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Mamita murder case: Cops file chargesheet

Bolangir: Bolangir police Friday submitted a chargesheet at Bangomunda JMFC court here in connection with the sensational murder of teacher Mamita Meher, it was learnt.

Police prepared the chargesheet of over 2,000 pages having information about the case diary, statements of all the accused, witnesses, circumstantial evidence, scientific documents, crime map, arrest memo and crime details. It was learnt that the police have got substantial evidence against the prime accused Gobinda Sahu and his associate Radheshyam Chandi. However, investigating officer Batakrushna Mishra did not divulge details about the chargesheet.

UP IN FLAMES



BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 | 2022

JSP, Hindalco acquire coal mines in state

New Delhi: The second and third days of auction of coal blocks for commercial use saw Jindal Steel and Power bagging Utkal-C coal mine in Odisha, while Hindalco Industries made the highest bid for Meenakshi mine in the state. While BS Ispat Ltd emerged as the highest bidder for Majra mine in Maharashtra, Assam Mineral Development Corporation bagged Garampani coal block in Assam. "On the 2nd and 3rd day of the eauction, cumulative five coal mines were put up for auction," a coal ministry statement said. On the first day of auction February 8, five blocks were sold. Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd had emerged as the highest bidder for two coal blocks in Jharkhand. While Mahanadi Mines and Minerals emerged as the highest bidder for a coal block in Odisha, Yazdani Steel & Power was the highest bidder for another mine in the state.





Smoke billows out after a major fire broke out inside a pharma company in Ankleshwar in Gujarat, Friday

Row rages over Vidhan Parishad

Speaker SN Patro expresses shock over Union *Minister's assertion that the* Centre had no record of any proposal on formation of Odisha legislative council

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Feb 11: Expressing dismay over Union minister Kiren Rijiju's assertion that the Centre had no record of any proposal on for-mation of Odisha legislative council, Speaker SN Patro Friday said it was forwarded way back in 2018 after the state Assembly passed a resolution to that effect.

Patro, while talking about Rijiju's statement in Rajya Sabha Thursday, said the Assembly resolution was submitted to the secretary general of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and also to the secretary, Ministry

of Parliamentary Affairs and Law. "It is shocking to know that the Centre has not received any resolution passed by Odisha Assembly for setting up the legislative council," Patro told reporters here.

The resolution was passed in the Assembly September 6, 2018 and the same was sent to the Centre September 18, 2018, he noted.

Patro also pointed out that the Assembly had in the past responded to the Parliament's query on this matter.

The Union law and justice minister, in a written reply to a query by BJD Rajya Sabha MP Prasanna Acharya, had maintained that the Centre did not have any record of Odisha Assembly's resolution on setting up of a legislative council.

Assembly secretariat sources said that the resolution was passed in the absence of the Opposition Congress and the BJP in the House. A total of 104 legislators in the 147-



member House, including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, had voted in favour of the resolution. According to the sources, Odisha,

in its proposal, had sought the formation of a 49-member no-reservation council --16 of them to be elected by the MLAs, nine to be nominated by the governor, 16 more by zilla parishad and other local bodies and the rest from the electoral roll. The state had suggested a sixvear tenure for the members, who would have to be at least 30 years of age to be eligible for the council. Currently, only six states -- Andhra

'Poor coordination between ministries'

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New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Bhartruhari Mahtab Friday termed it 'very strange' that the Central ministries are lacking proper coordination among them and said the Odisha government had three years ago sent a resolution to the Union government for formation of a legislative council in the state. "This is very strange and this demonstrates that one ministry does not know what the other ministry has. As members of BJD Parliamentary party we had come with the resolu tion and met the Union Home Minister. Ultimately it is the home ministry which has to move a bill in the Parliament," Mahtab said.

Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh -- have legislative councils.



Don't spread to larger level: SC on hijab issue

■ *Apex* court refuses urgent hearing on the issue and says it would protect Constitutional rights of every citizen & take up the pleas at 'appropriate time'





Opinion poll was just half the job done. Let's now step out and ensure that they really vote

MARKET WATCH						
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AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 11: The Supreme Court Friday said it would protect the Constitutional rights of every citizen and take up at an 'appropriate time' the pleas challenging a direction of Karnataka High Court asking students not to wear any religious clothing in educational institutions, and emphasised that these issues should not 'spread' at 'national level'.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana was told by senior advocate Devdutt Kamat, appearing for the students, that the high court order has led to the "suspension of fundamental right to practice religion under Article 25 of the Constitution" and the plea be listed for hearing Monday.

Refusing to list the plea February 14 as sought by Kamat, the bench, also comprising justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli, referred to the ongoing hearing of the case in the high court and said it will protect the fundamental right of every citizen and take up the matter at an 'appropriate time'.

'The high court is already hearing this on an urgent basis. We do not know what the order is...Wait . Let us see," the bench said. "I do not want to express anything. Do not spread these things to a larger level. This is what we want to say. Mr. Kamat, we are also watching. We also know what is happening

PROTESTING MUSLIM GIRLS' INFO SHARED

Mangaluru: Parents of six Muslim girl students, who are protesting for their right to wear hijab at the pre-university college in Udupi, have lodged a complaint with the police that the personal details of their children are being shared by some people on social media. The parents, who submitted a complaint to the Udupi district Superintendent of Police N Vishnuvardhan, sought action against those sharing the details of the girls, including their mobile numbers, in the public domain. The parents have expressed fear that miscreants might use the details to threaten the girls. Vishnuvardhan said the girls' parents have submitted a written complaint to him. Documentary evidence of the information available online has been sought from them and appropriate action will be taken once it is received, he said.

in the state as well as in the hearing...And you also have to think over whether it is proper to bring those things to Delhi as a national level issue and all that," the CJI observed.

When told that pure legal questions have emerged from the high court order, the bench said it will definitely examine if something has gone wrong.

Now, NOTA option for urban polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: None of the above (NOTA) option will be used for the first time in the upcoming election to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Odisha.

State Election Commission (SEC), Odisha issued an order to implement the new provision Friday. "The State Election Commission, in exercise of powers vested in it under Article 243-ZA of the Constitution, directs that the option NOTA (none of the above) will be provided to the electors for the general elections to Urban Local Bodies. read the order.

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13 CANDIDATE-18	θ	
14 CANDIDATE-14	λ	•
15 CANDIDATE-15	τ	•
16 NONE OF THE ABOVE	NOTA	

Election Commission of India

The words 'none of the above' will be printed in the last panel after the last candidate and the NOTA symbol will be printed on the symbol column, the order said.

There is no provision of providing NOTA option to the electors under the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950 and the provide the NOTA option to the voters during the ULB poll, official sources said.

Elections for 107 municipalities/NACs and three corporations Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur are likely to be conducted soon after the panchayat polls in Odisha. The delimitation of wards, reservation seats and all other formalities required to conduct the ULB election have already been completed.

Recently, the Commission has also enhanced the spending limit of the candidates contesting for the post of councillors, corporators, chairpersons and mayors in the civic bodies.

DREAN RE











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Odisha Municipal Corporation

Act, 2003 and the Rules framed

However, the Election

Commission of India (ECI)

has provided the option of

NOTA to the electors for elec-

tions to legislative assemblies

and Lok Sabha. So considering

that, the SEC has decided to

there under.



530

counting

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leisure



PATTINSON PRETENDED TO BE A DRUG DEALER

Actor Robert Pattinson was keen to impress the 'cool kids' when he was at school so even though he had no idea what narcotics 'looked like', he created his own powder doused in cleaning products, which he hid inside floppy discs and claimed he was importing illegally.

CATE BLANCHETT TO STAR IN, PRODUCE THE NEW BOY

Hollywood star Cate Blanchett's Dirty Films and Scarlett Pictures have teamed up to co-produce The New Boy, from award-winning Indigenous Australian filmmaker Warwick Thornton. Blanchett will star in the film, set in 1940s Australia, alongside Deborah Mailman and Wayne Blair.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

You will be in a tight fix as the day starts. However, that's exactly the kind of situation in which your skills are tested. In the evening you will draw a lot of praise for your excellent performance. If nesha chooses to shower his blessings on you, you will sign new deals.

TAURUS

This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesha. It is possible that you will be getting together with your friends and family members for a fun filled evening followed by a great dinner and a late night movie.

GEMINI

You are likely to be in a romantic mood today. You may just end up falling in love today. A difficult situation will bring out the competitive streak in you and spu you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesha

You will focus on financial matters and plan accordingly. Compared to expenses, you will save more. A beneficial day for cashiers, money lenders and petty traders. Ganesha counsels hard work to achieve success

.

LEO

You will be unable to express the feelings that rise up inside you in spite of wanting to. However, keep them close to your heart. You will be very serious about your work today. There is a possibility of some delay in your schedule today due to unforeseen problems, says Ganesha

VIRGO You will remain engrossed

in personal matters at the cost of professionalism. Solve your problems today by taking them head-on. Ganesha warns you not to let your emotions suppress your enterprising spirit, especially in the evening.

LIBRA Ganesha advises you not to

take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation There will be pressure put on you regard ing certain matters at the work-front. You should take decisions regarding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.



Shabana slams Kangana over her Afghan argument

Mumbai: Hindi cinema star Shabana Azmi has responded strongly to actress Kangana Ranaut for her recent comments on the ongoing hijab row in Karnataka. Thursday, Kangana had shared her views on the controversy that has flared up in Karnataka over whether students should be permitted to wear the hijab in educational institutions or not.

Kangana shared a post by scientist and author Anand Ranganathan and wrote on Instagram: "If you want to show courage, show it by not wearing burga in Afghanistan. Learn to break free, not cage yourself." Friday, Shabana took to Twitter to question Kangana. Shabana wrote: "Correct me if I'm wrong but Afghanistan is a theocratic state and when I last checked India was a secular democratic republic?!!" The controversy in Karnataka erupted in January after a few students of the Government Girls P.U. College in Udupi objected to not being allowed in classes for wearing the hijab. IANS



Shruti likes preserve her characters' traits

Mumbai: Actress Shruti Haasan, who will be soon seen in the upcoming psychological thriller series Bestseller, likes to preserve some traits of her characters as a souvenir. The actress feels glad that she got to play a character which is as determined as her.

Commenting on the same, Shruti, who plays Meetu Mathur, an aspiring writer in the series, said: "I always love to walk away with the mood or the fragrance or the memory of the character. And I think what I got in this series is to meet another character that is really determined. So, I love remembering those experiences (while shooting for Bestseller). Drawing parallels between her real life persona and the character, she said: "I found it really interesting to play a part like Meetu because her arc is so interesting. The common thing if I had to say is that Meetu is a fan and a determined woman."Directed by Mukul Abhyankar and produced by Siddharth Malhotra, Bestseller will stream on Amazon Prime Video from February 18.

Gehraiyaan: A slow-burn captivating noir drama

Mounted with ace production values and sincere performances from the entire cast the movie keeps the viewers hooked till the end

ehraiyaan is a slow-burn, captivating, noir drama that draws you into its immersive narrative, which tells us, "Life is all about choices. ... Let's put all this behind us and move on."

Shots of the deep sea and its rolling waves form a subtle leitmotif in the film that reminds you of life's mysteries, innumerable choices, and the momentum of moving on. But are choices and moving on so simple? At least not for Alisha, a yoga instructor in Mumbai who is at the crossroads of her life. She has a strained relationship with her father, who lives in Nashik.

She is also haunted by memories of her mother's demise. Moreover, there are roadblocks in the way of her entrepreneurial endeavours, and the spark in her six-year-old relationship with Karan, an aspiring author, seems to have petered out. But when she catches up with



their relationship, she tries to stay away from Zain. But eventually, after Zain convinces her that the feeling is mutual, she inevitably gives in to the relationship.

So far, so good, but when the plot abruptly shifts gear from romance to noir, Gehraiyaan becomes an altogether less predictable, more volatile story whose twists and turns revolve around the selfishness of human beings and the desperate lengths to which it can drive people. Director Shakun Batra's clever-

FUN

ness lies in fashioning from these ingredients a relaxed but stylish thriller in which suspense is accompanied by a scuffle for survival instinct.

Deepika and Siddhant, as Alisha and Zain, are sincere in their roles; attractive and responsive with an in-

Director: Shakun Batra Cast: Deepika Padukone, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Ananya Panday, Dhairya Karwa, Naseeruddin Shah nd Raiat Kapoor

stinctive ability for calm expression and restrained emotions. Supporting them with equal fervour are Ananya Panday and Dhairya Karwa as Tia and Karan.

Naseeruddin Shah as Alisha's laid-back dad, and Rajat Kapoor as Zain's cold and calculating colleague, are both stoically effective.

Mounted with ace production values, cinematographer Kaushal Shah's

Khel Khel Mein director Ravi Tandon passes away

Mumbai: Actress Raveena Tandon's father and popular Hindi film personality Ravi Tandon is no more. The Khel Khel



Posting a series of images, Raveena wrote, "You will always walk with me, I will always be you, I'm never letting go. Love you papa.

Ravi Tandon was a film director/producer of the Indian film industry. He directed a number of hit movies, the most popular among these are Khel Khel Mein. Anhonee. Nazrana. Maiboor. Khuddaar and Zindagi. Tandon was born in a Punjabi family in Agra. The reason for his demise is still unknown; more details are awaited. IANS





SCORPIO

Thank Ganesha that you have the grace to handle pressure at work, because today, you are going to be bogged down with a lot of work pressure. By the end of the day, try some stress bursting activities like yoga, meditation of listening to soft music.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha predicts a day full of romantic developments today. Mushy talks and whispering sweet nothings in your beloved's ears may give you little joys of life. However, brace yourselves as there are times when relationships do not workout, and you may experience this soon.

CAPRICORN

Your lover is in for many pleasant surprises today You'll be in a completely

romantic mood, making every wish of your sweetheart your command. Both of you will go shopping, and have fun. Extravagant expenditures will keep you charged up for the day. You will achieve what you had wanted, that is the happiness of your sweetheart.

AOUARIUS

Travelling is on the cards for you today. Ganesha advises you to travel alone. because if you take people with different tastes along with you, their preferences may dampen your mood and spoil the trips. But, once put in such a situation, you will try to adjust yourself and find eniovment in that, too.

PISCES

Your planetary configuration not being favorable, vou are advised not to start any new projects today. The benefits accrued by any project you take up today might not justify the risks associated with it. Businessmen need to be extra careful in all their dealings.

His skating

partner, Chil

Blain, was in love.

younger cousin Tia and her fiancé Zain, sparks fly between her and Zain. She gets drawn to him. Then, burdened with the uncertainty of

THE STORY

ISN'T MUCH, BUT

THE NAMES

M GAME!

location shots are perfectly in line with the film's breathtaking rhythm. Overall, Gehraiyaan keeps the viewers hooked till the end. IANS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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BREVITY

PEANUTS

Dutch Waltz, the

famous skater, was

worried.

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SO IT'S A FIGHT	ANOTHER
YOU WANT, IS IT?? YEAH?	CASUALTY
YOU WANT, IS IT?? YEAH?	OF APPLIED
YOU LIMB FROM	METARHISICS
YOU LIMB FROM	PRETRAIN RELEASE
YEAH?	PHANTASMATRON!
YOU LIMB FROM	I'M A GENIUS!

While playing a

Martin Gale.

show in Denver, she

had become involved

with a cowboy named



T WILL BE IT HAS TO WANTS IT?		



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



DRAMA SHOW

Artistes during staging of play Joda Jaanla at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
/orld	40,72,40,713	32,73,25,208	58,11,603
Idia	4,25,36,137	4,13,31,158	5,07,177
disha	12,74,575	12,53,914	8,838

Omicron replaces Delta as dominant Cov strain

Omicron strain was found in 235 of the 241

Covid-19 positive samples collected from 18

districts between January 27 and February 4

and tested at ILS-Bhubaneswar, said Health Services Director Bijay Kumar Mohapatra

As many as 13 out of 14 samples received

from Angul were found with Omicron BA.2

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: Omicron has replaced Delta as the dominant variant in Odisha with over 98 per cent of the samples recently undergoing genome sequencing at the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) here testing positive for the new strain.

According to Health Services Director Bijay Kumar Mohapatra, Omicron is now the dominant Covid-19 variant in the state, replacing the killer Delta strain.

"Omicron strain was found in 235 of the 241 Covid-19 positive samples collected from 18 districts between January 27 and February 4 and tested at ILS-Bhubaneswar. Delta variant was found only in 6 samples. Presence of the Omicron variant has been found in about 98 per cent of the total samples sent for genome sequencing at ILS. Though it was not a survey, we can see it from a broader perspective and it shows a large presence of Omicron variant in the state," Mohapatra said Friday.

However, it is good news for the state that the number of serious Covid patients will fall down and the daily cases will also come down very rapidly soon, he said.

Mohapatra said that while BA.2 strain was found in 217 samples, BA.1.1 was detected in 12 samples and BA.1 in six samples. The remaining six were Delta variant. Districts from where samples were collected included those like Khurda, Sundargarh and Cuttack, which have reported over 500 cases daily for nearly a month.

As many as 13 out of 14 sam-

Former legislator **Roshni Singh Deo** passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

her

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: Former MLA Roshni Singh Deo died Friday following prolonged illness, family sources said. She was 82.





ples of Ganjam district, 16 from Gajapati and 12 from Jagatsinghpur districts were found to be infected with the Omicron variant. Mohapatra said that only 25.5 per cent of the samples undergo-

ing genome sequencing January 10 had tested positive for the Omicron strain, which means it has increased four-fold in a month.

four-fold in a month

Meanwhile, Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 12,74,575 Friday as 1,572 more people, including 309 children, tested positive for the infection, while 20 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,838.

variant. All 30 samples from Cuttack were found to be Omicron. Out of the 49 sample from Khurda, 45 were tested with Omicron, said Mohapatra The Health Services Director said only 25.5% of the samples undergoing genome sequencing January 10 had tested positive for the Omicron strain. which means it has increased Khurda district, under which ples received from Angul were found with Omicron BA.2 variant.

Bhubaneswar falls, recorded the highest number of new cases at 233. Four patients, including a sixyear-old boy, succumbed to the infection in Jajpur, while Bhubaneswar, Balasore and Kendrapara recorded three fatal-

ities each The daily positivity rate stood at 2.3 per cent as 68,239 samples were

tested in the last 24 hours Daily infections plunged by 41.7

per cent from 2,697 a week ago. The state had registered 1,480 cases and 21 deaths Thursday. The state now has 14,253 active cases, including 2,922 in Khurda, which is in the red zone. Sundargarh is in the yellow zone

with over 1,078 infections. As many as 3,279 patients recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,51,431. Fiftythree patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it added.

historical and cultural sites in western Odisha. Speaking during the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha, the BJD MP said the western part of Odisha is abounded with beautiful flora and

"The only leaning temple of the Mahanadi river at Huma in Sambalpur district. The 16th century Samleshwari temple at Sambalpur, the 13th century Lord Nrusinghanath temple at the foothills of Gandhamardan mountain and the Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary which is an important site for conservation of wildlife like leopard, Indian Gaur, and

The BJD MP further said places like Buddhist



With the improvement in Covid-19 situation in state, hundreds of visitors throng Khandagiri-Udayagiri hills in Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

Preserve cultural sites of W Odisha: BJD

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Feb 11: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Prasanna Acharya Friday urged the Centre to prepare a blue print, in consultation with the state government, to develop and protect

fauna as well as temples and other historical and architectural excellence

world is located on the bank of four-horned antelope,

are all located in western Odisha," he said.



The only leaning temple of the world is located on the bank of Mahanadi river at Huma in Sambalpur district The 16th century Samleshwari temple at Sambalpur, the 13th century Lord Nrusinghanath temple at the foothills of Gandhamardan mountain and the Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary are all located in western Odisha PRASANNA ACHARYA I BJD MP

Centre urged to open PMAY-G portal

New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Bhartruhari Mahtab Friday urged the Centre to open the window of Aawas portal to include left out beneficiaries in the Pradhan

Mantri Aawas

Yojana



Odisha. The Cuttack MP also refuted the claim of Union Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh that a total of 8.17 lakh houses have been allotted to Odisha and the state government has failed to distribute the houses among the needy.

He claimed that the eligible





POST NEWS NETWORK Puri, Feb 11: The district admin-

istration is gearing up for the twoday visit of President Ram Nath Kovind to the Holy City here, start-

Puri admin gears up

March 22, 2021. Inspector General of police (central range) Narasingha Bhol Friday

for President's visit

leave the city at 12.05 pm February 20." it added This is the third visit of President Kovind to the Pilgrim City, sources said. The President had earlier visited the city March 18, 2018 and

elected from the Koksara assembly segment in Kalahandi district in 1995 and 2000.

Her body will be taken to her residence at Jayapatna in Kalahandi district for last rites, her son Pushpendra said.

People from various walks of life, including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, condoled the death of Roshni Singh Deo.

an event at Sri Chaitanya Gaudiya mutt in the city here.

The President is scheduled to

The President is scheduled to reach the city though helicopter from Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) at 3.25 pm February 19. He will visit Srimandir and pay obeisance to Lord Jagannath within 5 pm and 5.45 pm, said a source in the district administration.

The President will visit Sri Chaitanya Gaudiya mutt February 20 and participate in a special programme at Saradhabali. He will reviewed the security arrangements for the President's visit. Bhol visited Srimandir, Sri Chaitanya Gaudiya mutt and Saradhabali to oversee the security

arrangements. "We have discussed security-related issues with Puri Superintendent of Police and other senior officials. There will be adequate security arrangements for the President's visit. However, the devotees will not face any difficulty in visiting Srimandir," Bhol said.

shrine in Boudh district. ancient engravings at Bhim Mandali in Rairakhol Ushakothi in

Badrama wildlife sanctuary, Gudguda waterfall in Sambalpur dis-

trict, Deuljhari hot spring in Athmallik, Harishanker temple and waterfall in Bolangir district, Papanga Hills in Bargarh district have immense architectural and



historical values. There is a need to protect and preserve these places, he added. "Although the state government has been undertaking de-

The BJD lakh left out beneficiaries in the PMAY (G). MP said the He also requested the Centre to

allow migration of 6.65 lakh rural

housing portal data to Aawas

plus and sanction 1.84 lakh PMAY

(G) special houses for families, af-

fected by cyclonic storm Fani in

tal for a mont

families of the coastal districts have been identified for the purpose

The state government could not identify the left out beneficiaries in all districts due to cyclone Fani, General election and poor network connectivity.

velopmental work at all these places, tation with the Odisha govern-I would request the Union Ministry ment, for all-round development of Tourism and Ministry of Culture and protection of these places,' to prepare a blueprint, in consulhe said.

'Water vapour behind rise in Himalayan temp'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 11: Water vapour exhibits a positive radiative effect at the top of the atmosphere (TOA), suggesting an increase in overall warming in the high-altitude Himalayas due to it, a study has shown.

Precipitable water vapour (PWV) is one of the most rapidly varying components in the atmosphere and is mainly accumulated in the lower troposphere. Due to the large variability in space and time, mixing processes and contribution to a series of heterogeneous chemical reactions, as well as sparse measurement networks, especially in the Himalavan region, it is difficult to accurately quantify the climatic impact of PWV over space and time.

Moreover, aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions over this region, which are one of the most climaticsensitive, are poorly understood, apparently due to a lack of proper observational data, a release from the Ministry of Science and Technology said Thursday.

However, the recent research led by Dr Umesh Chandra Dumka from Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, an autonomous research institute of the Department of Science and Technology, has showed that PWV exhibits a positive radiative effect at the top of the atmosphere in high-altitude remote locations in



he researchers assessed the combination of aerosols and water vapour radiative effects over the Himalayan range that is specifically important for regional climate and highlighted the importance of water vapour as a key greenhouse gas and climate forcing agent over the Himalayan region

the order of about 10 watts per square metre at Nainital (altitude 2,200 metres, in central Himalaya) and 7.4 W per square metre at Hanle (Altitude 4,500 metres, in western Trans Himalaya).

Team members from the National Observatory of Athens (NOA), Tohoku University, Japan; Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), **CSIR** Fourth Paradigm Institute (CSIR-4PI), Bengaluru, and the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Germany

also contributed to the study.

The research published in the Journal of Atmospheric Pollution Research, Elsevier shows that the atmospheric radiative effect due to PWV is about 3-4 times higher compared to aerosols, resulting in atmospheric heating rates of 0.94 and 0.96 K Day-1 at Nainital and Hanle, respectively.

The results highlight the importance of PWV and aerosol radiative effects in the climate-sensitive Himalayan region.

The researchers assessed the combination of aerosols and water vapour radiative effects over the Himalayan range that is specifically important for regional climate and highlighted the importance of water vapour as a key greenhouse gas and climate forcing agent over the Himalayan region.

A recent study has showed that

t highlighted the

importance of PWV and

The team believes that this work will provide a comprehensive investigation of the combined impact of aerosols and water vapour on the radiation budget.

Piramal Capital & Housing Finance	PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (Formerly Known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.) Unit No. 601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction Opp. Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai 400 070	(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)					
Regional Office : 41	Regional Office : 41, Shakespeare Sarani, 1st. Floor, Duckback House, Kolkata - 700 017						
Whereas, the undersigned being Reconstruction of Financial Assetts with Rule 3 of the Security Intere Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) mentit notice. The Borrower having failed undersigned has taken possessio Section 13 of the said Act read wil Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the	IV, [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMO' g the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finan and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of p stores (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by the oned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within to rfepay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower (s)/ Gt n of the property described herein below in exercise of powers con th Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The B& te Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The of deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be su erest thereon.	nce Limited under the Securitisation and lowers conferred under Section 13 (12) read Authorised Officer of the company to the n60 days from the date of rfeceipt of the said Jarantor (s) and the public in general that the ferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the rorwer's attention is invited to provisions of the Borrower (s) in particular and the public in					

Name of the Borrower (s) & Co-borrower (s)	Description of the Secured Assets	Date of Demand Notice & Amount	Date of Possession
Loan App No. 01244577 Loan Code No. 00001372 Branch : Bhubaneswar Branch Santosh Kumar Lenka & Banajakshi Lenka	All that piece and parcel of the property being No : Khata No. 41, Plot No. 252 Part Mouza - Bankilo, Tahasil- Delanga, Thana - Delanga, Puri, Orissa, Pin - 752016	23.07.2021 & Rs. 3,67,439.00	07.02.2022
Loan App No. 01436182 Loan Code No. 00001568 Branch : Bhubaneswar Branch Santosh Kumar Lenka & Banajakshi Lenka	All that piece and parcel of the property being No : Khata No. 41, Mouza - Bankilo, Plot No. 252, Tahasil - Delanga, Near Balunkeswar Temple, Arisal Puri, Orissa, Pin - 752016	23.07.2021 & Rs. 3,66,831.00	07.02.2022
Loan App No. 01797940 Loan Code No. 00001900 Branch : Bhubaneswar Branch Pratap Swain & Narayan Swain	All that piece and parcel of the property being No : Khata No. 604, Plot No. 367, Mouza - Chainpur, Tahasil - Delanga, Chainpur, District - Puri, Odisha, Pin - 752015	25.08.2021 & Rs. 3,28,024.00	08.02.2022
Loan App No. 01264878 Loan Code No. 00001387 Branch : Bhubaneswar Branch Pratap Swain, Pramod Kumar Swain & Sukanti Swain	All that piece and parcel of the property being No : Khata No. 604, Plot No. 367, Mouza - Chainpur, Tahasii - Delanga, Chainpur, District - Puri, Odisha, Pin - 752015	25.08.2021 & Rs. 4,55,963.00	08.02.2022
Loan App No. 01548034 Loan Code No. 00001654 Branch : Bhubaneswar Branch Santoshi Educare, Deepak Kumar Barik & Kunmun Barik	All that piece and parcel of the property being No : Khata No. 620/2045, Plot No. 790/3964, Mouza -Tarola, Tahsil & Thana - Tangi, Cuttack, Orissa, Pin - 754021	30.06.2021 & Rs. 22,79,439.00	09.02.2022
Loan App No. 01456944 Loan Code No. 00001570 Branch : Bhubaneswar Branch Sibaprasad Tanga, Satyabati Tanga & Krupasindhu Tanga	All that piece and parcel of the property being No : Khata No. 10, 18, 5, 7/343, Plot No. 2774, Mouza - Dandamukundapur, Near Marundapur Up School, Pipili, Puri, Orissa, Pin - 752104	16.06.2021 & Rs. 5,09,204.00	07.02.2022
Date : 12.02.2022 Place : Bhubaneswar	Piramal	Sd/- Autho Capital & Housing F	rised Office





OrissaPOST SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 12 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown

OUAT asst prof found dead 'Focus on students in tribal belt'

OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: An assistant professor of the Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT) was found dead at her official quarter on the varsity premises under mysterious circumstances late Thursday evening.

The deceased, identified as Basanti Jena, was in the Department of Animal Reproduction, Gynecology and Obstetrics, College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry.

Jena's husband Debi Prasanna Das too works as an Assistant

Lady sustains 80% burn; probe on

Bhubaneswar: A woman allegedly tried to end her life by immolating herself over familial dispute during the wee hours Friday. The lady Priti Prajna Parija, 32, of Jagatsinghpur stays along with her husband Satya Prakash Nayak on rent at Kapaleswar Vihar in Mancheswar area here. The couple got married in 2021 after a few years' relationship. Sources revealed that a burning Parija ran outside her house seeking help. The locals immediately doused the fire by pouring water on her. Parija sustained almost eighty per cent burn injuries and was later rushed to capital hospital and to SCBMCH, Cuttack later on. The husband claimed that they engaged in an argument over some family issues and he left home just few hours before the incident took place. Police sources revealed that the fight was over some extra marital relationship. Cops are vet to confirm whether Parija had set herself on fire or her husband tried to kill her. The statements of Nayak and his friend have been recorded.



an eight year relationship in 2012.

neighbour, had gone for a walk

Thursday evening when Jena was

alone in their official quarter.

Upon return, Das reportedly found

the outside gate locked. Suspecting

that Jena might have shut the gate

due to anger, he entered the house

and entered the house to check on

her between 9pm and 9.30pm. As

I entered the front room. I saw

her body hanging from the ceiling.

I immediately untied her and

called 108 ambulance service.

Upon reaching the hospital, the

doctors declared her brought

dead." said Das.

"I climbed the boundary wall

jumping off boundary wall.

Das, along with his son and a

Basanti Jena with her husband Debi Prasanna Das

Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology in the OUAT. The couple, who came into contact during their studies, married after

engage in guarrel due to Das's liquor addiction She was also under stress as their five-year-old son suffers from some mental abnormalities and is yet to speak properly

that the couple used to often

he deceased lady's family alleged

owever, her family members have not filed any complaint against Das alleging any foul playx

Speaking to media, Jena's family members alleged that the couple used to often engage in quarrel due to Das's liquor addiction. She was also under stress as their child suffers from some mental abnormalities and is yet to speak properly.

Jena's brother said that she had told his father about the alleged extra martial relationship of her husband. However, the family members have not filed any complaint against Das alleging any foul play. On the other hand, police sources too confirmed that Jena was unhappy with her husband for drinking alcohol with nearby vendors and shop owners.

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: The Mo School campaign has firmed its base as a successful example of Chief Minister's vision. Not only has the programme revolutionised the education sector of Odisha, but also enabled the state to stand apart among the other states, said Susmita Bagchi, Chairperson of Mo School. Addressing the ninth governing

council meeting of Mo School through virtual mode Friday, Bagchi said, "Given the breadth of the projects being implemented under Mo School, emphasis is being laid on monitoring at school level. Steps are also being taken to ensure timely completion of the projects and that students are amply benefitted from these projects." She also added that proper tabs are being kept on the transparency of these projects.

Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary of the state School and Mass Education (S&ME) department, said that prominence has emerged in digitally skilling the teachers and students of government and government aided schools of the state. Numerous programmes are being implemented in collaborations with many international organisations. Mo School is committed to provide a platform for

MO SCHOOL MEET

In a bid to promote learning practice among elementary and secondary students, the state government initiative, in collaboration with UNICEF, will conduct a special programme for next two years

The major focus of the collaboration will be to address the learning loss of students due to the pandemic

all round development of students with academics, digital technology and sports being in the forefront. Sethi also instructed to pav attention to the all round development of the schools and students of the tribal belts. Underlying attention was also

showed in ensuring community involvement and participation to check transparency of 5T High School Programme. Meetings with head teachers, alumni and SMC members were held in as many as 3.415 high schools, seeking their valuable support in the Mo School will start alumni driven school-based aspiration programme in high schools to encourage alumni members to contribute through their service for holistic development of the students

- Each school will create its alumni database with its current address and contact details, including the current profession
- An alumni committee will be formed at school level to promote sports, science and cultural activities among students

transformation programme. Decision was taken to set up a team to look into the skills and growth of teachers and students in the education arena and curate teaching aids. Similarly, it was also decided to identify and reward three best performing teachers of every district.

Mo School will start alumni driven school-based aspiration programme in high schools to encourage alumni members to contribute through their service for holistic development of the students.



Work on the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, whose foundation stone was laid by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in 2018, at CDA Sector 13 in Cuttack nearing completion, Friday OP PHOTO

33RD FOUNDATION DAY OF ILS BHUBANESWAR Experts all praise for Cov war, research output

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day Friday. On the occasion, the guests and dignitaries complimented the scientists, staff and students of the institution for their outstanding contributions in the field of research, innovation, translation and outreach.

Union Biotechnology Secretary Rajesh Gokhale remarked that ILS is one of the leading biotechnology laboratories and has contributed to research efforts in response to Covid-19 as well as in the focused area of cell and molecular biology of plant and human diseases. He hoped that ILS will continue to carryout advanced biotechnology research leading to product development for the benefit of society.

Director of the Institute Ajay Parida gave a brief on the significant achievements of ILS during the year, in the area of Cancer biology, Infectious Diseases and Plant and Environmental biotechnology. He also highlighted the efforts undertaken towards human resources development, outreach and societal activities. He also mentioned that ILS has been selected by the Union



Ministry of Industry and Commerce under the seed fund category for supporting and promoting start-ups and entrepreneurship in the ILS-Bioincubator.

ILS will also establish a high throughput sequencing platform and an immunogenicity research initiative in the coming year. It will also undertake activities in relation to sustainable management of the coastal region of Odisha, he added.

Vice chancellor of the Asian Public Health University AP Dash remarked that ILS has established itself as a vibrant institution in

the area of Infectious Disease Biology and made significant research contribution towards combating Covid.

Sanjay Nayak, Vice chancellor of Ravenshaw University, said that with 25 faculties and 100 research scholars, the research output of ILS is significant. With a lot of commonality in research areas, ILS and Ravenshaw could develop common projects in the coming days, said Nayak.

years, ILS has undertaken several social and scientific research pro-Utkal University VC Sabita grams that have the potential for Acharva briefed the gathering positively impacting the human welfare and improving health, food over the ongoing collaborative efforts between ILS and the uniand nutrition security.

ILS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1989 BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA AND WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF **BIOTECHNOLOGY, GOVERNMENT** OF INDIA IN 2002

DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS, ILS HAS UNDERTAKEN SEVERAL SOCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE HUMAN WELFARE AND IMPROVING HEALTH, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

versity and mentioned that faculties of both institutions have identified several areas of mutual interest in carrying out joint research projects by sharing common infrastructure, exchange of research students and supporting innovation.

ILS was established in 1989 by the

Government of Odisha and was

taken over by the Department of

Biotechnology, Government of

India in 2002. During the last few

isotopic and other means of in-

vestigation, the IITM scientists ob-

served a strong link between the hy-

drological and carbon cycles, which

may be unique to the Kaziranga

tion under global warming sce-

narios is a cause of worry. "Analysis

of the rainfall data shows that rain-

fall in this region has decreased for

The changing climatic condi-

ecosystem, the release added.

Carbon removal capacity of NE India forests may reduce Mangalajodi to be noise pollution free

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: The Orissa High Court Friday directed the CDA. Chilika DFO and the Fisheries department to free the Mangalajodi bird sanctuary from operation of noisy boats, and submit affidavits on steps to be taken to make the biodiversity zone noise pollution free.

While hearing a PIL filed by a local resident Dibakar Behera on the rampant operation of boats in the bird sanctuary, the HC directed the authorities to hold discussions with the fishing community in Mangalajodi area and make them understand the harmful effects of the noise created by boats on the migratory avian species. The court also directed the authorities to file affidavits on the steps initiated within three days. The Chief Executive Officer of the CDA, Chilika DFO and Fisheries department officer appeared before the HC during the virtual hearing.

Petitioner counsel Asish Mishra said, "Mangalajodi is ecologically very sensitive. Fishermen usually cross this zone spread over eight kilometres to cast nets in the sea. The respondents have also been asked to submit an affidavit regarding steps to be taken to stop boat operation. The Court has given three days time to them to do this." The next hearing will be on February 18.

multi-year study from northeastern India has observed a strong link between the hydrological and carbon cycles. and established that the carbon removal capacity of the forests in the region may reduce over time.

The study, by a team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, which is an autonomous research institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), and Tezpur University, has investigated carbon movement processes at Assam's Kaziranga National Park which is a deciduous forest

"A multi-year data analysis has shown that the Kaziranga Forest in Assam may not be a carbon sink, which means, annually, it releases more amount of CO₂ than it absorbs. The reason for this unusual behaviour lies in the soil. Due to the high bacterial population, the Kaziranga soil emits significant CO2, known as heterotrophic respiration," a release from the IITM said Meteorologists use a sophisti-

cated technique known as Eddy Covariance measurement to estimate how much carbon is absorbed and released by a forest. Studies carried out by the National Remote Sensing Centre-Hyderabad in other Indian forests, such as a teak forest in Madhya Pradesh, have shown

ASSESSING THE ANOMALY

Studies carried out by the National Remote Sensing Centre-Hyderabad in other Indian forests, such as a teak forest in Madhya Pradesh, have shown that those forests act mainly as a carbon sink

In case of Kaziranga, the scientists observed that it removes maximum carbon from the atmosphere before the monsoon season, typically during March-April-May

During the monsoon season, increased cloud cover limits the photosynthetic activity; hence the plants' carbon absorption capacity weaker

In the post-monsoon and winter season, this forest emits a significant amount of carbon, although respiration remains higher than productivity from July to the rest of the year

that those forests act mainly as a carbon sink

In case of Kaziranga, the scientists observed that it removes maximum carbon from the atmosphere before the monsoon season, typically during March-April-May. During the monsoon season, increased cloud cover limits the photosynthetic activity: hence the plants' carbon absorption capacity weakens. And in the post-monsoon and winter season, this forest emits a significant amount of carbon. Respiration remains higher than

productivity from July to the rest of the year.

"In that sense, the Kaziranga forest is behaving differently," the release said, adding, a paper -'Quantifying the net ecosystem exchange at a semi-deciduous forest in northeast India from intra-seasonal to seasonal time scale' - has been recently published in an Elsevier journal, Agricultural and Forest Meteorology.

The scientists, under the MetFlux India project sponsored by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in 2015,

have installed a meteorological tower containing a variety of sensors and equipment. One of these sensors placed above the forest canopy measures CO2 and water

vapour concentrations, while another sensor measures the wind speed and direction. The concentration and wind speed analysis tells how much carbon is absorbed or released by the forest ecosystem. The carbon sequestration capacity of a forest is assessed from one year of measurements.

The IITM scientists also analysed

METHOD TO MONITOR

The scientists, under the MetFlux India project sponsored by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in 2015, have installed a meteorological tower containing a variety of sensors and equipment

One of these sensors placed above the forest canopy measures CO2 and water vapour concentrations, while another sensor measures the wind speed and direction

several decades, especially during the pre-monsoon season. Also, the amount of rainfall derived from the locally generated moisture. through transpiration, is reduced in the March-April season. This is the time an enhanced hydrological cycle triggers the primary productivity and therefore, a reducing trend in rainfall may affect both the ecosystem productivity and the transpiration process," the scientists said.

'The weakened plant productivity may further affect the carbon sequestration capacity of this fragile ecosystem of northeast India. Over a long-term period, the forest may emit more CO2 into the atmosphere," were the findings of another paper titled "Linkage between precipitation isotopes and biosphere-atmosphere interaction observed in northeast India" published in a Nature group journal i.e. npj Climate and Atmospheric Science.

The concentration and wind speed analysis tells how much carbon is absorbed or released by the forest ecosystem, and the carbon sequestration capacity of a forest is assessed from one year of measurements

the isotopic composition of rainwater collected in a few places in northeast India. At Kaziranga, during the pre-monsoon season when plant productivity is high, they also release a high amount of water known as transpiration. The transpired water vapour also contributes to rainfall; this is the maximum during the pre-monsoon season in Kaziranga forest. At this time, the plant transpired water vapour contains a relatively more number of heavier isotopes than any other season in the year. Through the

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state

CROWD-PULLER

DELAY IN DANKARI OIL REFINERY PROJECT VOTERS UNHAPPY WITH BOTH BJD, BJP



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Feb 11: Delay in establishment of a proposed oil refinery at Chandikhole under Dharmasala tehsil in this district might cost both the BJD and BJP in the upcoming panchayat polls, a report said.

OrissaPOST

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 12 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

The proposal for establishment of an oil refinery was first mentioned in the 2017-18 budget of the NDA government. The refinery was planned on 773.60 acre of land on plot No 600 and khata No 221 on the foothills of Dankari.

Initially, work on the project was progressing smoothly. However, trouble started brewing when the Odisha government stopped showing any interest towards the project in the last four years. The Centre also did not take any initiative to look into the development of the project

Reports said that the Union Cabinet gave its approval for establishment of the oil refinery at Chandikhole at a cost of ₹3,800 crore, June 27, 2018. When operational, the refinery would have

The proposal for establishment of an oil refinery was first mentioned in the 2017-18 budget of the NDA

The project stirred hopes among the locals as it would create employment opportunities for over scores of people

government

It has been alleged that fearing a drop in revenue from leasing the quarries, the state government has not shown any interest in providing land for the project

been the fourth largest in India. The Centre also requested the Odisha government to provide 400 acre of land for the project. The tehsil officials had also identified the land.

The project stirred hope among the locals as it would create employment opportunities for over 500 persons. The district administration also issued closure notices to 10 black stone quarries within a 10-km radius of the proposed refinerv project site.

It has been alleged that fearing a drop in revenue from leasing the

quarries, the state government has not shown any interest in providing land for the project. In this context, it is speculated

that the delay in establishment of the refinery may play spoilsport in the BJD and BJP's plans to win the panchayat polls.

Sources said that a Central team led by the Joint Secretary of Union Petroleum Ministry visited Dankari and conducted a feasibility study May 2018, and gave its approval for the project. The state Chief Secretary then also ordered the closure of the black stone quarries on the hill, March 20, 2018. Dharmasala tehsildar informed

that with the closure of the quarries, the government stood to lose revenue to the tune of ₹1413.86 an-

nually. Acting on the chief secretary's order closure notices were served to the leaseholders, April 12, 2018. However, those were not enforced and the quarries continued mining activities for which a local social activist Sarbeswar Behura moved the Orissa High Court and National Green Tribunal demanding their intervention. The NGT ordered the Odisha government to conduct a probe

and submit a report. However, NGT intervention has not affected the operation of the quarries which continues to be functional. Reports said that 21 crusher units are still operational on the foothills of Dankari. The entire operation is happening due to the blessings of some influential leaders of the ruling party.



Berhampur/Balasore/Bolangir,

Feb 11: Hundreds of investors

POST NEWS NETWORK

and appropriate action against the accused. They also demanded publication of a white paper on names of chit fund companies whose properties have been seized and sold and the amount of properties confiscated. A delegation of the affected people gathered at Berhampur tehsil office and submitted a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Reports from Balasore said people under the banner of Balasore Jamakari Milita Mancha (BJMM),



A sarpanch candidate hitting the campaign trail, riding a camel and shouldering a plough (his symbol) in Kuliana block of Mayurbhanj district, Friday OP PHOTO

Victims press for return of deposits

staged protests in front of Balasore tehsil office, shouting slogans and holding placards and banners against the apathy of the district administration.

They demanded immediate return of their money from the corpus fund, quick identification of chit-fund victims through tehsils. They also demanded interests on the deposits made. According to the protestors, thousands of victims in Balasore are still waiting even

PONZI FIRM OWNER NABBED

Berhampur: Berhampur Town police arrested the owner of a ponzi com-

CROREPATI ADM UNDER VIGILANCE SCANNER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Feb 11: Vigilance sleuths have allegedly detected Friday movable and immovable assets worth over ₹4 crore in the possession of Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Sundargarh, Biswajit Mohapatra. The sleuths conducted simultaneous raids at various places to unearth the wealth. There were allegations against the ADM that he possessed

disproportionate assets. At the time of filing this report searches are underway at Mohapatra's residential house at Rudrapurin Balianta area, a flat at Navapalli, Bhubaneswar, a house in his native village Redhua, his relatives' houses at Jadatira in Jagatsinghpur, his official residence at Sundargarh town and his

NEET ASPIRANT

GOES MISSING

IN BERHAMPUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

office at Sundargarh Collectorate and the residence of a relative located at OCL campus in Rajgangpur.

The sleuths have seized cash over ₹3 lakh, found a double storey building at Naharkanta, Bhubaneswar worth about ₹89 lakh. a flat at Asiana, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar and bank documents and insurance premium worth ₹2 crore.

Sources said that gold jewellery weighing 350gm has also been seized. They added that the ADM has invested ₹18 lakh in mutual funds and ₹2 lakh in NPS. He allegedly owns 10 plots in Bhubaneswar, Jagatsinghpur and Sundargarh districts. Mohapatra has recently started a cement business in the name of his wife near his house in Balianta in Bhubaneswar.

AWARENESS DRIVE





preparations in

Koraput, Malkangiri



Women enacting a skit to create awareness on sanitation as part of Swachh Survekhan programme in Rajgangpur OP PHOTO

EGG ATTACK ON NABARANGPUR MP Locals gherao PS for

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Feb 11: Approximately a month has elapsed since a youth of Sandhimunda village under Chandahandi block in Nabarangpur district has gone missing in Berhampur. He has been identified as Bidyadhara Mali, son of Pabitra Mali.

Bidyadhara had gone to the Silk City to appear for the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET). His family, worried about his disappearance lodged a missing complaint at the Chandahandi police station. Fridav.

Reports said that Bidyadhara along with some friends had travelled to Berhampur to appear for the test. After the examinations were over, all except Bidyadhara returned home.

Pre-poll violence: Six injured

Rajnagar: Amid intensified campaigning for the first phase of panchayat elections, two groups Friday clashed with each other, leaving six of them injured in Chandabaunsamuli panchayat under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district. The injured were admitted to the local primary health centre. According to reports, following the incident, Ratnakar Mahakud and Sasmita Mallick of Baharagad village have filed complaint against each other. Ratnakar and his son Santosh were going in a car to a wedding party when Babuli Mallick and Muna Mallick of his village made a murderous attack on Santosh, but he managed to escape with a grievous head injury. Later, it ended in a group clash.

release of accused

Nabarangpur/Jharigaon, Feb **11:** Police arrested Fridav Kunu Tiwari on charges of hurling eggs and stones at Nabarangpur BJD MP Ramesh Majhi while the latter was campaigning Thursday at Ichhapur for party candidates in the three-

tier panchayat polls. Angry over the arrest, hundreds of local people staged protests and tried to barge into the Jharigaon police station Friday to free the accused. Apprehending trouble, police had shut the entrance to the station. However, agitators tried to force open the gates and were seen tugging and pulling furiously in an effort to enter the police station.

The accused Tiwari was arrested following a written complaint by Priyaranjan Das, the block representative of Majhi.

However, immediately after the arrest of Tiwari more than 500 supporters of the accused gathered in front of the police station demanding his immediate release.

However, with reinforcements arriving with Umerkote SDPO at the Jharigaon police station, the agitators dispersed. Later, former MP and BJP leader Balabhadra Majhi and his associate Chandrabhanu Nayak held talks with police officials on the issue for quick solution. Sources said that had it not been for the prompt arrival of police reinforcements, the situation could have gone out of control. They alleged that some of the agitators had tried to break the locks of the Jharigaon police station.



Viral video: MLA served with show cause

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Feb 11: Binjharpur MLA Pramila Mallick was seen in a viral video using pressure tactics on voters asking them to vote in favour of party candidates at a recent rally in Alakund panchayat. Taking serious note of the incident, Collector Chakravarti Singh

Rathore has served a show cause notice on the MLA through the Binjharpur BDO. This has landed her in a soup. Notably, in the video, the MLA was telling some voters a the gathering: "If you vote for other candidates, you should not come to me with complaints about PDS rice, Indira Awas, roads and cowsheds.

be held in the Swabhiman Anchal due to Maoist menace. Now, people are eager to exercise their franchise provided elaborate security arrangements are in place.

POST NEWS NETWORK

of Malkangiri district.

Koraput/Malkangiri, Feb 11:

DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal said

Friday that helicopters and drones

will be used to ensure peaceful

elections in Swabhiman Anchal

It should be stated here that in

the last 10 years, elections could not

During his visit to Koraput and Malkangiri districts, Bansal took stock of the administration's preparations for the upcoming panchavat elections and also held discussions with police officials chalking out strategies to counter the left-wing extremism (LWE) menace in both the districts.

The DGP along with Special DG SAP, Director Intelligence and IG BSF, held a meeting in Koraput in which senior police officers of Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur and DIG (South Western Range) were present.

Poll officials

because

access those

roads

to conduct the election. Among

Five such makeshift booths will

be set up in Marshaghai as well

as in Rajnagar blocks; 17 in Sadar

used to transport the polling staff,"

District Collector Amrut Ruturaj

"At some places, boats will be

them 19 are tents.



Discussion was also held on maintaining peaceful atmosphere during the polls amidst border disputes between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha over the Kotia region. After the meeting, the DGP left

for Malkangiri. In Malkangiri, Bansal visited Hantalguda camp of BSF in Swabhiman Anchal and also interacted with the villagers and discussed developmental issues

Subsequently, he held another review meeting over poll preparations and the strategy against the Maoists in the district.

EAST COAST RAILWAY nder Notice No. 36/ET/SBP/ENGO 2021-22 Dtd.: 09.02.2022 (1) e-Tender No. 35-eT-DENC-SBP-2 ame of work : MISCELLANEOUS P.WA REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS IN SARLA (EX) - DUNGRIPALI (EX) SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER BARGARH IN SAMBALPUR OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,27,35,494.57 <u>EMD</u>: ₹ 2,13,700/-. (2) e-Tender No. 37-eT-DENC-SBP-21 Name of work : PROVISION OF 60 NOS. SHALLOW HAND TUBE WELLS AT MANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION Approx cost of the work : ₹ 42,89,548/-EMD:₹85,800/-. (3) e-Tender No. 38-eT-DENC-SBP-21 Name of work : REPAIRS TO DISTANCE PIECES AT PLATFORMS, LEVEL CROSSINGS AND BRIDGES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 84,69,576/ MD:₹1,69,400/-. Completion period of the work: 12 Months (for SI, No. 1) & 06 Months (for SI, No. 2 & 3). ender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. o 04.03.2022 (for all tenders). No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such -tenders. complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender is available website http://www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers are advise to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note an changes/ corrigenda issued for this tende Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.

PR-806/M/21-22

Tents as makeshift poll booths

LACK OF MOTORABLE ROADS IN KENDRAPARA DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Feb 11: Even though 74 years have elapsed since India's independence, problems galore continue to plague the country. One of the most frequent complaints heard is that of lack of motorable roads and some coastal villages in Kendrapara district are not an exception to this problem.

With the three-tier panchayat elections on the anvil, poll officials have no way but to walk to some of the booths, because vehicles cannot access those. Due to the lack of roads, the district administration officials have decided to use tents as polling booths in 51 locations.

According to information available from the district Panchayati Raj Department, 4,258 polling staff will be deployed to conduct the elections in the coastal district. The first phase of the elections will be held February 16.

Villages like Nalapahi, Dakhinadiha, Ekamania and Padanipal under Aul block will



tions. In these places tents will be set up as these villages are incommunicable for lack of proper roads

The lack of bridges across rivers has forced officials on the election duty to wade through rivers to reach their respective polling stations. A total of 3,698 booths have been set up for the upcoming polls in the district. A total of 371 booths

come under the first phase of elec-

block and six in Garadpur block. said. Officials also said that the administration has identified 1,575 booths as sensitive in the district have been set up in Derabish block where security was beefed up.











lthough the last year was

FOCUS UNION BUDGET

NOTHING FOR ENVIRONMENT

My love is not a hunger of the heart, My love is not a craving of the flesh; It came to me from God, to God returns. **SRI AUROBINDO**



BABUDOM

BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Oil Sector Worried

ormer Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor's appointment as chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been noted with considerable interest by industry watchers. If a regulator comes from many years in the industry, he has a vested interest in this and that is what the players in the oil sector are worrying about. Those involved in the business are concerned whether their original regulator will now be a super-regulator and, will they see the influx of some fresh thinking on the sector and its issues, especially since there hasn't been much movement on the proposed sale of BPCL.

But more than anything else, seeing the strategic importance of the oil companies and the regulator to the nation, most players and investors would like to see Kapoor infuse stability of business operations.

Kapoor was selected in response to the government re-advertising the post of chairman PNGRB last November from among 13 candidates, including former ONGC chairmen Subhash Kumar and Shashi Shankar, and former director of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) GK Satish, among other big names.

The post had been vacant since December 2020 since Dinesh K Sarraf completed his three-year term. Interestingly, the selection committee had picked former Power Secretary SN Sahai for the post, but the government did not confirm the appointment and the post was consequently re-advertised.

MHA TO REVAMP IB CADRE

Nearly two years after it was first recommended, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given the go-ahead for restructuring the Intelligence Bureau (IB) cadre. Sources inform DKB that the in-

tention here is to help increase promotions within the cadre and streamline operations.

The ministry has reportedly approved the reduction in the entry-level, Assistant Central Intelligence Officer-II (ACIO-II), from 7,898 to 5,898, the posts of ACIO-I, Deputy Central Intelligence Officer, Assistant Directors, Joint Deputy Directors and Additional Deputy Directors have been increased to 1,558. Besides, the number of Special Assistants has also been increased from 3.848 to 4.290.

Undoubtedly, the restructuring is aimed at strengthening the resilience of the internal security apparatus in the face of the fast-changing environment. Perhaps no other agency in the country undertakes the wide-ranging internal intelligence collection as the IB. Since it is attached to MHA, it is entrusted with counter-terrorism intelligence as well as monitoring political and social developments and has often therefore been accused by political rivals of the government of following the whims and fancies of their political masters of the moment. Will the restructuring of its cadre to make the IB a better and more efficient outfit, remains to be seen. But the IB sleuths might welcome the new energy created by this shakeup.

No govt housing for ex-babus

The Maharashtra government is clamping down on the tendency of retired babus, especially those on an extension, to hold on to their government accommodation. Acknowledging the acute shortage of housing for officers in the state, the General Administration Department (GAD) has decided not to provide accommodation to exiting babus even if they manage a post-retirement government assignment. GAD deputy secretary DP Deshmukh has conveyed the decision to the Housing Department.

Sources have informed DKB that the decision has already affected at least two senior babus K Shivaji and SR Jagtap, who superannuated recently but were appointed members of the MahaRera appellate tribunal. The government has taken the line that since the Housing Department appointed them, it can provide accommodation to them as well. Apparently, according to Deshmukh, more than 70 senior transferred or retired babus have not vacated their official residences, denying serving babus their right. In many cases, the babus owe rent to the government and the GAD has not been very successful in recovering the dues. Will it be different this time around?

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

Ishan Chauhan

PARTS OR MOST OF CITIES LIKE MUMBAI. NAVI MUMBAI, KOLKATA. **KOCHI AND CUTTACK MAY BE BELOW TIDE-LEVEL BY 2030, SAYS**

A STUDY

largely overshadowed once again by COVID-19, one event that arguably stood out was COP26. Whether it was a success or not is another matter, but it did highlight the emergency and Sir David Attenborough's stirring sevenminute speech, a passionate call to action, seemed to have finally got the world to stand together as one for the single global cause of fixing the planet. In that backdrop, it is essential to see where we are headed when it was hoped that the Union Budget would help decipher that direction. But Budget 2022-23 presented in Parliament does not seem to have hit the climate mark or even considered the seriousness of the environmental problems that are meant to be tackled with the utmost sense of urgency. There is an increase in allocations for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), marginally higher at ₹3,030 crore, when com-

pared to ₹2,520 crore in FY22. Similarly, there are marginal increases in initiatives like Project Tiger and the Deep Ocean Mission. But these hikes are negligible and the transition to clean energy is where the good news, if any, begins and comes to a halt.

For instance, the budgetary allocation for the effort to save the tiger has increased from ₹250 crore last vear to ₹300 crore this time. But then this project has been reduced by Rs 100 crore over two consecutive financial years - from ₹350 crore allotted to it in 2019-20, the amount was reduced to ₹300 crore in 2020-21 and to Rs 250 crore in 2021-22. The budget for Project Elephant, which was launched to conserve jumbos across the country, has been slightly increased from ₹33 crore to ₹35 crore-that is, ₹2 crore more for the Indian elephant! A hike that is about double the amount that it takes to maintain a single elephant in captivity in America for a year!

There have been parsimonious increases elsewhere like the budgetary allocation for the National Mission for Himalayan Studies by ₹8 crore. Allotments for the various regional offices and statutory institutes, like the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, the Forest Survey of India, Zoological Survey of



The budget for Project Elephant has been increased by ₹2 crore, a hike that is about double the amount that it takes to maintain a single elephant in captivity in America for a year

India, National Green Tribunal etc. that oversee the flora and fauna of the country have also been wafer-thin especially when compared to their size and spread. The budget for these has gone up totally by ₹27 crore, from ₹460 crore in 2021-22 to ₹487 crore this year.

In other areas there have been reductions. The budget for the National Coastal Mission, which was nearly doubled in the last fiscal at ₹200 crore was reduced by ₹5 crore this year and stood at ₹195 crore for 2022-23. In 2020-21, the NCM was allotted ₹103 crore, an amount that was raised in 2021-22 to ₹200 crore. The NCM is responsible for the livelihood and security of fishermen and coastal communities. It also protects the country's vast coastal stretches. The hike in the budget for the

environment ministry is 510 Cr and the allocation for the Climate Change Action Plan is a mere Rs 30 Cr! This can only show that the government has missed the bus where climate resilience and adaptation are concerned, and seems more predisposed towards industry and 'development'. The thrust on development through infrastructure and megaprojects, according to environmentalists, could sharply aggravate the environmental degradation that India already faces. One such example they give is the proposed expansion of highways in Budget 2022-23, by a whopping 25000 km. Environment damaging changes seem to receive better consideration than eco-friendly ones like the announcement in the Budget of five more river linking projects. These are other than the already controversial nearly ₹45000 crore Ken- Betwa project which is expected to displace 10,000 people in ten villages, submerge over 9000 hectares, most of it in the Panna Tiger Reserve and bring down 23 lakh trees. Ken Betwa has been widely opposed. Challenging the wildlife clearance recommended by the standing committee of the National Board of Wildlife, the central empowered committee (CEC) appointed by the Supreme Court had said in 2019 that the rare flora and fauna here, impacted by the project, would perish forever. "No amount of mitigative measures can create this kind of unique ecosystem which has evolved over millions of years to reach the present level of biodiversity," the CEC report noted. The balance between business

and environment seems to mostly tilt in favour of the former. A fortnight before the Budget, on January 17. the MOEFCC announced the implementation of a new system of

rating each State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The process is based on the speed with which the SEIAAs grant environmental clearances (EC) to projects (like mining operations or construction). The memorandum issued by the environment ministry states that the system has been put in place to "incentivise States through a star-rating system, based on the ef ficiency and timeliness in granting EC". States must satisfactorily fulfil seven criteria that can earn them a maximum of eight points, and a rating of five stars. These criteria include how quickly the EC is granted, site visits, and the percentage of EC proposals disposed of within six months. And one such recent example is the requirement of an EC done away for ropeways which have been presented by the government as an environment-friendly form of transport in the Himalayas. One example is the ropeway terminal under construction at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh. Experts and locals say the ropeways risk disturbing fragile mountain ecosystems and disrupting livelihoods. There probably are more such projects in the pipeline, given the relent-

less pursuit of a \$5 trillion economy. With the systematic dismantling of protection mechanisms or lopsided monetary allocations as highlighted in India, how do we prepare for the massive, impending displacement that is to be brought on by climate change? A new climate study shows that 50 major coastal cities will have to soon start adaptation meas ures to prevent rising seas from swallowing them. Rising sea levels could threaten the very existence of some major cities in the States of Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat and West Bengal. Parts or most of cities like Mumbai. Navi Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi and Cuttack maybe below tide-level by 2030 says the study. Are we prepared for this or are we continuing to build highways, link rivers and chase higher growth numbers?

The writer is an independent researcher and author. Views are personal. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

WISDOM CORNER



DESMOND TUTU

It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light. ARISTOTLE ONASSIS

WORDS**WORTH**

Abracadabra

hese days it's just a joking conjuror's incantation with no force behind it, like hocus pocus and other meaningless phrases. But the word is extremely ancient and originally was thought to be a powerful invocation with mystical powers. What we know for sure is that it was first recorded in a Latin medical poem, De medicina praecepta, by the Roman physician Quintus Serenus Sammonicus in the second century AD. It's believed to have come into English via French and Latin from a Greek word abrasadabra (the change from s to c seems to have been through a confused transliteration of the Greek). Serenus Sammonicus said that to get well a sick person should wear an amulet around the neck. a piece of parchment inscribed with a triangular formula derived from the word, which acts like a funnel to drive the sickness out of the body. However, it seems likely that abracadabra is older and that it derives from one of the Semitic languages, though nobody can say for sure, because there is no written record before Serenus Sammonicus. For what it's worth, here are some theories: a. It's from the Aramaic phrase avra kehdabra, meaning "I will create as I speak". b. The source is three Hebrew words, ab (father), ben (son), and ruach acadosch (holy spirit).c. It's from the Chaldean abbada ke dabra, meaning "perish like the word".d. It originated with a Gnostic sect in Alexandria called the Basilidians and was probably based on Abrasax, the name of their supreme deity (Abraxas in Latin sources).e. Fans of the Harry Potter books will know the killing curse, Avada Kedavra, in which JK Rowling seems to have combined the supposed Aramaic source of abracadabra with the Latin cadaver, a dead body.

LOL

Flying without a parachute

man jumps out of an airplane with Aa parachute on his back. As he's falling, he realises his chute is broken. He doesn't know anything about parachutes, but as the earth rapidly approaches, he realises his options are limited: he takes off the parachute and tries to fix it himself on the way



dropping like a rock. and at 5000 feet, another man goes shooting up past him. In desperation, the man with the chute looks up and yells, "Hey do you know anything about parachutes?!" The guy flying up looks down and yells, "No, do you know anything about gas stoves?!'



THE DIFFICULTY WITH THE PRESENT DISPENSATION **IS THAT THE INVESTMENT IS IMBALANCED AND HEAVILY TILTED IN FAVOUR OF BIG BUSINESSES**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

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send in their valuable comments, opinion

(0)

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

Bharat Jhunjhunwala

erable emphasis on public investment in infrastructure. The need is to create a balance between large- and small infrastructure: or between increased production by big businesses and increased demand by the poor people. For example, better water supply and sewage in the slums, more mobile towers and free Wi-Fi in rural areas and small towns, better bus services and such infrastructure would improve the ability of the poor people to produce their goods like paper envelopes, hand printed clothing and agarbattis at a low cost and help them compete with big businesses. The small manufacturer will be able to reach his goods to the market quickly by bus instead of having to bicycle 5 kilometers. This will enable the small businesses to compete with machine-made goods. Similarly, if the government provides free Wi-Fi in small towns, then the unemployed graduates can provide online tuition. Doctors who are presently earning merely 20,000 rupees per month can provide services as telemedicine and

earn more. Such infrastructure he budget has laid considwill generate demand from the poor, and make it profitable for the big businesses to produce more. It will become a win-win situation. The difficulty with the present dispensation is that the investment is imbalanced and heavily tilted in favour of big businesses. The poor will not be able to compete with machines, they are losing their jobs and the market of the big businesses is itself disappearing

In this background we have to understand why measures to promote investment are not working. The Finance Minister has said in her budget speech that private and public investment will jumpstart the economy. She has put considerable stress on provision of Production Linked Incentives to the manufacturing sector and other such incentives. She said that large number of jobs will be created. However, the total number of jobs in the manufacturing sector in the country has actually been decreasing in absolute numbers in the last seven years. The reason is that robots and automatic

machines are taking over the manufacturing activities. Businessmen find it profitable to employ machines rather than labour. In this situation even if the government provides even more incentives to the industries and the industries do make investments and produce higher amount of goods; yet jobs will not be created, demand will not be created and the goods will lie unsold in the godowns of the big companies. Our former president Pranab Mukherjee had once said that it is very dangerous to rely on the "trickledown theory." Therefore it will not be sufficient to say that we are increasing investment in infrastructure and providing incentives to big businesses. One has to create balance between the pro-rich and the pro-poor infrastructure.

The investment in pro poor infrastructure such as Wi-Fi and buses is also important because the future demand is going to come from the services sector and not from manufacturing sector. A rich person will eat the same two rotis as the poor person, nay, he may eat less. The demand for goods does not increase much with rise in the level of income. The demand for services, however, increases and increases. Rich need telemedicine, online tuitions, customised movies, translations and the like. Services like online tuitions and telemedicine cannot be fully automated even by artificial intelligence. India has a unique advantage of having a large number of youths who are somewhat proficient in English and supply these services globally. Therefore, there is a need for change in strategy. The Government should invest in propoor infrastructure more than in the poor-rich infrastructure, especially in the infrastructure that enables the poor to export their services over the internet. That will create demand in the market for the goods produced by the big businesses as well. The rich will invest to produce those goods without the need for Production Linked

> The writer is a former **Professor of Economics** at IIM Bangalore. Views are personal

Draconian guideline

Sir, According to the new Central Media Accreditation Guidelines 2022, journalists can lose or have their accreditation suspended if they act in a manner "prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement of an offence." The rules list 10 conditions include submission of fraudulent documents and the use of accreditation for non-journalistic activities. Accreditation can also be withdrawn if a journalist is charged with "serious cognizable offence". According to the report, journalists are barred from mentioning that they are "accredited to the government of India" on social media or public profiles. Additionally, journalists working with digital media organisations will be eligible for accreditation as long as the organisations have shared their details with the ministry of information and broadcasting, under rule 18 of the Information Technology Rules 2021. However, news aggregators will not be considered. Journalists with digital news organisations must have five years of experience to apply for the accreditation. The BJP-led government's crackdown on journalists is nothing short of a misguided fascist design to destroy the freedom of rest of the press to keep people in the dark about monopolistic capitalist oriented activities. Therefore, the government must immediately repeal this anti-democratic policy for the restoration of the full freedom of the media. The new Accreditation Policy for Journalists, drafted by the Central Government, is not only anti-people but also axewielding in the face of democracy. Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR Love through thick and thin

Incentives.

Sir, Valentine's Day is here at last and everyone is busy thinking about what to buy for their loved ones. Though the day commemorates the martyrdom of a Christian saint called St. Valentine, the occasion, as it is celebrated today, has very little religious significance. In present times, Valentine's Day has assumed a secular and global flavour and is celebrated by people of all castes and communities. It is supposed to be an occasion to display love, affection and care for our families, friends and romantic partners. But today, it does not seem that way anymore, for families and friends are mostly wiped off the list, leaving just the partner in it. Valentine's Day is actually a day to be happy and to spend it with the people you love and care

Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI



national



The Congress will cross the majority mark in Goa with ease and unlike last time, the party would act immediately to form its government in the coastal state RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SHOCKING REPORT

Twenty-five per cent candidates in the fray for the 117 seats of the Punjab assembly have criminal cases and 57 constituencies have three or more candidates with criminal cases, an analysis by the Punjab Election Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said Friday



TMC, I-PAC relation touches rock bottom

The days of divisive and issue-less politics are over ir western Uttar Pradesh RAKESH TIKAIT

LEADER



many devotional songs praising him. A roundabout will be named after her in Ayodhya. This is the unity of India

NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER



SHORT TAKES

1st part of Budget

Session concludes

New Delhi: The first part of

Parliament concluded Friday

after debates on the Motion

of Thanks on the President's

Budget. The session, which

President Ram Nath Kovind to

began with the address of

both Houses of Parliament

31, will have a three-week

assembled together January

recess for members to study

the budget proposals of the

Panic grips Jammu

locality here Friday, triggering

panic among the residents, police said. "Sparks erupted

from a power transformer

lying beneath it caught

of Jammu," Senior

fire in Sanjay Nagar area

Superintendent of Police

something, possibly an inflammable material. exploded, causing a lo

Chandan Kohli said. He said

due to which some garbage

after explosion

Jammu: An inflammable

material exploded at a

government.

Address and the General

the Budget Session of

before the assembly polls but party insiders are of the opinion that

the differences between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and poll strategist Prashant Kishor has reached to such an extent that the party's cutting off I-PAC is just a matter of time. After the debacle of the

AGENCIES

Trinamool Congress in the Lok Sabha elections in 2019, Kishor was introduced to Mamata Banerjee by Abhishek Banerjee and I-PAC took over the responsibility of the party. Several senior leaders including Mamata Banerjee openly said that I-PAC is not the part of party's internal decision making, it is obvious that the election management group was working on

Kolkata, Feb 11: Though the

Trinamool Congress is yet to sever

ties with I-PAC, the election man-

behalf of one or two persons. Party leaders say I-PAC's intro-

duction to the party not only gave it a professional shape but it has also worked wonders in bringing back the mass support into the fold. Campaigns like 'Didi Ke Bolo' (Tell Sister) or 'Mamata Amader Ghorer Meye' (Mamata is our neighbourhood girl) had not only helped in instilling faith of the voters but successfully carried the 'outsider' theory of Mamata Banerjee to counter national BJP leaders like Narendra Modi, Amit Shah who came frequently during the election.

The problem started when some senior party leaders including Party Secretary General Partha Chatterjee and All-India vice President Subrata Bakshi started complaining about their interference into the party's internal decisions. Some leaders even threatened to stop working unless I-PAC stopped interference into the party'

Skin-to-skin verdict judge Pushpa Ganediwala guits PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Feb 11: Bombay High Court judge Justice Pushpa Ganediwala, who faced flak over a series of judgments that was deemed as controversial for the interpretation of what constitutes as 'sexual assault' under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, has resigned.

Justice Ganediwala, who presently presides at the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, tendered her resignation Thursday, a day before her tenure as additional judge was to end as she was neither given extension nor elevation by the Supreme Court collegium, official sources in the high court said.

After her problematic judgments given in January and February 2021, the apex court collegium had withdrawn its recommendation to appoint Justice Ganediwala as a permanent judge and instead extended for one year her tenure as additional judge. This meant that Justice Ganediwala would be demoted back to district judiciary as district sessions judge at the end of her additional judgeship February 12, 2022.

agement team hired by the party



internal decisions and the government's work as well.

The senior leadership complained to Mamata Banerjee that the I-PAC senior members were not ready to listen to the instruction of the party leadership and openly said that they only listen to Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee but to nobody else. "This is not only insulting but the party leadership was treated in such a way

that we need to look for the approval of I-PAC before taking any political or administrative decisions. This is not acceptable. We can be loyal to the party and Mamata Baneriee but not to anyone else. a senior party leader told IANS on condition of anonymity. There were even complaints that

I-PAC seniors in many cases were compromised and they gave preferences to the local leaders on the

DEMANDING RIGHTS

Mamata to hold emergency meeting

Kolkata: Few hours after All-India General Secretary of Trinamool Congress (TMC) Abhishek Banerjee indicated to step down from the organisational responsibilities, West Bengal Chief Minister and party supremo Mamata Banerjee on Friday called for an emergency meeting at her Kalighat residence on Saturday wherein all the senior leaders including Abhishek Banerjee, Partha Chatterjee and Subrata Bakshi have been asked to present.

basis of 'some other factors' not on the basis of evaluation. "There are certain names suggested by the professional group who didn't have any credentials or background to represent the party. This is not understandable why they were selected." the leader said.

Will pray that everyone gets child who enters politics, says Lalu



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Feb 11: Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, RJD chief Lalu Prasad on Friday said that he will pray to God to give children to "everyone" and they should come into politics.

The remark was made after the Prime Minister praised Nitish Kumar for not indulging into dynasty politics and termed him a "great socialist leader". He also referred Ram Manohar Lohia and Geordge Fernandes as great socialist leaders.

"What can I do if Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not have a child. Evervone knows Nitish Kumar has a son who does not want to enter politics. He (Nitish's son) is not capable of handling politics and contesting elections. In these cases, who will be seen on the dais of the election campaign. I pray to god to give children to everyone and they should come into politics," Lalu Prasad has said.

The Prime Minister's statement came a day before the first phase of polling for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. He was targeting the Samajwadi Party, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav for dynastic politics.

Lalu Prasad said that a successor is "essential" to carry forward the political legacy of the family and party. Meanwhile, Tejashwi Yadav, the younger son of Lalu Prasad, referring to a remark made by the Prime Minister during campaigning for 2015 Bihar Assembly polls, said, "I want the PM to decide which statement is correct, 2015's -- when he termed the JDU as Janata Ka Daman and Utpidan -- or the one he made in 2022, as the two statements are contradictory.'



Anganwadi workers protest against the Delhi government, over various demands, outside the Vikas Bhawan in New Delhi

4 DEAD, SEARCH ON FOR OTHERS

PTI PHOTO

sound. Kohli urged the people not to pay heed to rumours.

.....

Cop killed in grenade attack

Srinagar: A Special Police Officer (SPO) of Jammu and Kashmir Police was killed and four other security forces personnel were injured after terrorists lobbed a grenade on a joint police-BSF party in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district Friday, officials said. Senior officials told IANS that the grenade was hurled by terrorists on a party of security forces, resulting in injuries to five security forces personnel, and the SPO later succumbed to his injuries. The condition of four injured security forces personnel is said to be stable. Police said senior officers reached at the terror-crime spot.

Stop it or we will: Top court to UP govt about fining CAA protests

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 11: The Supreme Court Friday pulled up Uttar Pradesh for taking action on the recovery notices issued to the alleged anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protestors in December 2019. A bench of Justices DY

Chandrachud and Surya Kant gave last opportunity to the state government to withdraw the proceedings, and added that, if not done then those proceedings will be quashed for being in violation of the law. "Withdraw the proceedings or we will quash it for being in violation of the law laid down by this court." The bench told counsel representing the state government that it acted like a "complainant, adjudicator, and prosecutor" while attaching the properties of the accused. It pointed out that proceedings initiated in December 2019 were contrary

court and they were not sustainable. Additional Advocate General Garima Prashad, representing the UP government, said over 100 FIRs were registered against more than 800 rioters and 274 recovery notices were issued against them. She submitted that recovery orders were passed in 236 while 38 cases were closed. Citing the new law notified in 2020, Prashad contended that claim tribunals were set up, headed by retired district judges, and earlier. these were headed by Additional District Magistrates (ADMs).

to the law laid down by the apex

Citing the top court's verdicts in 2009 and 2018, the bench said judicial officers should have been appointed in claim tribunals. The UP government counsel submitted that 451 policemen were injured during the protest and parallel criminal proceedings and recovery proceedings were conducted.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, Feb 11: A building collapsed in north Delhi's Bawana area Friday afternoon, killing four people, including a woman and a nine-year-old girl, police said.

Two women were pulled out of the debris and rushed to a hospital. Their condition was stated to be out of danger, they said, adding the rescue operation is almost over.

According to the police, the deceased are Rukaiya Khatun (55), Shahzad (25), Afrina (9) and Danish (24). A case will be filed and legal proceedings will be initiated according to law, police said. The Delhi government, in a statement, said a departmental enquiry has been initiated into the matter.

"The Delhi government is pained to learn about this tragic incident. An immediate departmental enquiry has been initiated into the matter. The government is closely



monitoring the whole situation." "All agencies concerned have

been deployed for relief work and the officials are trying their best to rescue all victims," the statement said. The fire department received information about the incident at 2.48 pm, following which three to four fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The police were informed that the building near the Delhi Jal Board had collapsed and four

to five people are reportedly buried under debris.

The police rushed to the spot and found that the collapsed building was the part of Rajiv Ratan Aawas in which there were about 300 to 400 flats, a senior police officer said.

Three earth-moving machines, one hydra machine and two ambulances reached the spot and rescue operation was started, they

said. "Two women -- Fatima (21) and Shahnaz (28) -- both residents of JJ Colony, Bawana, were taken out of the debris and sent to MV hos-pital Pooth Khurd," Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer north) Brijender Kumar Yadav said. "The building was ground plus three floors tall. The old vacant building collapsed and some people were trapped underneath. The rescue operation was immediately started. Four bodies -- two females and two males - were pulled out and sent to Maharishi Valmiki Hospital," a senior fire official said. A person, claiming to be the relative of the victims, said they had come to the site to graze their goats.

"My sister-in-law along with my niece took the goats to graze near the spot. Six to seven people were also at the spot at the time. The building collapsed suddenly. I got to know that two persons have been rescued safely," he said.

'PLA stopping Ladakh locals from grazing cattle'

INDIA AND CHINA ARE ENGAGED IN BORDER DISPUTES FOR THE LAST 22 MONTHS. TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. DELEGATES FROM BOTH THE SIDES HAVE CARRIED OUT 14 ROUNDS OF TALKS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Feb 11: Chinese People's Liberation Army entered into Indian territory in Ladakh region last month and did not allow local people's herds from grazing, claimed former BJP councillor Urgain Chodon of Nyoma area Friday.

She put out a video on social media platforms purportedly showing that Chinese troops running after herds. Chodon lives in Koyal, a village on the banks of Senge Zangbu, a tributary of the Indus River, that divides the Himalayan region of Ladakh between India and China.



Chodan tweeted that in January, PLA soldiers came into Indian territory and were "not letting our herds graze in our own territory".

She alleged that when this was happening, no action was taken by Indian security forces. Instead of when a herdman cross the undemarcated

border to get his livelihood (yak) back, the Indian army caught him from our own territory and sent him to a police station, she alleged. India and China are engaged in border disputes for the last 22 months. To resolve the issue, India and China military delegates have carried out 14 rounds of talks.

Giving a clear message to China, Indian Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane had, last month, asserted that the force won't let any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo along the country's borders to succeed.

India claims that China has ille-

gally occupied about 38,000 sq km of India's territory in Aksai Chin, which borders eastern Ladakh. Pakistan ceded to China about 5.180 sq km in 1963 from the Indian territory illegally occupied by it.

Last month, the Indian government said that China continues to occupy approximately 38,000 square km of Indian territory in Ladakh for the last six decades.

In a written response in Lok Sabha, minister of state for external affairs V Muraleedharan also said that Centre has taken note of the "illegal" bridge being constructed by China on Pangong lake in Ladakh.

CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER cum DISTRICT MISSION DIRECTOR, NHM, SUBARNAPUR (ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, SUBARNAPUR)

Advt. Letter No.624

Date:11.02.2022

Tender Call Notice for Disposal of Out of service EMAS Ambulances (108)

No.E-913:Sealed tenders are invited for disposal of condemned EMAS Ambulances lying at different locations of the district/outside district. Intending bidders may obtain Tender paper containing Terms & conditions, detail of vehicles and its location in the district website i.e. www.Subarnapur.nic. in. Also they may inspect the said Ambulances to be disposed off in "as is where is conditions" on any working day during office hours at the designated locations. The filled in Formats (Annexure- 1 to 3) should be submitted as single sealed envelope subscribing at the top of the envelope "TENDER FOR DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED AMBULANCES (108)" to the CDM & PHO cum DMD, SUBARNAPUR on or before 28.02.2022 by Regd post/ Speed post/Courier by 5 PM and the same will be opened on the next day 02.03.2022 at 11.00 AM. The authority reserves the right to cancel or rejects any or all Tender without assigning any reason thereof.

> Sd./- CDM & PHO cum DMD, Subarnapur OIPR-10118/11/0015/2122







Akhilesh takes swipe at BJP Handmade Kashmir carpets to get QR code certification

"People were waiting for March

10 for the election results, but the way

voting took place in the first phase

(on Thursday), it seems that the re-

sults were out by yesterday evening.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rampur (UP), Feb 11: Taking a swipe at the ruling BJP. Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav Friday said while Azam Khan is in jail for building a university, a Union minister's son is out on bail in a case pertaining to the killing of farmers, and mockingly said this is the "new India" of the saffron party.

He also claimed that the voting in the first phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls has given enough indications that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will be wiped out from the state.

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday granted bail to Ashish Mishra, the son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, in a case of violence in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh in which eight people, including four farmers, were killed.

Addressing an election meeting here in favour of Khan and other SP candidates. Yadav said. "Even if the BJP performs 700 squats, the farmers will not forgive the party." He said Khan's son Abdullah Azam had to languish in jail for two vears on false cases.

"Azam Khan was also sent to jail on false charges. Cases of buffalo theft, chicken theft and theft of books were lodged against him. But the man who crushed farmers under the wheels of a jeep has



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav waves at the people, during an election campaign rally, ahead of the second phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls in Rampui

come out of jail. This is the new out," he said. India of the BJP," the former Uttar Khan got the Pradesh chief minister added. Jauhar University

"The man who built a university for you, fought for your rights and honour, was sent to jail. And the man who crushed farmers using a jeep has been sent out of jail. Nowhere in the world, farmers have been crushed by a jeep. But since the Uttar Pradesh polls are here, he has got bail and is

"In the first phase of polling, people from different sections of the society including farmers, have wiped out the BJP and whatever is left (of the party), will be wiped out in the second phase from Saharanpur to Rampur," Yadav said. He also claimed that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been saying that he has distributed laptops among youngsters, but not a single laptop has been given to anyone in

curtail cor-

doubled

double-engine

government," he said in a ref

erence to the saffron party being in

power both at the Centre and in the

state, and urged people to vote for

the SP-RLD alliance.

during the

ruption.

Rampur. "BJP leaders lie a lot. The first time they

BJP had lied was durleaders lie a lot. ing demonetisa[.] The first time they had tion, when they lied was during had said the demonetisation, when they move will

had said the move will curtail corruption. Corruption could not be curtailed, but it

Corruption doubled during the doublecould not be engine government curtailed, but it

is currently lodged AKHILESH YADAV in the Sitapur jail on SP PRESIDENT

various charges. The SP has fielded Khan from the Rampur Assembly segment and his son from the Suar constituency in the district. Rampur will vote on February 14.

built in Rampur. He

Manoj Sinha launched the Quick Response Code-based mechanism for labelling of the carpets in the Union Territory PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

> Jammu, Feb 11: The handmade carpets in Jammu and Kashmir will now get QR code-based certification, which is a first-of-itskind in the country.

Lieutenant Governor

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the Quick Response Code-based mechanism for labelling of the carpets in the Union Territory. With the QRbased application, customers can check and verify authenticity and other requisite details of carpets produced in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lt Governor observed that Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts are repository of India's creative traditions that is serving as a cultural expression for centuries.

"This creative tradition is strikingly visible in handmade carpets with intricate designs & subtle shades. With the help of modern technology, we will be



able to standardize uniqueness of handmade carpets & boost exports of J&K's carpet industry in the international market," he added.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also felicitated UT's awardees of Handicrafts & Handloom."I truly admire the painstaking work of all the craftsmen and carpet weavers. Government is providing training & financial support to strengthen the priceless artistic and cultural heritage of J&K," he said, noting that the Union Territory has a unique identity in the global market for handloom and handicraft products.

He said the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology has taken several important steps for GI certification, testing, labelling

and training to promote Kashmiri carpets.

"The Jammu and Kashmir government has introduced Export Incentive Scheme. Under this scheme, incentive of 10 per cent of the total volume of GI certified Handicrafts and Handloom products exported to any country, with maximum reimbursement upto Rs 5 crore, shall be provided to eligible exporters registered with Department of Handicrafts and Handloom", he added

The Lt Governor further observed that presently carpets are being exported from Jammu and Kashmir to at least 25 countries. In 2020-21, carpets worth Rs 115 crore were exported to Germany, Rs 34 crore worth to USA, Rs 36 crore to UAE and Rs 22 crore to Netherlands, he said.

Rare medical surgery performed on boy



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Feb 11: In what can be termed as a "medical" miracle, doctors at a city hospital restored a toddler's skull bone through a complex brain surgery using biomaterial implant made from porous polyethylene (a high-density polymer being used for medical needs since 1985).

The case relates to an infant from Rae Bareli who fell from the rooftop and developed a head injury in January 2020. The boy was rushed to the neurosurgery department at Apollomedics Super



the child grew enough to face the surgery. Meanwhile, the boy's scalp was sealed," Dr Singh recalled.

In July 2021, the boy was brought to the hospital again and a procedure to fix the problem was undertaken. However, it failed to yield the desired result landing the boy again in the hospital in September 2021.

"We found that the bone had been rejected leaving use of implants as the only option. Now, had the patient been an adult, things would have been simpler. But with children, the skull also grows with



Police in a scuffle with aspirants of Jammu and Kashmir police border battalion, during a protest march in Jammu

Why Maya's trusted bureaucrats have moved away

UP POLLS Richest candidate has assets worth ₹296 cr

The report found that the average of assets per candidate contesting in the elections is Rs 4.11 crores

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida, Feb 11: The richest candidate in fray for the second phase of assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh has assets worth Rs 296 crore, while the poorest has just Rs 6,700, according to a report.

Voting is scheduled to take place on February 14 on 55 assembly seats of the state, spanning the nine districts of Amroha, Bareilly, 140 crore in assets, the report noted. On the other hand, Sanjay Kumar, who will be contesting as an independent candidate from Shahjahanpur seat, has declared assets worth just Rs 6,700, with all of it movable and nil immovable.

Aam Aadmi Party's Vishal Kumar (Nehtaur seat) and Usmal Malik (Saharanpur Nagar) come next in line with assets worth Rs 13,500 and Rs 15,000, respectively, according to the report. Overall, 260 (or 45 per cent) out of the 584 candidates in fray during the second phase of polls are crorepatis, the report noted.

Among the major parties, 52 (or 98 per cent) out of 53 BJP candidates, 48 (or 92 per cent) out of 52 Samajwadi Party candidates, 46 (or 84 per cent) out of 55 BSP candidates, 2 (or 67 per cent) out of 3 RLD candidates, 31 (or 57 per cent) out of 54 Congress candidates and 16 (or 33 per cent) out of 49 AAP candidates have declared assets valued more than Rs 1 crore, it stated. The report found that the average of assets per candidate contesting in the elections is Rs 4.11 crores. In terms of average assets per candidate among major parties, the SP's figures stood at Rs 11.26 crore followed by BJP (9.95 crore), Congress (Rs 8.20 crore), RLD (Rs 6.20 crore), BSP (Rs 5.74 crores) and AAP (Rs 1.60 crores), it noted. The report mentioned that 29 (or 5 per cent) of the candidates contesting the February 14 elections have not declared their PAN details.

Specialty Hospital.

Neurosurgeon, Dr Sunil Kumar Singh, said: "The injury had damaged his skull bone and section of the left brain. But saving life was more important at that point of time. The boy survived the trauma in the intensive care unit for a month.

Since the boy was too small for a complex surgery, Dr Singh resorted to undertake the DECRA procedure as per standard protocol. "This is a neurosurgical procedure in which part of the skull is removed to allow a swelling brain room to expand without being squeezed. At the same time, the strewn bone was taken away and preserved to be implanted when

age while implants do not. The inadequacy made us search for other options and the biomaterial implant made from porous polyethylene was explored," the surgeon said. In November 2021, the boy underwent surgery.

On Thursday, he was declared fit though the boy will be monitored for a few more months. CEO and Managing Director, Dr Mayank Somani said: "This is the first of its kind surgery in UP. So far, it is available in big centres like New Delhi and Mumbai.

Experts said that with the bio-implant in place, there will be no change in the size of the head with the age of the child as the implant will also grow with him.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow. Feb 11: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati, as chief minister, has always been lucky to have a loyal and dedicated band of bureaucrats who have helped her steer through the turbulent waters of Uttar Pradesh politics.

The bureaucrats, mainly Dalits, have shown unflinching loyalty towards her and have been a major strength in her success as the chief minister.

However, these bureaucrats -now retired -- are moving away from the BSP and have no qualms in criticising her style of function and deviation from Kanshi Ram's ideology. The latest in this line is



retired IAS officer Kunwar Fateh Bahadur, who joined the Samajwadi Party two days ago

Kunwar Fateh Bahadur, who served as principal secretary to chief minister in the Mavawati regime and was one of the most powerful officers in her regime, had questioned her decision to appoint leaders in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from the same community (Brahmins).

Sources close to the former IAS officer said that he was 'pained' to see Kanshi Ram's party move away from his ideology. Another Mayawati bureaucrat, who left the BSP president a decade ago, is P.L. Punia, who has since joined the Congress.

Punia was seen as the man who guided Mayawati through her first tenure as chief minister and he was the only bureaucrat whom the BSP president respected and listened to. He fell out with her after the Taj Corridor controversy and later joined the Congress. Brijlal, former Special DG in Uttar Pradesh, was another Mayawati favourite who has left her.

Bijnor, Budaun, Moradabad, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sambhal and Shahjahanpur in western UP.

The Uttar Pradesh Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) in a report said they have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 584 candidates out of 586, who are contesting the second phase elections. The richest candidate, Nawab

Kazim Ali Khan, the Congress candidate from Rampur assembly seat, has declared assets worth Rs 296 crore, the report said. He is followed by Supriya Aron of Samajwadi Party from Bareilly Cantt seat with Rs 157 crore in assets while BJP's Devendra Nagpal from Naugawan seat declared Rs

Drone operators asked to get registered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Feb 11: The Union Territory administration has asked the people intending to fly drones in Jammu and Kashmir to share their details with the office of district magistrates concerned as well as the nearest police stations and compulsorily register themselves with the authorities here.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified 'The Drone Rules, 2021' applicable to all persons owning or possessing or engaged in leasing, operating, transferring or maintaining unmanned aircraft systems in India

"Through the medium of circular, it is impressed upon all intended operators of unmanned aircraft systems to ensure the compliance of 'the drone rules, 2021' in letter and spirit. Accordingly, the details of the same shall be shared with the office of concerned district magistrates of Jammu division as well as the nearest police station," Divisional Commissioner Jammu province Dr Raghav Langar said in circu lar issued here.

J&K govt inks pact with NZ for 'transforming' sheep farming sector

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL STATEMENT. THE VIRTUAL MoC SIGNING CEREMONY WAS PRESIDED OVER **BY LT GOVERNOR**, **MANOJ SINHA AT RAJ BHAWAN**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Feb 11: To improve sheep farming sector, Jammu and Kashmir government has signed memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with New Zealand

Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Sinha, on the occasion, said that

the overarching objective of the

MoC is to improve farmers' re-

muneration, transfer of technology,

marketing & value addition of

The MoC was signed by Navin

Kumar Choudhary, Principal

sheep products of J&K.

According to official statement, the virtual MoC signing ceremony was presided over by Lt Governor,

Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department and Mischa Mannix-Opie, Executive Director, New Zealand G2G as a mutual commitment between J&K and New Zealand for complementing each other's capability in sheep sector. The Lt Governor observed that

Secretary to J&K Government,

the new partnership between J&K and New Zealand will boost production and productivity in the livestock sector of the UT.

"New Zealand is an important partner of India's expanding relationship globally and we attach special values to our ties not only because of deep bonding and cultural affinities, but also from a mature understanding of our strategic convergences, global interests and economic potential," Lt

Governor asserted. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern believe in shared commitment to promote ideals of democracy, peace and prosperity for the people. Despite turbulent events of global pandemic since the last two years, there has been almost seamless continuity in India-New



Zealand relationship," he said.

"This year marks 70th anniversary of commencement of bilateral relations between our two countries. It gives us opportunity to strengthen our partnership and our resolve to construct a strong edifice of a long term, mutual reinforcing economic relationship,' the Lt Governor added.

"Now, expanding our relationship further, New Zealand G2G, the well known public sector entity actively partnering with other Indian

states to leverage expertise and solutions for sustainable development has entered into a cooperation agreement with J&K to encourage collaboration in the field of sheep husbandry, capacity building, technology transfer and training."

The new partnership is aimed at doubling produce in the next three years with substantial increment in quality of livestock products, wool production and introducing processing facilities and value ad-

New Zealand is an important partner of India's expanding relationship globally and we attach special values to our ties not only because of deep bonding and cultural affinities, but also from a mature understanding of our strategic convergences, global interests and economic potential anoj sinha I lt governor, j&i

dition to boost income and benefits to Jammu & Kashmir, Sinha said.

'We are creating an enabling environment for the integrated growth of livestock sector which is providing livelihood support to around 1.2 million families and contributing 5% to the Union Territory's GDP."

The Lt Governor reaffirmed that the leadership of the two countries believes in the huge potential for our economic and commercial cooperation. David Pine, New Zealand's High Commissioner

expressed hope that the cooperation of agreement shall further strengthen the relationship between J&K and New Zealand and help in achieving the desired results on ground.

Atul Čhaturvedi, Secretarv, Animal Husbandry, GoI, congratulated the J&K Government for the unique initiative to make new strides in making J&K self-reliant in livestock sector, besides enhancing the income of the farmers and improve the economy of J&K.

Similarly, Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Sectary, J&K said that the MoC is a timely step to add further momentum to "our excellent bilateral ties and to facilitate greater institutional linkages between J&K and New Zealand". This will improve our practices in the sheep farming sector and increase the income of everyone associated with it, Mehta added.

Mischa Mannix-Opie, Executive Director, New Zealand G2G said that the latest scientific interventions shall be extended to J&K which shall entail marketing oflivestock products like wool for adding value to farmers' produce.









national



A family person will not run away with jhola (bag) and leave family behind. During the lockdown, if the Chief Minister (Yogi Adityanath) had a family, he would have understood the pain of labourers walking miles to reach their home AKHILESH YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

SER BECOMES FULLY ELECTRIFIED RLY ZONE

South Eastern Railway (SER) has achieved 100 per cent route electrification with the completion of work in Rupsa-Bangriposi section of the Kharagpur division, an official said Friday



uote 🖵

If required, if there is a necessity to play an influential role in national politics, certainly we should fight for our

nation. If you (people) bless me I am ready to break the Delhi Fort. Be careful Narendra Modi. Nobody is sacred of your threats

K CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER

Umar Khalid, Fahad Shah, Waheed Para & Siddique Kapan are languishing in jail on trumped up charges. But a Minister's son

walks away scot-free after allegedly running over farmers. In Godhse's India, criminals roam freely & those who speak the truth are jailed MEHBOOBA MUFTI PDP PRESIDENT

The people of Goa had given the Congress 27 years and the BJP 15 years. These parties did nothing for Goa as a whole. On the contrary, they only worked together to plunder the state

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

NCB busts drug trafficking racket

New Delhi: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted a pan-India drug trafficking network being run using the 'darknet' and has apprehended about two dozen persons allegedly involved in the racket, official sources said Friday. A personnel of the federal anti-narcotics agency has also been nabbed during the operation in which numerous searches were conducted in multiple states for about four months.

Bhupinder sent to judicial custody

New Delhi: A court in Punjab's Jalandhar on Friday sent Bhupinder Singh Honey -nephew of Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, arrested earlier this month in a money laundering case pertaining to illegal sand mining, to a 14-day judicial custody, officials said. Honey was presented at the court after his Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody expired Friday. Earlier, on two occasions, the court had granted ED the custody of Honey. On Friday, the ED did not seek further custody. The court, after hearing the arguments, remanded Honey to judicial custody.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 11: Smuggling is a huge threat to national security and all stakeholders, including the industry, are required to come together to tackle it, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said Friday.

In his address at the Anti-Smuggling Day launch event, organised by FICCI CASCADE

Unnao (Uttar Pradesh), Feb

11: The autopsy report of the

Dalit woman whose decomposed

body was found in a farmhouse,

has revealed that she was stran-

showed that her neck was bro-

ken. The woman had gone miss-

ing two months ago and her body

was finally recovered Thursday

The victim's mother has al-

leged that former minister Fateh

Bahadur Singh's son, Rajol Singh,

The decomposed body was

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief

Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya

has slammed Akhilesh Yadav

found wrapped in a blanket and

was behind the murder.

dumped in a septic tank.

The post-mortem report also

gulated.

in Unnao.

the guilty.

punished."

December 8.

(Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy), CBIC Member, Investigation, Balesh Kumar, also said that the government has always been been committed to combating the menace of smuggling and has institutionalised coordination between agencies, which has helped in generat-

ing volumes of information that are not only timely but also accurate,



leading to major seizures. "On February 6, DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) in Imphal, Manipur effected a seizure of 12.5 kgs of gold coming from Myanmar and over 46 lakh sticks of cigarettes valued at Rs 9.5 crore in one single operation," he said. Anti-Smuggling Day was launched with an objective of enhancing coordination and cooperation between different law enforcement agencies.

"Despite smuggling being a global menace, due focus and thrust has not been given to this mounting

Smuggling threat to national security: CBIC threat which is not only damaging our exchequer and leading to iob losses but is also impacting the safety and security of nations worldwide," said Anil Rajput, Chairman of FICCI CASCADE at the same event.

Thereby, it is critical to emphasise and generate global awareness about the fact that the root cause of illicit trade lies in smuggling, he added.

Ex-bureaucrat's son held in hit-and-run case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 11: Delhi Police has arrested a 27-year-old man, son of a retired Joint Secretary in the Petroleum Ministry, in the south Delhi hit-and-run case in which a man was injured and hospitalised after being hit by a car, an official said here Friday.

The accused, driving a mustard colour Volkswagen car at a high speed, hit a man and dragged him on the bonnet of the car for a while after which the accused fled the spot

The accused, identified as Raj Sunderam, 27, a law student, was arrested from Gurugram.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South Delhi) Benita Mary Jaiker said on February 8, Wednesday, an information regarding a hit-and-run incident near Greater Kailash was received.

The DCP said that a legal action was also taken against the father of the accused, a former Joint Secretary in the Petroleum Ministry.

"He was bound down under Section 212 of the IPC and later released as per law," the police officer said. The injured was immediately rushed to Max Hospital for treatment. His condition is now said to be stable.

According to the FIR accessed by IANS, the victim was dragged for almost 100 metres while he was atop the bonnet of the car. "After driving for at least 100 metres, the driver forcefully applied brakes and the victim Mandelia fell down," the FIR read. The man had suffered grievous injuries on his head, hands and had lost consciousness.

During the course of investigation, the police found and seized the vehicle involved in the accident and conducted raids at all possible hideouts of the accused. A crime team also visited the spot of the incident.

'Half of world waiting for vax' Unnao Dalit woman died of strangulation INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

"More than 9.4 billion vaccine doses have now been administered

globally. But 90 countries

did not reach the target of vaccinating 40 per cent of their populations by the end of last year, and 36 of those countries have not yet vaccinated 10 per cent of their

populations," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom

Ghebreyesus

AGENCIES

since the former chief minister belonged to Samajwadi Party and New Delhi/New York, Feb 11: Even after more than a year of

> reported a stark global divide. The data shows that less than 11 per cent of people have received at least one dose against Covid in low-income

The woman had been missing for two months and her mother had lodged a missing complaint



both upper-middle-income and high-income nations, the data showed. Public health experts, including the World Health Organisation, have been warning that vaccine inequity is prolonging

The US, countries of the access to countries that cannot afford. The initiative struggled in the beginning as rich countries stockpiled them. In January, this year, Covax shipped its billionth dose in mid-January, and according to the WHO, African countries were sent twice as many vaccine doses in January as six months ago.

However, about 100 million

Covid-19 vaccines, offered to third world nations were near expiry which the countries were forced to dump, according to the UN's children's fund Unicef.

"More than 9.4 billion vaccine doses have now been administered globally. But 90 countries did not reach the target of vaccinating 40 per cent of their populations by the end of last year. and 36 of those countries have not yet vaccinated 10 per cent of their populations," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said

Ghebrevesus said that more than 85 per cent of the population of Africa - about one billion people - is yet to receive a single dose of vaccine. "We cannot end the acute phase of the pandemic unless we work together to close these gaps," he warned. Meanwhile, the WHO has also

India reports 13% dip in fresh Covid cases

13 per cent lower than those reported on previous day. On Thursday, the country had seen 67.084 new Covid cases. In the las 24 hours, a total 657 deaths were reported, taking the toll to 5,07,177, said the Union Health ministry Friday morning. The active Covid case has been reduced to 6.97.802, which constitutes 1.64 per cent of the country's total positive cases. The recovery of 1,50,407 patients in the last 24 hours has increased the cumulative tally to 4,13,31,158

said that Africa is on track to end the pandemic. But, "continued vigilance is key" to dealing with outbreaks and monitoring the possible emergence of new vari-

Consequently, India's recovery

rate stands at 97.17 per cent.

ants, it said. "Although Africa still lags behind on vaccination, with only 11 percent of the adult population fully vaccinated, we now have a steady supply of doses flowing in," said Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's regional director for Africa.

Now, she said, efforts should be focused on "scaling-up Covid-19 vaccine uptake" in African countries, as well as increasing the capacity for testing and surveillance of coronavirus variants.

ous comments made by the







turned to ensure the guilty are not Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati also lashed out at the Samajwadi Party over the issue. countries.

That number jumps to about 55 per cent for lower-middle-income countries and nearly 80 per cent for

spokesperson of the Indian Min



New Delhi: India reported 58,077 fresh Covid infections in a span of 24 hours Friday, which is around

6 killed in two road accidents

Amaravati: Six people were killed in two separate road accidents in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district Friday, police said. Three persons were killed and three others were critically injured when a car in which they were travelling rammed into a parked truck at Ulandikonda on Bengaluru highway. The victims belonged to the same family In another accident, two persons were killed when a car collided head-on with a private bus at Damagatla Cross Road. Fifteen passengers of the bus were also injured. In the third accident, a person was killed when a motorbike he was riding hit a tree in Atmakur.

Jilted lover stabs woman in K'taka

Bangalore Rural: In a

shocking incident, a jilted lover stabbed a woman multiple times near IB Circle in Doddaballapur city in Karnataka Friday. Prabhavathi (38), suffered serious injuries and been admitted to a private hospital in Bengaluru where her condition is stated to be critical. The accused has been identified as Girish (31).

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Feb 11: In a classic case of the pot calling the kettle black, Pakistan which is widely acknowledged as a terror sponsor is blaming India for the unrest in Balochistan.

The Pakistan Foreign Office made it clear that there was strong evidence that India was involved in unrest in Balochistan, The News reported.

Islamabad blamed New Delhi for its 'sinister campaign' to sabotage CPEC and also rejected the "unwarranted" and "preposterous" remarks it made on the Pakistan-China Joint statement of February 6. the report said.

"Pakistan categorically rejects the unwarranted and preposterof External Affairs on the Pakistan-China Joint Statement of 6 February 2022, and we also strongly reject India's persistent propaganda against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Pakistan has shared irrefutable evidence of India's sinister campaign to sabotage CPEC through its dossiers released in 2020 and 2021," said the

BALOCHISTAN UNREST

Foreign Office.

'We expect the parties concerned not to interfere in matters that are internal affairs of India," the MEA had said.

The Pakistan Foreign Office reminded India that there is strong evidence of Indian involvement in recent sinister attempts to stir up unrest in Balochistan by supporting anti-state elements, the report said.

"Besides, Naval Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav is a living and irrefutable proof of how India has been seeking to sponsor and patronise subversive activities in Pakistan and the region," said the Foreign Office, as per the report.



MATERNAL BOND: A spotted deer feeds her fawn inside an enclosure, at the Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden in Guwahati

40L cancer cases, 22.54L deaths reported in 3 yrs: Govt

Union Health Minister Mansukh **AS MANY AS 7,70,230** Mandaviya said that 13,92,179 can-**PEOPLE LOST THEIR** cer cases were reported in 2020; 13,58,415 in 2019; and 13,25,232 cases **LIVES DUE TO CANCER** in 2018 IN 2020; 7,51,517 IN 2019; AND 7,33,139

As many as 7,70,230 people lost their lives due to cancer in 2020; 7,51,517 in 2019; and 7,33,139 people in 2018, he said in reply to a writ-**PEOPLE IN 2018** ten question.

The minister said cancer is a multifactorial disease, the risk factors of which include ageing pop-New Delhi, Feb 11: More than 40 lakh cancer cases were reported and ulation, sedentary lifestyle, use of 22.54 lakh people died of the disease tobacco products, alcohol, unin the country between 2018 and healthy diet and air pollution.

He said that screening of common cancers is an integral part of



service delivery under Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) Mandaviya said the preventive

on oncology in its various aspects in case of 22 new AIIMS and many upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthva Suraksha Yoina (PMSSY), he said

The minister said the treatment of cancer is also available under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

Financial assistance is provided to patients belonging to families living below poverty line, suffering from major life-threatening diseases including cancer under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi and Health Minister's Discretionary

Grant (HMDG), he said.

The minister said the financial assistance up to a maximum of Rs 1,25,000 is provided under HMDG to defray a part of the treatment cost and the maximum financial assistance provided under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi is Rs 15 lakh.

Mandaviya said he has a fund 🛁 of Rs 20 lakh under HMDG in a year but he has not given any money yet. Speaker Om Birla then said that the MPs came to know about HMDG only now and there is a suggestion from themthat the minister should more frequently utilise it.



2020, the government informed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lok Sabha Friday.



aspect of cancer is strengthened by

promotion of wellness activities

and targeted communication at

the community level. There is focus



international



Nuclear talks with Iran are entering a final phase ANNALENA BAERBOCK GERMANY'S FOREIGN MINISTER

STUDY DISCLOSURE

Scientists in the US have developed an inexpensive. non-toxic coating for almost any fabric that decreases the infectivity of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. by up to 90 per cent





uote

(Americans) were never clear on what they were trying to achieve in Afghanistan. Was it

nation-building, democracy, or the emancipation of Afghan women? They had no clear aims IMRAN KHAN PAKISTAN PM

Talks on intensifying military cooperation between Copenhagen and Washington have been in the works for a long time

METTE FREDERIKSEN

Europe faces the most dangerous moment in its biggest security crisis for decades, amid growing tensions between Russia and Ukraine

BORIS JOHNSON BRITISH PM

SHORT TAKES

Diplomat injured

New York: A South Korean was diplomat beaten and had his nose broken on a street of New York City in a random attack which has drawn wide attention to the deterioration of public safety and persistent hate crime in the city. The victim, who has not been named, was walking with a friend at 8.10 p.m. on Wednesday in Midtown Manhattan when the incident happened, according to media reports citing New York Police Department (NYPD) as saying on Thursday. The diplomat suffered a broken nose from the "unprovoked" attack while the unidentified attacker fled on foot without saying a word, Xinhua news agency quoted the reports as saving.

20 killed in Peru

Lima: At least 20 people were killed and 33 injured, after a passenger bus plunged into a ravine about 100 metres deep in the northern Peruvian province of Pataz of La Libertad department, local authorities confirmed Thursday. The Regional Health

Russian invasion any time, says US

Several Western countries launched diplomatic pushes this week to persuade Russia to back down, but Moscow brushed them off

REUTERS Moscow/Adelaide, Feb 11: Russia is now massing yet more troops near Ukraine and an invasion could come at any time, perhaps before the end of this month's Winter Olympics, US Secretary of State

Antony Blinken said Friday. Commercial satellite images published by a private U.S. company showed new Russian military deployments at several locations near Ukraine. In his starkest warning yet to Americans in Ukraine to get out now, President Joe Biden said he would not send troops to rescue U.S. citizens in the event of a

Russian assault. "Things could go crazy quickly," Biden

said. Blinken, visiting Australia, told a news conference: "We're in a window when an invasion could begin at

any time, and to be clear, that includes during the Olympics."

The Beijing games end February 20. "Simply put, we continue to see very troubling signs of Russian escalation, including new forces arriving at the Ukrainian

border," Blinken said. Russia has already massed more than 100,000 troops near Ukraine, and this week it launched joint military exercises in neighbouring Belarus and naval drills in the Black Sea.

Moscow denies plans to invade Ukraine, but says it could take unspecified "military-technical" action unless a series of demands are met, including promises from NATO never to admit Ukraine and to withdraw forces from Eastern Europe.

Several Western countries launched diplomatic pushes this week to persuade Russia to back down, but Moscow brushed them off, yielding no concessions to French President Emmanuel Macron who visited on Monday and openly mocking British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss during a visit on Thursday.

Four-way talks in Berlin between Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France, part of a longstanding peace process in a conflict between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists, also yielded no progress on Thursday. Paris said the Russian delega-

tion had agreed to hold more talks but demanded Kyiv negotiate directly with the separatists, a "red We're in a window line" which Ukraine when an invasion has rejected since 2014. could begin at any U.S.-based Maxar time, and to be clear. Technologies, which has been tracking the that includes during buildup of Russian

the Olympics forces, said images ANTONY BLINKEN taken on Wednesday US SECRETARY OF STAT and Thursday showed new deployments in several locations in western Russia, Belarus and Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014. The images could not be independently verified by

Reuters. In Crimea Maxar identified 550 troop tents and hundreds of vehicles newly deployed at Oktyabrskoye airfield north of the city of Simferopol, as well as deployments near the towns of

Novoozernoye and Slavne. In Belarus it identified a new deployment of troops, military vehicles and helicopters at Zyabrovka airfield near Gomel, less than 25 km (15 miles) from the border with Ukraine.



A DAY TO REMEMBER



Men on motorcycles attend the annual rally commemorating the anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution at the Azadi (freedom) square in Tehran, Iran, Friday. Thousands of cars and motorbikes paraded in the celebration, although fewer pedestrians were out for a second straight year due to concerns over the pandemic AP/PTI PHOTO

Quad leaders resolve to keep Indo-Pacific free from coercion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 11: The Quad foreign ministers Friday vowed to ramp up cooperation to keep the Indo-Pacific region free from bullying, opposed "coercive" economic policies, denounced the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism and asserted that Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country.

The Ukraine crisis was also discussed at the fourth meeting of the Quad foreign ministers in Melbourne with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying that Russia would face "massive consequences" if it renewed aggression towards the Eastern European nation and that Washington is following an approach of diplomacy and dialogue to resolve the issue.



Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne, India's Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar, and Foreign Minister of Japan Yoshimasa Hayashi participate in the Quad press conference in Melbourne

economic prosperity in the region. maritime security, and disinformation and that India continues to "As leading democracies, we pursue our shared vision of uppursue an "agile" and multidiholding a rules-based internamensional strategy towards the tional order free from coercion, Indo-Pacific. one based on respect for territo-

"In the meeting, we reaffirm the Quad's commitment to supporting Indo Pacific countries' efforts to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific -- a region which is inclusive and resilient, and in which states strive to protect the interests of their people, free from coercion," a joint statement said with a veiled reference to China's bullying in region.

CIA has secret data repository: Senators

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Feb 11: The CIA has a secret, undisclosed data repository that includes information collected about Americans, two Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee said. While neither the agency nor lawmakers would disclose specifics about the data, the senators alleged the CIA had long hidden details about the programme from the public and Congress

Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico sent a letter to top intelligence officials calling for more details about the program to be declassified. Large parts of the letter, which was sent in April 2021 and declassified Thursday, and documents released by the CIA were blacked out. Wyden and Heinrich said the programme operated "outside the statutory framework that Congress and the

department reported that the accident occurred at about 14:40 local time on Wednesday in a rural sector between the Andean towns of Tayabamba and Huancaspata, Xinhua news agency reported.

6 killed in bombing

Mogadishu: At least six people

wounded in a suicide attack at

El Gaab iunction in the Somali

capital Mogadishu, police and

Abdifatah Aden Hassan, Somali

were killed and 13 others

medical sources said.

Police Spokesman who

confirmed the 10:30 a.m.

suicide bomber wearing

explosive vests wrapped

incident on Thursday, said a

around his waist blew himself

up, causing multiple casualties.

Xinhua news agency reported.

PM convoy targeted

Tripoli: Unidentified gunmen

Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid

Dbeibah in the capital Tripoli,

said Libya's Interior Ministry. "Earlier on Thursday, the convoy of the Prime Minister

was subjected to an armed attack in Souk al-Juma

district (central Tripoli) by individuals in a vehicle with no license plates," Abdulmenem al-Arabi, the Ministry's Spokesman, said in

attacked the convoy of Libyan



Ukrainian servicemen unpack shipment of military aid delivered as part of the United States of America's security assistance to Ukraine, at the Boryspil airport, outside Kviv, Ukraine **AP/PTI PHOTO**

At a joint media briefing with his

counterparts from the US. Australia and Japan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said an agenda seeking to further the Quad's shared vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific is being pursued to ensure peace, stability and the rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation in the international seas, and peaceful resolution of disputes," he said in his remarks at the meeting.

rial integrity and sovereignty.

He said there is ample scope to work together on global issues such as terrorism, cyber security, public believe govern this collection.

There have long been concerns about what information the intelligence community collects domestically, driven in part by previous violations of Americans' civil liberties

The CIA and National Security Agency have a foreign mission and are generally barred from investigating Americans or U.S. Businesses.

But the spy agencies' sprawling collection of foreign communications often snares Americans messages and data incidentally.

Intelligence agencies are required to take steps to protect U.S. Information, including redacting the names of any Americans from reports unless they are deemed relevant to an investigation. The process of removing redactions is known as "unmasking.

"CIA recognises and takes very seriously our obligation to respect the privacy and civil liberties of U.S. Persons in the conduct of our vital national security mission," Kristi Scott, the agency's privacy and civil liberties officer, said in a statement.

Biden to split frozen Afghan funds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Feb 11: The US government plans to free up half of \$7 billion in frozen Afghan central bank assets on its soil for aiding the Afghan people, while the rest will remain in the United States pending lawsuits from victims of terrorism, sources said.

A U.S. judge last month gave President Joe Biden's administration until Friday to come up with a plan on what to do with the frozen funds, amid urgent calls from U.S. lawmakers and the United Nations for them to be used to address the dire economic crisis in Afghanistan. The U.S. government will work to



ensure access to \$3.5 billion of those assets for "the benefit of the Afghan people and for Afghanistan's future," said one of the sources, without providing details about how these funds would be distributed.

The multi-step plan calls for the other half of the funds to remain in the United States, subject to ongoing litigation by U.S. victims of terrorism, including relatives of those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacking attacks, the sources said. Washington froze the Afghan

funds held in the United States after the Taliban's military takeover in August, but has faced mounting pressure to find a way to release the funds without recognizing the Taliban, who say the money is theirs. However, some September 11 victims and their families have filed lawsuits seeking to cover unsatisfied court judgments related to the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

TRUCK BLOCKADE Use federal powers: US to Canada

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto, Feb 11: The Biden administration urged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government Thursday to use its federal powers to end the truck blockade by Canadians protesting the country's COVID-19 restrictions, as the bumper-tobumper demonstration forced auto plants on both sides of the border to shut down or scale back production.

For the fourth straight day, scores of truckers taking part in what they dubbed the Freedom Convoy blocked the Ambassador Bridge

connecting Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit, disrupting the flow of auto parts and other products between the two countries.

The White House said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg spoke with their Canadian counterparts and urged them to help resolve the standoff.

Federal Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said Royal Canadian Mounted Police reinforcements are being sent to Windsor, Ottawa and Coutts, Alberta where another border blockade is happening.

CHALLENGES GALORE Koala declared endangered as disease, lost habitat take toll

THE AUSTRALIAN KOALA FOUNDATION HAS CALLED FOR LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THEM AND CURB LAND CLEARING AND MINING PROJECTS THAT ARE WRECKING THEIR HABITATS

Attack foiled

a statement.

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Lisbon: The Portuguese Judiciary Police (PJ) prevented Thursday a terrorist attack against the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. According to the PJ, an 18-year-old youth was arrested in "flagrant delicto' in possession of weapons and is indicted for the crime of terrorism, Xinhua news agency reported.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canberra, Feb 11: Koalas were declared officially endangered Friday in eastern Australia as they fall prey to disease, lost habitat and other threats.

Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley downgraded their conservation status across the country's east coast, in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory on a recommendation by the government's Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

Earlier they had been listed as a vulnerable species. Many koalas in Australia suffer from chlamydia. Koala populations in New South Wales have fallen by 33%-61% since 2001. In 2020, a parliamentary inquiry warned the species might become extinct before 2050 without urgent intervention. The number of koalas in

Queensland has fallen by half since 2001 due to drought, fires and deforestation. Some are killed in attacks by dogs, or run over on roads. "Koalas have gone from no-list-



ing to vulnerable to endangered within a decade. That is a shockingly fast decline," said Stuart Blanch, a conservation scientist with the World Wildlife Fund-Australia.

"Today's decision is welcome, but it won't stop koalas from sliding toward extinction unless it's accompanied by stronger laws and landholder incentives to protect their forest homes," he said.

The Australian Koala Foundation estimates that there are less than 100,000 Koalas left in the wild, possibly as few as 43,000. Summer brushfires in 2019-20 killed at least 6,400 of the animals, as rescuers worked desperately to save them and treat their injuries.

"There have been many pressures on the koala. The Black Summer fire, of course, was a tipping point. But we know the koala is vulnerable to climate change and to disease," Ley told reporters at the Blue Mountains on Friday.

Ley said vaccines to prevent and treat chlamydia among koalas, the use of drones to study them and restoration of habitat are

ways to the government is helping protect the vulnerable marsupial. The government contends that listing koalas as endangered will highlight and help address threats, while conservation groups argue more has to be done to prevent their extinction.

The Australian Koala Foundation has called for legislation to protect them and curb land clearing and mining projects that are wrecking their habitats. Itsays koalas also are in danger across Victoria and South Australia.













business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 11: Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Friday said the retail inflation was

contained at just 6.2 per cent despite

the Indian economy suffering the

biggest contraction of ₹9.57 lakh

crore during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Replying to a general discus-

sion on the Union Budget in Rajya

Sabha, the minister said the Budget

for 2022-23 stands for continuity,

brings stability to the economy

and predictability of taxation. She

stated that the objective of the

Budget is a stable and sustainable

Compared to the performance of

the UPA government, she pointed

out that retail inflation was 9.1 per

cent during the financial crisis of

2008-09, while it is at 6.2 per cent dur-

ing the Covid-19 pandemic that

has a bigger impact on the economy.

ital spending gives much more

multiplier than revenue route, and

therefore, the government has in-

creased public capital spending to

Sitharaman said the govern-

ment is also encouraging startups

boost the economy.

She also told the House that cap-

recovery in the economy.



The fiscal deficit at present is 6.9 per cent of the GDP. The target for 2025-26 is to bring down to 4.5 per cent. If we continue to grow our revenues TARUN BAJAJ UNION REVENUE SECRETARY

McDONALD'S IN METAVERSE

Trademarks have been filed by the world's largest fast-food restaurant chain to set up a location in the metaverse, the Daily Mail reported. McDonald's, which has more than 39,000 locations in about 100 countries, claims they will be able to deliver food in person and online, the report said



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I am convinced that it is time for India to focus on pulses and oilseeds as we did with cereals during the Green Revolution

BIMAL KOTHARI

VC, INDIA PULSES AND GRAINS ASSOCIATION

Based on some internal complaints, we decided to do a full audit of our governance processes

SUHAIL SAMEER CEO, BHARATPE



HEAD OF GLOBAL EOUITY STRATEGY, JEFFERIES

SHORT TAKES

Forex reserves rise over \$2 bn

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.198 billion during the week ended February 4. The Reserve Bank of India's forex reserves increased to \$631.953 billion from \$629.755 billion reported for January 28. The country's forex reserves comprises of foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, SDRs, and the country's reserve position with the IMF. On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by \$2.251 billion to \$568.329 billion. However, the value of the country's gold reserves decreased by \$210 million to \$39.283 billion. The SDR value rose by \$98 million to \$19.108 billion and the country's reserve position with the IMF increased by \$59 million to \$5.233 billion.

Oil India profit jumps 37% in Q3

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New Delhi: State-owned Oil India Ltd Friday reported 37 per cent jump in third quarter net profit as it benefitted from a

Retail inflation at 6.2% despite pandemic: FM Replying to a discussion on Budget 2022-23 in the Rajya Sabha, she said there is no question of a slowdown or recession, as she cited an estimated 9.2 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal year ending March 31

I want to highlight this for all, for the benefit of all **Opposition respected members who periodically say** look at the inflation, look at inflation, I want to say lesser crisis, you couldn't handle the inflation, you let it to 9.1 per cent. We are taking care of it and it is remaining at 6-6.1 per cent only NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

and that resulted in the creation of many unicorns during the pandemic. She also said that there is no cause to worry because of different numbers of GDP in the Economic Survey and Budget documents, as it was a result of sources of data being different.

About public spending, the minister said ₹7.5 lakh crore spending will create jobs and employment creation is not limited to 60 lakh jobs from productivity linked incentive plan for 14 sectors. The MNREGA (Mahatma

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) was infested with ghost accounts and people not born were receiving money, she pointed out. The MN-REGA is a demand-driven programme meant to provide jobs to rural unemployed in the lean sea-

son, and whenever demand comes, She said ₹73,000 crore is progive more if demand comes.

'Cryptocurrency taxation sovereign right'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said the government has sovereign right to tax profit made from cryptocurrency transactions, and the decision on banning or not banning will be taken based on feedback from consultations. Replying to the general discussion on Union Budget, the minister said, "I am not going to legalise it or ban it at this stage. Banning or not banning will come subsequently, when consultations give me input." About the profit emanating from transactions in cryptocurrencies, she stated that "(Whether it is) legitimate or illegitimate, it is a different question, but I will tax because it is a sovereign right to tax". In her Budget speech February 1, Sitharaman had said that only RBI-issued 'Digital Rupee' will be recognised as currency, and the government will levy a 30 per cent tax on gains made from any other private digital assets from April 1.

4TH MONTH IN A ROW Factory output growth plunges to 0.4% in Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 11: India's industrial production growth slowed down for a fourth straight month in December to 0.4 per cent mainly due to a poor performance by the manufacturing sector. The manufacturing sector, which

constitutes 77.63 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), contracted by 0.1 per cent in December, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday.

The factory output growth was in double-digits in four months to August this fiscal. But it slipped to 4.4 per cent in September and further to 4 per cent in October.

The IIP growth for November 2021 was revised downwards to 1.3 per cent from the provisional estimate of 1.4 per cent released last month. The IIP had grown by 2.2 per cent in December 2020.

During April-December this fiscal, the IIP grew by 15.2 per cent against a 13.3 per cent contraction in the same period last year.

The data showed that industrial production recovered in September 2020. The IIP had grown by 1 per cent in September 2020. Industrial production plunged 18.7 per cent in March last year following the Covid outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020.

With the resumption of economic activities, factory output rose 1 per cent in September 2020 and 4.5 per cent in October 2020. In



Mining output rose by 2.6% Power output up by 2.8% Consumer durables manufacturing shrank 2.7%

Consumer non-durable goods production dip by 0.6%

November 2020, it fell 1.6 per cent and then entered the positive territory with a 2.2 per cent growth in December 2020.

The IIP had recorded a contraction of 0.6 per cent and 3.2 per cent in January 2021 and February 2021, respectively. In March 2021, it grew 24.2 per cent.

The second wave of the pandemic started in the middle of April 2021, and many states imposed restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus infections.

The latest NSO data showed that the production of capital goods, a barometer of investment. contracted by 4.6 per cent in December 2021. It had grown by 2.2 per cent in the year-ago period.

CHIP CRUNCH CONTINUES PV sales dip 8% in Jan Total (All calegories) **AUTO SALES** (number of units sold) **2022** 2021 **JANUARY 2022** 1,733,276 1,406,672 Passenger Cars 126,693 -17.33% 153,244 -21.09% 1,128,293 Two Wheelers 429,928 **24,091** 26,794 Three Wheelers -10.09% REUTERS 254,287 Total Passenger Vehicles -8.05% Source: Society of Indian Exports Production **1,860,809** 2,206,710 -15.67% **454,953** 463,077 (SIAM)



it is funded, the minister noted. vided for rural employment guarantee scheme MNREGA and will

Fertiliser subsidy rose from the

Size of the economy has grow from ₹110 lakh crore 7 years ag to ₹232 lakh crore. she sa budgeted ₹79,530 crore for FY22 to ₹1.4 lakh crore in the revised estimates and shows the government is receptive to the needs, she added, Replying to the opposition charge that small businesses were shut-

tered, she stated that 67 per cent of MSMEs were temporarily shut due to the lockdown. India has witnessed breaching the 6 per cent tolerance limit for inflation on 6 occasions since 2014 (when the NDA government came into power at the Centre) as inflation management is robust, she told the House.

Sitharaman said the Indian economy suffered the biggest contraction because of the pandemic

₹9.57L cr loss

compared to a

financial crisis

due to the

pandemic,

₹2.12L cr

contraction

during the

FM pointed

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crisis of

2008-09

rise in international oil prices. Net profit of ₹1,244.90 crore in October-December 2021 is compared with ₹903.69 crore net profit a year back, the company said in a statement. Total income jumped 88 per cent to ₹4,705.20 crore in the three-month period ended December 31, 2021. "Average crude oil price realization for Q3 2021-22 is \$78.59 per barrel as compared to \$44.09 for Q3 of 2020-21, increase of 78.25 per cent," it said. Also, natural gas price rose to \$2.90 per million British thermal unit from \$1.79.

Chandrasekaran gets extension

New Delhi: N Chandrasekaran was Friday reappointment as the chairman of Tata Sons the holding company of the salt-to-software Tata Group for a second five-year term. His reappointment was backed by Ratan Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts, the majority owners of Tata Sons. Tata Sons board met Friday to review the last five years and consider the reappointment of its Executive Chairman N Chandrasekaran, it said in a statement.

JSW steel output rises 15% in Jan

New Delhi: JSW Steel Friday reported 15 per cent rise in crude steel production at 16.46 lakh tonne for the month of January. The company's crude steel production was at 14.32 lakh tonne (LT) in January 2021, JSW Steel said in a filing to BSE. "JSW Steel reported the crude steel production for the month of January 2022 at 16.46 lakh tonne, that grew by 15 per cent Y-o-Y on standalone basis," the filing said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

-1.75%

New Delhi. Feb 11: Passenger vehicle dispatches from factories to dealers in India fell 8 per cent in January, mainly due to semiconductor shortage, auto industry body SIAM said Friday.

The total passenger vehicle wholesales dropped to 2,54,287 units in January 2022 as compared to 2,76,554 units in the same month of last year. Last month, passenger car dispatches stood at 1,26,693 units as compared to 1,53,244 units in the year-ago period. Similarly, van dispatches declined to 10,632 units in the period under review from 11,816 units in January 2021.

Utility vehicle sales, however, increased to 1,16,962 units last month as compared to 1,11,494 units in January 2021. Total two wheeler dispatches declined 21 per cent to 11,28,293 units from 14,29,928 units in the year-ago period.

GRAPHICS

Similarly, three wheeler wholesales dropped to 24,091 units last month as against 26,794 units in January 2021. Total dispatches last month fell to 14,06,672 units as compared to 17.33.276 units in the same month last year.

'Sales in January 2022 again declined compared to January 2021, due to both Omicron-related concerns and semiconductor shortage. There is clearly a demand issue for twowheelers due to lower rural off-take of entry level models," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers DG Rajesh Menon said.

BUZZ Last month Maruti Suzuki dispatched 1,28,924 units as compared to 1,39,002 units in January. Hyundai Motor saw its dispatches decline to 44,022 units last month as against 52,005 units in January last year.

creased bets on aggressive interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

The NSE Nifty 50 index fell 1.3% to 17,374.75, while the S&P BSE Sensex closed 1.3% lower at 58,152.92. For the week, both indexes fell nearly 1%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday maintained its dovish stance and said contin-

N

6

M&M	0.09	UltraTech	n C -2.16	NTF
ITC	0.09	Wipro	-2.07	BPC
GRAP	HICS			

ued policy support was warranted to help the economic recovery.

"There was some enthusiasm post the (RBI) policy. But, with global cues, again the (foreign) out-

20 firms to get sops under auto PLI scheme

New Delhi: Ford Motor Co, Suzuki Motor Corp and Hyundai Motor are among 20 companies that will be eligible for incentives under India's \$3.5 billion scheme to boost clean fuel vehicles, the government said Friday. The federal cabinet last year approved a plan under which it will give

benefits to the automobile sector over a five-year period to boost production of electric and hydrogen fuel-powered vehicles and their components. The ministry of heavy industries said it has approved applications from 20 companies which also include Kia Motors, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Softbank-Group Ola Electric.

0.18 UPL PC -2.43 CL 0.04 HCL Tech -2.39

flows are going to happen," said Anita Gandhi, director at Arihant Capital Markets, adding that the outflows would continue if the US rate hikes happened in March.

ponential rise (in results), the valuation is not justified," Gandhi said.

Among individual stocks, staffing service provider Quess Corp rose as much as 9.7% after a jump in quarterly profit. Zomato Ltd tumbled 6.9%, after the food delivery firm posted tepid sequential gross order value growth in the third quarter.

Binance to take \$200mn stake in Forbes

New Delhi: Binance, one of the world's biggest cryptocurrency firms, will take a \$200m stake in Forbes in the latest twist for the 105-year-old media brand. the BBC reported. Forbes, known for its ranking of billionaires, said the deal would help make it a leader supplying information about digital assets, like Bitcoin, But news of the



investment sparked questions among media watchers about potential conflicts of interest, the report said. Binance sued Forbes in 2020 for defamation, later dropping the case.

How thieves manage to steal crypto in virtual world

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, France, Feb 11: US officials announced Tuesday they had recovered \$3.6 billion of bitcoin stolen in a 2016, throwing a light on the scams that surround cryptocurrency. But how exactly do criminals steal in the virtual world?

Hacking the exchanges

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are bought, sold and stored on exchanges, just like commodities in the non-virtual world.

But crypto investors, and those who organise exchanges, often object to centralised control and reject stringent oversight -- and that sometimes leads to lax security. "Exchange sites have stocks that are relatively large at any given time in crypto," says Manuel Valente of Coinhouse, a French company that manages crypto transactions. "But these are servers, machines - and malicious people sometimes

steal money." Most of these problems are caused by weak security, he says.

Alexander Stachtchenko of KPMG agrees, pointing out that some platforms still store passwords on their servers.

"If you can get into the server you can steal the passwords," he says. "Once you have the passwords, you move the bitcoins from one address to another and then people don't have access to those bitcoins." Hacking the blockchain

All things crypto rely on the blockchain -- a chain of code composed of interlocking blocks. It stores the details of all transactions made in cryptocurrency. Because each block is linked, it is impossible to change a block of code without altering the whole chain -- the basis of the security claims made by those who trumpet the benefits of crypto.

However, there is a theory that if a group was to obtain more than 50 percent of a particular



blockchain, it could start rewriting transactions, blocking new ones and double-spending coins.

An exchange called Gate.io alleged it lost \$200,000 in an attack like this in 2019, but experts think it would be impossible to target major players like bitcoin.

Such an attack "would be incredibly hard and incredibly energy intensive", says Erica Stanford, author of "Crypto Wars: Faked Deaths, Missing Billions & Industry Disruption". "With bitcoin now it wouldn't be possible because of how much energy it would use," she added.

Crypto-adjacent crime

Many of the scams around crypto are less to do with the technology and more linked to old-fashioned confidence tricks or extortion The main scam hasn't been about crypto so much as about using the

belief that people will get rich quick to trick people into investina

ERICA STANFORD AUTHOR OF CRYPTO WARS: FAKED DEATHS, MISSING BILLIONS & INDUSTRY DISRUPTION

where the criminals asked for payment in crypto.

The main family of scams have been the Ponzi-style schemes, where a new coin is hyped and its value inflated by the creators, who then dump all their coin when the price reaches its highest point, leaving many investors penniless

Such frauds, while not unique to crypto, netted \$7 billion for scammers in 2019 but dropped massively the following year, according to analysis firm Chainalysis. The net closes

While cryptocurrencies became

notorious for these Ponzi-style schemes, Stanford points out that the high point of the scams was between 2016 and 2018. She says the market has now matured, people are more knowledgable, law enforcement and regulators are more involved and analytical tools abound. allowing the currencies to be traced. Chainalysis reported that over-

all crime related to crypto fell hugely last year. Stachtchenko points out that many of the major platforms have now ramped up security to combat hackers. "Some have even bought 'bunkers' -- a kind of digital safe," he says.

Valente agrees, saving that monitoring has been ramped up to such an extent that criminals will not be able to spend their crypto even if they hide it for years.

"As soon as the stolen bitcoins start moving again, everyone knows," he says. "Now, almost nocompany will deal with bitcoins that have been stolen.'



manage to get into their servers and



INDIA COMPLETE WHITEWASH India eves aim to

Rohit & Co seal the three-match ODI series against West Indies 3-0 after a clinical 96-run victory in the third and final match

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Feb 11: Rohit Sharma's tenure as India ODI cap tain began with a 3-0 demolition of the West Indies after the impressive hosts put up an all-round performance to win the third game by 96 runs here Friday. The ODI series will be followed by three T20Is in Kolkata beginning February 16.

Shreyas Iyer's responsible 80 (111b, 9x4) coupled with Rishabh Pant's aggressive 56 (54b, 6x4, 1x6) powered India to a challenging 265 in the inconsequential fixture. The hosts then shot out their opponents for 169 in 37.1 overs as the visitors continued their dismal batting show.

With one eye on the 2023 ODI World Cup, the Indian team management gained plenty positives from their experiments in the thirdmatch series including the emergence of pacer Prasidh Krishna (3/27) as the strike bowler. He ended with nine wickets in the series.

Deepak Hooda, who did not play the third ODI, showed promise as a middle-order batter while Suryakumar Yadav showed that he could curb his natural aggressive intent if such a situation arises.

The wrist-spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav (2/51) who made a return as a pairing, did not bowl together but did well individually.

An ordinary batting performance the West Indies batters also made the Indian bowlers' task easier throughout the series. The away team was never in the chase and was blown away by another stellar show of fast bowling. Mohammed Siraj (3/29)

was also outstanding for the hosts. Pacer Deepak Chahar (2/41), playing his first game of the series, struck twice in the fifth over. First he sent back Brandon King (14), who edged to Surya in the slip cordon and then on the last ball of the over, removed Shamarh



Brooks (0), leaving the visitors at 25/3. West Indies could not recover from there on.

Earlier, Shreyas and the flamboyant Pant resurrected the India innings with their 110-run stand after India suffered a top-order collapse to be reeling at 42/3.

The Mumbaikar, who was playing his first game after COVID recovery, looked in his elements, as he mixed caution and aggression. He completed his ninth ODI fifty with a single to deep extra cover.

After his fifty, Shreyas upped the ante as he and Pant completed their 100-run stand in 112 balls.

Pant too notched up his fifth ODI 50 with a single. But in the 30th over, he perished, giving leggie Hayden Walsh (2/59) his first wicket and Surya (6) followed suit, as India lost half their side for 164.

But a determined Shreyas played his shots at will before giving a sitter to Darren Bravo at long-off in the 38th over. However, Chahar (38, 38b, 4x4, 2x6) and Washington Sundar (33, 34b, 2x4, 1x6) played their parts to perfection and forged 53 runs for seventh wicket. Their knocks propelled India past the 260-run mark.

After opting to bat, India lost



ries after recovering from COVD, the hosts back, by first cleaning up Rohit on the third ball of the fourth over and then dismissed Virat Kohli (0) on the fifth ball to

> (Shreyas Iyer 80, Rishabh Pant 56, Deepak Chahar 38, Washington Sundar 33; Jason Holder 4/34) beat West Indies 169 34; Prasidh Krishna 3/27, Chahar 2/41, Kuldeep Yadav

sort combination⁴



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Queenstown, Feb 11: With extended guarantine set to keep star batter Smriti Mandhana out, the Indian women's cricket team will look to sort some combination issues when it starts the five-ODI series against New Zealand here Saturday.

The tour of New Zealand started with a reversal after the visitors went down by 18 runs in the oneoff T20I and skipper Mithali Raj will be keen to provide the team a winning start in its ODI campaign, which is crucial ahead of the ICC World Cup next month.

Playing amid windy conditions in smaller grounds will be a challenge but it will also hold them in good stead when they turn up for the World Cup here starting March 4. Availability of players has also

been an issue for the Indian team with Mandhana, and pacers Renuka Singh and Meghana Singh missing the first game due to an extended Managed isolation and Quarantine (MIQ).

Their absence will be an opportunity to test other players as the team looks to slot their core players ahead of the ICC event. In the one-off T20I, batting let the

side down and Mithali has her task cut out as she tries to put a playing XI that can do the job in the absence

of the top players. Yastika Bhatia, who scored 26 while opening the innings with Shafali Verma in the T20I, is likely to retain her position in the absence of Mandhana, while India will

need to sort their middle-order, which revolves around Mithali. Focus will also be on Harmanpreet Kaur, who could only score 12 in the T20I despite coming off a successful Big Bash campaign where she was named the Player

of the Tournament. In the bowling department, veteran Jhulan Goswami, who had retired from the shortest format in 2018, will lead the attack and share the new ball with Pooja Vastrakar, who claimed two wickets in the T20I. Simran Bahadur, however, will look for a better show after being hit for 26 in two overs Thursday.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will aim to carry the momentum after winning the one-off T20I. The hosts have a poor record in the ODIs, having won just two of the last 20 ODIs.

India squad: Mithali Raj (C), Harmanpreet Kaur (vc), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sneh Rana, Jhulan Goswami, Pooja Vastrakar, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav & Simran Dil Bahadur.

Rahul, Axar out of WI T20Is Jota brace lifts Liverpool, sinks Leicester



ment of their injury," said the BCCI

in a statement. 'The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Ruturaj Gaikwad and Deepak Hooda as replacements," it added.

Both Gaikwad and Hooda are also part of the squad picked for the ongoing ODI series against the Caribbean side in Ahmedabad.

Rahul and Axar's fitness issues have also raised questions over their availability for the home se-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

tional cricket.

London, Feb 12: Diogo Jota is squeezing every moment out of his understudy role in the Liverpool attack. Even with Egypt striker Mohamed Salah back available after a month away at the African Cup of Nations, Jota still started and scored both goals in a 2-0 victory over Leicester Thursday.

leave the hosts teetering at 16/2.

Kohli tried to flick a delivery

that was going down the leg, but

edged to Shai Hope in what was a

soft dismissal, extending the wait

for his 71st hundred in interna-

Shikhar Dhawan (10) and

Shreyas tried to rally the innings

but were able to add only 26 runs

for the third wicket. Dhawan, who

The second was scored with Salah on the field for the final 30 minutes in a win that keeps secondplace Liverpool nine points behind Manchester City with a game in hand. Liverpool is also chasing titles still in the Champions League, FA Cup and League Cup.



onds of each other - Arsenal's fourth dismissal in its last six games.

This one came with 21 minutes left after Marintelli first pushed Daniel Podence to stop a quick throw-in but referee Michael Oliver played advantage. Martinelli then chased the hall down only to barge into Chiquinho from behind and was immediately shown two vellow cards.

became pacer Odean Smith's (1/36) first victim as he was caught by Jason Holder in the slip cordon. **BRIEF SCORES** India 265

(Odean Smith 36, Nicolas Pooran Mohammed Siraj 3/29, Deepak

2/51) by 96 runs.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Feb 11: India vicecaptain KL Rahul and all-rounder Axar Patel were Friday ruled out of the three-match T20I series against the West Indies beginning in Kolkata from February 16 due to injuries with Ruturaj Gaikwad and Deepak Hooda replacing them in the squad.

While Rahul has suffered a hamstring injury while fielding in the second ODI February 9, Axar has

injury that also forced him to miss the South Africa tour. The spinner had also recently tested positive for COVID, said BCCI.

"Rahul sustained an upper left hamstring strain during fielding in the 2nd ODI 9th February 2022 while Axar has resumed the final stage of his rehabilitation after recently recovering from Covid-19. They will now head to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore for further manage-

ries against Sri Lanka starting February 25. Rahul had missed the first ODI to personal commitments before returning for the second game.

India squad: Rohit Sharma (C), Ishan Kishan, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iver, Surva Kumar Yaday, Rishabh Pant (wk), Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Ravi Bishnoi, Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar, Mohd. Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel, Ruturaj Gaikwad & Deepak Hooda.

The Portugal international has now scored in 18 different league games since joining in 2020 for around USD50 million from Wolverhampton,

The first against Leicester came in the 24th minute with a closerange strike after Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel parried Diogo Jota (C) reacts after scoring one of his goals, while Leicester players look disappointed during the Premier League match, Thursday

Virgil Van Dijk's header. The second from Jota in the 87th was a smart shot on the turn under Schmeichel

Liverpool still have a tough task catching City with 15 games to go. **ARSENAL FINALLY SCRIPT WIN**

After 46 days, Arsenal was finally

victorious again. Gabriel poked in a goal in the 25th to clinch a 1-0 victory at Wolverhampton, although the Gunners had to hang on for a first win since Dec. 26 with 10 men after another needless sending off.

Gabriel Martinelli was sent off for two vellow cards within sec-

Wolves could not take advantage, though, and lost ground on Arsenal, which climbed to fifth to improve its chances of a top-four finish and a return to the Champions League.

The goal came when Wolves failed to clear Martinelli's corner and Ben White headed back across goal toward Alexandre Lacazette, who collided with goalkeeper Jose Sa but did enough to deflect the ball toward Gabriel, who scored his third goal of the campaign from five vards.

Players set to hit pay dirt like never before Pranavi wins first leg of WPGT meet Dashing batters Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan as well as the multi-skilled Shardul Thakur and Deepak



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Feb 11: Mysuru teenager Pranavi Urs ended her 13-month title drought and signalled a full return from her wrist injury as she claimed the first leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here Friday

The 18-year-old had a birdie on the first play-off hole against Gaurika Bishnoi, who had held the lead for the first two days at the Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club. Amateur Sneha Singh (70) was sole third at 2-under 214, while Jahanvi Bakshi (69) rose to fourth at 1-under 215. Durga Nittur (69), who had the day's best round along with Jahanvi, was fifth at 2-over 218.

It was the fifth win on Hero WPGT Tour for Pranavi, who has been playing alongside the pros even while being an amateur.

Her first two wins on the Tour came as an amateur in 2018 and in 2020. She turned pro the week after her second win as an amateur and immediately won her first start as a pro. In 2021, she won the second leg and was then injured and did not perform up to her expectations. Now fully fit, she is off to a fine start on the domestic Tour.

Nayanika Sanga (73) and Hitaashee Bakshi (75) were tied sixth, while Jasmine Shekar (73) was eighth. Ridhima Dilawari (74), unable to break par on any of the three days, was ninth, while Neha Tripathi (71) and Seher Atwal (73) were tied for tenth.

With the opening win, Pranavi took early lead in the Hero Order of Merit.

Chahar are expected to laugh their way to the bank as few of the costliest buys in the history of IPL when the last mega-auction commences Saturday. The 15th IPL auction is the last mega event as the BCCI is planning to do away with the concept as most franchises don't want their stable core to be tinkered with. The PTI gives you a list of lowdown of ready references for Saturday's auction...

BIDDING PROCESS: Feb 12: 161 players; Feb 13: Accelerated process (franchises put up a common wish-list of players they want auctioned)

RIGHT TO MATCH CARDS (RTM): NO RTM Cards available

CONCEPT OF SILENT TIE-BREAKER: When two teams are tied and exhausted all their purse trying to bid for a player, they can submit a final closed bid amount and the one who's bid more will get the player. The extra amount bid is to be deposited with BCCI and will not be part of ₹90 cr purse. Process can be repeated till a clear winner emerges

TOTAL PURSE: ₹90 crore per franchise MIN SPENDING AMOUNT: ₹67.5 crore

SQUAD STRENGTH: Minimum: 18; Maximum: 25 DISTRIBUTION: 229 capped (Int'l), 354 uncapped (domestic), 7 from ICC Associate nations



PURSE LEFT AUCTION: Imran Tahir DC (₹47.5 Cr), MI (₹48 Cr), CSK (South Africa) at 43 years (₹48 Cr), KKR (₹48 Cr), Gujarat (₹52 Cr), RCB (₹57 Cr), **YOUNGEST PLAYER AT** Lucknow (₹59 Cr), RR (₹62 Cr), AUCTION: Noor Ahmed SRH (₹68 Cr), PBKS (₹72 Cr) (Afghanistan) at 17 years

MAJOR PLAYERS RETAINED

MS Dhoni (CSK), Virat Kohli (RCB), Rohit Sharma (MI), KL Rahul (Lucknow), Jasprit Bumrah (MI), Hardik Pandya (Gujarat), Rashid Khan (Gujarat), Kieron Pollard (MI), Ravindra Jadeja (CSK)

PLAYERS LIKELY TO ATTRACT BIG BIDS

Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar, Shikhar Dhawan, Devdutt Padikkal, Deepak Hooda

SENIORS LIKELY TO ATTRACT DECENT BIDS

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Dinesh Karthik, Ambati Rayudu, Robin Uthappa, R Ashwin, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami

CAPPED/UNCAPPED INDIAN PLAYERS LIKELY TO ATTRACT BIG BIDS

Shahrukh Khan, R Sai Kishore, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathi, Rahul Chahar, Rinku Singh

LIKELY BIG FOREIGN BUYS

David Warner, Quinton de Kock, Kagiso Rabada, Jason Holder, Jonny Bairstow

U-19 TOP PERFORMERS

Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Raj Bawa, Vicky Ostwal, Yash Dhull

DOMESTIC INDIAN PERFORMERS

Yash Thakur, Abhinav Manohar, Mujtaba Yousuf, Mayank Yadav, Ritwick Roy Chowdhury, Abhishek Sharma.

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