



Govt. of Odisha

DADLS - 80

NUAPADA then.

Fluoride contaminated drinking water.
Drought year after year.
No assured sources of irrigation for the farmers.
And no proper road communication facilities.

NUAPADA Now.

A story of complete transformation under the visionary leadership of **Sri Naveen Patnaik**, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha.

Now, **Mega Pipe Water Supply Projects** provide safe drinking water to every household. **Biju Express Way** and **Biju Setu Yojana** have fully transformed the road communication network of Nuapada. **Lower Indra** and several **Mega Lift Irrigation Projects** now provide assured irrigation to thousands of farmer families of the district. Nuapada today is on the New Odisha way to development.

On 10th March 2021

Shri Naveen Patnaik,

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha is inaugurating projects worth **2337.15 crores** and laying foundation for projects worth **50.29 crores**.

Now, new projects worth **995.38 crores** are going on in full swing in the district.

The transformation of Nuapada continues unabated.



NUAPADA

on the **NEW ODISHA** way

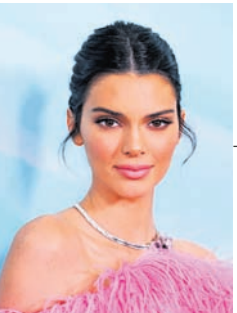


ANNIE MURPHY WANTS WOODY ALLEN IN JAIL

Emmy Award-winning actress Annie Murphy has aired her views on the nearly 30-year-long feud between filmmaker Woody Allen and Mia Farrow, following the sexual abuse allegations against Allen levelled by Farrow. She urged American authorities to send the 85-year-old Allen to jail.

KENDALL JENNER 'BADLY' WANTS TO HAVE BABIES

Reality TV star and model Kendall Jenner wants to follow the footsteps of her sisters and become a parent as soon as possible. The 25-year-old expressed her desire to become a mother in the teaser clip of the final season of the reality show, *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesh sees a wonderful time ahead for you. Today, you will meet many people who will prove reliable and trustworthy in the future. You aim to think and work perfectly. For that, says Ganesh, you will have to remain your practical and head-on-shoulders self.

TAURUS
Today, you will strike a great balance between your professional and personal life, predicts Ganesh. You will save your money from being swindled by others. You may be lagging in the race to catch up with your goals, but will not be disappointed by what you achieve.

GEMINI
Today, you will have a tendency to remain possessive about your personal belongings, says Ganesh. You are likely to join personality development courses to achieve your ultimate goals. An unpleasant occurrence is likely to throw you off guard. But remember, there is hope when there is life.

CANCER
You may have a way with words, but women somehow always have their way with you. Your problem is that while you may use your words to pull some strings, the master puppeteer, in most cases, will be a woman.

LEO
You may not have a halo around your head, but that most certainly does not deter you from playing the spiritual card today, says Ganesh. On this auspicious day, it is through religious scriptures that you satiate your desire to attain the intangible.

VIRGO
Don't dilly-dally when it comes to matters of health, says Ganesh. You look lean and mean to take on those old wounds today. But peace and prosperity are the flavours of the day. Ganesh advises you to invest time in fun and entertainment today - just to get those batteries charged.

LIBRA
A wistful day lies ahead of you, says Ganesh. This day, just like 'on the summer day that we flew kites', may be the standard when it comes to wanting to have a better future. Ganesh expects a sea of change in your outlook, thanks to your sweetheart's noble gesture today.

SCORPIO
Dear friends and soul mates will bring you much relief and calm today, says Ganesh. Spend as much time as possible with them. Romantic escapades with your beloved will be heaven in itself. Blood relations will stand true and strong in matters of importance, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Tempers will fly today, warns Ganesh. Rein in your anger by the leash of control and restraint. But the buck will stop somewhere! When it does, dig your feet in and battle the crunch situation, advises Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Your outstanding intellectual ability will not only yield exciting results for you, but will also help your close associates who will have progressed a great deal in their career because of your valuable advice, says Ganesh. Scores of problems may come your way, but you will have nothing to worry about.

AQUARIUS
A romantic liaison is headed towards you. Quite naturally, you don't want to be caught dead in a ratty old tee. Today, you want to keep everyone happy and amused, both at home and at work. And you manage wonderfully, says Ganesh.

PISCES
'Love thy neighbour' is a commandment you may just end up implementing, literally, considering how religious scriptures provide you food for thought today. Spiritual pursuits will keep you occupied. You may also find yourself visiting places of religious significance, says Ganesh.

VAANI SETS TEMPERATURES SOARING IN NEW PICTURE

Mumbai: Actress Vaani Kapoor posted a glamorous picture for her fans on Instagram, Tuesday. The actress poses in a yellow cutout ensemble.

"Imagine your cells as billions of stars sparkling inside you... let 'em shine," she wrote with the picture.

B-Town friends commented on her post, complimenting the actress. Actress Alia Bhatt wrote: 'Body' followed by multiple fire emojis, while actress Diana Pentu wrote 'Ufff' and added three emojis.

The actress has three films coming up in the next months. She will be seen in *Bell Bottom*, co-starring Akshay Kumar and shot in Glasgow, Scotland during lockdown. She has *Shamshera* featuring Sanjay Dutt and Ranbir Kapoor, and directed by Karan Malhotra. Vaani will also be seen in *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui* where she shares screen space with Ayushmann Khurrana for the first time.



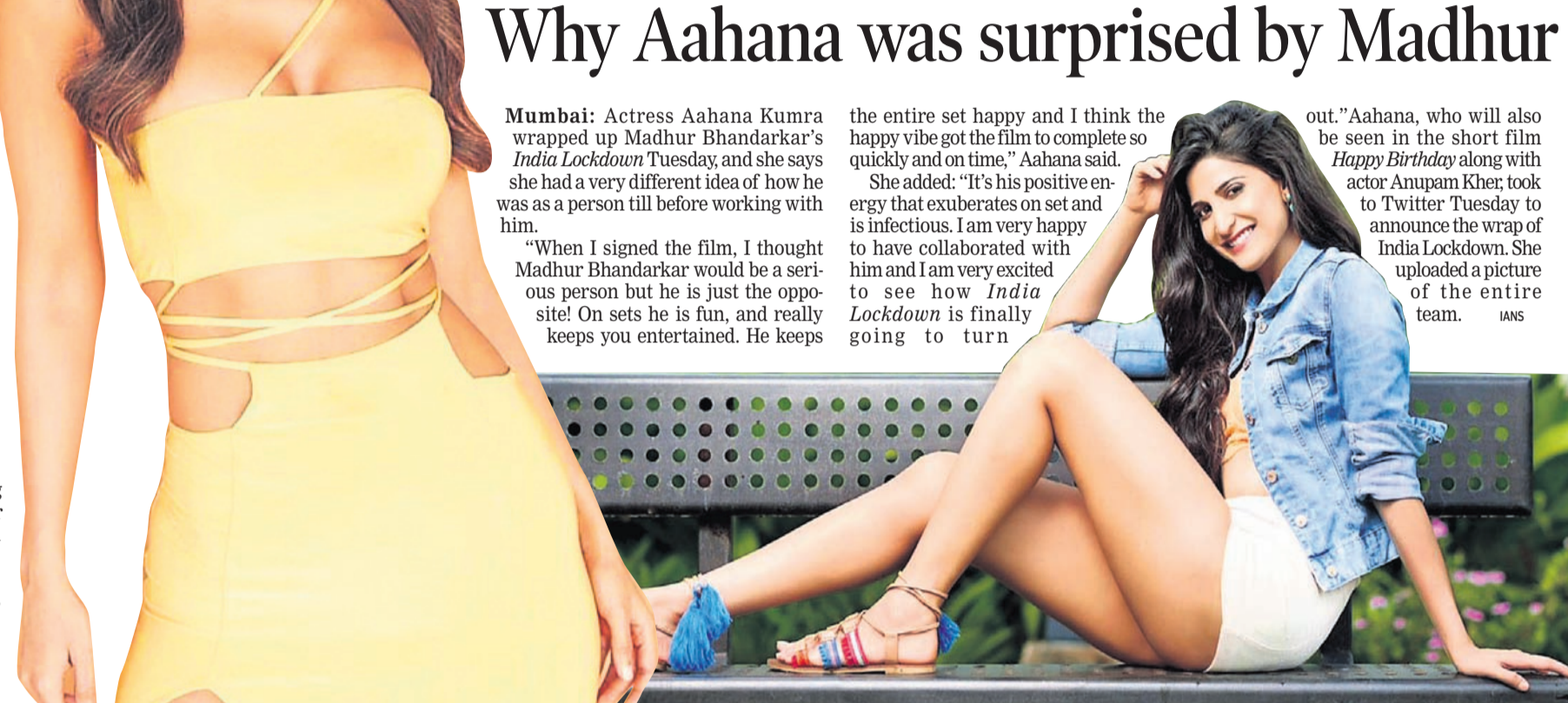
Ayushmann wants to work with new makers

Mumbai: Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has a penchant at discovering clutter-breaking films and roles. For this, he has to look out for new storytellers.

"I have always looked to collaborate with new storytellers because they are

looking to bring a fresh voice and a different vision to our cinema," Ayushmann said. He added: "Young, first-time filmmakers are looking to make a mark in the industry and they are always coming up with high-risk content decisions, which appeals to me a lot because I have always gravitated towards being super risky with my film

and character choices." Ayushmann has worked with debutant directors like Sharat Kataria, Hitesh Kewalya, Raaj Shaandilyaa, RS Prasanna, Akshay Roy, and Vibhu Puri, and also collaborated with young directors like Nupur Asthana, Ashwini Iyer Tiwari, Amit Sharma and Amar Kaushik.



Why Aahana was surprised by Madhur

Mumbai: Actress Aahana Kumra wrapped up Madhur Bhandarkar's *India Lockdown* Tuesday, and she says she had a very different idea of how he was as a person till before working with him.

"When I signed the film, I thought Madhur Bhandarkar would be a serious person but he is just the opposite! On sets he is fun, and really keeps you entertained. He keeps

the entire set happy and I think the happy vibe got the film to complete so quickly and on time," Aahana said.

She added: "It's his positive energy that exuberates on set and is infectious. I am very happy to have collaborated with him and I am very excited to see how *India Lockdown* is finally going to turn

out." Aahana, who will also be seen in the short film *Happy Birthday* along with actor Anupam Kher, took to Twitter Tuesday to announce the wrap of *India Lockdown*. She uploaded a picture of the entire team.

Bombay Begums, a manifesto of women battling odds

The series is an effort to seriously open up conversation about women and their claim for a space that is rightfully theirs

fighting to hold onto that position, in an otherwise all-male board of directors waiting with bated breath to bring her down. The victim's parent is a sex worker, who has incidentally serviced the CEO's son who will run over her boy, only minutes before the incident takes place.

Cast:
Pooja Bhatt, Shahana Goswami, Amruta Subhash, Plabita Borthakur, Aadiya Anand
Direction:
Alankrita Shrivastava



gender equation, which in itself gives the tale a fresh take. *Bombay Begums* not just lays bare a big bad city and its warts, it tries work-

ing as a manifesto of women battling the odds to find their space in a society where gender politics never ceases to be stacked against them.

Srivastava's earlier efforts have shown her preferred style of storytelling is episodic. She sets up parallel narratives of multiple protagonists that find a common thread thematically and plot-wise. *Bombay Begums* uses its six episodes to tell the story of five women while pushing the storyline forward.

When it comes to putting across a feminine standpoint, very few in Hindi film industry do it with the rage and relish of Alankrita

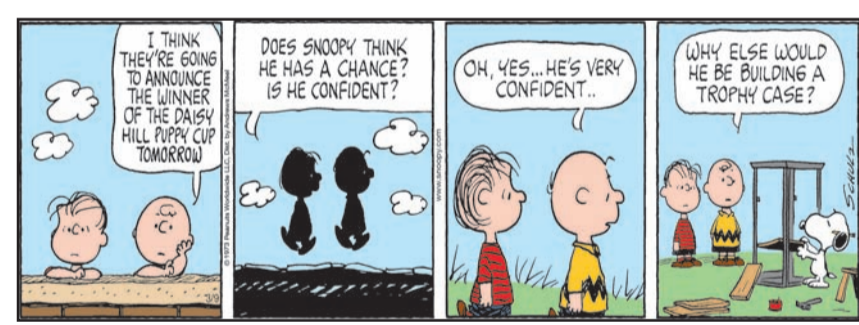
Srivastava -- a fact she underlined in the past with her 2017 feature effort, *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, and season one of the web series *Made In Heaven* a couple years later.

The thing about *Bombay Begums* is, it stops short of being path-breaking fare. It continues an effort to seriously open up conversation about women and their claim for a space that is rightfully theirs, but the story comes across as something you have seen before.

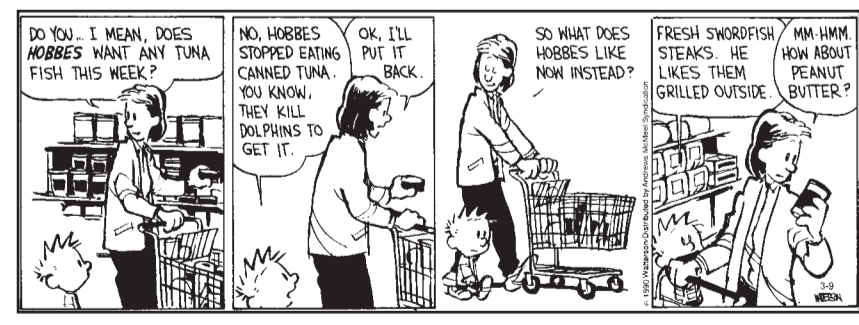
The show is defined by its brilliant performances, which make it worth a watch. More coherence in storytelling would have made it gripping fare.

WEB SERIES REVIEW

PEANUTS



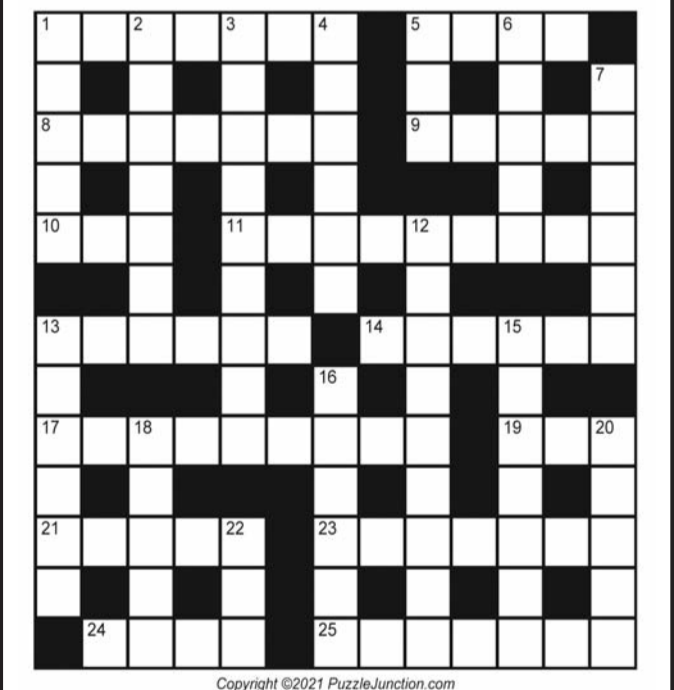
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



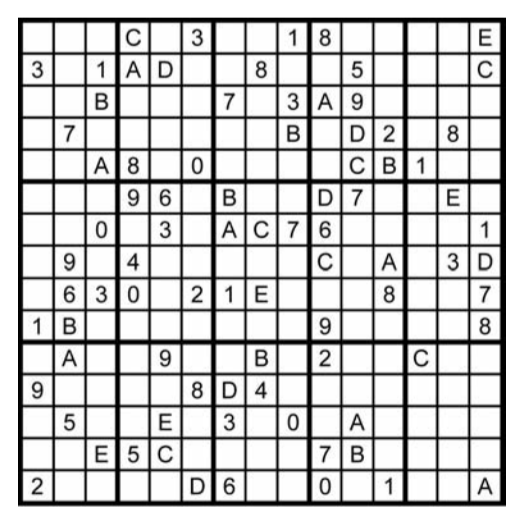
Across
1 Digs a tunnel
5 Ear part
8 Speech defect
9 Royal topper
10 Freudian topic
11 War paint
13 Tyrant
14 Consternation
17 Booked
19 Butterfly catcher

Down
21 Out in the country
23 Quartz glass
24 Air pollution
25 Sawbones

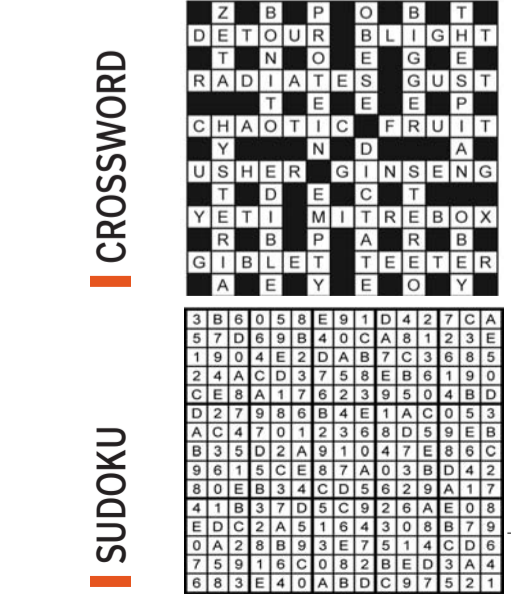
Across
5 Auction unit
6 Face fungus
7 Ireland's Bay
12 Salon necessity (4,5)
13 Kalahari, e.g.
15 Sea cow
16 Positions
18 Sheikh's bevy
20 Eagle's claw
22 Race part

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



CAUGHT BY SURPRISE

Aahana says she had a different idea about Madhur Bhandarkar till working with him

LEISURE



COVAXIN SAFE

Covaxin is safe and generates immune response, according to the phase 2 trials, published in The Lancet

NATIONAL P7



MYANMAR MEDIA DEFIANT

Myanmar media is defiant as the junta is seeking to suppress coverage of protests against their seizure of power

INTERNATIONAL P8

www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 | 2021

P1

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Please stop calling him goon, corrupt, scamster, etc. He has joined our party!

SHORT TAKES

MoU for Plastic Park

Bhubaneswar: A shareholders' agreement and an MoU were signed for development of the Paradip Plastic Park in virtual presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Tuesday. The state government will develop a state-of-the-art industrial park at Paradip for the downstream plastic industry. To this effect, a shareholders' agreement and an MoU were signed between the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation Limited. Naveen said his government has been providing all support for petroleum and petrochemicals facilities being set up by IOCL. P2

WB DGP shunted

New Delhi: The Election Commission Tuesday ordered removal of Virendra as the Director General of Police of poll-bound West Bengal with immediate effect, and appointed P Nirajnan in his place. In a directive to the chief secretary, the EC said Virendra "should not be given any post which directly or indirectly relates to conduct of election." The decision was taken after reviewing the poll preparedness in the state. It said a compliance of its order may be done immediately. "Kindly inform the commission about the compliance latest by 10am tomorrow (Wednesday)," it said.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	51025.48 ↑ 584.41
NIFTY	15098.40 ↑ 142.20
DOLLAR	₹73.54 ↓ ₹0.25
EURO	₹86.79 ↓ ₹0.26
GOLD	₹44,890 ↑ ₹672
SILVER	₹67,264 ↑ ₹1412

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	36.4°C	35.0°C
TEMP MIN	21.4°C	21.2°C
Humidity	95%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Fog or mist in the morning	

SOS to dists on forest fires

DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS ASKED TO WORK 24X7; ODRAF PERSONNEL, 700 SQUADS ENGAGED TO ABATE FOREST FIRES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 9: Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra Tuesday directed district administrations and all concerned departments to work 24x7 to control forest fires in the state.

The CS Tuesday morning had a review meeting on the forest fire situation with all the District Collectors, Superintendents of Police (SPs) and Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) through videoconferencing.

He directed district-level functionaries to take all-out efforts for abatement of wild fires and prevent their proliferation by intensifying night patrolling and attending fire alerts received in quickest possible time. Mahapatra instructed the officials to work 24x7 in accordance with the standard operating procedure and be more attentive to attend forest fires noticed in hilly terrains, involve members from the Panachayati Raj Institutions and local community to handle the situation.

As directed by the Chief Minister, the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) teams comprising 50 personnel have been engaged to render assistance to abate the forest fire in Similipal Tiger Reserve, said Sandeep Tripathi, head of the state task force formed to control forest fires.

In order to tackle the situation in an effective way, the state government has decided to engage more



ODRAF personnel deployed at Similipal to prevent forest fires

manpower and equipment. It has been decided to put additional 100 squads on top of 600 different squads. Each squad comprises 10 persons and a vehicle. Besides, additional 700 blowers are being procured for this purpose, he said.

Further, Tripathi said, it has been decided to incentivise 3,000 Forest Fringe Villages to take action to prevent occurrence of forest fire and prevent its proliferation in the fringe villages and involve the VSSs/EDCs to contain the ongoing forest fire menace. The government has also appealed

to PRI members to mobilise their human resources to sensitise forest's fringe localities to prevent intentional and unintentional fires.

In different areas, action has already been initiated by local DFOs to dissuade locals on the forest fringes from burning agricultural wastes in the open. Such fires, once left unattended cause forest fires. The villagers were asked to put water tankers, wherever feasible, to use to abate the ongoing fire.

Due to continuous and quick action by field staff, the number of fire

points has shown a considerable decrease as fire alerts have come down to 3,258 (March 8) from 6,258 (March 7), Tripathi claimed.

Asked about the status of fire incident in Similipal area, he said about 14.15 hectares of forest area in south north and 6.1 hectares of south divisions of Similipal have been affected by the fire.

However, more than 95 per cent of fire points have been attended to during last 24 hours. No damage to wild life or human has been reported by the field staff, he added.

Gangrape victim runs naked on road to save life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kaliapani, March 9: A minor tribal girl was allegedly gangraped by two youths while two others assisted them in the crime in a jungle near Bhitantgar village under this police limits in Jajpur district, police said Tuesday.

However, the victim fought back and managed to free herself from their clutches. Police arrested all the four accused and produced them in court after conducting a medical examination on them at Sukinda community health centre. This was stated by Jajpur SP Rahul PR at a presser here, Tuesday. The SP visited the spot with the survivor and conducted a probe into the incident. The girl in her complaint at Kaliapani police station alleged that two of the four youths raped her after taking her to a jungle.

The accused were identified as Santosh Kumar Prusty, 31, of Dasarathpur village under Dhamnagar police limits in Bhadrak district, Rabi Naik, 20, of nearby Tarini Market, Silu Mahanta, 20, of Mallar Sahi and Satyabrata Behera, 20, of Katepurty Nagar.

The girl of Kalarangi village along with a minor boy of the same village took a bus from Brahmanipal and got down at Tata Bazaar in Sukinda town Monday afternoon. After having food at a fast food joint, they were walking along Tamka-Mangalpur road towards Kalarangi village. As the evening had already set in, they had taken a shortcut to reach their destination quickly. As they were walking, four youths on



The four accused

two motorcycles accosted them. Since the minor boy was a local, he confronted the accused and had a verbal duel with them.

Later, two of the four youths overpowered the boy while two others took the girl to a nearby forest and raped her. The minor boy managed to escape from the youths' clutches and ran towards his village seeking help from elders. The accused tore up her dress and pinned her down. However, the girl put up a brave fight and managed to get herself free.

She ran naked towards the main road and entered the house of woman home guard Mamata Nayak of Kaliapani police station and pleaded for help. Hearing her cries, Nayak came to her rescue and alerted Kaliapani police station. A police team from Kaliapani led by IIC Ramakanta Muduli reached the spot and rescued the girl.

Based on the minor's statement, the police registered a case (case no-24/21) under POCSO Act and arrested all the four offenders.

British palace mum on racism slur

ROYALS SILENT ON HARRY, MEGHAN'S TELL-ALL INTERVIEW AS CRISIS TALKS RAGE

AGENCIES

London, March 9: Buckingham Palace is said to be in turmoil Tuesday, a day after Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's explosive interview with American chat show host Oprah Winfrey was aired in the UK and even Prime Minister Boris Johnson was asked to comment on the allegations of racism that had emerged.

According to some British media reports, a palace statement has been prepared but Queen Elizabeth II is yet to sign it off as crisis talks continue after damaging claims emerged around the 39-year-old former actress' suicidal



thoughts as a newly-married Duchess of Sussex.

Harry, 36, and Meghan also revealed some racist undertones within royal ranks as unnamed royals raised concerns over the skin tone of their first-born son, Archie,

even as they were told he would not be made a prince and therefore not provided with security.

"I have always had the highest admiration for the Queen and the unifying role that she plays in our country and across the Commonwealth," said

Prime Minister Johnson, when asked about the allegations during a Downing Street briefing on Monday evening.

"As for all other matters to do with the royal family, I have spent a long time now not commenting on royal family matters and I don't intend to depart from that today," he said, refusing to be drawn into the controversy.

Opposition Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said allegations made in the interview should be taken "very, very seriously". "It is really sad to see the family in turmoil like this. The issues that Meghan has raised of racism and mental health are really serious issues," said Starmer.

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UTTARAKHAND'S BJP CM RESIGNS

AGENCIES

Dehradun, March 9: Trivendra Singh Rawat Tuesday resigned as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, ending days of speculation about a leadership change in the BJP-ruled hill state amid reports of discontent against him.

Rawat submitted his resignation to Governor Baby Rani Maurya at the Raj Bhawan here upon his arrival from Delhi where he met the central BJP leadership. After submitting his resignation, Rawat said the Uttarakhand BJP Legislature Party will meet at the state party headquarters here at 10 am Wednesday to choose his successor. Earlier before proceeding to the Raj Bhawan, Rawat was



eted with his associates at the CM's residence. Rawat was going to complete four years in office March 17.

Soon after submitting his resignation, Rawat addressed a press conference at his official residence, telling the media that the party has "collectively decided" that someone else should lead the state now.

He said he comes from a humble family and never imagined his party will give him the honour of serving Uttarakhand as a CM.

OrissaPOST

BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDS

Inaugurator: Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble CM, Odisha

Chief Guest: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel

Keynote Address: Vishal Dev, IAS, Principal Secretary Tourism, Sports & Youth Services

20 March, 2021

Venue: Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar

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business

of the day quote

A robust risk profiling mechanism has been put in place to identify and monitor high-risk cases primarily through use of information technology and appropriate action is taken as per the law

ANURAG THAKUR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE

President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus aid package will provide enough resources to fuel a "very strong" US economic recovery

JANET YELLEN | US TREASURY SECRETARY

Once a loan goes into distress, it blocks capital for credit-worthy borrowers. In such a scenario, the lenders will have to take complete responsibility

KV SUBRAMANIAN | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO GOI

The government has detected GST fraud of ₹20,124 crore between November 9, 2020, and January 31, 2021

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

PAYTM LAUNCHES NEW IOT-BASED PAYMENT DEVICE, SMART POS

India's homegrown digital financial services platform Paytm Tuesday introduced a "Smart POS" (point-of-sale) application for Android phones as well as its latest Internet of Things-based payment device, Soundbox 2.0



India's GDP to grow 12.6% in FY22, highest among G20 nations: OECD

PARIS, MARCH 9: The global economic outlook has brightened as COVID-19 vaccine rollouts speed up in some countries and the United States launches a vast new stimulus package, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday, hiking its forecasts.

The world economy is set to rebound this year with 5.6% growth and expand 4.0% next year, the OECD said in its interim economic outlook.

That marked a sharp increase from its last outlook in early December, when the Paris-based policy forum forecast global growth of 4.2% this year and 3.7% next year.



OECD HIKES 2021 GLOBAL GROWTH FORECAST TO 5.6% FROM 4.2%

OECD DOUBLES US GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.5% ON STIMULUS

The US economy would grow 6.5% this year and 4.0% next year, the OECD said, ramping up its forecasts from expectations in December for 3.2% in 2021 and 3.5% in 2022.

The OECD estimated the package, which includes \$400 billion in one-time payments of \$1,400 to many Americans, would boost U.S. output by around 3% to 4% on average in its first full year.

With public money flooding into the world's biggest economy, the package could lead to the creation of up to 3 million US jobs by the end of the year but could also increase inflation by 0.75 percentage points per year on average in the first two years.

Meanwhile, the stimulus would be a boon for the United States' major trading partners, boosting growth by 0.5-1 percentage points in Canada and Mexico, and between 0.25-0.5 in euro area and China, the OECD said.

But significant risks loom over the improved outlook, notably in the form of how fast authorities get vaccine shots to people, how soon restrictions are lifted and whether new variants of the coronavirus are kept in check.

OECD Tuesday also forecast India's GDP to grow at 12.6% in FY22, the highest among G20 countries. This also marked a sharp turnaround from a 7.4% contraction in previous fiscal. It noted that higher commodity prices will also raise inflation in net commodity importers, such as India and Turkey, relative to commodity exporters.

"Not vaccinating fast enough risks undermining the fiscal stimulus that has been put in place," OECD chief economist Laurence Boone told an online news conference. Singling out Europe for its slow rollout, she said government money injected into the economy risked ending up in consumers' savings if they cannot soon return to more normal lives.

Global gross domestic product was seen returning to pre-pandemic levels by the middle of this year, albeit with large divergences between countries.

"The pace of vaccinations is not fast enough to consolidate the recovery, we need to go much faster and we need to do much better," Boone said.

While the vaccine rollout would give a shot in the arm to the global economy, the United States' planned \$1.9 trillion stimulus package would cascade down to other countries, adding more than a percentage point to global growth.

OECD Tuesday also forecast India's GDP to grow at 12.6% in FY22, the highest among G20 countries. This also marked a sharp turnaround from a 7.4% contraction in previous fiscal. It noted that higher commodity prices will also raise inflation in net commodity importers, such as India and Turkey, relative to commodity exporters.

SHORT TAKES

Vehicle reg fell 13.43% in Feb

New Delhi: Vehicle registrations declined on both sequential and year-on-year (YoY) basis in February 2021. On Tuesday, the data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) showed that vehicle registration declined by 13.43 per cent to around 14.99 lakh in February 2021, compared to over 17.31 lakh units reported for the corresponding period of last year. Similarly, the registration count declined on a sequential basis to around 14.99 lakh in February from over 15.92 lakh in January 2021. However, in February 2021, registration of personal vehicles grew by 10.59 per cent on a YoY basis to 254,058 units.

Tesla loses a third of its value

New York: Tesla Inc's stock extended losses and is now down by a third from its January record high, making it the third time in about a year that the electric car maker's shares have corrected that dramatically. With investors worried about rising interest rates and dumping high-valuation stocks in recent weeks, Tesla's market capitalization has fallen by almost \$300 billion since its January 26 record high to \$550 billion, moving behind Facebook Inc, which it overtook in December after joining the S&P 500. Tesla shares fell over 4% Monday and were down almost 35% from their peak January 26.

McAfee sells enterprise biz

San Francisco: Anti-virus software company McAfee has sold its enterprise business to a consortium led by Symphony Technology Group in an all-cash transaction for \$4 billion. Launched 30 years ago, McAfee's enterprise business today is a trusted partner for 86 per cent of the Fortune 100 firms around the world and reported \$1.3 billion in net revenue in fiscal year 2020. The transaction is expected to close by the end of this year. "STG is the right partner to continue strengthening our Enterprise business, and this outcome is a testament to the business' industry-leading solutions and most notably to the outstanding contributions of our employees," said Peter Leav, McAfee President and CEO.

AI employees disqualified from divestment process



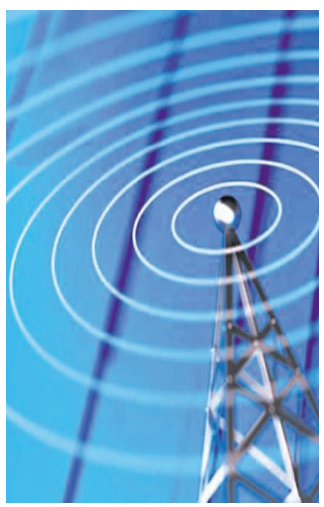
Air India Employees Consortium submitted an "expression of interest", last year, to participate in strategic divestment of the national carrier Air India

of the national carrier Air India. The Government of India has informed the AI Employees Consortium by an email Monday that their submission for the Air India disinvestment acquisition process is not fulfilling the eligibility Transaction Advisor to the Government of India said that the three reasons for the disqualification of the "Expression of Interest" of the employees are non-submission of required three years audited financial statements for foreign consortium member, non-submission of information or details by interested bidders for investments in offshore companies, which forms a substantial part of the net worth of the foreign consortium member and the foreign consortium member not being an appropriately regulated foreign investment fund as defined in the Preliminary Information Memorandum.

New Delhi, March 9: Air India Employees Consortium, which participated in the Air India divestment bid, was disqualified from the divestment process by the Transaction Advisor to the Government of India (Ernst & Young LLP) Monday. AI Employees Consortium submitted an "expression of interest", last year, to participate in strategic divestment

TRAI suspends norms for commercial text messages

The move comes after following disruptions in SMS and OTP deliveries for banking, payment, and other transactions



New Delhi, March 9: Telecom regulator TRAI on Tuesday suspended the newly-implemented norms for commercial text messages for one week, following disruptions in SMS and OTP deliveries for banking, payment, and other transactions.

The norms with respect to content template for text messages came into effect on Monday.

The move to suspend the norms would enable the principal entities to register the template of SMS so that no inconvenience is faced by the customers, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said in a statement.

ation including SMS template in a time-bound manner.

The temporary suspension comes after transactions, including banking, credit card payment and certain other services that involve SMS and OTP generation, faced an outage on Monday. The disruption happened after telcos implemented the TRAI norms for commercial messages.

The latest norms, based on blockchain technology, aim to curb unsolicited and fraudulent messages.

The norms require bonafide entities sending commercial text messages to register message header and templates, with telecom operators. The SMS and OTPs, when sent by user entities (banks, payment companies) are checked against the templates registered on the blockchain platform - a process called SMS scrubbing.

On Monday, banking and telecom companies traded charges over the SMS, OTP disruptions. Telcos have maintained that the payment companies and others entities did not do the needful even as the norms came into effect.

₹1.06L cr GST compensation shortfall released

New Delhi, March 9: Finance Ministry has released the 19th weekly instalment of ₹2,104 crore to the states to meet the GST compensation shortfall.

Out of this, an amount of ₹2,103.95 crore has been released to 7 states and an amount of ₹0.05 crore has been released to the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Till now, 96 per cent of the total estimated GST compensation shortfall has been released to the states and UTs with Legislative Assemblies. Out of this, an amount of ₹97,242.03 crore has been released to the states and an amount of ₹8,861.97 crore has been released to the 3 UTs with Legislative Assemblies.



Government had set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of ₹1.10 lakh crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of GST. The borrowings are being done through this window by the Centre on behalf of the states and UTs. 19 rounds of borrowings have been completed so far starting from October 23, 2020.

Under the special window, the Government of India has been borrowing in government stock with tenure of 3 years and 5 years. The borrowing made under each tenure is equally divided among all the states as per their GST compensation shortfall.

With the current release, the proportionate pending GST shortfall with respect to borrowing under 5 years tenor has been concluded for 23 states and three UTs with Legislature. The remaining five states have no GST compensation shortfall.

The amount released this week was the 19th instalment of such funds provided to the states. The amount has been borrowed this week at an interest rate of 5.8594 per cent.

Assembly polls may spare consumers from fuel price hikes

WITH FUEL PRICE RISE BECOMING AN ELECTION ISSUE, THE CENTRE WOULD NOT LIKE TO FURTHER ESCALATE THE MATTER WITH MORE INCREASES IN THE AUTO FUEL PRICES

New Delhi, March 9: Assembly elections in four states and one union territory starting later this month may spare consumers from any major increase in petrol and diesel prices for the next few weeks.

Sources indicated that with fuel price rise becoming an election issue, the Centre would not like to further escalate the matter with more increases in the auto fuel prices required in the wake of firming of prices in the global oil market.



barred by the election code of conduct from raising or decreasing fuel prices in line with market developments, such an exercise is normally practised during elections. It has happened during the previous Assembly and General Elections as well.

As is evident, OMCs have not revised fuel prices for the last 10 days even though the global oil market remained firm with crude hovering close to \$70 a barrel. In fact, since the beginning of February crude has gained more than \$7 per barrel that pushed OMCs to increase fuel prices

By keeping prices unchanged even during times when a cut in petrol and diesel prices was required, OMCs have built a buffer that will help them keep fuel prices stable for a longer

on Tuesday. Across the country as well the petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged.

Sources said that by keeping prices unchanged even during times when a cut in petrol and diesel prices was required, OMCs have built a buffer that will help them keep fuel prices stable for a longer time even though global product prices rise. However, a fall in the global oil market could see a cut in petrol and diesel prices immediately.

The increase in the previous weeks has taken petrol to cross historic high levels of ₹100 a litre in several cities across the country.

The petrol and diesel prices have increased 26 times in 2021 with the two auto fuels increasing by ₹7.46 and ₹7.60 per litre respectively so far this year.

SMRITI, JHULAN LIFT INDIA EVES



Smriti Mandhana (R) gives Punam Raut a fist bump during their match-winning partnership



JHULAN GOSWAMI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, March 9: Veteran Jhulan Goswami's four-wicket haul was beautifully complemented by Smriti Mandhana's sparkling 80 not out as Indian women outplayed South Africa by nine wickets in the second ODI to level the five-match series 1-1 here Tuesday.

when she clubbed the first two balls of her innings for sixes off Shabnim Islam (1/46).

However, India lost an early wicket when Jemimah Rodrigues (8 off 19 balls) dragged one to the stumps in the fifth over.

Mandhana eventually scored the winning runs with successive fouls in the 29th over: Earlier, Lara Goodall was the most successful batswoman for South Africa as she scored a 77-ball 49, while skipper Sune Luus chipped in with a 57-ball 36.

Electing to field, the Indian pacers were rewarded for bowling a probing line as Goswami and Joshi made early breakthroughs, dismissing openers Lizelle Lee (4) and Laura Wolvaardt (9) cheaply.

Ashwin bags Player of the Month award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, March 9: India's premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was Tuesday named the ICC men's Player of the Month (February) for his stellar show against England in a four-match Test series at home which his side won to qualify for the World Test Championship final.

victory over England at Chennai and took his 400th Test wicket in the third Test victory at Ahmedabad.

Besides the century, Ashwin scalped a staggering 24 wickets against England in February to help India pocket the four-match Test series 3-1 and help his team secure its spot in the WTC final against New Zealand at the iconic Lord's in June.

Scoring a total of 176 runs across these games and taking 24 wickets, Ashwin was the unanimous choice to win in the men's category for February and garnered the most votes in the fan vote, the ICC said in a statement.

England Test captain Joe Root (333 runs and 6 wickets in 3 Tests against India), and West Indies Test debutant Kyle Mayers, who scored a match-winning 210 to help his team successfully chase 395 and win the first Test against Bangladesh, were nominated alongside Ashwin for the honour.

Commenting on Ashwin's performance in February, Ian Bishop, representing the ICC Voting Academy said: "Ashwin's consistent wicket taking, even in helpful conditions have helped to put his team ahead in a very important series. His century in the second Test was as critical as it came when England were trying to claw their way back into the match."

On Beaumont, Bishop said, "Three half centuries of which two were in helping her team win the match was outstanding from Beaumont."

Hardik bowls at nets with tweaked action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, March 9: All-rounder Hardik Pandya has started bowling full tilt at the nets with a slightly tweaked action ahead of the five-match T20I series against England, giving the Indian team an additional bowling option in white-ball format that they have missed for some time.

Hardik uploaded a video of his net session on his twitter page, which mainly was a collage of his booming hits including his customised version of 'helicopter shot' as head coach Ravi Shastri, batting coach Vikram Rathour and skipper Virat Kohli looked intently. However, it was the last 10 seconds of footage that really caught the attention when he strode into bowl.

ISL: ATKMB set up title date with MCFC



ATKMB players celebrate their second goal against NEUFC, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Margao, March 9: ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB), in their first year as a joint entity, reached the Indian Super League (ISL) final with a 2-1 victory over NorthEast United in the second leg of the play-offs, here Tuesday. With this win, the Mariners have set up a blockbuster title clash against League Shield Winners Mumbai City FC.

the Asian Champions League spot. David Williams (38th minute) continued his fine form in the play-offs by scoring yet again while Manvir Singh (68th) added the second before VP Suhair (74th) pulled one back for the Highlanders. Bagan adopted a completely different approach from the first leg. They had 16 shots in the first half but just three on target. It took them just three minutes to sound a warning.

Blues retain 4th position with win against Everton

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, March 9: Kai Havertz is finally making an impact at Chelsea and helping the pursuit of Champions League qualification. The Germany playmaker Havertz has struggled to convince since joining from Bayer Leverkusen in the offseason for up to 70 million pounds (then USD 92 million). Havertz struggled under previous Chelsea manager Frank Lampard, suffering lasting effects from a coronavirus infection and battling for regular first-team action.

Honda advertisement for the Hornet 2.0 motorcycle. Features a rider, the motorcycle, and technical specifications like 'Low ROI 6.5% #', 'Get 5% Cashback up to ₹5000/- on Credit card/Debit card EMI', and 'Click Book Relax'. Includes dealer information for various cities in India.