

NUAPADA then.

DADLS - 8

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.



Govt. of Odisha

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 GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🎑

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181* ARIES

> Ganesha 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 Ganesha, you will have to remain you practical and head-on-shoulders self

TAURUS

Today, you will strike a great balance between vour professional and

personal life, predicts Ganesha. 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 Ganesha. You are likely to join personality development courses to achieve your ultimate goals. An unpleasant occurrence is likely to throw you off quard. But emember, 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 Ganesha. On this auspicious day, it is through religious scriptures that you satiate your desire to attain the intangible.



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 Penty 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 Malhortra. Vaani will also be seen in Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui where she shares screen space with Avushmann 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 sto-

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

looking to bring a fresh voice and and character choices.' 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

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. IANS



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

bank CEO's son runs over a lower-class boy. The victim's poor parent spots a get-richquick scheme through blackmail. A public scandal could end the CEO's career and so it is best to pay

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, Aadhya Anand

Alankrita Shrivastava Alankrita Srivastava's web se

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 WEB them.

Srivastava's ear-**SERIES** lier efforts have shown her pre-REVIEW ferred style of sto-

rytelling 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.

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 cou-

ple 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 bril-



flew kites', may be the standard when i comes to wanting to have a better future Ganesha expects a sea of change in your outlook, thanks to your sweetheart's noble gesture today.

SCORPIO

of you, says Ganesha. This day, just like 'on the

summer day that we

Dear friends and soul mates will bring you mud relief and calm today. says Ganesha. 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 Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Tempers will fly today, warns Ganesha. 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 Ganesha

CAPRICORN

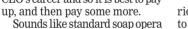
Your outstanding intellectual ability will not only yield exciting results for you, but will

also help your close associates who will have progressed a great deal in their career because of your valuable advice. says Ganesha. Scores of problems may come your way, but you will have nothing to worry about.

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 Ganesha

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 Ganesha



drama? Okay, imagine the picture again: The bank CEO is a woman

ries uses many familiar vignettes to set up a slice of Mumbai, with its hopes, despairs, dreams and struggles. Only, the story reverses



gives the tale a fresh take. Bombay

gender equation, which in itself *Begums* not just lays bare a big bad city and its warts, it tries work-

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

liant performances, which make it worth a watch. More coherence in storytelling would have made it gripping fare. AGENCIES



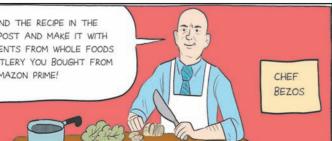


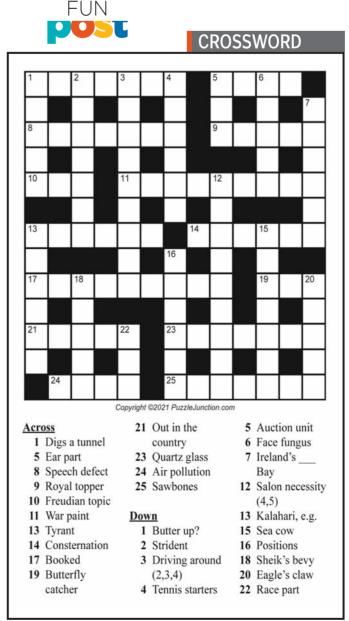
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY

YOU CAN FIND THE RECIPE IN THE WASHINGTON POST AND MAKE IT WITH FRESH INGREDIENTS FROM WHOLE FOODS USING THE CUTLERY YOU BOUGHT FROM AMAZON PRIME





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

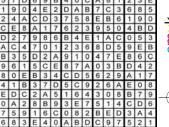
SUDOKU

SOLUTIONS

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

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

CROSSWORD IT. B E





SUDOKU



R





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**

JLAR by MANJUL



Please stop calling him oon, 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 Nirajnayan 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.

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. Mahapatar 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 Panacahayati Raj Institutions and local community to handle the situation.

Ås 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

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 | 2021



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 Similiapl 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.



1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

UTTARAKHAND'S BJP CM RESIGNS

AGENCIES

Dehradun, March 9: Trivendra Singh Rawat Tuesday resigned as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, ending days of speculations about a leadership change in the BJPruled 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 clos-



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 leads 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.

Gangrape victim runs naked on road to save life

POST NEWS NETWORK

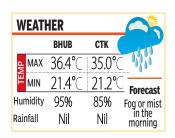
Kaliapani, March 9: A minor tribal girl was allegedly gangraped by two youths while two others assisted them in the crime in a jungle near Bhimtangar village under this police limits in Jajpur district, police said Tuesday. .

However, the victim fought back an





MARKET WATCH							
IN	DEX	VARIATION					
BOURSES	SENSEX	51025.48		584.41			
	NIFTY	15098.40		142.20			
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	73.54	₽	₹0.25			
CURR	EURO	86.79	♥	₹0.26			
BULLION	GOLD	₹44,890		₹672			
	SILVER	₹67,264	1	₹1412			



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 Katepurtty 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. Navak 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

March London. 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-yearold former actress' suicidal



thoughts as a newly-married even as they were told he would Duchess of Sussex Harry, 36, and Meghan also

fore not provided with security. "I have always had the highrevealed some racist undertones within royal ranks as est admiration for the Queen unnamed rovals raised con-

and the unifying role that she cerns over the skin tone of plays in our country and across their first-born son, Archie, the Commonwealth," said

not be made a prince and there-

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.

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



OrissaPOST WEDNESDAY | MARCH 10 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown

ORSAC portal to keep track of public goods

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 9: In yet another initiative under 5T model of governance, the Odisha Space Application Center (ORSAC) will develop Odisha Public Asset Monitoring System (OPAMS) through high resolution satellite data to keep track of public assets created under different departments.

This decision was taken at a highlevel meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Tuesday.

It was decided that all new assets created under different departments would be captured through the portal from planning and grounding to completion, commissioning and maintenance. Operation and service delivery of the projects would be monitored on real time basis through the online system.

Moreover, the portal would have updated information with maps. apps, analytics and dashboards. The portal will work as a state repos-



The meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, in progress

itory for decision making, resource allocation and developmental intervention, said Mahapatra.

He directed the Rural Development, Water Resources, Works, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Forest & Environment, Industries, Steel & Mines and Women & Child Development departments to link their existing asset portals with the OPAMS.

The portal would have updated geo-tagged information about all roads, canals, water bodies, power networks, schools, health facilities, police stations, banks, fire stations, tourism sites, storage/godowns warehouses and others, official sources said.

The Chief Secretary directed the officials to complete the work within six months. Each department was

REAL TIME MONITORING

Il new assets created under Adifferent departments would be captured through the portal from planning and grounding to completion, commissioning and maintenance

Operation and service delivery of the projects would be monitored on real time basis through the online system

he portal would have updated geo-tagged information about all roads, canals, water bodies, power networks, schools, health facilities, police stations, banks, fire stations, tourism sites, storage/godowns warehouses and others

asked to identify a nodal officer for this purpose.

Reviewing various projects of ORSAC, Mahapatra directed various departments to make use of the resource in decision making, planning and service delivery.

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena advised to organise one workshop involving all the departments and GIS scientists for more fruitful use of the GIS data. He asked the departments concerned to work out their requirements with more accuracy in planning and service delivery so that ORSAC could capture those data for them.

It was also decided to start one 'continuous operating reference system' (CORS) to have updated data base of the land, forest, mining, coastal zone, urban areas, siarat sources and interstate boundary lines. The land use and land encroachments in different urban areas would be captured through satellite data based 'land use intelligence system

ORSAC chief executive officer PK Mallick said the agency has developed and applied about 36 major GIS mapped digitised database during the year 2019-20 for various departments and agencies

Cultural corridor in Capital city soon

BHUBANESWAR: With an aim to make the state capital more inclusive and attractive, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to set un a cultural corridor to promote Odisha's rich and diverse art and culture. "The 'Cultural Corridor' is being initiated under 'Smart Janpath' project of BSCL. About 30 smart vending kiosks will be reserved for putting up special outlets in this corridor. Tourists will get a unique experience of Odisha's rich culture when they hit this corridor." said BMC Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary. As per the decision, the stretch from RD Women's University to Rupali Square along Janpath will be city's the Cultural Corridor. Special kiosks will be put up along the stretch to showcase and sell famous items or indigenous products from different places of the state, such as Koraput Coffee, Kandhamal Turmeric (Haldi), applique handicraft of Pipli among others.

Pact signed for Plastic Park at Paradip



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharmendra Pradhan

(IOCL).

Patnaik and Union Minister

The state government is devel-

oping 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 state-

run Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development

Corporation (IDCO) and Central

PSU Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen

said that his government has been

providing all required support for

petroleum and petrochemicals in-

vestments being set up by IOCL in

Odisha. The Plastic Park at Paradip

will be a very important infra-

structure support to the downstream

polymer industry in Odisha, he said.

tenant of Petroleum, Chemicals

and Petrochemicals Investment

Region (PCPIR) at Paradip, IOCL

should play a leading role in pro-

moting ancillary and downstream

industries with support to local

Naveen hoped that the setting

up of Plastic Park will provide the

necessary impetus to the petro-

chemical industries in the state.

Joining over video conference,

Pradhan said keeping the enter-

prise and employment generation

entrepreneurs.

He said that being the anchor

Patnaik and Petroleum Bhubaneswar: March 9: A share-Minister Dharmendra Pradhan holders' agreement and an MoU iointly witnessed the MoU were signed for development of sianina ceremony Paradip Plastic Park in virtual presence of Chief Minister Naveen

hief Minister Naveen

he project falls under PCPIR and will be able to accommodate at least 25 industries of various sizes, involving investment of more than ₹500 crore and employment potential of about 1,600 people

potential of the plastic sector in mind, the Centre has initiated the cluster development of the Industry through its Plastic Park scheme. Till now, six such parks includ-

ing Paradip Plastic Park have been approved by the Centre, he said adding that Odisha would become the nerve centre of industrialisation through rapid development in petrochemical, chemical, polymer, textile and fibre sectors.

He said that IOCL is providing ₹40 crore for this project. He also assured that IOCL would provide raw materials to local entrepreneurs for this project at a subsidised rate

With a project cost of ₹107 crore, the park spreads over 120 acres and provides easy communication access to NH at just 2.5 km, railway station at 3 km, Paradip Port at 10 km and is about 115 km away from Bhubaneswar. This project falls under the PCPIR and will be able to accommodate at least 25 industries of various size, involving investment of more than ₹500 crore and employment potential of about 1,600 people.

Ramkrishna Mission edu institutions get pat from UGC

POST NEWS NETWORK

the Centre.

Puri, March 9: The 111th annual general meeting of the Ramakrishna Mission was held at Belur Math in Howrah district of West Bengal recently, said a release of the Mission Tuesday.

As per a report presented in the meeting, the educational institutions of Ramakrishna Mission have won recognitions from the University Grants Commission (UGC) and various ministries at

The UGC selected the RKMVERI

(deemed university), the College of

Education of Coimbatore Mission

Vidyalaya and Sikshanamandira

WASSUP TODAY BHUBANESWAR

- Odisha Women's Football League,
- Capital ground, 7am and 3.30pm
- Book launch, Buddha Mandir, 5.30pm
- Guru Dakshina by Kalashrama, Rabindra Mandap, 6pm

Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to downtown@orissapost.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

Cong demo against holding tax hike

BHUBANESWAR: The Congress party in the state Tuesday protested against the holding tax hike by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). The party workers took out a rally against the move and sought rolling back of the civic body's decision. The party workers raised slogans against the state government and the BMC. "Our party has always stood for the rights and welfare of the people of the state. BMC's decision to increase the holding tax multifold is illogical and must be taken back. This has increased the burden on the middle-class," said party leader Rajeev Patnaik. He added that the party has planned to gherao the BMC office March 15 to raise the issue

Labourer dies as wall caves in

CUTTACK: A labourer died when a wall caved in during the construction of a



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, March 9: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra Tuesday urged the Union government to take measures to encourage participation of women in leadership roles and legislations ensuring gender equality.

Speaking during Zero Hour in the Upper House, the BJD MP requested the Centre to consider passage of Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill. which was passed by Lok Sabha in 2018 but lapsed in 2019 with the dissolution of the previous Lok Sabha He said that anti-trafficking measures for protection of women need to be strengthened and this legislation would help in this regard.

Centre's response

from Odio

sought on lifting of rice NEW DELHI: BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab Tuesday sought Centre's response over non-lifting of rice from Odisha. The senior BJD MP. during the Ouestion Hour in the Lok Sabha, asked the government whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has

Tough to match an efficient predecessor: Priyadarshi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, March 9: Senior IPS officer Saumendra Privadarshi Tuesday assumed office as the Commissioner of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Police.

The state government had Monday appointed Priayadarshi as the Commissioner of Police for twin city replacing IPS officer Sudhanshu Sarangi.



Mesmerising performance

Artistes perform Bharatnatyam at the 15th Guru Dakshina-2020-21 organised by Kalashrama at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesdav

OP PHOTO

drainage project in Shankarpur area here Tuesday, police said. The deceased has been identified as D Suriya Rao, 34, of Rausapatna, said Badambadi police IIC Rashmi Ranjan Mahapatra. According sources, the wall of a house collapsed when Rao was doing some work for the drainage project. Locals rescued Rao from the debris and rushed him to SCB Medical College and Hospital. However, he was declared dead on arrival.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit before Notary, Cuttack I, Loukik Nanda, S/o-Patitapaban Nanda, At-CDA, Sector-7, Plot No.-841/842, D-Cuttack declared that my first name has mentioned as Laukik in passport instead of Loukik. So Loukik Nanda and Laukik Nanda is one and same person for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit Dtd.4.2.21 before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar. I, Pradeepta Ghadei, Muktapur, Khurda have changed my name from Pradeepta Kumar Ghadei to Pradeepta Ghadei for all future purposes.

Patra also urged the Union government to pass Women's Reservation Bill ensuring 33 per cent reservation for women in the Parliament and Assemblies.

'The government should pass the Women's Reservation Bill. ensuring 33 per cent reservation for women in the Parliament and state Assemblies. It would ensure more also happening in different parts of the state. However, Union MoS for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Raosaheb Dadarao Danye replied that FCI will procure whatever kind of rice Odisha gives.

stopped procuring half of its rice

a and wh

participation of women in leadership roles," Sasmit said.

The BJD parliamentarian said that if the government considered passage of these two Bills, it would go a long way in ensuring more participation of women in leadership roles as well as bringing about greater generation equality and gender equality.

Sarangi, a 1990-batch officer, relinquished his post immediately after the announcement his transfer order. He has been posted as CMD of Odisha State Police Housing & Welfare Corporation Limited (OPH & WC).

Privadarshi, a 1995-batch officer, formally took the charge after receiving the guard of honour in a special programme at Police Bhawan here Tuesday afternoon.

'When you succeed an efficient officer, you face a tough challenge to match with your predecessor. I will try my best to continue the work initiated by my predecessor," Priyadarshi said while interacting

with the media.

The new Police Commissioner sought cooperation from the residents of the twin cities. "I will discharge my duty with utmost sincerity. The prime duties of every police officer are to keep the law and order situation under control and check criminal activities. So. I will give stress on these two things, he added.

Answering queries about the rising crime graph of the city,

Priyadarshi said, "I have just assumed the office. We will analyse the situation and devise an appropriate strategy after holding discussions with our officers.'

He urged the police personnel of the twin cities to make all-out efforts to deal with the challenges.

Meanwhile, speaking to Orissa POST the new Commissioner said. "I will try to continue the citizencentric schemes initiated by my predecessors.

number as may be felt appro-

priate considering the situa-

tion there and space available

within such temples and its

premises to gather, strictly ad-

hering to the Covid-19 proto-

He said that any person found

violating the order shall be pun-

ishable under the provisions

of the Disaster Management

Act, 2005 and other relevant

Major Shiv shrines or temples

such as that of Shree Lingaraj

in Bhubaneswar and Baba

Akhandalamani in Bhadrak

have restricted night-gather-

ing and mass diya burning dur-

ing Mahashivratri.

cols," Jena said.

laws

of Saradapitha centre, Belur, as mentor institutions for helping other higher education institutions improve their quality and get NAAC accreditation. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology (MST) has recognised Vivekananda Centenary College of Rahara centre, Kolkata as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

(SIRO), said the report. New branch centres of the Ramakrishna Mission were started at Kasundia in Howrah, Rourkela in Odisha and Villupuram in Tamil Nadu. A new branch centre of the Ramakrishna Math was started at Purnea in Bihar. The Mission and the Math undertook relief and rehabilitation operations during Covid-19 pandemic and natural calamities. Around ₹38 crore were spent in the process benefitting 8.24 lakh people. A sum of ₹29.42 crore was spent to provide scholarships to poor students and pecuniary help to the needy.

Medical services were rendered to over 83.11 lakh people through several healthcare facilities by the Mission. A total of ₹272.31 crore was spent for the purpose. The Mission spent ₹396.19 crore on the educational work and ₹131.62 crore on rural and tribal development, said the report.

Covid norm compliance must on Mahashivratri



An artisan shapes a massive clay lamp at Bidanasi Kumbhar Sahi area in Cuttack ahead of the Mahashivratri

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, March 9: The state government Tuesday directed all district administrations to ensure compliance of Covid-19 guidelines at different Shiv temples in wake of the possibility of large congregations on the occasion of Mahashivratri celebrations March 11.

Development Commissioner PK Jena in a letter to all the district Collectors and municipal commissioners pointed out that the state government has already restricted gatherings of over 500 people in festivals and melas

Lingaraj servitors, cops to undergo nCoV test

head of Mahashivratri festival at Lingaraj temple, all the servitors and police personnel will undergo Covid-19 and exercise began Tuesday. A meeting was held Monday to discuss and chalk out plans for smooth conduct of the festival March 11 following Covid-19 guidelines. During the meeting, it was decided that servitors and police personnel doing their duties at the temple will undergo tests for the novel coronavirus. Issues relating to the Lord Lingaraj and Lord Kapilnath's 'Bhetghat' rituals were also discussed. 'Brahman Niyog' has threatened non-cooperation if the ritual gets delayed like previous years.

"This should be implemented within the temple premises. The administration may also reasonably restrict so as to avoid mass gatherings," he said. "As large congregation on

the occasion of Mahashivratri has a large potential of spreading Covid-19 infections, Collectors and municipal commissioners may restrict congregations/gatherings to such

OR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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











OrissaPOST WEDNESDAY | MARCH 10 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

CUSTOMER-CENTRIC SERVICES OUR FOCUS: SUNNY MOTORS

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and the containment measures disrupted the global economy. The consequent decline in purchasing power of people dealt a body blow to the automobile sector. Despite odds, **Sunny Motors** in Cuttack has been focussing on offering quality as well as customer-centric services. In a tête-à-tête with **Orissa POST**, managing partner of the Hero MotoCorp dealer; Arshdeep Singh, speaks his heart out. Excerpts...

How has the pandemic affected the automobile industry?

The Covid-19 pandemic has battered the economy. Job loss and pay cut have resulted in a sharp fall in demand. The automobile sector has been struggling to get back the pre-Covid traction as car and bike sales have drastically nosedived. A decline in purchasing power has hit the sector hard.

■ When do you expect the normalcy to return?

There've been several issues in resuming the business after easing of the lockdown norms. As the market has been gaining traction after the Dussehra though a bit slower we're hopeful for a good business very soon. Looking forward to see bounce back by April this year.

Technology was instrumental during the lockdown. Your take?

Technology was crucial in bridging the business and transportation gap during the lockdown. After easing of the lockdown curbs, the inclination of people towards technology has witnessed a significant rise. No one can deny the benefits of digital technology.

Are customers getting special services at your showroom?

the

■ We, in association with Hero MotoCorp, have been offering the best possible services to the customers. The brand has its share in the market. The company has been adding new mod els, especially premium bikes, to its portfolio. As we've been providing

services for a renowned brand. we're focussed on ensuring the best possible purchasing experience to the customers. The showroom at Cuttack focuses on offering a customer-centric sales and service experience. Customers are satisfied with our service. We're in a constant endeavour to improve the services further in accordance with the customers' feedback.

ଧରିତ୍ରୀ | OrissaPOST

BUSINESS

EMIN 3 N C E

AWARDS

Automobile sector has been witnessing many ups and downs. Do you expect any help from government?

The pandemic has thrown several challenges before the automobile sector. Sale of vehicles is yet to normalise. We urge the government to allow some tax concessions, especially in GST, as it would not only help revive the sector but also benefit the customers

WE BOUNCED BACK IN Q3: **SKY AUTOMOBILES**

The year-2020 was challenging, but not all that bad. This was proved by Sky Automobiles as they set a new trend in the automobile dealership. The entity put in place innovative working style during the lockdown triggered by Covid-19 pandemic. Sky Automobiles Managing Partner, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, Avinash Singhania shares with **Orissa POST** how the company bounced back amid the pandemic...

state

ne of the biggest challenges for the dealership was to keep the connectivity uninterrupted with the internal as well as external customers. Also, to keep the team motivated and psychologically fit was not easy. But, by adopting cutting edge technology and executing creative thought to overcome the challenges during pre and post-lockdown phase, we have succeeded in neutralising

the adverse impact of Covid-19. The dealership has set a benchmark in staff welfare program by extending support to its employees for various small and big requirements. By offering free Covid-19 test at workplace, ontime salary, regular bonus and increments, Sky Automobiles sent a message to the industry that the ultimate asset for any organisation is its loyal and motivated employees. Thanks to the mobile applications like WhatsApp, google duo & zoom meeting which helped the dealership to keep continuous connectivity with employees and the customers throughout the pandemic, said Singhania.

We constantly used various communication platforms to prevent the spread of the virus and educate, warn, and empower the staff to deal with the situation. Mobile apps like Arogya Setu and Maruti's exclusive android app Wellness Mitra helped the staff keep to

themselves safe and updated during

the pandemic. Sky Automobiles has also used some of the remote working technologies like CRM and Google Drive to help maintain social distancing and business continuity.

To ensure best support with regard to car servicing and repair, the dealership has launched 'door-to-door' service campaigns and extended the workshop timings for providing 24X7 services to the customers. Extending support to Covid-19 warriors was immensely satisfying for the dealership.

With regard to sales, the dealership's rural pene-

tration was better during the pandemic. Its virtual connecting approach and home visit post initiative were the mantra for success Consistent approach to village influencers - sarpanch and panchayat samiti members - for conducting

marketing events at local haats and various man-

dis, pro-

moting

small

2019-20.

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BUSINESS

EMIN BNCE

AWARDS

cars, empowering rural medical

communication via eco-ambu-

lance, offering solution and em-

ployment opportunity to jobless

migrants through OLA, Uber,

Zoom car and various other car

rentals proved like abundance in

Although the 1st and 2nd quar-

ters of 2020-21 fiscal were complete

disaster, we fought back in the

3rd quarter and were able to bridge

the gap to some extent by

December 2020 with approxi-

mately - 4 per cent retail sales

growth as compared to last year's

performance. Despite mul-

tiple barriers, the vision

of the dealership is to

match the perform-

ance of fiscal year

scarcity.

Job fraud: 800 youths fleeced of ₹25 lakh; man held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, March 9: Baidyanathpur police here arrested the proprietor of a fake consultancy agency on a charge of defrauding over ₹25 lakh from 800 youths in Ganjam and Gajapati districts on the promise of giving them jobs in various posts for mobile phone towers, Tuesday.

The accused was identified as Basant Mallick, the proprietor of Maxis Outsourcing Pvt Ltd at Golapalli Sahi of Berhampur. A case was registered and the accused produced in the court, IIC Sarada Prasanna Das said.

The matter came to the fore after a victim Anuj Kumar Rath lodged a complaint at Baidyanatahpur police station. He alleged that Mallick and his wife Kumudini Mallick assured him of a job in a mobile phone tower and took ₹2, 500 as advance from him. His wife is yet to be arrested.

Later, Rath was given an appointment letter and asked to work as a supervisor in a mobile phone tower in Gajapati. There he was asked to identify unemployed youths and collect details for their employment in mobile phone towers on a monthly salary of ₹10.000

There, he allegedly collected ₹2,500 to ₹4,000 each from the youths looking for jobs. However, none of them was given employment even after two months. This raised suspicion of Rath. He then enquired the owner couple in the regard. However, the couple failed to give any convincing reply and went incommunicado by switching of their mobile phones.

DA case: Asst engineer under Vigilance scanner –

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, March 9: A team of vigilance officials Tuesday conducted simultaneous raids on the houses of an assistant engineer of Badagaon block in Sundargarh district over allegations of accumulating assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The assistant engineer was identified as Parshuram Naik.

The searches were carried out at three places including his houses at Rangadhipi and Lefripada and his office.

So far, the vigilance officials have detected movable and immovable assets worth over ₹1.35 crore

A three-storied building at Rangadhipa has been valued at ₹95.25 lakh while two plots at

Sundargarh and Pipili have been

valued at ₹1.025 lakh. A card worth

Among the seized assets are

two bikes, insurance policies worth

₹over 5 lakh and posatal deposits

Notably, vigilance officials had

arrested Chittaranjan Behera, the

IIC of Nihalprasad police station

in Dhenkanal district red-handed

while receiving a bribe recently.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Notice No. ETELCON-BB 324E. Date: 02.03.2021

Name of work : COMPREHENSIVE

₹7.29 lakh was seized.

worth ₹2.76 lakh.

POACHERS TRYING TO SET FOREST AFIRE ARRESTED; 22 SNARES SEIZED

POST NEWS NETWORK

SIMILIPAL INFERNO

Fires ripping through Ghumusar, Boudh forests

POST NEWS NETWORK

reported from 390 places. Till Monday afternoon, 48 more places

Collector, SP, DFO take stock of situation

Baripada, March 9: Amid intensified efforts to douse fires in Smilipal sanctuary, forest officials arrested two poachers, who were trying to set fire to Dudhiani forest in Karanjia division in Mayurbhanj district, to hunt animals. The two were produced in a court Tuesday.

The two accused were identified as Salu Diu (25) of Khadikuda and Pratap Hembram(30) of Dudhiani.

Forest officials have seized 22 snares with total length of 415 ft from them. It was learnt that they used the snares to catch rabbits

It was alleged that poaching activities and fires often scare wildlife, who try to escape from forests, but eventually stray into human habitations.

For an instance, a deer strayed into Biju Maharana's house at Jharaphula, late Monday night. The animal has been rescued.

According to reports, wildlife inside the sanctuary has been sacred and unsafe due to raging fires when rising temperatures have made

WOMEN'S DAY IN **BERHAMPUR ITI**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, March 9: International Women's Day was celebrated on the premises of Berhampur-based Industrial Training Institute (Government), Monday.

Principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahi presided over a meeting while professors Pushpanjali Mishra and Minakshi Chhotray of Parala Maharaja Engineering College in Berhampur spoke women empowerment.

Speaking on the occasion, Panigrahi informed more girls have been taking admission in the ITI and getting placement in various companies. Later, lady teachers and girl students displaying excellence in various skills were awarded.



their lives hellish, forcing them to stray out of forests

Meanwhile, a 50-member ODRAF team sent by the state government was split into four groups. These groups have been trying hard to douse fires in Chahala, Pithabata, Jashipur and Karanjia ranges.

Fires have still been raging in Bangiriposi, Chahala, Usaki, Barehipani, Kabatghai, Dudhiani, Pattabila, Debasthala, Kandabhenu, Sarua, Nana South and North areas. Environmentalist Bhanumitra Acharya said that the number of for-

est staff is engaged in fire-fighting exercise is not enough to do the job quickly.

The official report claimed that wildlife in the core area of the sanctuary has not been affected, but the reality is different.

People in three villages in the core area; 61 villages in the buffer zone and 12000 villages at the foothill areas are encircled by fires. As flora has been massively dam-

aged, thousands of tribal people depending on minor forest produce have been affected.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

for cover

BARIPADA: Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukhi had said Monday that wild animals are safe in spite of the raging inferno in various ranges of Similipal National Park. However, it seems that animals are escaping out of forests to prove the minister wrong. A spotted deer ran away from the park Monday night and took shelter in a nearby house. The spotted dear sneaked into Brundeiposi village located at the foothill of the park and took refuge in the house of Biju Maharana. It was rescued later.

Meanwhile, Collector Vineet Bhardwaj, SP Smith P Parmar, and Baripada DFO Santosh Joshi took stock of situation at Masanibila forest and other areas Tuesday. Besides, members of various organizations have joined the fire fighting exercise in the sanctuary.

Bhanjanagar/Boudh, March 9: Fires have been raging in various forests under North Ghumusar forest division in Ganjam district for the last 9 days while the forest department has been struggling to douse the blaze.

The department is worried over the spread of fires. Besides, some forests in Boudh district are on flames, a report said.

According to the reports, forest lands are bone dry while the slightest spark triggers fires to spread fast amid agile winds in the region.

Fires were reported from over 800 places under North Ghumusar forest division. Last Sunday, fires were

Youth hacks woman to death, surrenders before police

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairangpur, March 9: A youth surrendered before police after hacking a woman of his village to death in Jamda area of Mayurbhanj district. The incident was reported from Roadsahi village Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Debendra Nayak while the accused is Mechas Singh, a woman of Roadsahi.

altercation with Singh over some issues. Later, situation turned ugly when Nayak lost his cool and started attacking Mechas with an axe till she collapsed on the ground. She died on the spot.

After committing the crime, Nayak went straight to Jamda police station with the axe and surrendered before the police.

However, the reason for the altercation and the motive of the murder is yet to be ascertained. Police registered a case and detained Nayak

The body was sent for post-mortem. An investigation into the incident is underway

Such incident has come amid raports about growing cases of witchcraft in remote pockets of the district.

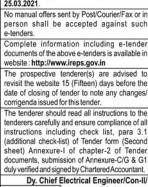
had caught fires, as per the satellite images

In the last 8 days, forests in 150 hectares have destroyed in this forest division. Locals expressed concern that if forest fires are not contained as early as possible, situation may go out of control with the progress of summer.

A team of forest officials led by DFO Abhaykant Dalei and ACF Sudarshan Badi has been making all-out efforts to contain forest fires.

It was alleged that wild animals often come out of forests and stray into human habitations due to hot atmosphere in forest caused by fires

EAST COAST RAILWAY	Name of work : COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF VRF AC MACHINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION OF RAIL SADAN, EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR TWO YEARS.					
E-Tender Notice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER- 2021-02 Dt: 03.03.2021	Cost of tender document : Nil, Earnest money to					
Name of the Work : ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEMS	be deposited : Nil, <u>Completion period of the work</u> 24 Months. Tender closing date & time : at 1200 hrs. of 25.03.2021.					
OF MEDHA MAKE AT BRUNDAMAL, BARGARH ROAD, RAIRAKHOL, BAMUR, SARGIPALI, JARPADA STATIONS OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR THREE	No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.					
YEARS.	Complete information including e-tender					
Tender Value: ₹1,18,86,930/-, Cost of Tender	documents of the above e-tenders is available in					
document: ₹5,900/	website : http://www.ireps.gov.in					
Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of	The prospective tenderer(s) are advised to					
25.03.2021.	revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the					
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or	date of closing of tender to note any changes/					
in person shall be accepted against such	corrigenda issued for this tender.					
Complete information including e-tender	The tenderer should read all instructions to the					
documents of the above e-tender is available	tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all					
in website: http://www.ireps.gov.in	instructions including check list, para 3.1					
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised	(additional check-list) of Tender form (Secon					
to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before	sheet) Annexure-I of chapter-2 of Tende					
the date of closing of tender to note any	documents, submission of Annexure-C/G & G					
changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.	duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant					
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)	Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Con-II/					
PR-610/L/20-21 Sambalpur	PR-103/CD/20-21 Bhubaneswar					



भारतीय प्रौद्यीगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर (8) INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR Admission to M.Tech. and Ph.D. Programme (Academic Year 2021-2022)

Applications through ONLINE are invited from eligible candidates for admission into M.Tech. and Ph.D. Programme in the School of Earth Ocean & Climate Sciences, Infrastructure, Electrical Sciences (Inclusive Computer Sciences & Engineering), Mechanical Sciences, Minerals Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Basic Sciences (Ph.D. only), Humanities, Social Sciences and Management (Ph.D. only). For further details, visit Institute website http://www.iitbbs.ac.in. Sd/- Registrar

UTTARA

KHAND





According to reports, Nayak had an

power post

FOCUS INNOVATION

The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it. THE MOTHER



Not Rosy Now

ometimes ignoring an issue turns out to be a good government strategy. The indifference helps the government buy time and let the issue run its course and die down sooner or later. The Centre seems to have adopted this strategy to deal with the farmers' agitation against the three farm laws. There is complete silence on the government's part since the last round of talks between the farmer unions and the Centre were held on January 22, four days before the tractor parade, which ended in chaos and violence at Red Fort in Delhi. The government remains unmoved when farmers continue to commit suicide after having been frustrated over its dogged refusal to concede the demand for repeal of the laws. Till date, 270 farmers have died over the issue. Farmers' basic human rights have been trampled upon and basic facilities denied. Instead of listening to them, the government has chosen to ignore them with cynical unconcern.

But, this strategy seems like it is not going to work since the government has already engaged in protracted and fruitless negotiations creating the impression that it wanted to listen to the farmers. When it found the farmers' agitation had gained traction not only inside the country, but also abroad, it followed a two-pronged strategy. Both were ill-conceived and result of a knee-jerk reaction. It sought to crush the agitation through repressive measures and imputing criminal, anti-national motives to it. Then it tried to threaten action even against foreign protesters against government excesses on the agitating farmers and those, including a section of the media, sympathetic to the farmers' cause. The government has only succeeded in internationalising the issue when its intent was to keep the issue within the country.

Apparently, the government was breathing somewhat easy, when its action of slapping the harsh sedition charge and arrest of vocal supporters of the agitation pushed the burning issue out of the front page media headlines. Voices of international protest also appeared to have been muffled.

That the government misread the situation became clear on March 8 when the issue was raised in the British parliament with full vigour and to the consternation of the Indian foreign service establishment. The debate was held in response to an e-petition which had crossed the 100,000-signature threshold, required for it to be approved by the House of Commons Petitions Committee.

Obviously, it wasn't music to the ears of the Indian government. The Indian High Commission in London made its displeasure known despite the British government earlier iterating that the three farm laws were a "domestic matter". It condemned the debate among British lawmakers over the right for peaceful protests and freedom of the press in India amid the ongoing farmers' stir.

The High Commission slammed the debate terming it "distinctly onesided discussion." It regretted aspersions had been cast on the "largest functioning democracy in the world and its institutions" instead of holding a "balanced debate". In its opinion false assertions were made without "substantiation or facts." The High Commission also reminded the British government that India and the UK together work as a force for good in the UN Security Council and bilateral cooperation between the two countries helps fix many global problems. It lamented that a false narrative over farmers' protest was sought to be developed even though the High Commission of India had been, over a period of time, taking care to inform all concerned about the issues raised in the petition.

The High Commission's pro-forma reaction once again showed how the Indian foreign service is cutting a sorry figure on the global stage on the farmers' issue. It shows the country in a wrong light to try to silence foreign governments and legislators articulating their stand on the issue that has transcended India's geographical borders because of the government's own style of inept handling. For, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Minister Nigel Adams said during the parliamentary debate the close UK-India relationship did not hinder the UK in any way from raising difficult issues with India. He felt it was a time of "great ambition for the UK's relationship with India" when both governments working to advance shared priorities across trade and investment, health, sustainability, climate change, defence and security can help fix global problems.

He hoped that candid discussions on a range of issues will put Boris Johnson in the right frame of mind when he visits India in the near future. Apart from handling the farm bill generated crisis, the government has landed itself in another ticklish situation by trying to disown the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) status it had so very excitedly bestowed on some people that it had considered would stand by the roadside and loudly applaud whatever it is that the government did internally. Reality does not seem to

A GREENTECH BUBBLE?

ollowing the tenfold growth of Tesla's stock between March 2020 and January 2021, the company's founder, Elon Musk, has emerged as the avatar of green innovation. The Tesla phenomenon has spilled over into the rest of the nascent electricvehicle (EV) industry, sprinkling stardust on a host of green startups with unproven technologies and minimal revenues.

As entrepreneurs and private investors step in to do what governments have failed to do, some commentators now believe a "Green Revolution" is at hand. Others, however, look at the same picture and see the early signs of a "greentech bubble."

The greentech (or cleantech) boom is indeed vulnerable. Like the earlier digital boom that resulted in the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s, it is heavily reliant on an outside force that could suddenly recede - namely, easy money. In today's environment of low interest rates, the present value of future cash flows has been inflated, and thus will plummet were interest rates to rise.

For ten years now, central banks have set policy rates below the rate of inflation - which itself has resided at historically low levels. As a result, negative real interest rates on safe assets have pushed large institutional and retail investors alike into riskier assets vielding higher potential returns. It is worth remembering that just before the recent focus on greentech stocks, the Big Tech giants achieved extremely high valuations as part of a broader "unicorn bubble" in private markets. where "unconventional" investors paid premium prices for unsellable shares of what they hoped would be the next FAANG (Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, Google) stock.

In any case, the US Federal Reserve has responded to the COVID-19 crisis with a commitment to keep its policy rate near zero until the US economy achieves "maximum employment and inflation averaging 2 per cent over time." Yet, given the rapid administration of COVID-19 vaccines under US President Joe Biden's administration, the stage is being set for normalisation in capital markets.

So, the question is not whether the green bubble will burst (all bubbles do, eventually), but whether it will burst before the



Surging greentech stocks have led to a debate about whether we are on the cusp of a Green Revolution, or yet another asset-price bubble. In fact, both interpretations are provisionally correct, because all now depends on whether governments will step in to provide the necessary rules. infrastructure. and markets

nology and mobilise capital to

fund the infrastructure needed

for its broad deployment, and for

the Darwinian exploration of ad-

ditional applications. A produc-

tive bubble emerges, driven by the

Elements of this pattern can

be seen in previous industrial rev-

olutions. In the century leading up

to the Battle of Waterloo in 1815,

the British army's rising demand

for guns fueled the productivity

gains (from mass production and

the division of labour) that made

Birmingham, England, the work-

shop of the First Industrial

Revolution. Then, a generation

later, the British Parliament en-

dowed railway promoters with

powers of eminent domain and

limited liability, setting the stage

for the Great Railway Mania of

the 1840s. Likewise, in the United

States, state guarantees and sub-

sidies underwrote the canal and rail

networks that were needed to es-

tablish a truly national economy.

And, as in Britain, speculators

followed where the state had led.

mission that is greater in scale

and scope than even the Cold War.

But the response so far has been radically different. For years, the

US was paralysed by Republican

politicians' denial of reality-a self-

defeating stance that culminated

in former President Donald

Today, climate change offers a

promise of a new economy.

Green Revolution has established a firm foothold. Will the capital mobilised by the current boom be wasted, or will it be embodied as the infrastructure needed to turn the revolution into the new normal? Effecting radical change in energy supply and consumption inevitably will require what only the state can provide: vast public investment and new rules of the road (taxes and regulations). We know this from the history of the digital revolution in the second half of the twentieth century, which I examined in my book Doing Capitalism in the Innovation Economy.

In technological revolutions, state actors must play the initial leading role, by establishing a politically legitimate mission (such as winning the Cold War) to justify massive spending on highrisk programmes. Likewise, it is the state that must fund upstream investment in basic research whose potential returns are too uncertain to motivate the private sector. And, as a novel technology matures, the state creates a market by serving as the first customer, thereby pulling the supply side of the innovation economy down the learning curve to low-cost, reliable production.

The final stage begins when speculators identify the transformational potential of the new tech-

In America's absence, China sought to lay claim to the Green Revolution, funding the world's

Trump's withdrawal from the

Paris climate agreement in 2017.

largest programme for greentech research and development, and securing its dominant position in the production of wind turbines and solar panels. But China's climate leadership is compromised by its reliance on coal and continued construction of new coalfired power plants both at home and abroad.

Moreover, while US policymakers have dithered, the American public has accepted reality. According to the Pew Research Center, a majority of Republican voters and an overwhelming share of Democrats believe the US government should do more to address climate change. That means there is a broad constituency for Biden's plan to "build back better," the blueprint of which already contains much of what is needed

Biden's commitment sets the stage for government to fill in the missing pieces of a nationwide shift to renewable energy, starting with the establishment of gridscale energy storage. Also needed are enhanced grid management to accommodate a preponderance of intermittent energy sources; an extension of the grid to substitute electricity for carbon-generating systems in industrial, commercial, and residential buildings; a nationwide expansion of broadband access; and the reconstruction of transportation infrastructure to accommodate lower-carbon forms of mobility (including charging stations for EVs).

Having witnessed the difference that competent national leadership makes in the deployment of vaccines, it is possible that US voters will deliver the Democrats even larger legislative majorities in the 2022 midterm elections. The last time that happened was in 1934, when voters heartily endorsed Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. If a Green New Deal then follows, the greentech boom, bubble or not, will leave behind a new world.

The writer is a special limited partner at the private-equity firm Warburg Pincus and an affiliated lecturer in economics at the University of Cambridge. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

HOST OF GREEN STARTUPS WITH UNPROVEN TECHNOLOGIES AND MINIMAL REVENUES

William H. Ianeway

PHENOMENON

OVER INTO THE

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have turned out that rosy

WISDOM CORNER

- I have realized that the past and future are real illusions, that they exist in the present, which is what there is and all there is
 - ALAN WATTS
- What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us. HELEN KELLER
- Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is JIM ROHN something you design for the present.

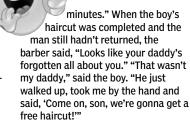
WORDS**WORTH**

Mesmerise

his perpetuates the name of the eighteenth-century physician Franz Mesmer of Vienna. He believed a magnetic force flowed from the stars to act on us all and that diseases were caused by blockages stopping the magnetic fluid flowing through the body. He called the force "animal magnetism", a term we still sometimes use for people with strong personalities. He tried acting on this force with magnets - he persuaded one of his early patients to swallow iron filings and then passed a magnet over her legs. Later - he'd moved to Paris by then - he created his baquet, a large tub filled with iron filings and magnetised water that 20 people could sit round. Projecting iron rods were provided for the patients to grasp or press to the affected spot. In his salon, quiet music played and perfumes scented the air. Dr Mesmer would enter, dressed in a long robe of lilac-coloured silk, richly embroidered with gold flowers, holding a white magnetic rod in his hand. He treated every patient at the baquet with gestures, passes of his white rod, murmured words and searching looks. Unfortunately, he became too popular, especially with the French queen, Marie Antoinette. Two politically motivated enquiries in 1784, one headed by Dr Guillotin, the other by Benjamin Franklin (the American ambassador to France at the time). concluded it was all done by manipulating the imagination of patients. In essence, Mesmer was, without realising it, putting his patients into a trance and giving them post-hypnotic suggestions to clear up psychosomatic ailments. All that stuff about iron bars and animal magnetism was irrelevant. Mesmer's reputation never recovered, but his name entered the language and later became an alternative term for hypnotism.

LOL Visit the barber

man and a little boy entered a Abarbershop together. After the man received the full treatment shave, shampoo, manicure, haircut, he placed the boy in the chair. "I'm going to buy a green tie to wear for the parade. I'll be back in a few



Gratitude can make you happy & healthy



PRACTICING GRATITUDE **MEANS EXPRESSING IT ON A REGULAR BASIS. THANKING** PEOPLE **DIRECTLY IS A GOOD WAY TO DO THIS**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

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

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send in their valuable comments, opinion

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

very now and then, when one \dashv of my kids talks back to me ✓ with a tone I don't like. I say to him or her: "You need to show more gratitude and less attitude.'

By "attitude," I mean "bad attitude," of course. Good attitude is always welcome, as is an "attitude of gratitude." I don't want my kids to be entitled—to feel that they have an innate right to everything that they've been blessed with, whether it's food, clothing, cellphones or Netflix subscriptions. I want them to feel grateful.

Why is gratitude important? Well, ask the Dalai Lama and he will tell you that inner contentment (true happiness) does not come from having all that we want, but from wanting and appreciating all that we have. When you drive your car or ride your motorcycle, are you grateful that you don't have to take a bus? When you're riding the bus, are you grateful that you don't have to walk? When you're walking, are you grateful that have

a good pair of shoes?

Researchers have found numerous benefits to gratitude. According to Glenn Fox, an expert in the science of gratitude at the USC Marshall School of Business in California, "Benefits associated with gratitude include better sleep, more exercise, reduced symptoms of physical pain, lower levels of inflammation, lower blood pressure and a host of other things we associate with better health. The limits to gratitude's health benefits are really in how much you pay attention to feeling and practicing gratitude.'

Practicing gratitude means expressing it on a regular basis. Thanking people directly is a good way to do this: another way is to write down everything you're thankful for. Some people write daily lists such as "Ten Things I'm Thankful for Today." This is a good habit, even better than writing lists such as "Ten Things I'd Like to Own" or "Ten Reasons I Hate My Parents. If you're having trouble com-

ing up with reasons to be thankful. here are some of my suggestions: Be thankful if you have food on your plate, if you aren't constantly hungry, if you don't lick your lips whenever you spot a Zomato driver. Be thankful if you have a reliable source of clean water, if you have enough to drink, cook your food, or even take an occasional bath.

Be thankful if you have freedom of worship, if you can attend a church, temple or mosque without the slightest fear, if you can decorate your car with pictures of anyone you worship, even Virat Kohli.

Be thankful if you have access to good healthcare, if you can see a doctor anytime you wish, if your doctor didn't get medical training through the Internet.

Be thankful if you have a loving family, if they accept you the way you are, if they're trying hard to forget the way you were.

Be thankful if you have no serious addictions, if you can survive an entire week without smoking. drinking or sniffing, if you show no signs of withdrawal, not even when visiting the bank.

Be thankful if you have a decent job, if it comes with many benefits, if the best benefit isn't free counseling after the boss harasses vou.

Be thankful if you have a roof over your head, if the roof is wide enough to cover all your belongings, if your belongings don't include a bucket that you use whenever it rains.

Be thankful if you have a means of transportation, if you can take your family on a long trip to the countryside, if the trip refreshes their souls and doesn't wear out their soles

Be thankful if you appreciate what you have, if you don't take your blessings for granted, if you spend part of your life - even a small part -- helping others less fortunate.

Polluting polythene

Sir, Pollution is proving to be a catastrophe for human society, and polythene is one of the most dangerous pollutants. Strict regulations were put in place by the government to curb the use of polythene and fines were also levied in cases of violations. But within a few days, the government's approach slowed down, resulting in an increase in use of polythene. Thermocol was similarly banned, but the use of the same is still open. As a result, polythene and thermocol have become major pollutants of our environment. Plastic pollution causes harm to humans, animals and plants. It can take hundreds of thousands of years to break down plastics, so damage to the environment is permanent. It affects all living things in the food chain from plankton to whales. People are still using polythene even after being aware of its adverse effects on the environment. The problem will not be solved by the government alone. People need to be vigilant about this. The problem is that the government does not keep a close eye on polythene companies a few days after a law is passed. People will not use a product if its production is stopped. Secondly, if the slogan of self-reliance is to be successful in India and the goal is to develop the economy in rural areas, efforts will have to be made to popularise the Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR use of paper bags instead of polythene.

Wildfire control

Sir, The government took some time to realise the magnitude of the wildfire raging in Similipal. It is high time India procures fire-fighting aircraft. A fleet of at least two or four aircraft will be of a lot of help. Already India has an excellent National Disaster Response Force. Wildfires in India can be controlled by using 'Bambi Bucket', DC 10 fire extinguisher airplane, CL-145 Canadair and some other latest equipment. Hope the government takes interest in procuring these equipment for future firefighting.

Sunil Pradhan, KHARIAR (NUAPADA)

Sir, Novak Djokovic has added another feather to his cap by besting Roger Federer's record for most weeks as the world's numero uno tennis player. With 311 weeks at the top, the Serb appears to be in prime form, and there is no stopping him. Djokovic reclaimed the top ranking from

No stopping Djokovic

another acclaimed player 🗅 Rafael Nadal in February 2020 and finished as year-end number one for the sixth time, tying the record set by Pete Sampras. More power to his elbow!

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE





Why Himachal is planning to legalise hemp cultivation The World of Movies Has Already given five Chief Ministers to the State Ind-Asian News Service

AGENCIES

Shimla, March 9: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur is projecting an economic boom in legalising hemp cultivation as thousands of families depend on it.

In his Budget speech last week, Thakur said, "Commercial hemp cultivation is permitted and regulated in many countries and in some states in India.

"This creates investment and employment opportunities. The state government proposes to frame a policy to permit commercial hemp cultivation with proper regulatory framework," Thakur, who holds the Finance portfolio too, said.

He presented a Rs 50,192-crore populist but deficit Budget for 2021-22 with no new taxes despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Commercial hemp cultivation is permitted and regulated in many countries and in some states in India...The state government proposes to frame a policy to permit commercial hemp cultivation with proper regulatory framework

JAI RAM THAKUR I CHIEF MINISTER

Experts told IANS there is a huge demand for opium, an extract of the poppy grown widely in high mountains of the state, mainly the Kullu Valley, in the pharmaceutical industry

They say the selective cultivation of cannabis and poppy on the

Madras HC refuses to stay law favouring Vanniyar community

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, March 9: The Madras High Court Tuesday declined to stall the implementation of a new legislation of the Tamil Nadu government, which provides 10.5 per cent internal reservation for the Vanniyar community within the 20 per cent earmarked for the most backward classes (MBCs), in the state

The first bench of Chief Justice Saniib Baneriee and Justice Senthil Kumar Ramamurthy expressed its disinclination to interfere with



Over 60 per cent of the poppy and cannabis produced in Himachal is smuggled to countries such as Israel, Italy, Holland and other European countries. The rest finds its way to Nepal or other Indian states like Goa, Punjab, and Delhi

lines of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh could annually generate revenue of Rs 800 crore to Rs 900 crore. According to the police officials. over 60 per cent of the poppy and cannabis produced in Himachal is smuggled to countries such as Israel, Italy, Holland and other European countries. The rest finds its way to Nepal or other Indian states like Goa, Punjab, and Delhi.

They say cannabis and poppy (opium) plants are grown illegally on vast tracts in Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, and Chamba districts. Police records show that 50,000 acres in Kullu Valley alone is under cannabis cultivation.

Lured by cheap hashish, the po-

Police say cannabis and poppy

plants are grown illegally on vast tracts in Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Chamba districts. Police records show that 50,000 acres in Kullu Valley alone is under cannabis cultivation

lice admit foreigners settled illegally in remote villages have been actively involved in smuggling narcotics. They have been indulged in providing high-yield variety cannabis seeds to local growers for planting in various high-altitude areas. Malana, a village in the Kullu

Valley, has long been notorious for cultivating the prized 'Malana Cream' hashish, a purified resinous extract of cannabis. Of late, the increasing involve-

ment of Nepalese nationals in the narcotic trade is a matter of concern. They are procuring cheap charas from Nepal and selling it in the name of 'Malana Cream' in India.

and culture are inseparable it appears. This has been the case since 1925, when the first seeds of Dravidian politics in the state were sown by the revolutionary thinker Perivar EV Ramaswamy. Periyar's legacy was taken forward by CN Annadurai, the writer who popularised the ideology through his plays and movies. And then, the world of movies

Chennai, March 9: Dravidian politics and the world of cinema

has already given five chief ministers to the state

CN Annadurai or Anna, the most popular chief minister of the state, was an ideologue and script writer of the movie 'Parasakthi' (1952) which was a big hit and propagated Dravidian ideology among the people of Tamil Nadu. His legacy was taken forward by M. Karunanidhi, script writer and lyricist, who became one of the most popular chief ministers of the state as also the supreme commander of Munnetra the Dravida Kazhagam (DMK).

MG Ramachandran, the superstar of the Tamil movie world, was catapulted to the higher echelons of politics by none other than CN Annadurai who could gauge the popularity of MGR (as he is popularly known) and that it would be of use to the DMK. Annadurai initiated a reluctant Ramachandran into the world of politics.

MGR and Karunanidhi were close friends and after the latter became Chief minister. MGR felt that he was sidelined, leading to the mega star walking out of the

DMK and floating his own outfit, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).

Tamil politics revolved around these two until the death of MGR. His close associate J Jayalalithaa, who was then general secretary of AIADMK, was kicked out of the funeral procession of the veteran actor. MGR's wife Janaki Ramachandran, another movie star, briefly became the chief minister of Tamil Nadu

Jayalalithaa, MGR's heroine in several movies and one of the top Tamil actors, won the next assembly elections and got control of the AIADMK to become chief minister, the fifth CM from the tinsel world to get the cov-

Even today, the story is no different as Udayanidhi Stalin, MK Stalin's son and M Karunanidhi's grandson, is a movie actor in his own right and a general secretary of the DMK.

Popular star-turned-politician Kamal Haasan with his Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) party has entered into a political alliance with another actor turned politician. R Sarath Kumar. Kumar, the actor, director, script writer and his party, the All India Samthuva Makkal Katchi have aligned with Haasan and his MNM.

Vijayakanth, another super star of Tamil movie industry has floated his Desiya Murpokku

and was the main opposition in 2011, winning 29 seats in alliance with AIADMK. The DMDK has now walked out of the AIADMK-BJP alliance and is scouting for partners and allies.

The super mega star of the South Indian movie world, Rajinikanth, was expected to float his own political party, but following the Covid pandemic. dropped the idea. The BJP was expecting to piggy ride on Rajini's popularity but the star backed out.

Haasan had made several trips to meet Rajinikanth to garner his support which would be a major boost to his political fortunes.

PTI PHOTO

TN orders on-spot fine for those not wearing masks

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

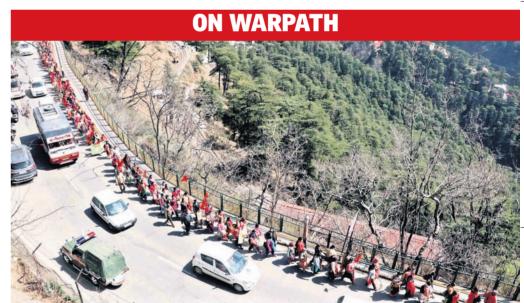
Chennai, March 9: Tamil Nadu these measures. Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan has ordered spot fine of Rs 200 on checked the containment zones in anvone found without a mask in the Chennai and said that around 4.000 beds are ready at Covid care centres state amid rising cases of Covid in the country.

in Chennai city. The state health secretary di-The state health department has rected conducting of inspection at already collected Rs 13 crores from various places in the Chennai city 14 lakh people as fine for not wearalong with health and corporation ing masks. However, in the villages, the peoofficials and ordered fine for people not wearing a mask ole are not wearing masks and even

Tamil Nadu added 569 new crease in Tamil Nadu also which will turn difficult for the state and hence COVID-19 cases Tuesday, pushing the tally to 8,56,246, while four more The state health secretary also fatalities took the toll to 12,525, the

health department said. Recoveries remained comparatively less with 510 people getting discharged, taking the cumulative number to 8,39,138 leaving 4,073 active cases, a department bulletin said.

Chennai constituted the bulk of new infections with 236 cases, aggregating to 2.37,444 till date. The



Munnetra Kazhagam (DMMK) eted post.

the legislation passed in February this year, when a public interest writ petition from Vijavakumar of Dindigul district, a member of the MBC, came up for hearing.

The bench, however, directed the state government to file its counter in six weeks.

The petitioner submitted that the legislation providing exclusive reservation of 10.5 per cent for Vanniyars was bad in law as it was announced just a few minutes before the model code of conduct came into force on February 26. It was 'politically motivated,' he said. Moreover, it has been enacted even before the Justice K Gunasekaran committee, constituted to collect data on caste-wise census in the state, submitted its report. It would badly affect the chances of the members belonging to other most backward communities, petitioner contended and praved the court to stay the implementation of the legislation, which had obtained the accent of the state Governor.

Speaking to IANS. Radhakrishnan said: "There is surging Covid cases and people should not take it lightly. You can see the increase in cases in Maharashtra and Kerala and if people behaves like this, there will be a major in-

government officials are reluctant to wear masks. Areas around Theni, Kanyakumari, parts of Salem, villages around Erode, Dindigal, Pazhani, Madurai and Tirunelvelli have reported on people not wearing masks

metropolis also leads in the number of fatalities with 4,169. Chennai recorded three deaths and Madurai one Tuesday. A total of 55,134 samples were tested on Tuesday, taking the total specimens examined to 1,79,55,850.



India's oldest voter gets Covid vaccine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, March 9: Appealing all those who are eligible to get inoculated, Shyam Saran Negi, who is believed to be India's oldest voter at 103 years of age, took his first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine Tuesday at a health centre in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district.

"I am appealing to all those who are eligible to get themselves vaccinated to fight the coron avirus," Negi said in Kalpa, some 275 kms from the state capital, after

vaccinated to fight the coronavirus SHYAM SARAN NEGI

am appealing

themselves

the vaccination. He had also par- try's first voting exercise. ticipated in the 1951-52 general elec-



tions which was the counracy, the centenarian has never failed to cast his vote in any election, be it Lok Sabha, state Assembly or A staunch believer in democ-

panchayat. In 1951, Negi, a retired schoolteacher, was on an election duty and exercised his franchise in Chini constituency -- later renamed Kinnaur. At that time, voting in the snow-bound areas of the mountain state was held ahead of other places in the country.

Negi was accorded a warm welcome by doctors at the vaccination centre set up in the Primary Health Centre, some 500 metres away from his home. "Negi reached the vaccination centre along with his family members," an official told IANS over phone.

After the vaccination, he was kept under observation for half-anhour as per protocol, the official added. Kalpa, situated at an altitude of 2,759m from the sea level, is located on the old Hindustan Tibet Road

Anganwadi workers raise slogans during their 'Vidhan Sabha Gherao' march, in Shimla, Tuesday.

DMDK walks out of **AIADMK-BJP** alliance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, March 9: The Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) led by actor politician Vijayakanth has walked out of the AIADMK-BJP alliance after failed seat sharing talks. This was announced by Vijayakanth

in a press statement here Tuesday.

While the DMDK was pitching for 23 seats to contest, the AIADMK was not willing to part with more than 15 seats. Three rounds of discussions were held between the DMDK leadership and AIADMK-BJP combine but could not end the impasse. and hence the DMDK has quit from the alliance.

The DMDK deputy general secretary and Vijayakanth's brother-in-law L.K. Sudhish while speaking to IANS said, "AIADMK has stabbed us in the back. We have quit the alliance and will ensure the defeat of the AIADMK in the April 6 elections. Vijayakanth is our Chief Minister candidate.

The DMDK had performed exceedingly well in the 2011 Assembly elections in alliance with the AIADMK. DMDK had won 29 seats and was working as the main opposition party in Tamil Nadu. While DMDK had commenced discussions with the AIADMK for 41 seats, it had scaled down its demand to 23 and on Saturday the DMDK leaders had told the AIADMK leadership that they would not settle for anything less than 23 which is at par with the PMK.

Sudhish further said, "The DMDK is strong in 41 constituencies in North and South Tamil Nadu and our cadres can ensure the defeat of AIADMK. The AIADMK co-ordinator K.P. Muniswamy is the "Sleeper Cell" of the PMK in that party and he ensured that we are out of the alliance, let it be so.

Vijayakanth's wife Premalatha Viiavakanth, who is the party treasurer, and his son Vijay Prabhakar are also likely to contest the Assembly elections.



Any corrigendum / addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Sonepur (R&B) Division OIPR-34081/11/0012/2021

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL. M.P.C.H.S. SCHOOL, BARIPADA MAYURBHANJ, ODISHA

Notice No.291 Date 08.03.2021

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.N-82:- Sealed quotations are invited from the registered firms having GST registration for supply of Laboratory equipments. The details of item to be purchase, company/make, specification, terms and conditions etc. are available in he office of the undersigned during the office hours from 07.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M. and also inthe institution website: www.mpchsschool.in.

The sealed quotations along with photo copies of valid GST registration certificate and other relevant certificate etc. should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 16.03.2021 positively by REGD/SPEED Post. Any late receive due to postal delay will not be considered.

> Sd./- Principal M.P.C.H.S. School, Baripada OIPR-11046/11/0002/2021







The country has made the "karmayoga" advocated by the Gita as its mantra and is working to change the lives of its poor, farmers, labourers, Dalits and the backwards

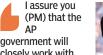
HARYANA TO RECRUIT 400 TO 500 DOCS

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij Tuesday said that to overcome the shortage of specialist doctors, a separate cadre for them would be created and soon recruit 400 to 500 doctors would be recruited



NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

uote



closely work with the government of India under vour able leadership in making this happen and together we can revive the plant for unlocking greater value to the society and in particular to the people of AP. I seek an early appointment in this regard Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY ANDHRA

PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER



state by the end of March next year BIJENDRA PRASAD YADAV CABINET MINISTER OF BIHAR

Only a few leaders have left the Congress and the cadres are intact and we will give a fitting reply to the BJP in the elections

V NARAYANASAMY FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF PUDUCHERRY

SHORT TAKES

ED raids Punjab **MLA Khaira, others**

New Delhi: The ED raided the premises of Punjab MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira and a few others on Tuesday in connection with a moneylaundering case linked to narcotics trafficking and the creation of an alleged fake passport, officials said. They said the searches are being carried out at Khaira's residence in Chandigarh, five other locations in Haryana and Punjab and two places in Delhi.

Militant gunned down in encounter

.....

Srinagar: An unidentified militant was killed in an encounter with security forces in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, police said. Security forces

Mamata rejects 'outsider' tag in Nandigram



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nandigram, March 9: Those who have "sold their souls to outsiders from Gujarat" are insulting the Nandigram movement by playing the communal card, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Tuesday, and rejected the claim that she was an outsider in

Nandigram. Banerjee is pitted against her former confidante Suvendu Adhikari, who joined the BJP some time ago, in the high-profile Nandigram seat that will go to poll on April 1 in the second phase.

Without naming Adhikari even once, Banerjee said she had made up her mind to contest either from the Singur or Nandigram--the two cradles of anti-land acquisition movement-- that catapulted her to power in 2011. She said she decided to contest from Nandigram because of overwhelming response of

the people. "I have heard some people are calling me an outsider in Nandigram. I am amazed. I was born and brought up in the neighbouring Birbhum district, and the person who is calling me an outsider was born in Midnapore. Today I have become an outsider, and those com-

ing from Gujarat have become insiders in Bengal," she told a gathering of TMC workers a day ahead of filing her nomination.

"Going by that logic I shouldn't have been the chief minister of the state for 10 years. Today Bengal's daughter has become an outsider for some people. Have you ever heard the expression outsider chief minister? If the locals tell me not to contest, I will go back," she said, drawing shouts of "Didi we want

you" from the gathering. Adhikari has often called himself "bhoomiputra" (son of the soil) while seeking to get back at the TMC supremo who has been targeting the BJP with the "party of outsiders" barb. The TMC turncoat has announced that if he is not able to defeat the TMC supremo by 50,000 votes he will quit politics. Banerjee said her decision to contest from Nandigram was

prompted by the love for the local people. "Bhulte pari sobar naam. bhulbo nako Nandigram (I can forget everyone's name but never forget Nandigram) ... When I had visited Nandigram in January, there was no MLA from here as the sitting MLA had resigned. I looked at the faces of common people and decided to contest from here.

KOLKATA FIRE 7 die of burns, 2 due to suffocation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, March 9: Seven victims of the ghastly fire incident at a railway office building here died of burns and two others due to suffocation, a senior police officer said, citing the post-mortem report.

A massive fire broke out on the 13th floor of Eastern Railway's New Koilaghata building Monday evening, claiming nine lives -- four firefighters, a policeman, one RPF personnel, and two others.

'They were found in two separate elevators. The ones that died due to burning were recovered from one lift, and the other two was stuck in another elevator." the officer said.

Meanwhile, the detective depart ment of the Kolkata Police Tuesday initiated its probe into the case, and a special investigation team has been formed for the purpose.



MILITARY MIGHT

Delhi govt presents ₹69K cr Budget

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 9: The Delhi government presented a Rs 69,000-crore budget themed on 'patriotism' Tuesday under which installation of 500 flag masts and programmes on the lives of freedom fighters are planned across the city, and announced free COVID-19 vaccination for all in its hospitals in the coming days.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that 'Deshbhakti' (patriotism) is the defining feature of the budget as it pays tributes to freedom fighters and hopes to work towards building the capital and the country, as envisioned by them.

Presenting the budget for the seventh consecutive time in the Assembly, Deputy Chief Minister



Manish Sisodia said that there will be a 'deshbhakti period' in the city schools

In the 2021-22 Budget, education, health and transport have received higher allocations.

The deputy chief minister proposed to allocate Rs 16.377 crore. one-fourth of the total budget, for

the education sector, while the health sector got Rs 9,934 crore or 14 per cent of the total budget outlay. Sisodia, who also holds the finance portfolio, said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government will celebrate the country's 75th Independence Day and organise programmes for 75 weeks starting March 12.

The city government has proposed to allocate Rs 45 crore to install high masts to hoist the national flag at 500 places in the national capital.

"We have allocated Rs 45 crore for 500 flag masts across Delhi. They will be similar to the one we have at the Central Park in Connaught Place. So even if someone covers a distance of two km from his home, he will get to see the tricolour in all

its glory and feel patriotic," Sisodia said.

He said Rs 10 crore each has been proposed for programmes on the lives of Bhagat Singh and B R Ambedkar during the 75-week "deshbhakti" celebrations.

Grand events under 'Festival of India' and 'Indian Classical Music Festival' were among the major highlights of the 75-week-long celebration, to be held from this Friday till August 15 next year.

Sisodia also announced that COVID-19 vaccine will be administered to people for free at the hospitals run by the Delhi government in the future phases of the inoculation drive. He said an outlay of Rs 50 crore has been made under the

"Aam Aadmi Nishulk COVID Vaccine Yojana".

Govt employees to get full DA benefits from July

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, March 9: Central government employees and pensioners will get full benefits of

Ex-MLC Md Iqbal acquired 7 sugar mills for ₹60.28 cr

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE New Delhi/Lucknow. March 9:

UP SUGAR

"cash deposits" made in shell companies' bank accounts and furner routed into these two com-

Dead medical officer transferred in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, March 9: A medical of-

tive for COVID-19. Only the

a dead man has been given a

Bihar government can say how

launched a cordon and search operation at Sherpora in Tuijar area of Baramulla district following information about presence of militants there, a police official said.

3 killed in Bihar accident

Patna: Three persons died in Bihar's Bettiah city after their car crashed into a tractor trolley late night. Two of the deceased were identified as Deepak Kumar, 32, a resident of Nautan, and Asif Iqbal, 37, of Harsidhi village in East Champaran district. A police officer said that the process of identifying the third victim was underway.

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SIT to probe **Delkar's death**

Mumbai: Maharashtra will form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the death of Mohan Delkar. a seven-time MLA from Dadra and Nagar Haveli, state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh announced in the Assembly here Tuesday. The Mumbai Police have registered an accidental death report after Delkar was found hanging from the ceiling fan of a private hotel at Marine Drive on February 22, sparking off a major controversy in the political circles.

2 beaten to death

New Delhi: Two men in their early twenties were beaten to death by a group of people in Delhi's Azadpur Mandi early Tuesday morning. The deceased persons have been identified as Lokesh and Bhaiya, who were accused of pickpocketing before being beaten to death.

In a big development in the Uttar Pradesh sugar mill scam, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday attached seven sugar mills valued at Rs 1,097 crore in the northern state belonging to former MLC Mohammad Iqbal, which he had bought at a throwaway price of Rs 60.28 crore through two shell companies that he had formed in the name of his fam-

ily members. An ED official told IANS, "The agency has attached seven sugar mills of Iqbal worth Rs 1,097 crore. Iqbal is a former MLC from Saharanpur.' The official said that the seven

sugar mills owned by Iqbal and his family members have been attached under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

He added that the shell companies of Iqbal and his family members, namely Namrata Marketing Pvt Ltd and Giriasho

MILL SCAM Company Pvt Ltd, participated in the bidding process of disinvestment of sugar mills of the

Uttar Pradesh government in 2010-11 and acquired seven sugar mills through laundering of illegitimate money using various shell companies with dummy directors and sham transactions.

The official said: "The ED probe revealed that during 2010-2011. Iqbal's two companies participated in the bidding process for sugar mills of the Uttar Pradesh Rajya Chini Avam Ganna Vikas Nigam Limited (UPRCGVNL).

The companies did not submit the shareholding pattern or the background of key promoters which were the stipulated conditions at the time of bidding." He said the ED has also noticed that the funds were "infused" either into these companies through

panies through sham transactions or there was infusion of funds disguised in the form of "share application money for subscription to shares" of these two companies at a high premium.

The official further said that for the purpose of registration and execution of sale deeds, the two companies purchased seven shell companies -- Ablaze Sugar Mills Private Limited, Adarsha Sugar Solutions Private Limited, Agile Sugar India Private Limited, Eikon Sugar Mills Private Limited, Majesty Sugar Solutions Private Limited, Mastiff Sugar Solution Private Limited and Okra Sugars Private Limited -- and treated them as their special purpose vehicles (SPVs). The ED official said the sugar mills were sold to Iqbal and his family members at a throwaway price of Rs 60.28 crore through disinvestment or sales process in the year 2010-11.

ficer in Bihar was transferred to another district vide a reshuffle in the Health Department though he had died a month ago, the opposition told the state legislature Tuesday.

The Nitish Kumar government said it was seized of the matter and has taken remedial steps The embarrassing anomaly was first flagged outside the assembly premises, before the day's proceedings commenced, by RJD's Sheikhpura MLA Vijay Samrat.

Samrat brandished a copy of the notification issued by the Health Department on Monday, wherein one Dr Ram Narayan Ram, a resident of Bhojpur district posted at Rohtas, was shown as having been appointed as the new Civil Surgeon of Sheikhpura.

"The medical officer had died in February after testing posi-

posting," Samrat told reporters. Later, during the Zero Hour, fellow RJD MLA Lalit Kumar Yadav also flagged the issue on the floor of the House and demanded an explanation from the government.

Members occupying the treasurv benches looked askance as Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha intervened, assuring the opposition legislator that the government would "take serious note' of the matter and do the needful. In the legislative council, the issue was raised by RJD MLA Subodh Kumar to which health minister Mangal Pandey responded.

"Transfer and posting of senior medical officers is a time-consuming affair. There is often a gap of about a month between a name getting approved for a new posting and issuing of a notification," Pandey said.

dearness allowance starting July 1, with all the three pending installments being restored prospectively, Minister for State for Finance, Anurag Thakur said in Parliament Tuesday

Three installments of DA for central government employees and DR for pensioners, due January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021, were frozen in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision now to restore it from July, 2021 would benefit about 50 lakh central government employees and more than 65 lakh pensioners.



With the suspension of DA revision for one and half years, the government saved a total of Rs 37,530.08 crore that helped it to augment resources required to tide over the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic through various stimulus measures.

At present, central government employees get DA of 17 per cent. This level of DA became effective from July 2019 with further revision due from January 2020. But this along with subsequent two other revisions were suspended due to Covid.

Last year, the Union Cabinet had approved a 4 per cent increase in DA for government employees and pensioners to 21 per cent. This was to be effective from January 1, 2020. However, any increase in DA

from July 1 will only be effective from that day, meaning the employees would not get any arrears -(on non revision of DA for previous period.

After two-year-long struggle, cross-border couple reunites

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, March 9: Two years ago, three baraats (wedding parties) from Jaisalmer and Barmer went to Pakistan. However, they returned to India without the brides since visas were not granted to them.

However, this International Women's Day, two of these cross-border brides were finally reunited

with their grooms in India. Chagan Kanwar, wife of Mahendra Singh and Kailash Bai, wife of Nepal Singh, came to India Monday through the Wagah-Attari border along with a few family members and were accorded a warm welcome by their husbands.

The two Pakistani brides had finally arrived at the residence of their in-laws in Rajasthan two years after their wedding.

The brides, along with their fam-

ily members, passed through a security check and took the Covid-19 test after crossing the border.

While Nepal's wife Kailash came to India accompanied with her mother and brother, Mahendra's wife Chagan Kanwar came with her father.

However, Nepal's brother's wife could not get visa that has left him a little upset

Nepal Singh, a Sodha Rajput, belongs to Jaisalmer district. He married a Pakistani woman from Sindh province January 26, 2019. Similarly, Mahendra from Barmer went to Pakistan and married a Pakistani Rajput woman on April 16, 2019.

However Vikram Singh, who was married to another Rajput woman and was also blessed with a child named Rajveer Singh, is still awaiting his bride as she couldn't get a visa



Their child, however, got the visa and has come to India.

As relations between the two countries soured following the Pulwama attack, they could not bring their wives and returned to India without the brides after staying in Pakistan for four months.

Nepal Singh told journalists that even as he is happy to meet his wife he was also upset since his younger brother's wife could not get a visa.

He also thanked union minister Kailash Choudhary for extending all due help to the family in getting the visas. "I would like to extend

gratitude to Union minister Kailash Choudhary who helped us in getting a visa.

Initially, my wife was allowed entry only via air route but since we could not afford air travel, the Union minister helped us get permission to cross through the Wagah-Attari road route," he added.

Meanwhile officials said that his brother Vikram Singh's wife. Pakistani girl Nirmala Bai, was denied a visa by the consulate on the grounds that her passport was blacklisted.

However, their one and a half vears old child has got the visa and has come to India. Now, efforts are being made to get a visa for the mother.

Chaudhary has intensified efforts to get a visa for the woman and has contacted the home ministry in this regard.















LORD RAM UNIVERSITY **IN AYODHYA SOON**

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is now planning to build a Lord Ram university in Ayodhya. The proposed university will hold studies and carry out research on culture, beliefs, scriptures and religious facts related to Lord Ram



uote

I wonder whether the state purposefully misleads the House. I am not here to blame anyone. But a

question arises that on what grounds the then Maharashtra government cleared the SEBC Act for the Maratha community even after the Constitution amendment was signed

ASHOK CHAVAN MAHARASHTRA MINISTER

If the spike in COVID-19 cases continues, there is a possibility of night clubs being closed down first in the city. We cannot rule out the possibility of a night curfew or partial lockdown

ASLAM SHAIKH MUMBAI GUARDIAN MINISTER

There are around 35 Sainik schools across the country, however, not a single Sainik school is in Delhi.

Therefore, we have decided to establish one Sainik school in Delhi MANISH SISODIA DELHI FINANCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Parl begins vax drive for MPs

New Delhi: With the second leg of the Budget Session underway, Parliament on Tuesday started Covid-19 vaccination drive for all members of both the Houses. Members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha will be administered the Covid vaccines as India expanded the world's largest inoculation drive and entered in a fresh phase covering all aged over 60 years and those above 45 years suffering from comorbidities.

Punjab Assembly passes eight Bills

Chandigarh: The Punjab Assembly Tuesday passed eight Bills in the Budget session chaired by Speaker Rana KP Singh. An official spokesperson of the

'Covaxin phase 2 data shows vax safe'

Indian forces

DEVELOPED BY BHARAT BIOTECH IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ICMR AND THE NIV, PUNE, THE VACCINE HAS BEEN GRANTED EMERGENCY USE AUTHORISATION IN CLINICAL TRIAL MODE BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 9: India's first indigenous vaccine against COVID-19, Covaxin, is safe and generates immune response without any serious side effects, according to the interim results of the phase 2 trials published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.

The authors of the study noted that the phase 2 results did not asses the efficacy of the vaccine codenamed BBV152. Covaxin had initially raised concerns among experts over its emergency approval by India's drug regulator. Developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, the vaccine has been granted emergency use authorisation in clinical trial mode by the Indian government.

The latest study comes a week after Bharat Biotech announced that the vaccine has shown 81 per cent efficacy in the third phase of clinical trials, the results of which



are yet to be published. The phase 2 trial to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of BBV152 vaccine was conducted in healthy adults and adolescents aged 12-65 years at nine hospitals across nine states

in India. Two intramuscular doses of vaccine were administered on day 0 and day 28. The primary outcome was assessed in all participants who had received both doses of the vaccine. Safety was assessed in participants who received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Between September 5 and 12, last year, 921 potential participants were screened, 380 of whom were en-

rolled. "We report interim findings of the phase 2 trial on the immunogenicity and safety of BBV152, with the first dose administered on day 0 and the second dose on day 28," the authors of the study said.

In the phase 1 trial, published in the same journal last month, BBV152 induced high neutralising antibody responses that remained elevated in all participants three months after the second vaccination. In the phase 2 trial, BBV152 showed better reactogenicity and safety outcomes, and enhanced humoral and cell-mediated immune responses -- two main mechanisms within the adaptive immune system -- compared with the phase 1 trial.

Adaptive immunity occurs after exposure to an antigen either from a pathogen or a vaccination. Reactogenicity refers to the property of a vaccine of being able to produce common, adverse reactions, especially excessive immunological responses and associated signs and symptoms, including fever and sore arm at the injection site.

cine developed by chemically treating novel coronavirus samples to make them incapable of reproduction. This process leaves the viral proteins, including the spike protein of the coronavirus, which it uses to enter the human cells, intact.

Given as two doses, three weeks apart, the viral proteins in the vaccine activate the immune system and prepare people for future infections with the actual infectious virus.

"The results reported in this study do not permit efficacy assessments. The evaluation of safety outcomes requires extensive phase 3 clinical trials," the authors of the Lancet study said. "We were unable to assess other immune responses in convalescent serum samples due to the low quantity," they said.

Even though direct comparisons between the phase 1 and 2 trials cannot be made, the reactogenicity assessments reported in this study were substantially better in the phase 2 trial than the phase 1 trial and other trials with a placebo group, according to the authors.

laundering money to Kashmiri extremist group

B'desh militants



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dhaka, March 9: Banned Bangladeshi militant outfits, Ansar Al Islam (AI) and Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), have sent a huge amount of money to another extremist group in Kashmir in the form of cryptocurrency, a senior police official said.

The official confirmed the development while speaking to IANS. According to the official, a Special Action Group of the Dhaka Metropalitan Police's (DMP)Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC), had arrested two AI militants. Awal Newaz alias Sohel Newaz and Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, in September 2019.

During interrogation, they said the militant groups had been receiving huge funds through Bitcoin system since 2014. The two also mentioned that they collected huge sums of money from Pakistan and Gulf countries also in the form of cryptocurrency.

The militants claimed that earlier they used to collect money through 'hundi', but that is now under the surveillance of the law enforcers. Due to this, they shifted to Bitcoin, which according to the militants, is an easier method to exchange the illegal funds used in organising radical activities.

Ahmedul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner of the Special Action Group, told IANS that terror financing is largely being carried out with the help of cryptocurrency.

In August 2020, the US government had announced that hundreds of cryptocurrency accounts, four websites and four Facebook accounts were seized, adding that it thwarted attempts by militant groups to raise funds using digi-___ tal currency.

PM opens 'Maitri Setu' between Tripura-B'desh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, March 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday that the eastern and northeastern regions of India along with Bangladesh are being developed as a trade corridor.

Addressing a virtual gathering from Delhi via video-conferencing. Modi said the infrastructure for developing roads, railways, airways and waterways has been developed and new projects are being launched to develop the eastern and northeastern regions of India along with Bangladesh as a trade corridor.

"With the development of the

eastern states of India. Modi said the connectivity-re-

lated infrastructure has seen tremendous improvement in the last three years. Referring to the development of HIRA (Highways, Iways, Railways and Airways), the Prime Minister cited the rapid work for the airport and sea-link in

Tripura. Speaking about Tripura, Modi said that now people would not have to depend only on roads for any kind of supply to northeast India.

"Efforts are underway to connect Chittagong port of Bangladesh with the northeast through an alternative route via the river. The ICP (Integrated Check Post) in Sabroom

Covaxin is an inactivated vac-



A white tiger inside an enclosure at Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden, in Ahmedabad

government said Industry and Commerce Minister Sundar Sham Arora presented three bills -- the Amity University Punjab Bill of 2021, the Indian Partnership (Punjab Amendments) Bill of 2021 and the Punjab Bureau of **Investment Promotion** (Amendment) Bill of 2021 and passed in the Assembly.

Seven Naxals held

Raipur: Seven Maoists were arrested by security forces during anti-Naxal operations in three places in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said Tuesday. Four ultras were apprehended from two villages under Gangaloor police station area, while three were nabbed from Basaguda police station limits, an official said. Separate teams of the District Force and District Reserve Guard (DRG) were involved in these actions, he said.

varied infrastructure, economic opportunities would increase to a large extent, not only in eastern and northeastern regions of India, but also in Bangladesh," Modi said after inaugurating five development projects and laying the foundation stones for four projects with a total investment of ₹3,518 crore.

Of the nine projects, a 1.9 km long bridge built at a cost of ₹133 crore over river Feni is the most significant venture to link India and Bangladesh by road and to access the Chittagong international sea port in Bangladesh from the north-

would work like a full-fledged logistic hub with warehouses and container trans-shipment facilities,' he said.

Modi said the connectivity is not only strengthening the friendship between India and Bangladesh, but also proving to be a strong link for business

"The Feni bridge would improve the connectivity to south Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura with Bangladesh and south-east Asia. Modi said, adding that the bridge would give an impetus to the economic opportunities in Bangladesh as well.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh, through video conferencing, in New Delhi

SURRENDER PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, March 9: Twenty insurgents belonging to different banned outfits laid down their weapons before Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Tuesday.

Sixteen militants belong to the Thadou People's Liberation Army (TPLA), while two are from the United National Liberation Front and one each from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the PREPAK (PRO). The surrender programme took place at the banquet hall of the 1st Manipur Rifles.

"In another major achievement of our BJP-led government, altogether 20 militants from different proscribed outfits have surrendered with arms and ammunition to the government," the Chief Minister tweeted. They will be given onetime assistance of ₹4 lakh each and a monthly stipend of ₹6,000 each during their stay in rehabilitation camps for three years, he said in a Facebook post.

Fribal woman burnt alive

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, March 9: A tribal woman, who was set ablaze by a man in Telangana's Medak district on Monday, succumbed at a hospital in Hyderabad Tuesday, police said.

Sakri Bai, 42, who had sustained 80 per cent burns, died at government-run Osmana General Hospital. In a shocking incident on International Women's Day, a man who owed her money allegedly poured petrol on her and set her ablaze. The incident happened in Gadipeddapur village in Alladurg mandal of Medak district.

According to the police, the woman, a widow, had gone to the village to recover her money from him when he allegedly committed the crime.

The woman, a resident of Malkapur in the same district, reportedly ran through Gadipeddapur



PTI PHOTO

village asking for help before collapsing. She was found lying in the bushes. Some locals shifted her to government hospital and from there she was brought to Hyderabad. Police have arrested P Sadat, a

butcher, who allegedly set the

woman ablaze after an argument.

He was taken into custody by Alladurg police and booked for murder. According to police, the woman's husband was killed in a fight among family members a few years ago and since then she was staying with her parents along with her two children.

First 'Sugar Museum' to come up in Pune

PUNE IS CONSIDERED THE SUGAR HUB OF WESTERN MAHARASHTRA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, March 9: The country's first Sugar Museum, depicting the history and development of this crucial industry, will come up at the Sakhar Sankul in Shivajinagar in Pune.

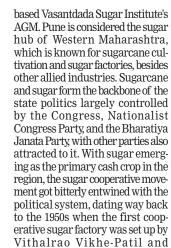
The announcement was made by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who also holds the finance portfolio, while presenting the state Budget for FY 2021-2022.

"The proposed Sugar Museum will come up at a cost of ₹40 crore. It will depict the progress made by the sugar industry in the state and its ancillary industries," said Pawar. It will also showcase how sugar has transformed rural



Representative image

Maharashtra, the various milestones in its growth, and the stalwarts behind its growth and sustenance. It may be recalled that recently, Maharashtra Sugar Commissioner Shekhar Gaikwad had mooted the proposal for such a dedicated museum at the Pune-Dhananjayrao Gadgil.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, March 9: The plight of Kashmirs houseboats, once called the floating palaces on the pristine waters of The Dal Lake, today hangs in a precarious balance.

It is an archetypal case of the resident coming in direct conflict with his residence! Its waters have become murky, polluted and unfit for drinking and even bathing.

Reports of bathers getting a skin rash after swimming in this Lake have raised alarm even when the government is spending millions to retrieve the Lake, both from pollution and human encroachment.

The reason for the shrinking of this Lake is encroachment as more and more land masses have come up inside the Lake", said Dr. Ashok Pandita, who has done ex-



Kashmir's Dal Lake facing a slow death

haustive research on the ecology of this Lake. Pandita does not blame the houseboats and the fishermen who live inside the Lake for its present plight. He says there are multiple factors those have led to the degradation of the Lake.

'The houseboat owners and the fishermen living inside the Dal Lake are an integral part of the Lake's ecosystem. You cannot claim

DAL IN 'DISTRESS'

Experts say that from its original area of 22 square miles. Dal Lake has shrunken to less than 10 quare miles

Once known for its crystal clear waters on which the houseboats floated majestically, the Dal Lake is today dying a slow death

to have preserved the Lake by removing its dwellers. "Removing houseboat owners and fishermen from the Lake in the name of preserving it would be like removing the tiger from the forest to save its ecosystem," Pandita said.

He, however, asserted that the number of houseboats and the population of fishermen should be kept under check to prevent their explosion inside the fragile ecosystem. He asserts that the number of houseboats has in fact come down over the years instead of any increase in their numbers.

Abdul Hamid Wangnoo, whose family has been in the houseboat business since the 19th century, is the president of the houseboat owners association. "A decade back, we had 1500 houseboats and today there are just 950. Since the authorities are not allowing any repairs of these, more are likely to rot and sink till a time comes when there would be hardly any left," Wangnoo said.

He said instead of saving the Lake, the developmental projects undertaken by the authorities have laid emphasis on laying roads around the water body those have chokedthe inflow of fresh water from perennial springs into the Lake.





OrissaPOST WEDNESDAY | MARCH 10 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR international



I want to mention that India really stands out in terms of its vaccine policy. If you look at where exactly is one manufacturing hub for vaccines in the world - that will be India GITA GOPINATH HIEF ECONOMIST OF THE IMF

GREECE MOURNS YOUNGEST COVID VICTIM, 37-DAY BABY

Greece mourned a 37-day-old baby, the youngest among the country's nearly 6,800 COVID-19 victims. "We had the pandemic's youngest victim in our country, an infant that spent 17 days fighting the NCoV," PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis tweeted





We have seen appalling increases in violence against women and reduced access to services

for sexual and reproductive health. In relative terms, employment losses have been higher for women than for

ANTONIO GUTERRES UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The European Union (EU) will receive 100 million Covid-19 vaccine doses per

month from April, bringing the total to 300 million for the second quarter of this year

URSULA VON DER LEYEN EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

When it comes to matters to do with the royal family the right thing for a Prime Minister to say is nothing

BORIS JOHNSON BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Philippine mayor killed by mistake

Manila: Police killed a central Philippine city mayor and two of his aides, while two of the police officers were killed in the latest deadly violence involving the police force, officials "I can said Tuesday. only assume that this was a mistaken encounter," Brig. Gen. Ronaldo de Jesus, a regional police commander. said based on initial police reports. The police were on routine patrol when they were fired upon Monday afternoon by security aides of Catbalogan City Mayor Ronaldo Aguino, who was being driven in a van in eastern Samar province, according to de Jesus.

Serving royal ties: Ex-Aussie PM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, March 9: The High Commission of India in London has condemned a debate among some British lawmakers on an e-petition over the right of peaceful protests and freedom of the press in India amid the ongoing farmers' stir against three New Delhi laws on agricultural reform.

The Commission damned the debate, held Monday evening inside the British parliamentary premises, as "false assertions" in a "distinctly one-sided discussion".

"We deeply regret that rather than a balanced debate, false assertions - without substantiation or facts – were made, casting aspersions on the largest functioning democracy in the world and its institutions," the commission said in a statement after the Monday

evening debate on an e-petition. The debate was held in response to an e-petition which had crossed the 100,000-signature threshold, required for it to be approved by the House of Commons Petitions Committee. The Indian High Commission made its displeasure known despite the British government earlier reiterating that the three New Delhi laws on agricultural reform were a "domestic matter".

The British government also underlined India's importance, saying "India and the UK together work as a force for good in the UN



on an e-petition over the right of peaceful protests and freedom of the press in India

India condemns UK lawmakers'

debate on farmers' protest

. The Commission damned the debate, held Monday evening inside the British parliamentary

premises, as "false assertions" in a "distinctly one-sided discussion"

The debate was held in response to an e-petition which had crossed the 100,000-signature threshold, required for it to be approved by the House of

Commons Petitions Committee Security Council and bilateral cooperation between the two countries helps fix many global problems". The Indian mission also pointed out that foreign media, including

British media, had been present and witnessed the events surrounding the farmers' protests in India first-hand and therefore any "question of lack of freedom of the media in India does not arise".

It lamented that a false narrative over farmers' protest was sought to be developed even though "the High Commission of India has been, over a period of time, taking care to inform all concerned about the issues raised in the petition."

India summons **British envov**

New Delhi: India summoned the British High Commissioner Tuesday and conveyed its strong opposition to the "unwarranted and tendentious" discussion on India's agricultural reforms in the British Parliament. The Ministry of External Affairs said Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told the envoy that discussions in the British Parliament on India's agri reforms represented a gross interference in politics of another democratic country. It said the Foreign Secretary also advised the envoy that British MPs should refrain from practising "vote bank politics by misrepresenting events", especially in relation to another fellow democracy. "Foreign Secretary statement.

The High Commission said it was compelled to react to the lawmakers' debate due to the apprehensions cast on India.

"The High Commission of India would normally refrain from commenting on an internal discussion involving a small group of Honourable Parliamentarians in a limited quorum," the statement said.

"However, when aspersions are cast on India by anyone, irrespective of their claims of friendship and love for India or domestic political compulsions, there is a need to set the record straight," it added.

The statement followed a group of around dozen cross-party British MPs debating issues around the alleged "use of force" against protesters opposed to agricultural reforms in India





A child makes a ring of fire during rituals in celebration of Mesni Zagovezni, the first Sunday before Great Lent, in Lozen, Bulgaria

Nepal's ruling NCP splits into 2

the Supreme Court affected the split along the CPN-UML and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) and took them to the pre-unification stage

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kathmandu, March 9: A day after Nepal's Supreme Court invalidated the decision of the 2018 party merger between the Nepal Communist Party-UML and Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) has fallen apart politically and technically.

The NCP was formed after the merger between UML and Maoist Center. On Sunday, the Supreme Court affected the split along the CPN-UML and the Communist



Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) and took them to the pre-unification stage which will ultimately make Prime Minister Oli a bit stronger because he was elected to the post from CPN-UML.

But Monday's party split came a setback to Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda who used to be the Chairman of CPN-Maoist Center. The court also invalidated the

NCP that was registered under Oli and Prachanda in June 2018. With the Supreme Court's ruling, top UML leaders who used to side with Prachanda against Oli



political party on an individual basis. If they do so, they will lose the parliamentary seats. "Our heart is big and we have

started returning to the mother

party from Monday evening itself.

Kumar Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal

Former Prime Ministers Madhav

decided to join UML," Nepal said on Monday evening after bidding adieu to Prachanda.

Prachanda had called a last meeting with Nepal and other leaders to discuss what to do next.

We have decided to honour the Supreme Court's decision and are going to return the UML," Nepal said, adding "but our struggle will continue for democracy and communism".

Undocumented **Indians in US hold** \$15.5bn in spending_(

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, March 9: Undocumented Indian immigrants to the US. numbering over half a million, hold a collective spending power of \$15.5 billion and contribute \$2.8 billion to the federal, state and local tax revenue, says an American think-tank report. Using the latest available American Community Survey data from 2019 in its latest research, the new American Economy think-tank said undocumented Indian immigrants are the top third contributor to the US economy among other undocumented immigrants.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

now driving dramatic and irregular changes to the length London, March 9: Summers in and start dates of the seasons,

summoned the British High Commissioner and conveyed strong opposition to the unwarranted and tendentious discussion on agricultural reforms in India in the British Parliament," the MEA said in a

Sydney: Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the television interview with Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, bolstered his argument for Australia severing its constitutional ties to the British monarchy. Turnbull met the couple in April 2018 four months before he was replaced by the current Prime Minister Scott Morrison in an internal power struggle.

Global Covid-19 cases top 117mn

Washington: The total number of global Covid-19 cases has topped 117 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 2.59 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University. In its latest update on Tuesday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 117.130.044 and 2.599.596, respectively.

Twitter sues Texas AG

Dallas: Twitter has filed a lawsuit against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, claiming the Republican used his office to retaliate against it for banning the account of former President Donald Trump following the riot at the US Capitol last year. Days after the deadly insurrection, Paxton announced an investigation into Twitter and four other major technology companies for what he called "the seemingly coordinated de-platforming of the President."

the Northern Hemisphere may last for six months by 2100 without efforts to mitigate climate change, which could have farreaching impacts on agriculture, human health and the environment, says a study.

The research, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, found that the Mediterranean region and the Tibetan Plateau have experienced the greatest changes to their seasonal cycles.

The researchers noted that the four seasons arrived in a predictable and fairly even pattern in the Northern Hemisphere during the 1950s. However, climate change is

which may become more extreme in the future under a business-asusual climate scenario, they said. "Summers are getting longer

and hotter while winters shorter and warmer due to global warming," said lead author Yuping Guan from the Chinese Academy of Sciences

The researchers used historical daily climate data from 1952 to 2011 to measure changes in the four seasons" length and onset in the Northern Hemisphere.

They defined the start of summer as the onset of temperatures in the hottest 25 per cent during that time period, while winter began with temperatures in the coldest 25 per cent.

Sanaa, March 9: At least 60 people were killed due to a fire at an immigrant holding facility in Yemen's capital Sanaa, a Houthi official said Tuesday.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The fire, which broke out on Sunday, has also injured more than 100 people, Xinhua news agency quoted the official as saying to the media.

Overcrowding and chaos at the facility, in addition to the fire, caused heavy casualties, said the official, adding that victims included both African migrants and facility staff.

The Houthi group has formed a commission to investigate the incident, he said.

According to the official, the facility is for holding migrants who entered the country "illegally" be-

fore the procedure of deportation starts.

In a statement issued Monday evening, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) confirmed that the fire and called for "urgent humanitarian access to migrants injured".

"We are facing challenges ac-

creased security presence in the hospitals. Humanitarians and health workers must be given access to support the treatment of those affected by the fire," it added.

cessing the injured due to an in-

According to the IOM, Yemen remains a transit country for tens of thousands of migrants travelling between the Horn of Africa and Saudi Arabia despite years of war. The Organization estimated that

the number of migrants arriving in Yemen fell from more than 138,000 in 2019 to just more than 37,500 in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yemen has been mired in civil war since late 2014 when Houthi rebels seized control of several northern provinces and forced the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi out of Sanaa

There are 4.2 million immigrants from Mexico who lack documentation.

Together, they make up more than 40.8 percent of the 10.3 million undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Myanmar media defiant as military govt cracks down

Myanmar's military-controlled government is seeking to suppress media coverage of protests against their seizure of power

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, March 9: Myanmar's military-controlled government is seeking to suppress media coverage of protests against their seizure of power as journalists and ordinary citizens strive to inform people inside and outside of the country about what is happening.

Authorities Monday cancelled licenses of five local media outlets that had been offering extensive coverage of the protests, attempting to fully roll back such freedoms a decade after the country began its faltering transition toward democracy. The crackdown comes as the mil-

itary has escalated violence against

mass protests. Reports by inde-

pendent media are still providing

vital information about arrests and

shootings by troops in cities across

Myanmar. And they're using other

platforms to distribute their re-

ports such as social media.

situation in Myanmar:

HOW THE GOVT IS SUPPRESSING

NEWS Five local outlets - Mizzima, DVB, Khit Thit Media, Myanmar Now and 7Day News - were banned from broadcasting or providing any information on any media platform or using any technology after their licenses were cancelled, state broadcaster MRTV reported.

All five had covered the protests extensively and often livestreamed video. Myanmar Now, an independent news service, reported that police broke down the door of its of fice Monday and seized computers, printers and parts of the newsroom's data server. It cited unnamed witnesses and showed a photo of CCTV footage. But it said the office had been evacuated in late January. The government has arrested dozens of journalists.

HOW MEDIA IS RESPONDING

Myanmar journalists are risk-Here's a look at the media ing being killed or jailed for doing their jobs, and Swe Win, Myanmar



Police officers holding shields and guns march towards a gate of the Mandalay Technological University in Mandalay, Myanmar REUTERS PHOTO

Now's editor-in-chief, said the raid demonstrated the government intends to show zero tolerance for press freedom.

"What is certain is that we will not stop covering the enormous crimes the regime has been committing throughout the country,"

he said. Mizzima, another privately owned, independent local news outlet, put a statement on its website saying it "continues to fight against the military coup and for the restoration of democracy and human rights" using various online and multimedia platforms.

WHICH MEDIA ARE OPERATING ILLEGALLY

Myanmar appears to be returning to a situation where its officially sanctioned media are entirely state-controlled, as they were before August 2012. Even before the coup, under the militarydominated, quasi-civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi, reporters faced arrest and harassment for reporting on sensitive topics such as abuses against its Rohingva Muslim ethnic minority. Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were given seven-year prison sentences, but later pardoned, for trying to investigate a massacre of Rohingya civilians. The English-language Myanmar Times announced it had suspended all publications for three months beginning February 21. That move came after many of its staff quit to protest the paper's agreement to follow a junta order not to use the word "coup"

to describe the military takeover.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM RAMIFICATIONS

To suppress all reporting would likely require a complete blackout of all internet and satellite communications. Apart from the legal and human rights implications, that would be a huge setback for the country's economy.

Myanmar's businesses are highly reliant on the internet and on digital platforms like Facebook, having developed quickly in the past few years after decades of relative isolation under previous military governments. So far, the junta has chosen to shut down internet links at night, hindering but not completely stopping such communications. Since modern businesses rely heavily on the internet and the free-flow of communications and information the military's actions are further dam-aging a business and investment environment.











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





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 CHIFF FCONOMIC ADVISOR TO GOI

SHORT TAKES

Vehicle reg fell 13.43% in Feb

New Delhi: Vehicle registrations declined on both sequential and year-onyear (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.

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

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.

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'

AI employees disgualified

from divestment process



OECD HIKES 2021 GLOBAL GROWTH FORECAST TO 5.6% FROM 4.2% OECD DOUBLES US GROWTH ORECAST TO 6.5% ON STIMULUS

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 re-

covery, 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

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 onetime 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.

E-invoice must for biz with over **₹50cr turnover**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, March 9: The government has made it mandatory for businesses with over ₹50 crore turnover to generate e-invoices for B2B transactions from April 1.

Under Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, e-invoicing for business-to-business (B2B) transactions has been made mandatory for companies with turnover of over ₹500 crore and ₹100 crore from October 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021, respectively.

E-invoicing will be extended to companies with turnover over ₹50 crore from April 1. the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in a notification.

Under e-invoicing, taxpayers have to generate invoices on their internal systems (ERP/accounting/billing software) and then report them online to the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP).

Under e-invoicing, taxpayers have to generate invoices on their internal systems (ERP/accounting/billing software) and then report them online to the Invoice **Registration Portal (IRP)**

The IRP will validate the information provided in the invoices and return the digitally signed einvoices with a unique 'Invoice Reference Number (IRN)' along with a QR Code to the taxpayer.

EY Tax Partner Abhishek Jain said e-invoicing has been made mandatory for businesses for ₹50 crore plus turnover from April 1, which showcases the proactiveness and the intent of the government to wider the net of digitisation.

TRAI suspends norms for

commercial text messages

Refiners asked to cut reliance on Mid East oil: Report



REUTERS

Mumbai, March 9: Government has asked state refiners to speed up the diversification of oil imports to gradually cut their dependence on the Middle East after OPEC+ decided last week to largely continue production cuts in April, two sources said.

India, the world's third biggest oil

than those from the West. Arabia, last week decided to extend most output curbs into April

India, hit hard by the soaring oil prices, has urged producers to ease output cuts and help the global economic recovery. In response, the Saudi energy minister told India to dip into strategic reserves filled with cheaper oil bought last year. "We have asked companies to aggressively look for diversification.

and IOC did not respond to requests from Reuters for comment. **₹1.06L cr GST**

We cannot be held hostage to the

arbitrary decision of Middle East

producers. When they wanted to sta-

bilize the market we stood by them,'

Government had not cancelled

any shipment of crude oil from

the Middle East in 2020 when oil de-

mand collapsed due to COVID-19,

the source said. Already OPEC's

share in India's oil imports de-

clined to historic lows during April

2020-January 2021, the first ten

the strategy will pay off in the long

the government had asked them to

expedite efforts to diversify crude

producer Guyana, the sources said.

The country's top refiner Indian

Oil Corp has also renewed its oil im-

port contract with Russia, they

added. India hopes to resume Iranian

oil imports this year. Oil ministry

While initial costs could be high,

Two oil refiners confirmed that

One plan is to import oil from new

months of this fiscal year.

term, the source said.

import sources.

said a government source.

compensation shortfall released

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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

pensation shortfall. Out of this, an amount of ₹2.103.95 crore has been released

tration including SMS template in a time-bound manner.

The temporary suspension comes after transactions, including banking, credit card payment and cer-

tain other services that involve SMSs and OTP generation, faced an outage on Monday. The disruption happened after telcos implemented the TRAI norms for commercial messag



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.

AGENCIES

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

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

Memorandum.

formed 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

payment, and other transactions

The move comes after

following disruptions

in SMS and OTP

deliveries for banking.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.



"In order to protect the interest of consumers, it has been decided that scrubbing of SMS by telecom service providers shall be suspended temporarily for seven days...," it said.

According to the regulator, telecom operators are being asked to inform their principal entities to take immediate necessary action in this regard and facilitate their regis-

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

The norms require bonafide enities 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.

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 thisweek at an interest rate of 5.8594 per cent.

McAfee sells enterprise biz

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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.

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

AGENCIES

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.

So, oil marketing companies will hold petrol and diesel prices as far as possible over the next few weeks till the time polling ends in all the states

Though oil companies are not



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 14 occasions raising the prices by ₹4.22 per litre for petrol and by ₹4.34 a litre for diesel in Delhi.

On Tuesday, the OMCs continued with their pause drive started 10 days back keeping fuel prices static. So, petrol continues to be priced at ₹91.17 a litre and diesel ₹81.47 a litre in the national capital

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.







OrissaPOST WEDNESDAY | MARCH 10 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

sports

Dubai, March 9: India's premier

off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin

was Tuesday named the ICC men's

Plaver 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

England's Tammy Beaumont

was adjudged the women's Player

of the Month. In the three Tests he

played, Ashwin scored a 106 in the

second innings of India's second Test

World Test Championship final.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



SMRITI, JHULAN LIFT INDIA EVES



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

The 38-year-old Goswami returned with figures of 10-0-42-4 and she was ably supported by fellow seamer Mansi Joshi (2/23) and left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (3/37) as India dismissed South Africa for a paltry 157 after opting to field.

Opener Mandhana (80 not out off 64 balls) and Raut (62 not out, 89 balls) then shared an unbeaten 138run partnership for the second wicket with India overhauling the target in only 28.4 overs to bounce back from their eight-wicket loss in the first ODI.

Mandhana blasted 10 fours and three sixes while Raut dropped anchor at one end but also hit eight boundaries. Mandhana made her intentions clear right from the start

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

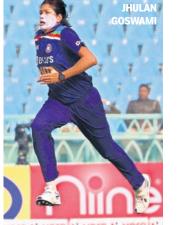
However, India lost an early wicket when Jemimah Rodrigues (8 off 19 balls) dragged one to the stumps in the fifth over.

While Indian women have not played for a year before the ongoing series, Jemimah's poor form dates back to the World T20 time as she hasn't been amongst runs for a considerable period of time.

Raut then took some time to get going but Mandhana was in full flow as she picked up boundaries regularly to keep the scoreboard ticking. If the short balls were dispatched

over the ropes, one outside the offstump was sent to the third-man boundary with a deft late cut and anything fullish was driven through the covers.

Raut exploded in the 15th over, blasting two fours off Nonkululeko Mlaba. In the 20th over, Mandhana picked up successive fours to get to her fifty in style, while Raut crossed the 50-mark with an innovative short behind the keeper n o) by 9 wickets.



Mandhana eventually scored the winning runs with successive fours 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.

Luus and Goodall then added 60 runs but Joshi returned to dismiss the South Africa skipper in the 21st over: The spinners then took control of the proceedings as Deepti Sharma and Gayakwad bowled in tandem. Harmanpreet Kaur cleaned up Goodall in her first delivery reduc-

ing South Africa to 130/6. Goswami struck twice in the 38th over. BRIEF SCORES: South Africa Women 157 (Lara Goodall 49, Sune Luus 36: Jhulan Goswami 4/42 Rajeswari Gaikwad 3/37) lost to India Women 160/1 (Smriti Mandhana 80 n o, Punam Raut 62

Hardik bowls at nets with tweaked action

Ahmedabad, March 9: Allrounder Hardik Pandva 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. Since suffering stress fractures in his back in 2019, Hardik has rarely bowled. He was forced to bowl during the Australia ODIs when his action was undergoing a change.

Former national selector Devang Gandhi has noted the change in his action. "It seems that he has reduced the length of his jump and in turn the stride is shorter. If you have a big jump, automatically, your stride will be longer and there will be more pounding on landing," Gandhi told this agency. The economy of action will put lesser stress on his back

ISL: ATKMB set up title date with MCFC

Ashwin bags Player of the Month award

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 se-

ries 3-1 and help his team secure its

spot in the WTC final against New

Zealand at the iconic Lord's in June.

these games and taking 24 wick-

ets, Ashwin was the unanimous

choice to win in the men's category

for February and garnered the most

Scoring a total of 176 runs across

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 green and maroon brigade won the two-leg play-offs by 3-2 aggregate. The result also means that Bagan have qualified for the AFC Cup Group Stages after finishing second in the league and qualifying for the final. Their opponents in the final, Mumbai City FC, have sealed

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.

Beaumont played three ODIs in February against New Zealand where she passed fifty in each of these, totalling 231 runs.

the Asian Champions League spot.

continued his fine form in the play-

offs by scoring vet again while

Manvir Singh (68th) added the sec-

ond before VP Suhair (74th) pulled

Bagan adopted a completely dif-

ferent 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.

the second session and dominated

the first 15 minutes. They created

chances and tested the keeper, but

just couldn't get the equaliser they

were looking at. They got their re-

ward, though, only after Bagan

NorthEast came back strongly in

one back for the Highlanders.

David Williams (38th minute)

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.'

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.

But Havertz helped Chelsea to beat Everton 2-0 at Stamford Bridge Monday and was unlucky not to have a goal to his name after starring in the false nine position.

Havertz was unlucky not to be credited with Chelsea's first goal, with Ben Godfrey's deflection eventually confirmed as an own goal. The lively forward later saw a neat finish ruled out for handball before winning a penalty that Jorginho converted

Thomas Tuchel has now become the first manager to secure five clean sheets in his first five home league games. Chelsea boasts nine clean sheets in Tuchel's 11 matches in charge, and only Maurizio Sarri with 12 games has enjoyed a longer unbeaten start to life at the club. It leaves Chelsea two points ahead of fifth-placed West Ham.



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