, which we target to complete in the next 17 months," said Rupani.

'Nal Se Jal' is the Narendra Modi government's ambitious programme for tap water supply to every house in the country by 2024.

LEOPARD ATTACKS CLAIM 67 LIVES IN FIVE YEARS IN GUJ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gandhinagar; March 6: As many as 67 persons were killed in leopard attacks in Gujarat in five years, the state government informed the Legislative Assembly Saturday.

To control leopards' population, the state has sought the Centre's permission for sterilising the animals, Forest Minister Ganpat Vasava said in a written reply.

Responding to a question by Congress MLA Bhagwan Barad, Vasava said leopards attacked 718 persons in different parts of the state between 2015 and 2019.

As many as 67 of these victims died. he said.

The maximum number of attacks were recorded in Amreli, Junagadh, Gir-Somnath and Dahod districts of the western state. Of 67 fatalities, 55 were

In his letter, Vasudev referred from these four districts A compensation of $\operatorname{Rs}4\operatorname{lakh}$ is paid to the kin of the deceased, Vasava informed

DMK hopes for minority votes, but Owaisi may spoil the party

Political observers believe Owaisi's brand of politics works among the Urdu-speaking Muslims who are more in number in northern Tamil Nadu

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 6: The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and its leader MK Stalin have been on a high with the possibility of support from the state's Muslim vote bank in the upcoming Assembly polls. The DMK's alliance with the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (MMK), the two major Muslim political parties, has made them optimistic.

But the announcement by Asaddudin Owaisi that his party the All India Mailis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) will contest elections on 25 seats may turn out to be a concern for the DMK.

The AIMIM had contested elections to Tamil Nadu Assembly in 2016 and had garnered 10,000 votes from the Vanniyambadi constituency. IUML national president Khader Mohideen told IANS:



speaking to IANS, said: "I don't think that Owaisi and his brand of politics have any role to play in Tamil Nadu. He may get some votes which could split the Muslim votes thus helping the AIADMK-BJP combine and we are educating said.

that politics is supporting us and we don't feel any heat over the arrival of Asadudin Owaisi and his party in Tamil Nadu.' Elias Syed Mohammed Khan,

state office-bearer of the AIMIM, said: "The DMK is terrified at our

cops protect Dalit's free temples from 'govt grip' wedding procession There have been

instances of friction among communities during such events in the state recently

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sabarkantha, March 6: The wedding procession of a Dalit groom was taken out amid heavy police deployment in Bhajpura in Gujarat's Sabarkantha district Saturday after his family raised apprehension that 'upper caste people' may cause trouble, officials

Deputy Superintendent of Police DM Chauhan said a team comprising one deputy SP, one police inspector, seven police subinspectors and 60 constables was deployed in the village and along the half kilometre route of the procession to maintain law and order.

"The procession for the wedding of Naresh Vankar's son Durlabh went off peacefully with the support of villagers," he added.



Isha intensifies campaign to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Coimbatore, March 6: Intensifying the campaign to free temples in Tamil Nadu from the state government control Isha Foundation has asked Chief Minister K Palaniswami and Opposition Leader MK Stalin to mention in their poll

"Owaisi will not make much of a difference. His brand of divisive politics will not work in either Tamil Nadu or Kerala.

Political observers believe Owaisi's brand of politics works among the Urdu-speaking Muslims who are more in number in northern parts of Tamil Nadu.

MMK leader Jawaharullah, while

Muslims about this menace.' However a section of the DMK leadership feels that the AIMIM

may eat into the Muslim votes of the alliance. DMK general secretary Duraimurugan said, "Owaisi and his politics will not be a major threat to the secular political alliance of DMK. The Muslim politics of Tamil Nadu is different and

entry. We are for protecting the interests of the community and to speak on behalf of the community. We don't have any other interests and in this election, we will make a major difference.

With elections a month away, political parties have started working on the permutations and combinations that would garner votes.

There have been instances of friction among communities during such events in the state recently, mainly due to some people objecting to Dalit grooms leading their wedding processions on horseback.

region to be fed to the canines

These animal carcasses being

infected had caused unnatu-

The minister replied that the

government had not received

any such complaints and if

received, they will be dealt

According to the Lion

Census 2020, there were 674

Asiatic lions in Gujarat, see-

ing a 29 per cent rise in the pop-

ulation of Asiatic lions in the

state since the previous cen-

sus conducted in 2015.

ral deaths of the lions.

with.

manifestos about freeing of the places of worship.

Describing the appeal as a 'Cry of Tamil people to free temples from governmental control,' the open letter of the founder of Isha Foundation Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev urged the political leaders not to take for granted the forbearance of the Tamil people and

all communities to manage their spaces of worship, the $HR\bar{\&}CE$ law gives the state control over Hindu temples which has long been a cause of disgruntlement in the majority community, he said. The HR&CE laws distorted the

very constitution of a secular na-

tion by taking over and misman

aging places of worship, he alleged.

to instead act on their behalf.

the Opposition leader.

Isha volunteers handed over the

letter on behalf of the foundation's

founder to the Chief Minister and

to the eroding sanctity and vitality

Though the Constitution allow

of temples under state control.

that the state government sought permission from the Centre in 2019 to sterilise the leopards to control their population, but it was yet to receive a nod.

To another question, the min-

ister said in his written reply

There were 1,395 leopards in the western state as per the 2016 census.

In 2 years, Gujarat has lost over 300 lions

GIR NATIONAL PARK IS THE ONLY ABODE OF ASIATIC LIONS IN THE WORLD



NDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, March 6: The Guiarat government has told the state Assembly that in the last two years a total of 313 lions have died at the Gir National Park of Junagarh district.

Gir is the only abode of the Asiatic lions in the world. Replying to a written ques-

tion by Congress MLA of Lathi constituency, Virji Thummar, Forest Minister Ganpatsinh Vasava informed the House that a total of 313 lions had died in Gujarat in the two years from January 2019 to December 2020.

legislator on what steps were being taken by the govern-Out of which, 69 lions have ment to curb unnatural deaths died natural deaths while two

of the big cats, the minister indied unnaturally; 77 lionesses formed that patrolling was had died natural deaths, while carried out day and night by

natural causes.

the Forest Department using 13 died unnaturally Out of the total 152 deaths patrol vehicles, weapons, of lion cubs, 144 died natuwalkie-talkie sets and tablets. rally while eight died of un-Joint patrolling was also carried out with Paschim On the sub question by the Gujarat Vij Company Limited

(PGVCL). Thummar had alleged that lions were dying unnatural deaths as cattle carcasses from regions outside the Gir forest were brought into the Gir

इंडियन बैंक	3	Indian Ban
🛆 इलाहाबाद		ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007 Tel - 0674-2543545, Fax - 0674 - 2543523 E-mail Id: zobhubaneswar@indianbank.co.ir

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

1. M/s. Chandan Plastics, Prop.: Mrs. Trupti Nayak, At: Plot No.-282/487, Ogalapada, Janla, Jatni Dist: Khurda- 752050, Odisha, 2. Mrs Trupti Nayak, W/o: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Nayak, At: Plot No.-64 Mahatab Road, Old Town, Bhubanswar-751002, Dist: Khurda, Odisha

The Show Cause Notice was sent to the Borrower Unit and its Proprietor to their residential address on 26.08.2019. as to why they should not be classified as "Wilful Defaulter" by specifying the grounds/ allegations of wilful default. Mrs. Trupti Nayak has sent her reply in local (odia) language.

The Screening Committee in its meeting held on 03.04.2020 considered the following information and records placed before them:

The borrower has closed the unit and sold the entire Plant & Machinery and available stocks to M/s. T T P Industries, Prop.: Tapaswini Mohapatra without the knowledge of the bank.

Going by the records, the Screening Commitiee, vide its meeting held on 03.04.2020 has held that the Borrower unit, M/s. Chandan Plastics and its Proprietor: Mrs. Trupti Nayak, has committed Wilful Default falling within the ambit of clause 2.1.3 (d) of RBI master circular on Wilful Defaulter dated 01.07.2015.

The said order of the Screening Committee has been reviewed and confirmed by the Review Committee vide its meeting dated 18.06.2020 as per the RBI guidelines

In view of the same, we hereby inform you the decision taken to classify you all as "Willful Defaulter"

Date : 24.12.2020, Place : Bhubaneswar

Sd/- Zonal Manager, Indian Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE **BHADRAK BRANCH** UCO BANK Kacheri Bazar, Bhadrak-756100 For Immovable Propert Appendix - IV [Rule-8(1)]

(Under Section 13(4)) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

eas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of UCO BANK, Bhadrak Branch under Securitisation and Record of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses & costs within 60 days from the date of the said Notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for the amount plus interest plus expenses thereon.

Name and Address of the Borrower		Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable property
Borrower: Behera Traders, Prop.: Mr. Dhuleswar Behera, At: Erain, P.O.: Charampa, Dist.: Bhadrak, PIN-756101	as on 29.02.2020	/	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Erain, Tahasil: Bhadrak, Khata No.: 1345/1739, Plot No.: 2981, Area: Ac.0.080dec., standing in the name of Dhuleswar Behera
Place: Bhadrak, Date: 06.03.2021			Authorised Officer, UCO Bank







100 days of stir: Farmers

announce 'next move'

To provide speedy delivery of justice, it is essential that besides extensive judicial training, there is need to introduce the use of technology in our judicial processes RAM NATH KOVIND PRESIDENT

VACCINATION OF ARMY VETERANS FROM NEXT WEEK

The Union Health Ministry has approved administration of COVID-19 vaccine to dependents of armed forces personnel as well as veterans in service hospitals, the Indian Army said Saturday



uote

While the COVID pandemic offered an opportunity in adversity, the Indian Medical fraternity

took a lead in proving to the world that India could not only be selfreliant but could also offer reliance to other nations

JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER



tell the BJP leaders that you cannot hide such documents for a long time, the truth will automatically come out

DURGESH PATHAK AAP LEADER



at least now YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY CHIEF

MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH

SHORT TAKES

Class IX girl raped by senior

Fatehpur (UP): A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 16-year-old boy while she was returning home from school in the Hathgam police station area of this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Saturday. Inspector-incharge (SSI) of the Hathgam police station Ashish Singh said the incident occurred Wednesday and an FIR was lodged Friday. He said the victim, a Class 9 student, was returning home from school when a Class 10 student of the same school, who is also her neighbour, allegedly caught hold of her, forcibly took here to a forest area nearby and raped her.

POCSO invoked



AGENCIES

Chandigarh, March 6: Thousands of protesting farmers Saturday blocked the six-lane Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway in Haryana to mark the completion of 100 days of their agitation at the Delhi border even as the Centre said it is ready to amend the three contentious agri laws to respect their sentiments.

The farmer leaders on their part said the protesting unions stood firm on their demand for a complete repeal of the three laws, and asserted they are ready for talks with the government, but it should be held without any pre-conditions. The opposition Congress said the 100-day period of farmers' protests was a "black chapter" in India's democracy for the treatment meted

out to the protesters, and also alleged it marked 100 days of the ruling BJP's "arrogance". Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said nails were laid at Delhi's borders for those, whose sons risk their lives at the country's borders

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to farmers' welfare, against the three farm laws will and its priority is to uphold the recontinue unless the Centre withCong slams govt

he Congress Saturday said the period was a "black chapter' in India's democracy for the treatment meted out to the protesters and also marked 100 days of the ruling BJP's arrogance". Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at the Centre over the farmers' protest and said nails were laid at Delhi's borders for those, whose sons risk their lives at the country's borders. In a tweet in Hindi, Gandhi said, "Whose sons risk their lives at the country's borders, for them nails have been laid at the borders of Delhi. 'Annadaatas' demand their rights, government commits atrocities.'

draws these laws. We will not step back," said a protester in Sonipat. 'We are holding our protest in a peaceful manner." said another farmer, adding they were also observing "black day" Saturday.

Farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal, while addressing a gathering on the KMP Expressway, asked the government to withdraw these laws. At some places in Haryana, farmers mounted black flags atop the roof of their houses. The 136-km KMP Expressway is

also known as the Western Peripheral Expressway

vention of Agrivision in Delhi, Minister Tomar wondered how the agitation by the farmers was going to benefit them. Eleven rounds of talks between the Centre and 41 protesting farmer unions have so far remained deadlocked.

The protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that these laws would pave the way for the dismantling of the MSP system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

Hybrid physical hearing to begin in SC from March 15

Addressing the 5th national con-



Congress general secretary Harish Rawat carries a cylinder during a protest against fuel price hike in Dehradun

Night curfew in Punjab towns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, March 6: A night curfew was imposed in Punjab's four districts from Saturday to tackle a

recent surge in coronavirus cases. The orders came after Punjab Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan and Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta held a meeting to review the coronavirus situation with all DCs, district police chiefs and civil surgeons through a video confer-

encing The districts where the night curfew has been imposed are Jalandhar, SBS Nagar, Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala. The night curfew will remain in place in the districts from 11 pm to 5 am. Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori had earlier in the day said the

till further directions. However, there will be relaxation for workers or staff working in factories which run on 24-hour shifts and also in cases of medical

order will be effective from Saturday

emergency. These orders will not be applicable on people returning after travelling in buses, trains or flights

The chief secretary in a tweet has urged people to get themselves vaccinated and to continue to follow the COVID-appropriate behavior. Last month, the Punjab government had authorised deputy commissioners (DCs) to impose the night curfew in coronavirus hotspots if needed.

Punjab has been witnessing a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases for nearly four weeks. Jalandhar reported 242 cases on Thursday, 134 cases on Friday and 154 on Saturday, promoting the district authorities to take this decision. Jalandhar is at the second spot in terms of coronavirus cases after Ludhiana.

It has so far reported 22,410 COVID-19 cases. There are a total of 926 active cases in Jalandhar as of now, according to a medical bulletin

Rape victim set ablaze, dies of burns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, March 6: A 30-year-old rape victim who was allegedly set on fire at her home in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh succumbed to her burn injuries at Jaipur's SMS Hospital on Saturday, police said.

Police have detained two people, including the rape accused, for questioning in the case.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced a relief of Rs 5 lakh to the dead woman's family members, an official statement said.

The woman was set on fire in the early hours on Thursday in the Hanumangarh's Goluwala police station area.

A man entered her house, sprinkled kerosene on the floor, knocked on the door and called the woman by her name. As she opened the door, the man dropped a burning stick on the floor, resulting in serious injuries to her, police had said.

The victim's maternal grandmother has alleged that Pradeep Vishnoi, the accused in her rape case, committed the crime.

However, police said investigation into the case is on and his role is being examined. Police

agri laws. He also attacked opposition parties for doing politics on this issue at the cost of agriculture economy and by hurting farmers' interest. The road blockade in Haryana began at 11 am and continued till 4 pm. Farmers holding black flags and wearing black armbands and some women protesters with

black 'dupattas' shouted slogans against the Central government for not acceding to their demands. Protesters in Sonipat and Jhajjar districts and some other places brought their tractor-trolleys and other vehicles and parked them in

ready to make amendments to the

the middle of the KMP Expressway at some stretches. The call for blocking the expressway was given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha(SKM), an umbrella body of protesting farmer unions which is spearheading the agitation against

the legislations enacted in September last year. The protesting farmers squatted on the expressway and criticised the Centre for not withdrawing the farm legislations, which they called as "black laws". "Our agitation

against four

Gurugram: A minor girl has alleged that she was gang raped by four men on March 3 in Gurugram's Basai Enclave area, the police said Saturday, The 12-year-old girl lives with her family in the Basai Enclave area. The victim told the police that she used to talk to Matru, who is one of the accused men. on the phone. He took undue advantage of her friendship and allegedly raped her March 3 at his house.



year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will commence hybrid physical hearing from March 15.

New Delhi, March 6: The Supreme

Court, which is hearing cases through

video-conferencing since March last

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

According to a circular issued March 5, the top court will on an experimental basis begin final hearing or regular matters listed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through the hybrid mode.

The circular said the direction for hybrid hearing has been issued by Chief Justice SA Bobde after examining the requests from the Bar associations and the recommendations of the top court judges' committee.

"On an experimental basis, and as a pilot scheme, the final hearing regular matters listed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays may be

and Fridays, shall continue to be heard through the video/tele-conferencing mode," read the circular.

heard in the hybrid mode, as may be

decided by the Hon'ble Bench, con-

sidering the number of parties in a

matter as well as the limited capac-

ity of the court rooms; all other mat-

ters, including those listed Mondays

The circular added that unless otherwise directed by the bench, final hearing or regular matters where the number of advocates for the parties are more than the average working capacity of the court rooms, as per Covid-19 norms, of 20 per court room at any given time, would invariably be listed for hearing through the video/teleconferencing mode.

"If in a matter listed for hybrid hearing, the number of parties is more, then one AOR and one arguing counsel per party will be allowed entry; one registered clerk

the counsel appearing for one party can appear either through physical presence or through video/teleconferencing.

matter listed for hybrid hearing, all

per party, as may be chosen by the

AOR, shall be allowed entry to carry

paper-books/journals etc. of the

counsels up to the court rooms.

The circular said that in any

added the circular.

In case in a matter directed to be listed for hybrid hearing by the bench, if none of the parties opts for physical hearing, the matter would be taken up for hearing through video/teleconferencing.

"It may be noted that wearing of mask, frequent use of hand sanitiser and maintaining physical distancing norms are mandatory for all the entrants into the Supreme Court premises, including the court rooms,' it added.

sources said the victim's maternal grandmother has alleged that Vishnoi had threatened the victim 15 days ago. In a CCTV footage, a person is seen moving away from the victim's the house after the incident. The footage is not clear enough for identification and experts are looking into it.

Vishnoi is currently out on bail in the rape case and being interrogated over the victim's death. DGP ML Lathar said the investigation is being done by a DSP-level officer under the supervision of Hanumangarh SP Priti Jain.

Delhi to have its own Maha BJP belligerent as Hiren's death mystery deepens school education board HIREN. 48. CAME INTO THE LIMELIGHT AFTER HIS STOLEN SUV. A SCORPIO WAS ABANDONED NEAR ANTILIA. THE HOME OF INDUSTRIALIST AND RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LTD CHAIRMAN MUKESH AMBANI FEBRUARY 25



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday announced setting up of Delhi Board of School Education which he said would be based at par with international standard to prepare "fiercely patriotic and self-dependent students" through focus on understanding and personality development.

Addressing an online media briefing, Kejriwal said the present education system focuses only on learning by rote that needs to be changed, adding that high-endtechnique will be used to teach students under the new education board. To start with, 20-25 Delhi government schools will be affiliated to DBSE from the 2021-22 academic session, Kejriwal said hoping that all the state-run and private

schools will come under the new board within 4-5 years. The decision to set up Delhi's new education board was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by the chief minister. There are currently around 1,000 Delhi government schools and about 1,700 private schools, and most of them are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary

Education (CBSE), he said. The chief minister said that all the schools in the national capital will not be brought under the new education board in one go. "In 2021-22 academic session, 20-25 Delhi government schools will be affiliated to this board after giving up CBSE affiliation. We hope within 4-5 years, all the government and private schools will come under

the DBSE," he said. The decision about the government schools to be affiliated with the DBSE will be taken after consultations with principals, teachers and parents concerned, he said. According to the plan, private schools in the national capital will have an option to get affiliated to the Delhi Board of School Education.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 6: A shroud of mystery continues to envelop the death of Thane businessman after his autopsy report remained inconclusive on the exact cause/s of his demise as the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party aggressively demanded a probe by NIA, here Saturday.

The autopsy report's findings and medical opinion are kept on 'reserve' though the viscera have been preserved and sent to the Sir J J Hospital here for further analysis, officials said.

Though there are reportedly no visible injury marks on Hiren's body, his family and friends have dismissed the 'suicide by drowning' as he was an expert swimmer, besides evewitnesses who have questioned why his mouth was gagged with 5-6 handkerchiefs. Hiren, 48, came into the limelight after his stolen SUV, a Scorpio was abandoned near Antilia, the home of industrialist and Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman Mukesh Ambani February 25.



A large number of people joined the funeral procession of businessman Hiren, from his home in Thane

The next day, the police found 20 gelatin sticks in it besides a purported threat letter to the Ambani family, triggering a sensation in corporate and political circles.

Exactly 10 days later, Hiren's body was fished out of the wetlands in Thane Creek near Mumbra town Friday morning, stoking a massive political row. The owner of a car accessories business, Classic Car Decor and a resident of Vikas Palms complex, Hiren's family accepted his mortal remains from the

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwe and performed his last rites late on Saturday evening.

The state government late on Friday handed over the probe to the Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) which has started its investigations. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone I) Avinash Ambure said that the autopsy report was shared with the family, but declined further details as the probe is underway. The President of Thane Vyapari Sangh Devi Jain demanded

a thorough probe and the causes leading to Hiren's death, whom he described as a good family-centric man, financially sound with no vices. Meanwhile, a letter claimed to be penned by Hiren on March 2 to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh, Thane Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar, spoke of police harassment after the recovery of his SUV with the gelatin sticks and threat letter.

Police are also trying to verify Hiren's wife Vimala's statement that on Thursday he was summoned by one officer Tawde from Kandivali Crime Branch who asked him to meet him near the Thane Creek.

As the matter snowballed into a political row, Minister Deshmukh held a review meeting with Director-General of Police Hemant Nagrale.

The BJP targeted the Maha Vikas Aghadi government alleging failure on all fronts and vociferously demanded that the case be handed over to the NIA, besides senior MP Narayan Rane wanting President's Rule in Maharashtra.

BJP State President Chandrakant Patil said that prima face, the death of Hiren is a 'murder' and sought a probe by NIA.

However, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said that the Mumbai ATS is capable of probing the case and urged that Hiren's death should not be politicised. "It will be wrong to politicise the (Hiren's) death and put the government in the dock. Doubts are being raised whether his death was a suicide or a murder. The police are investigating. He was also an important witness in the (SUV) case," Raut said.

Lashing at the MVA, BJP MLA Nitesh Rane said in series of tweets: "Disha Salian - was happy but committed suicide, Sushant Singh Rajput - was ambitious but committed suicide. Pooja Chavan - was too strong but committed suicide, Mansukh Hiren - wife says he can't commit suicide! This is what happens in Maharashtra under the MVA!"

Several BJP leaders met Hiren's family members and a large number of people including businessfolkturned up for Hiren's funeral held late Saturday.





LPG prices have gone up from Rs 594 in November to 890 now. More than 80 per cent of the beneficiaries of the Centre's Ujjwala yojana are unable to buy refill cylinders DIGVIJAYA SINGH I SENIOR CONGRESS | FADER

PRAGYA THAKUR UNWELL

Bhopal MP and BJP leader Pragya Singh Thakur was Saturday airlifted to Mumbai for treatment after she complained of uneasiness, her aide said





For the first 15 years, I was an MP in the north, I had got used to a different type of politics. For me. coming to Kerala was very refreshing as suddenly I found that people are interested in issues, and not just superficially, but going into detail

SMRITI IRANI UNION MINISTER

Funding for the healthcare sector needs to be stepped up greatly and it has to be ensured that there is equity in the delivery of healthcare

HARSH VARDHAN UNION HEALTH MINISTER

We are closely watching the developments in Myanmar. We have also been discussing this with our partner countries

ANURAG SRIVASTAVA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

HP MLAs to get full salaries

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while presenting the budget for 2021-22 on Saturday said the salaries of state MLAs will be paid in full from April 1 and the MLALAD fund will be restored fully. Thakur proposed no new tax in his fourth budget which pegged total expenditure at Rs 50,192 crore for 2021-22 against Rs 49,131 crore in the last fiscal despite the COVID-19 crisis. The chief minister announced a budgetary allocation of Rs 8,024 crore for education and Rs 3,016 crore for health services during 2021-22.

Farmer gets jail for elephant's death

Guwahati: An Assam court has sentenced a farmer to 39 months in jail and a fine of Rs 10,000 for the death of a wild elephant by electrocution. Idlife official

Mamata vs Suvendu in Nandigram



AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 6: The BJP Saturday released its first list of 57 candidates for the West Bengal assembly polls and fielded Suvendu Adhikari from his home turf of Nandigram, from where Trinamool Congress president and Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee has already announced her candidature. Former Indian cricketer Ashoke Dinda and ex-IPS officer Bharati Ghosh are among the BJP candidates, party general secretary Arun Singh said at a press conference, adding that it has conceded one seat to ally AJSU.

With this the party has announced candidates for all but three of the 60 seats which will go to polls in the first two of the eightphase elections to be held between March 27 and April 29. "Jungle raaj" prevails in the state, and voters have made up their mind to oust the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and elect the BJP to power, Singh

claimed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address a rally in Kolkata's Brigade Parade ground Sunday, his first after the announcement of the poll dates. Nandigram, the site of protests against the Left government which had ignited a popular upsurge and catapulted the TMC to power in 2011, is set for

Dinesh Trivedi ioins **BJP** New Delhi: Former Trinamool

Congress leader and union minister Dinesh Trivedi Saturday said that politics is serious business and that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has forgotten her ideals. Trivedi was welcomed in the BJP by party Chief J.P. Nadda in the presence of Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan. In February, Trivedi had resigned from Rajya Sabha and the Trinamool Congress. Speaking after joining the BJP, Trivedi said, "The people are

unhappy with the cases of violence and corruption in the state. In the current situation, the people of West Bengal are happy that real change is going to happen there."

one of the keenest electoral battles in the state with Banerjee taking on her former protegee and now BJP leader Adhikari.

Adhikari had won from the seat in 2016 and resigned recently before crossing over to the saffron party. Banerjee announced her candidature from the seat while leaving her traditional constituency of Bhowanipore in Kolkata.

Test, Track, Treat: Centre to states, UTs

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 6: The Centre has asked states and union territories witnessing surge in new COVID-19 cases and high active caseload to continue with the strat egy of "test, track and treat" that had yielded rich dividends at the height of the pandemic and accelerate vaccination for priority population groups in districts reporting higher infections on mission mode.

In a meeting held on Saturday, they have been asked to collaborate with private hospitals to open up vaccination time-table for a minimum of 15 days and maximum of 28 days at a time. They have been asked to increase the share of RT-PCR tests in districts dependent on high levels of antigen testing, re-

COVID SURGE Central teams in Maha, Punjab

The Centre has rushed high-level multi-disciplinary public health teams to Maharashtra and Punjab in view of the increase in number of daily COVID-19 cases being reported by these states. The teams are being deployed to assist State Health Departments in coronavirus surveillance, control and containment measures, the Union health ministry said.

focus on surveillance and stringent containment of those areas in selected districts which are see-

SAFETY STRATEGIES



Women attend a workshop on martial arts organised ahead of International Women's Day, in Hyderabad

ing cluster of cases and carry out an average close contact tracing of minimum of 20 persons per positive case.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan and NITI Aayog Member (Health) Vinod K Paul on Saturday interacted with health secretaries and mission directors of the National Health Mission of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Himachal Pradesh. Uttarakhand and the union territories of Delhi and Chandigarh, the Union Health Ministry said. "These states and UTs have in the recent past seen increased positivity and increased number of daily positive cases," it underlined. They reviewed the ongoing pub-

lic health measures of surveillance. containment and management of

COVID cases in wake of the steep rise in daily new cases of COVID and the high number of active caseload being reported from these eight states and UTs, the ministry said in its statement.

In a detailed presentation, it was pointed out that nine districts in Delhi, 15 in Harvana, 10 in Andhra Pradesh, 10 in Odisha, nine in Himachal Pradesh, seven in Uttarakhand, two in Goa, one in Chandigarh continue to be of concern as these districts are seeing a decrease in total tests being conducted, low share of RT-PCR tests. increase in weekly positivity and low number of contact tracing of the COVID positive cases. These together can pose high risk of transmission to the neighbouring states and UTs.

Akhil Gogoi to contest Assam polls from Sibsagar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati. March 6: Jailed activist Akhil Gogoi will contest the upcoming elections in Assam from Sibsagar as a candidate of his newly-floated Raijor Dal.

Announcing the list of 18 candidates that the party fielded in the first two phases, Raijor Dal working president Bhasco De Saikia said that Gogoi, who is in judicial custody after arrest during the protests over CAA, will contest from the Sibsagar constituency in Upper Assam.

In the first phase, the party will contest in 12 seats, and in the second phase, it has fielded candidates in six constituencies.

"We have decided to contest in only 18 seats with the intention of not dividing the votes so that the BJP is defeated and to ensure that there is an anti-CAA government in the state," Saikia said. In the first phase, besides Gogoi from Sibsagar, the party named Dwiponjyoti Phulan from Chabua, Mohini Mohan Ligira from Moran and Lohit Gogoi from Mahmara.

PTI PHOTO

Taapsee, Kashyap speak after raids, resume shooting



'Heavy rains, rising temperature likely caused U'khand disaster'



Saturday. An official of the wildlife wing of Assam's Forest Department said that western Assam's Baksa District and Sessions judge Aminur Rahman sentenced Ranjan Singh, a small farmer, to three years and three months rigorous imprisonment for electrocuting a wild adult female elephant. The judge in his order on Friday also imposed a fine of Rs 10.000 on Singh and a sentence of another two months in jail in case of non-payment of the fine.

WB: Six BJP workers injured in bomb blast

Kolkata: Six BJP activists were injured, two of them critically, in a bomb explosion in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, police said Saturday. Family members of the injured have alleged that a few members of the local Trinamool Congress hurled bombs at them while they were returning home in Gosaba area of the district from a marriage ceremony late Friday night. Police, however, claimed that the accident happened inside the house of a BJP activist where the crude bombs which were being manufactured went off accidently.

Youth, dad and grandpa found dead

Mumbai: A 20-year-old youth was found dead due to fall from a high rise society building. His father and grandfather were also found stabbed to death in the family flat, police said here on Saturday. According to an official of Mulund Police Station, a wireless van got a message that a youth had fallen from a building and was lying badly injured in the compound.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

intact

Mumbai, March 6: Actor Taapsee Pannu and director Anurag Kashyap resumed shooting for their film "Dobaaraa" Saturday, both using social media to speak for the first time since I-T raids on their premises with posts indicating their spirit remained

"With all our love to all the haters," Kashyap said in a message on Instagram to announce the resumption of shooting of his new film and share an on-set pic-

ture of Pannu and himself laughing and showing the victory sign. Earlier, in the day Pannu put out

three tweets - on an "alleged bungalow" in Paris, the "alleged receipt" of Rs 5 crore and her "memory of 2013 raid".

These were the first comments from Kashyap and Pannu -- both outspoken and known for expressing their views on a range of issues -- since the Income Tax Department began searching their homes and offices on March 3. The raids also covered Kashyap's partners who launched the nowshuttered production house Phantom Films with him.

Pannu's three-point statement on Twitter took a jibe at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's statement that the actor was raided in 2013 as well. The Income Tax Department

has detected financial irregularities of over Rs 650 crore after it raided two film production companies, two talent management companies and a leading actress, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has claimed

New Delhi, March 6: Heavy precipitation in the Chamoli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

region from February 4-6 and an overall rise in temperature in Uttarakhand in last four decades could have led to the rock collapse which triggered the deadly flash floods in the state last month, according to a study by the International Centre for Integrated

Mountain Development. The report by Kathmandu-based ICIMOD, which was released Friday. found that a crack had formed prior to the incident at the site where the rock detachment led to a rockslide from the Raunti peak.

The rockslide brought along with it mounds of earth and snow which could have triggered the flash floods. With a straight slide line of 1.6 km (5500 to 3900 masl), the kinetic energy during the fall generated enough heat to melt the ice.

As the debris moved downstream in the Rishiganga river, it pushed

running river water ahead of it, including water from small ponding structures along the river path. 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. As many as 132 persons are still missing. The ICIMOD is a regional organisation that works on different aspects in the Himalayan-Hindukush region. It has eight members --India, China, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. At the same headwall of the Raunthi peak, a large ice avalanche

was previously released somewhere between 19 September and 9 October 2016, which deposited ice and more bedrock in the valley below, the report states.

'The resulting destabilisation of the rock due to the lack of ice cover (glacial debuttressing, stress-release fracturing), and increased exposure to solar radiation and hence an increased freeze thaw cycle, in combination with a large snowfall event preceding the event of February 7, 2021 and rapid melt water production, may have favoured the fracturing of rock," the report states.

New Delhi, March 6: The Delhi High Court has directed 3.499 undertrial prisoners, who were granted interim bails to de-congest jails here amid the COVID-19 pandemic, to surrender on expiry of their period.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The decision of the court was based on the recommendation of the high powered committee (HPC) constituted on the direction of the Supreme Court to decongest jails to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

A bench of justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh said it was 'not inclined' to further extend the period of interim bail granted to these undertrial prisoners (UTP) under various criteria laid down by the HPC in its several meetings. It added that as the 3,499 UTPs

were admitted to interim bails on different dates, so the period of their interim bails will expire

with efflux of time on different dates and there was no requirement to fix any specific date for their surrender The high court while refusing to extend the interim bails considered the observations and rec-

ommendations made by the committee, the improved situation of COVID-19 in Delhi-NCR and the resolution passed by the HPC February 17 of not recommending further extension of interim bails to 3,499 UTPs.

Shield yourself from Covid with three-layered masks: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: While buying a new face mask to protect yourself against Covid-19 infection, make sure you go for a three-layered mask as it is more effective than single or double-layered alternatives, health experts emphasised Saturday. According to the experts, addi-

tional layers in the mask may help us protect against SARS-CoV-2 by not letting the virus-laden contagious droplets or particles pass through the mask. "Covid-19 is mainly spread through respiratory droplets that are made when someone who has contracted the virus through coughing, sneezing etc," Navneet Sood, Pulmonary Consultant.

Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, told IANS. "As we know that the layers of a mask helps in increasing its filtration power, it becomes crucial to



wear a three-layered mask, so that we can protect ourselves from getting infected or infecting people around us," Sood added.

A team of researchers, including Saptarshi Basu of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and Abhishek Saha from University of California - San Diego have shown, in a study that three-layered surgical

masks are most effective at stopping large droplets from a cough or sneeze from getting atomised into smaller droplets.

These large cough droplets can penetrate through the single or double layered masks and atomise to much smaller droplets, which is particularly crucial since these smaller droplets (often called aerosols) are able to linger in the air for longer periods of time.

While it is expected that large solid particles in the 500-600-micron range should be stopped by a single-layer mask with average pore size of 30 micron, we are showing that this is not the case for liquid droplets," said Saha.

'If these larger respiratory droplets have enough velocity, which happens for coughs or sneezes, when they land on a single-layer of this material it gets dispersed and squeezed through the smaller pores in the mask," he added.

For the study, published in the journal Science Advances, the team used a droplet generator and a highspeed time-lapse camera.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while selecting a mask one should always go for masks -- with two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, that completely cover your nose and mouth, that fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps.

"One should know that not all fabrics make for an effective mask. Also, some fabrics don't suit some skin types and how they are woven is another factor," said Shiba Kalyan Biswal, Consultant, Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, Narayana Hospital, Gurugram. The health experts have also warned that we need to be more careful as cases of new Covid strains are gradually rising in the country.

They have expressed a number À of possibilities which could be because of the lax attitude of people towards following the Covid protocols or likeability of "mutations and new strains" causing the surge, as has been studied by the labora-tories involved in the Covid detection across the country.







OrissaPOST SUNDAY | MARCH 7 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR international



I know India. I've talked to industrialists in India and government leaders who are focused on the potential of creating India the Hydrogen economy as a future JOHN KERRY US SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE

APES RECEIVE 1ST COVID VAX

The San Diego Zoo has given 4 orangutans and 5 bonobos an experimental coronavirus vaccine developed by Zoetis, a major veterinary pharmaceuticals company. In January, a troop of gorillas at the zoo's Safari Park tested positive for the covid virus.



uote

The India-China border tensions reflect a concerning trend of growing aggressiveness and assertiveness by China in the region, including toward allies and partners of the United States

COLIN KAHL USDP NOMINEE, US

We must denounce the actions by the military. It is critical that this council is resolute and coherent in putting

the security forces on notice and standing with the people of Myanmar firmly, in support of the clear November election results CHRISTINE SCHRANER RUDGENER

UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR MYANMAR

We are bringing modern technology in elections for a transparent election process. We have

decided to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in the future IMRAN KHAN PRIME MINISTER, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Canada okays J&J Covid vax

Ottawa: Canada announced its approval of the use of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine. making it the fourth vaccine that can be administered in the country. "After a thorough, independent review of the evidence, the Department has determined that the vaccine meets Canada's stringent safety. efficacy and guality requirements," Health Canada said in a statement Friday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Pak landmine blast claims 5

Islamabad: At least five people were killed and five others injured in a landmine blast in Pakista

Biden urged not to accept India's proposal at WTO

India, South Africa and other countries are presenting a proposal at the World Trade Organisation to waive all intellectual property rights for any innovation related to COVID-19



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, March 6: Four top Republican senators Friday urged US President Joe Biden not to accept a proposal by India and South Africa to the World Trade Organisation to waive anti-Covid vaccine patents to boost its supply. "India, South Africa and other

countries are presenting a proposal at the World Trade Organisation to waive all intellectual property rights for any innovation related to COVID-19, the group of four Republican senators wrote in a letter to Biden.

The proponents of this scheme argue that if we just destroy the intellectual property developed by American companies, we will suddenly have more manufacturers producing COVID-19 vaccines," they said.

In the letter, Senators Mike Lee, Tom Cotton, Joni Ernst and Todd Young urged Biden to reject the

upcoming proposal at the WTO. "But the opposite is true. By destroying the intellectual property of every American company that has worked on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, we would be ending the progress - started under Operation



in history," the Senators wrote. They alleged that some countries believe that they would ben-

efit from seizing America's intellectual property. "But this is a mistake," they said. "Waiving all rights to intellectual property would end the innovation pipeline and stop the de-

velopment of new vaccines or boosters to address variants in the virus. It also wouldn't increase the supply of vaccines because of the tremendous time and resources needed to build new manufacturing plants and acquire the knowhow to produce these complex medicines," they said.

"Even if the waiver may temporarily result in a few copycats attempting to produce what American companies developed, it would introduce major quality control prob-

lems," the Senators said. "As a global leader and a force for good, we can do a lot to help other countries overcome the virus. But de stroying our rights to intellectual property wouldn't advance our mission of fighting the virus -- it would make the problem worse, for America and for the world." they wrote.

Pak PM wins vote of trust,

WHO head wants COVID vaccine patents waived

AGENCIES

Geneva, March 6: The head of the World Health Organization called Friday for patent rights to be waived until the end of the coronavirus pandemic so that vaccine supplies can be dramatically increased, saying these "unprecedented times" warrant the move.

At a press briefing, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said countries with their own vaccine capacity should "start waiving intellectual property rights" as provided in special emergency provisions from the World Trade Organisation. "These provisions are there for use in emergencies," Tedros said.

"If now is not a time to use them, then when?" He said the WHO would be meeting soon with representatives of the industry to identify bottlenecks in production and discuss how to solve them.

The Associated Press found factories on three continents whose owners say they could start producing hundreds of millions of COVID-19 vaccines at short notice if only they had the blueprints and technical know-how.

VIRTUAL VIOLIN



Fourth- and fifth-grade music teacher Virgilio Joven plays the violin while teaching a virtual music class at the Mount Vernon Community School in Alexandria, Virginia

10mn doses from India won't impact poor nations: UK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, March 6: UK Vaccine Deployment Minister Nadhim Zahawi has defended a shipment of 10 million doses of Covishield en route from India amid some concerns that it would impact supplies of COVID-19 vaccines for poorer nations.

The minister in charge of overseeing the UK's vaccination programme said the vaccine doses developed by the Serum Institute of India, in collaboration with OxfordAstraZeneca, were always intended for Britain and that assurances have been sought that the delivery would not impact other supplies.

"We, of course, sought assur-



"And they are making about 300

US agency probes Facebook for 'systemic' racial bias

New York, March 6: A US agency investigating Facebook Inc for racial bias in hiring and promotions has designated the probe as "systemic." attorneys for three job apter in the country. "There is no plicants and a manager who claim the company discriminated against prime minister in this country; them told Reuters Friday. instead there is a thug, bully and a terrorist. They want to secure a A "systemic" probe means the vote of confidence through bulagency, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, suspects lying and terrorism," she said. On the other hand, Arsalan company policies may be contributing to widespread discrimi-Khalid, the Prime Minister's focal person for digital media, has denation. The EEOC typically resolves disnied that his party supporters began the scuffle, stating that it was putes through mediation or al-PML-N leaders, who began the lowing complainants to sue employers. But agency officials While chaos was witnessed outdesignate a few cases "systemic," enabling investigators to rope in speside the parliament, Prime Minister Imran Khan, in a show of strength. cialists to analyse company data and secured 178 votes - six more than potentially bring a broader lawrequired, to win the vote of consuit representing entire classes of fidence from the National workers.



ing countries. The minister insisted this was not the case and that supplies around the world would also be deployed through the United Nations backed COVAX system.

Britain has acquired the rights to around 457 million doses of various vaccines, estimated at three times the total needed to fully vaccinate everyone in the country.

While some of the leftover doses may be offered through bilateral relationships, "the bulk of it will be offered through COVAX,' Zahawi said

Myanmar asks India to return 8 cops who fled across border

REUTERS

Naypidaw/New Delhi, March **6:** Authorities in Myanmar have asked India to return several police officers who sought refuge to avoid taking orders from a military junta that seized power in the Southeast Asian country last month, an official in northeast India said Saturday. Around 30 Myanmar police and their family members came across the border seeking refuge in recent days, as the junta's suppression of protesters has turned increasingly violent, with dozens killed since the Feb 1 coup.



Islamabad. March 6: As Prime



cameras PML-N's Mariyum Aurangzeb also raged at the government saying that there is no prime minis-

fight.

Assembly

REUTERS

million doses available to low- and ances from AstraZeneca and from middle-income countries. You've Serum that our doses will not impact their commitment to the seen those arrive in Accra in low-income and middle-income Ghana, last week and the countries of the world," Zahawi Philippines this week ... and Ivory told the Associated Press in an in-Coast as well. And you're going terview Friday. to see much more of that volume also going out," he said.

Balochistan province, it was reported Saturday. The blast took place in Sibi district Friday night, Xinhua news agency quoted local media reports as saying. Deputy Commissioner of the district Yasir Khan Bazai said that a vehicle carrying laborers hit the landmine. "Four laborers lost their lives on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries in a hospital," said the official, adding that other wounded persons were in stable condition.

Aftershock jolts NZ

Wellington: A day after three massive temblors jolted New Zealand, an aftershock measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck off the coast of the North Island Saturday, according to GeoNet NZ. This was the largest aftershock following the three consecutive strong quakes Friday, reports Xinhua news agency. Thousands of locals reported they felt Saturday's quake which struck at 1.16 pm. 140 km east of Te Araroa at a depth of 33 km.

10 dead in suicide blast

Mogadishu: At least 10 people were killed and 30 others injured in a suicide car bombing outside a popular restaurant in the Somalian capital of Mogadishu, a police official said. Those injured in the attack that targeted the Lul Yemeni restaurant near the seaport Friday evening are mainly civilians, Xinhua news agency quoted the official as saying. Another official said that the casualties could be higher as the blast caused the destruction of nearby buildings.

attained the vote of confidence from the Parliament, members of the opposition leadership, which had boycotted the session, got manhandled by supporters of the ruling party outside Parliament house.

Tensions ran high as leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), who were present outside the parliament, were harassed and manhandled by supporters of the ruling party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

During the brawl, shoes were hurled at PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal, while Dr Musaddiq Malik and Mariyum Aurangzeb were attacked and manhandled.

PML-N leaders alleged they were harassed and manhandled by PTI supporters, adding that there was no police or security for their protection

Opposition members of the parliament have condemned the incident. Former Prime Minister Shahid

Khaqan Abbasi said, "Such behaviour was reflective of the PTI's tactics. I challenge them to a face off on the road in front of the

Facebook operations program manager Oscar Veneszee Jr and two applicants denied jobs brought a charge last July to the EEOC,

and a third rejected applicant joined the case in December. They have alleged Facebook discriminates against black candidates and employees by relying on subjective evaluations and promoting prob-

lematic racial stereotypes The designation of the EEOC's probe has not been previously reported. The EEOC has not brought allegations against Facebook. Its investigation, which may last months more, may not result in findings of wrongdoing. The agency declined to comment

Facebook spokesman Andy Stone declined to comment on the status of the probe or specific allegations but said that "it is essential to provide all employees with a respectful and safe working environment.

The senior-most official in Champhai, a district in the Indian state of Mizoram, told Reuters that she had received a letter from her counterpart in Myanmar's Falam district requesting the return of eight police "in order to uphold friendly relations."

Deputy Commissioner Maria CT Zuali said Saturday that she was waiting for the direction" from the India's Ministry for Home Affairs in New Delhi.

Although there have been instances recounted on social media of police joining the civil disobedience movement and protests against the junta, this is the first reported case of police fleeing Myanmar

In the letter, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters, Myanmar authorities said they had information on eight police personnel who had crossed into India. The letter listed details for four police, aged between 22 and 25 years, including a female officer.

"In order to uphold friendly relations between the two neighbour countries, you are kindly requested to detain 8 Myanmar police personnel who had arrived to Indian territories and hand-over to Myanmar," the letter said.

India's federal home ministry did not immediately respond to + questions from Reuters.

India's foreign ministry responded to a request for comment by referring to a statement given at a media briefing on Friday which said the ministry was still "ascertaining the facts."

Pope, top Iraq Shiite cleric hold historic meeting THE POPE ARRIVED LATER IN THE ANCIENT CITY OF UR FOR AN INTERFAITH MEETING IN THE TRADITIONAL BIRTHPLACE OF ABRAHAM, THE BIBLICAL PATRIARCH REVERED BY CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND JEWS

Addressing the parliament after

the win, Khan said, "No one can

stop Pakistan's progress"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plains of Ur (Iraq), March 6: Pope Francis and Iraq's top Shiite cleric delivered a powerful message of peaceful coexistence Saturday, urging Muslims in the war-weary Arab nation to embrace Iraq's long-beleaguered Christian minority during a historic meeting in the holy city of Najaf.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said religious authorities have a role in protecting Iraq's Christians, and that Christians should live in peace and enjoy the same rights as other Iraqis. The Vatican said Francis thanked al-Sistani for having "raised his voice in defense of the weakest and most persecuted" during some of the most violent times in Iraq's recent history.

Al-Sistani, 90, is one of the most senior clerics in Shiite Islam and his rare but powerful political inter-



ventions have helped shape presentday Iraq. He is a deeply revered figure in Shiite-majority Iraq and his opinions on religious and other matters are sought by Shiites worldwide. The historic meeting in al-

Sistani's humble home was months in the making, with every detail painstakingly discussed and negotiated between the ayatollah's office and the Vatican.

Early Saturday, the 84-year-old pontiff, travelling in a bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz, pulled up along Najaf's narrow and column-lined Rasool Street, which culminates at the golden-domed Imam Ali Shrine, one of the most revered sites in

Shiite Islam. He then walked the few meters (yards) to al-Sistani's modest home, which the cleric has rented for decades.

The "very positive" meeting lasted a total of 40 minutes, said a religious official in Najaf, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief media.

The official said al-Sistani, who normally remains seated for visitors. stood to greet Francis at the door of his room — a rare honor. Al-Sistani and Francis sat close to one another, without masks. Al-Sistani, who rarely appears in public even on television — wore black robes and a black turban, in simple contrast to Francis' all-white cassock.

The official said there was some concern about the fact that the pope had met with so many people the day before. Francis has received the coronavirus vaccine but al-Sistani has not. The aging ayatollah, who

underwent surgery for a fractured thigh bone last year, looked tired.

The pope removed his shoes before entering al-Sistani's room and was served tea and a plastic bottle of water. Al-Sistani spoke for most of the meeting. Francis paused before leaving al-Sistani's room to have a last look, the official said.

The pope arrived later in the ancient city of Ur for an interfaith meeting in the traditional birthplace of Abraham, the biblical patriarch revered by Christians, Muslims and Jews.

"From this place, where faith was born, from the land of our father Abraham, let us affirm that God is merciful and that the greatest blasphemy is to profane his name by hating our brothers and sisters,' Francis said. "Hostility, extremism and violence are not born of a religious heart they are betrayals of religion.'











What I like about bitcoin is... its correlation to stocks and other assets is extraordinarily independent JIM PAULSEN WEALTH MANAGER

DORSEY AUCTIONS FIRST EVER TWEET

"just setting up my twttr" - the first ever tweet on the platform is up for sale after Twitter boss Jack Dorsey listed his famous post as a unique digital signature on a website for selling tweets as non-fungible tokens (NFTs)



uote

With regard to India, very simple. I would ask my friend that he withdraw some of the cheap oil that they bought in April, May and June (last year) PRINCE ABDULAZIZ BIN SALMAN SAUD ENERGY MINISTER

India is well on track to achieve its Paris agreement targets well before the target date of 2030

NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

OPFC+ settled for a cautious approach ... opting to increase production by just 150,000 barrels per day (bpd) in April while market participants looked for an increase of 1.5 million bpd GIOVANNI STAUNOVO OIL ANALYST. UBS

SHORT TAKES

RHFL defaults on loan repayment

New Delhi: Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) Saturday said it has defaulted on loan of over Rs 40 crore from Punjab & Sind Bank even as the company has enough cash and cash equivalent which it cannot use due to a court order. The Anil Ambani controlled Reliance Capital's subsidiary defaulted on loan February 15, 2021, and the current amount of default is Rs 40 crore alongside an interest of Rs 15 lakh.

Tech bids open for bridge project

New Delhi: The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) Saturday said that it has opened two technical bids for construction or building of bridges for the 508 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR)

AGENCIES

New Delhi. March 6: All India Nationalised Banks Officers Federation (AINBOF) has opposed privatisation of public sector banks as it will lead to increase in service charges and will take banking bevond the reach of common man. In a statement, the AINBOF said privatization will primarily impact

the general public only as the social objectives will be lost in the name of profitability. Service Charges will be increased

and customers who are able to bear those charges only will be serviced. This will take banking beyond the reach of the common man which

was the primary objective of na-tionalisation," it said.

It said though the Government's agenda of privatization started way back in 1991 immediately after the liberalization the trade unions were successful in thwarting the ill-conceived moves of the successive governments over the past three decades and maintaining the public sector status

"Of the many private sector banks that came into existence, today only a handful which were promoted by the financial houses like ICICI, UTI IDBI, HDFC are surviving and many of the private sector entities that commenced their banking operations after 1990 were either closed



or merged", it added. Former RBI Governor Raghuram

Rajan also viewed that privatisation alone won't solve the problems of the banking sector, and even private lenders are not immune to the prob-

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan viewed that privatisation alone won't solve the problems of the banking sector, and even private lenders are not immune to the problem of bad assets

lem of bad assets in a slowing economy.

AINBOF believes that creating public opinion and awareness among the public on the ill effects of privatization will persuade the

Government to rethink on its agenda. To achieve this AINBOF is con-

ducting various programmes to reach out to the general public to like conducting street corner meeting, customer meets, conducting of demonstrations, wearing Black badge and protest masks, display of posters and banners, at branches/ offices, distribution of pamphlets to customers and public, social media campaign among others.

The response has been over whelming and many of the customers felt that privatization should be opposed and were prepared to extend their support, the association said.

'Privatisation will lead to increase in service charges' **'Tesla, Ford only** carmakers not gone bankrupt'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 6: As several carmakers bleed in the US and beyond, Tesla is profitable and according to Elon Musk, his electric car company and Ford are the only two carmakers in the US which have not gone bankrupt.



Tesla reported another profitable quarter as revenue hit \$10.74 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020. In last year, Tesla achieved free cash flow of nearly \$2.8 billion after spending more than \$3 billion on building new factories and other expenditures. US automaker Ford last month announced to more than double its investment in electric and autonomous vehicles to \$29 billion. The automaker had previously committed to spend \$11.5 billion on electrifying its vehicle lineup through 2022.

"Tesla & Ford are the only American carmakers not to have gone bankrupt out of 1000's of car startups. Prototypes are easy, production is hard & being cash flow positive is excruciating," Musk said in a tweet on Friday.

Indian economy to ____ do better than -8 pc prediction: FinMin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: The Indian economy is likely to do better than the projection of an 8% shrinkage in the current fiscal as economic its opinion on cryptocurrencies activity gathers pace with mild and will take a calibrated position. stiffening of pandemic curve and Reserve Bank of India Governor the rollout of vaccines, the finance Shaktikanta Das had last week ministry said Friday.



'15th finance panel opted for continuity, predictability'

The 15th Finance

Commission has recommended that states be given 41% of the *divisible tax pool of the* Centre during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, which is at the same level as was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 6: The 15th Finance Commission opted for continuity and predictability and hence retained the share of tax devolution to states at 41% of the total pool, its chairman NK Singh said Saturday.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), Singh said each Finance Commission in the past has somewhat increased the total amount of devolution to states, but the 15th Finance Commission weighed all the options considering that the fiscal space of both states

and the Centre has shrunk on account of the Covid-19 pandemic. Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi highlighted that the share of divisible pool is slowly shrinking



as the 'cess and surcharge' component in Gross Tax revenue is in-

creasing. The 15th Finance Commission has recommended that states be given 41 per cent of the divisible tax pool of the Centre during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, which is at the same level as was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-state financial relations.

As per the Commission, the gross tax revenue (GTR) for the 5-year period is expected to be Rs 135.2 lakh crore. Out of that, divisible pool (after deducting cesses and surcharges and cost of collection) is estimated to be Rs 103 lakh crore. States' share at 41 per cent of divisible pool comes to Rs 42.2 lakh

crore for 2021-26 period. The report

of the 15th Finance Commission was tabled in Parliament February 2. Singh said each Finance Commission has somewhat increased the total amount of devolution as percentage of divisible pool. "We had an option of continuing

this trajectory, we had an option of enhancing this devolution to somewhat higher figure. We had the option of somewhat recalibrating downwards looking at the constraints on the fiscal space of the central government.

"Finance Commission is not an encounter with shock and awe, Finance Commission has a legacy which believes in stability continuity and predictability. We opted for continuity and predictability," he said

Modi, in his speech, said cess and surcharge which was 10.4 per cent of GTR in 2011-12, has increased to 20.2 per cent. Even after deducting GST compensation cess, t is 15 per cent

"The share of divisible pool is slowly shrinking. .. So one of the issues which states are raising (is) because under the Constitution. cess and surcharge is not under divisible pool ... But slowly divisible pool size is shrinking and cess and surcharge increasing," said Modi, who is also the former deputy chief minister of Bihar

'Govt open to evaluate, explore cryptocurrencies'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, March 6: Union minister Anurag Thakur Saturdav said the government is open to evaluate and explore new technologies, including cryptocurrencies, for improving governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself is a strong advocate of embracing technology in various aspects of governance, the Minister of State for Finance said while addressing an event organised by Entrepreneurs' Organisation - EO Punjab.

novation and new technology...Blockchain is a new emerging technology. Cryptocurrency is a form of virtual currency. I firmly believe that we must always evaluate. explore and encourage new ideas with an open mind," he said.

A High-Level Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Economic Affairs Secretary on digital currencies and it has submitted its report.

The government would take a decision on the recommendations of the IMC and the legislative proposal, if any, would be introduced in Parliament following the due process, he said while inviting suggestions and views on this issue.

Cryptocurrencies are digital or virtual currencies in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of their

Jharkhand govt signs MoUs with FICCI, Flipkart

Let me say that we welcome "Let me say that we welcome in-

innovation and new technology. Blockchain is a new emerging technology. Cryptocurrency is a form of virtual currency. I firmly

believe that we must always evaluate, explore and encourage new ideas with an open mind

ANURAG THAKUR I UNION MINISTER units and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said the government is still formulating

said the apex bank has certain "major concerns" over the impact

cryptocurrencies may have on the financial stability in the economy and has conveyed the same to the government.

corridor in the state of Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli in which nine companies have participated.

Sayaji Hotels signs pact

New Delhi: Sayaji Hotels Saturday said it has inked agreements for seven new properties across various states, including Gujarat and Rajasthan. Sayaji Hotels Management Ltd, a whollyowned subsidiary of the company, has signed seven management agreements to have new properties in Vizag, Bhuj, Dehradun, Udaipur, Jamnagar, Nashik and Morbi, Sayaji Hotels Ltd said in a regulatory filing. This expansion will lead to an addition of 476 new rooms and an overall increase of 1,000 rooms into the portfolio by the next fiscal 2021-22, it added.

INTUC Odisha prez vows to work for labourers' benefits

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: March 6: The president of Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) Chandra Sekhar Dubey has appointed Patitapaban Panda as the president of INTUC, State Odisha. Panda announced about the appointment during a press conference held in city. Panda is promised to highlight several issues arising among labourers.

"There are many unorganised labour associations in the state. We will do active work in favour of these organised associations so that they can avail every facilities provided by the government," said Panda.

He also raised concern over recent decision on working timeframe for the workers. "It has been announced that workers now have to work 12 hours at their respective firms. It will create a big problem for them. They will have to work 16 hours now (leaving home early 2 hours, leaving work station after two hours). We can't tolerate such irresponsible decision," the president said.

Panda and his team will also raise voice against untimely wages service. "There are many labourers who are not getting their wage timely. We will set this issue correct for the benefits of workers," he added. INTUC Odisha aims to expand

their branch and increase memberships in the state. The trade union body targets to bring transparency in the system.

Ranchi/New Delhi, March 6: The Jharkhand government on Saturday signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the

AGENCIES

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Flipkart Internet Pvt Ltd at the stakeholders' meet on the draft Jharkhand Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy 2021 in New Delhi

In coordination with the Department of Industries, Flipkart and its group companies will work towards infrastructure and industrial development, including social development. The MoU will help create a conducive environment for cooperation and investment for the unit



FICCI will review its regional expertise, industry liaison, global networking, and industrial and various regional policies to help the state government work towards promoting cooperation, ease of doing business and increasing private sector participation.

It will also help the state government in necessary technical advice and investment related to key priority areas such as textiles, food

processing, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, micro, medium and small scale industries, and tourism.

In his keynote address, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren highlighted the importance of such events in providing valuable opportunities for interaction with businesses and for the exchange of perspectives between the government and the industry.

Explaining the urgency for a new policy, Soren said, "Covid-19 has created a crisis in industrial output and has adversely affected the value chains. The more I travel to the interior areas and the more I interact with the people there. I get the feeling that the industrial sector needs some help to overcome the strain caused by an extended and unplanned lockdown."

The Department of Economic Affairs in its monthly report said the recovery of global output has slowed following the re-imposition of lockdowns in advanced countries amid renewed Covid-19 waves and its emerging variants.

However, economic activity in India has gathered pace with mild stiffening of the Covid-19 curve, failing to deter a steady uptick in consumer sentiment, which has been bolstered by the inoculation drive.

"Often overlooked in the spate of Covid-19 vaccine development and ongoing inoculation drive, social distancing poses as a social vaccine that also needs to be continuously administered for health and economy to make a quick recovery in India as well as abroad The social vaccine is as important as the real vaccine," it said.

Jump in hiring fuels optimism for US economic recovery

'Reduce VAT on petrol, diesel'

Chandigarh: The Petrol Pump Dealers Association in Punjab Saturday lamented the negative impact of higher prices of petrol and diesel on their business and the rising burden on the common man. In a statement here, its President Paramiit Singh Doaba said Mohali is the most expensive in both petrol and diesel compared to cities in neighbouring states. The reason, he said, is the higher state taxes (VAT and cess) in Punjab on both products. In Chandigarh, the petrol price is Rs 87.71 a litre, while in neighbouring Mohali in Puniab it is Rs 93.01, a high by Rs 5.30.

AGENCIES

Washington, March 6: US hiring accelerated more quickly than expected last month, evidence that a year after the pandemic took hold, the economy is strengthening as virus cases drop and vaccinations ramp up.

A government report Friday showed that employers added a robust 379,000 jobs in February, driven by a sharp increase at beleaguered restaurants and bars.

That suggests Americans are starting to venture out and spend more as progress is made against the coronavirus and states relax business restrictions.

The February gain marked a sharp pickup from the 166,000 jobs that were added in January and the loss of 306,000 in December. Yet it represents just a fraction of the roughly 9.5 million that the economy must regain to get back to where it was before the crisis.

Unemployment fell from 6.3 percent to 6.2percent, the Labor Department said. That is down dramatically from 14.8 percent last April, just after the virus erupted in the United States. But it's well above the pre-pandemic rate of 3.5 percent.

"The recovery really has some legs, some momentum now," said Odeta Kushi, deputy chief economist at First American Financial Corp. In suggesting the economy is on

the mend, the report could complicate President Joe Biden's struggle to push through his USD1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, which passed the House and is before the Senate.

It would provide, among other things, \$1,400 checks to most adults, hundreds more in weekly unemployment benefits and another round of aid to small businesses at a time when many Americans



have seen their income shrivel and have fallen behind on rent, mortgages and other bills

Biden said Friday that previous government aid had contributed to February's job gains, and he insisted the new package is needed to help keep the recovery going.

are going to slow," he said. "We

SWINGING BACK

A GOVERNMENT REPORT SHOWED THAT EMPLOYERS ADDED A ROBUST 379,000 JOBS IN FEBRUARY

UNEMPLOYMENT FELL FROM 6.3% TO 6.2%, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT SAID

can't afford one step forward and two steps backward.

About 4 million people who have lost their jobs have stopped looking for work and so are not classified as unemployed. If they were included, along with a separate group that was misclassified as working, the unemployment rate would be 9.3%, according to Oxford Economics.

Still, economists are increasingly optimistic that hiring will accelerate in the coming months as Americans seize the opportunity to once again travel, shop, attend sporting events, go to the movies and eat at restaurants.

Households as a whole have accumulated a huge pile of savings as Americans slashed their spending. Much of that is expected to be spent once people feel more comfortable about going out.

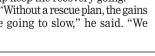
Last month's job growth was driven by a steady recovery of bars, restaurants and hotels. Bars and restaurants, in particular, snapped back, adding 286,000 jobs as business restrictions eased in California and other states.

This week, Texas joined some other states in announcing it will fully reopen its economy.

Also hiring last month were retailers, which added 41,000 jobs, health care companies, with 46,000, and manufacturers, with 21,000. On the other hand, construction companies shed 61,000 jobs, most likelyin part because of the severe storms and power outages in Texas.







OrissaPOST SUNDAY | MARCH 7 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

Player of the series R Ashwin finished with 5/47 during England's 2nd innings, Day-3 at the Motera

sports **WANT TO LEAVE MY OWN LEGACY**

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, March 6: To become the best version of himself while learning something new every day is Ravichandran Ashwin's endeavour as he aims to leave his lasting legacy in the pantheon of Indian cricket greats. Ashwin has now won eight Man-ofthe-Series awards in his 10-year career and is only eight wickets short of equalling Harbhajan Singh's 417 Test wickets

It could well happen in England this summer but he doesn't want to entertain any such thoughts. "Honestly, that's not even crossed my mind and if you want me to put my thoughts on it. He is a fantastic bowler. There's a lot that I have learnt from him. I wasn't even an off-spinner when Bhajju paa started playing for the Indian team," Ashwin's respect for another practitioner of the same craft was there for all to see.

(Harbhajan) was also an inspiration because

of the 2001 famous series (32 wickets in 3 Tests). I never imagined in 2001 that I will be an off-spinner, and I mean who would have imagined those things. "I was fortunate to play alongside Bhajju paa when I came into the team and also play under Anil Bhai but I would now like to leave my own legacy," Ashwin said. Being a student of the game Ashwin wants to evolve as a cricketer and a person every day. "My growth as a cricketer is a direct synonym to the person Lam, I want to keep evolving, keep

inst England in 4th Test in Motera

This is Ashwin's eighth Man-of-the-Series award. • Only two others have won more such awards: Muttiah Muralitharan (11) and Jacques Kallis (9)

first Indian ler to have 30+

wickets in a Test

ies twice

learning and that's my second nature, directly proportional to the kind of cricketer I am and whatever I do, the best that I can be.'

Ashwin's apathy for all those pitch critics is well documented and he would love to see how the global media reacts when a green top is given to India when they go for a game outside the sub-continent.

"The series win is a testament to the fact that this is a really good Indian cricket team. That's all I would like to say. Other day, I was listening to what Sunny bhai (Sunil Gavaskar)

surpassed Curtly

and is closing in on Wasim

Akram (414) and

compatriot Harbhajan

Singh (417)

ibrose's (405) Test tally

was saying, makes sense," Ashwin said referring to Gavaskar's statement about not giving too much credence to the British pundits, whose favourite day job had been criticising the Indian tracks.

"Only because we are giving attention to people who are making a mockery of it, we are encouraging them to do it non-stop," he said. He then sarcastically said that he would keenly watch how foreign media cover the criticism from Indian commentators about the pitches provided when India is on tour abroad.

TWITTER REACTS TO INDIA'S EMPHATIC WIN

Heartiest congratulations to Team India for winning the test series 3-1 against England, becoming finalists of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship and reaching the top of the ICC Test Team Rankings Table! RAMNATH KOVIND. PRESIDENT OF INDIA

That victory against England means India finish the league phase of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship with a fine view from the top of the table Top with upwards arrow



Fantastic victory #TeamIndia! Many congratulations on reaching the #WTCFinal. Absolutely enjoyed the way each player contributed in every department throughout the series, espe cially @RishabhPant17, @Sundarwashi5, @akshar2026, @ashwinravi99 & @ImRo45 SACHIN TENDULKAR. FORMER INDIAN CRICKETER

above

Kohli's leadership this test match allowed young guns like Axar, Rishabh and Washie to play with freedom and dominate the game. It takes a special leader to elevate other players around them through body language and passion when their personal performance has been down AB DE VILLIERS, FORMER SOUTH AFRICAN CAPTAIN

50 years since Sunny Sir's debut. India wins the series Vs England. India qualifies for ICC WTC final. India becomes No.1 Test Team. Congratulations to Team India and its fans all around the world!



Gavaskar felicitated on 50th anniv of Test debut

The legendary opening batsman finished with 10,122 Test runs and retired from Test cricket 16 years after his debut

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, March 6: Legendary former India opening batsman and captain Sunil Gavaskar was felicitated on the 50th anniversary of his Test debut, here Saturday

The Gujarat Cricket Association was presented him with a specially crafted India cap while a banner was unfurled at the newly-constructed Narendra Modi Stadium here in Motera. The event happened dur-

India won the Test by seven wickets. In fact, he had bowled before he could bat on his debut as he sent

down one over. Gavaskar also became the first player to get to 10,000 Test runs. and he attained that feat here in Ahmedabad 34 years ago. That happened on March 7, which falls Sunday. He finished with 10,122 runs and retired from Test cricket 16 years after his debut. Interestingly, while the debate in the ongoing series has

INDIA'S UNBEATEN HOME RUN IN TESTS CONTINUES

June, have an unbeaten streak of eight

consecutive series wins at home. Their

India winning a series after being 0-

1 down: 2-1(5) vs Eng 1972/73, 2-1(3) vs

Aus 2000/01, 2-1(3) vs SL 2015, 2-1(4) vs Aus

2016/17, 2-1(4) vs Aus 2020/21 and 3-1(4)

featuring most ICC finals (WC + CT +

T20WC + WTC); India - 10*, Australia -

10, West Indies - 8, England - 8 and Sri

With this win, India joins Australia in

fine run started in 2017.

vs Eng 2020/21.

Lanka – 7

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, March 6: India Saturday registered their 13th consecutive Test series win at home when they thrashed England 3-1 in the four-Test series here. Having gone down 0-1 in Chennai in the first test, India bounced back convincingly to turn the tables in their favour to outshine the visitors by registering three comprehensive wins; two coming at the rechristened Motera stadium in Ahmedabad, which is now the largest stadium in the world leapfrogging the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.

India's winning streak began with a 1-0 mauling of Australia in 2013.

Kohli surpasses Waugh, home series on two occasions - first from 1994 to 2001 and then from 2004 to 2008. matches Ponting's record New Zealand, who will play India in the World Test Championship final in

With India defeating England in the 4th Test, Kohli went on to record 10th straight Test series wins as captain at home. In doing so, he equalled former Australia captain Ricky Ponting's record of the most consecutive series win at home

Kohli also surpassed former Australia captain Steve Waugh in an elite list of Test captains. The win in the 4th Test was Kohli's 23rd Test victory at home, and he is now 3rd in the list of captains with the most wins Test wins at home.



ing the lunch break in front of a sparse crowd that gave Gavaskar a loud cheer on the third day of the fourth and final Test between India and England.

Gavaskar made his debut 50 years ago, March 6, against West Indies in Port-of-Spain and scored 65 in the first innings and 67 not out in the second as

batsmen's inability to play spin bowling, Gavaskar's last Test back in 1987 against Pakistan was a masterclass against spin bowling on a wicket that had broken and was supporting spin bowling in a big way. He scored a brilliant 96. Gavaskar has been doing media work since his retirement, including TV and radio

been on pitches and

In this eight-year span, India have beaten eight countries, excluding Pakistan. Against Australia and England, India have registered two wins each since 2013.

India's last home defeat came in 2012-13 against England who shocked the hosts 2-1. But India avenged that defeated with a 4-0 thrashing in the five match series in 2016-17. The 13 home series wins also com-

prise two one-off Test matches against Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Australia is the second in the list of

teams with most consecutive home series victories. They won 10 consecutive

			starting with a 4-0 whitewash of Australia in ustralia twice each, and with big margins.
Team	Series wins	Span	
India	13 unbeaten	2013-2021	
Austrolia	10	1994-2001	
Australia	10	2004-2008	ASH
West Indies	8	1976-1986	0
New Zealand	8 unbeaten	2017-2021	CPENARA S
South Africa	7	1998-2001	1251 0
England	1	2009-2012	
	e 'series' wins include two h in 2017 and Afghanista		

WASIM JAFFER, FORMER INDIAN CRICKETER

India have been far too good ... the last 3 Tests they have absolutely hammered England ... If they can win in England they are without doubt the best Test team of this era ... but that will take some doing against the swinging ball ... #INDVENG



MICHAEL VAUGHAN, FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN

Ok. Done & dusted. Series win in the pocket. Now I need to get these sunglasses to commemorate the victory. Which brand are they and where can I get them? ANAND MAHINDRA, CHAIRMAN, M&M



IPL 2021 to begin April 9, says BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: The 2021 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) will begin April 9, exactly 12 days after the Indian cricket team completes its ongoing assignment against England, a BCCI source revealed Saturday.

The third and last match of the ODI series against England will be held on March 28 in Pune. The duration of the popular T20 league has been fixed keeping in mind India's international schedule.

"We have provisionally decided that IPL will start on April 9 and end on May 30," a senior BCCI source told PTI.

"The formal approval of dates and venues will be done during Governing Council meeting next week," the source added.

Considering the prevailing circumstances when efforts are being made to minimise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCCI has decided to host IPL matches in five cities --Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Delhi and Ahmedabad.

The city of Mumbai will have to get clearance for hosting matches -(as the state of Maharashtra has seen a spurt in cases of late.

35TH BOXAM INTERNATIONAL Manish Kaushik strikes gold

commentary.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 6: Olympicbound Indian boxer Manish Kaushik (63kg) struck gold in his first competitive outing in a year even as five others signed off with silver medals in the 35th Boxam International Tournament in Castellon, Spain. Manish defeated Denmark's Nikolai Terteryan in a split decision

However. Mohammed Hussamuddin (57kg) and Vikas Krishan (69kg) ended with silver medals among men.

Hussamuddin gave a walkover to Jean Paul Rivera of Puerto Rico, which was struck by a positive COVID-19 case. The reasons for the Indian's pullout were not immediately not known.

Vikas Krishan (69kg), however, lost a gruelling final to Spain's Youba Sissokho, a bout in which the Indian was left with a cut above his right eye.

Among women, Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Pooja Rani (75kg) and Jasmine (57kg) ended with silver medals among women.

World bronze-medallist Simranjit could not take the ring against

Rashida Ellis of USA after her semifinal opponent -- Kiria Tapia of Puerto Rico -- positive COVID-19 report forced the organisers to stop her from competing despite the Indian returning a negative test.

"Because of local government regulations, she could not compete," Indian women's boxing's high performance director Rafaelle Bergamasco told PTI from Castellon

after initial information of an injury trickled in.

Pooja, on the other hand, lost 0-5 to another American Melissa Graham.

The Indian women boxers thus ended their campaign with three silver and one bronze medal. Six-time world champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) had ended with a bronze after a semifinal loss



SWISS OPEN FINAL

SINDHU ENTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Basel, March 6: Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu dished out a superlative performance to outclass Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark in straight games and enter the women's singles final of the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament here on Saturday.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, beat fourth seeded Blichfeldt 22-20 21-10 in 43 minutes to avenge her first-round loss to the Danish world no. 12 at the Yonex Thailand Open in January.

This is Sindhu's first final appearance since the World championships here in 2019.

On Friday night, former champion Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the men's singles semifinals after a straight game win over sixth seed Kantaphon Wangcharoen of Thailand.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE SEMIS NorthEast-Bagan first leg end with late thriller petition and extended NorthEast's

winning run to ten games.

It was an end-to-end duel, but

neither side was able to test the

keepers much. It was NorthEast

However, Bagan scored with

Roy Krishna got a long ball at

their first shot on target and it

came soon after the water break.

the edge of the box. The Fijian

flicked it to his strike partner David

Williams, who faked a first-time

shot sending NEUFC defender Dylan

Fox in the wrong direction. He then

took a touch before slotting home to

give ATKMB an advantage.

who enjoyed better possession.

Bambolim (Goa), March 6: Idrissa Sylla struck in the stoppage-time to help NorthEast United hold ATK Mohun Bagan to a 1-1 draw in the first leg of second semifinal of the Indian Super League here Saturday. Antonio Habas was just min-

utes away from recording his maiden first-leg playoff win in the League when the second-half substitute struck in the fourth minute of injury time to cancel out David Williams' 34th-minute goal.

The result also meant Khalid Jamil is still unbeaten in the com-

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





