



UNIQUE DESIRE

Actor Shruti Haasan says she likes to preserve some traits of her characters as a souvenir

LEISURE P2



'INVASION AT ANY TIME'

Russia is massing yet more troops near Ukraine and an invasion could come at any time, says US Secretary of State

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA WHITEWASH WI

Shreyas Iyer's sensible knock and a combined bowling effort help India whitewash Windies in the 3-match ODI series

SPORTS P12

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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 Batakushna Mishra did not divulge details about the chargesheet.



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 e-auction, 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.

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UP IN FLAMES



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

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 formation 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-



'Poor coordination between ministries'

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 resolution 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.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	58152.92 ↓ 773.11
NIFTY	17374.80 ↓ 231.00
DOLLAR	75.93 ↑ ₹0.30
EURO	85.91 ↑ ₹0.05
GOLD	₹48,832 ↓ ₹123
SILVER	₹62,547 ↓ ₹719

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	27.8°C	28.0°C
TEMP MIN	18.0°C	18.0°C
Humidity	86%	86%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Dry weather very likely

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'

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 Udipi, 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 Udipi 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.

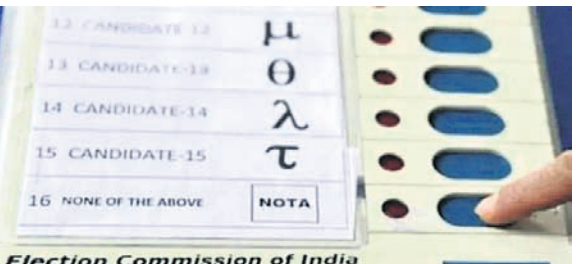
When told that pure legal questions have emerged from the high court order, the bench said it will definitely examine if something has gone wrong.

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.



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.

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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 Ganesh 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 Ganesh. 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 spur you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesh.

CANCER
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. Ganesh 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 Ganesh.

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

LIBRA
Ganesh 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 regarding certain matters at the work-front. You should take decisions regarding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.

SCORPIO
Thank Ganesh 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 or listening to soft music.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesh 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 work out, 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.

AQUARIUS
Travelling is on the cards for you today. Ganesh 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 enjoyment in that, too.

PISCES
Your planetary configuration not being favorable, you 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.



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.

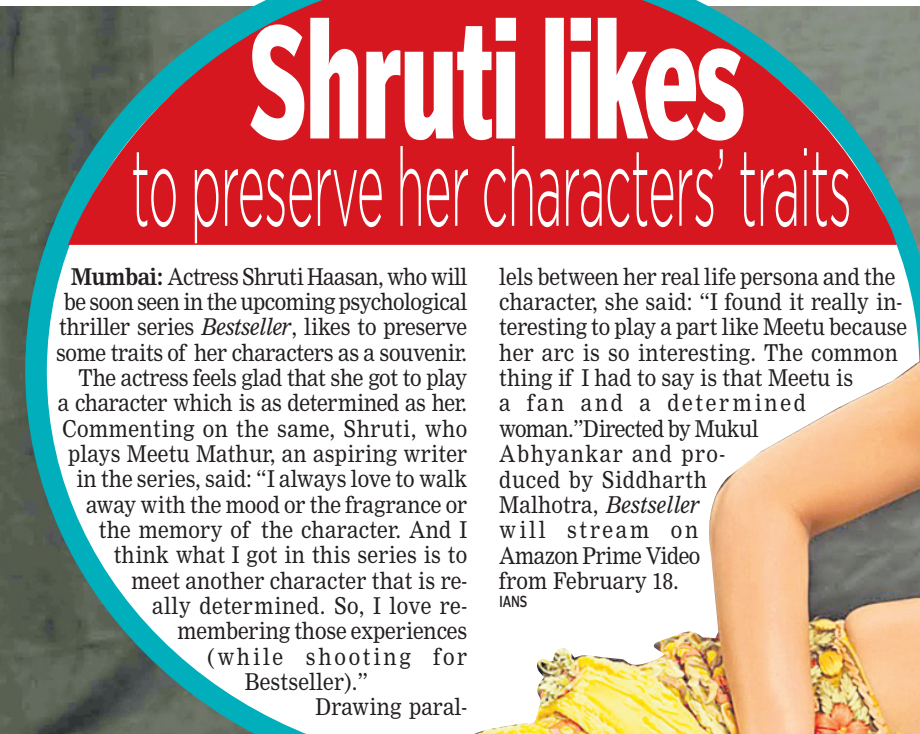
CATE BLANCHETT TO STAR IN, PRODUCE THE NEW BOY

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.



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 burqa 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 Udipi objected to not being allowed in classes for wearing the hijab. IANS



Shruti likes to 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 paral-

els 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. IANS



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

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



Film Review

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-

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

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 Mein* director passed away at his residence at 3:45 am Friday. His daughter, who will next be seen in *KGF: Chapter 2*, shared the news on social media. 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*, *Majboor*, *Khudaar* and *Zindagi*. Tandon was born in a Punjabi family in Agra. The reason for his demise is still unknown; more details are awaited. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

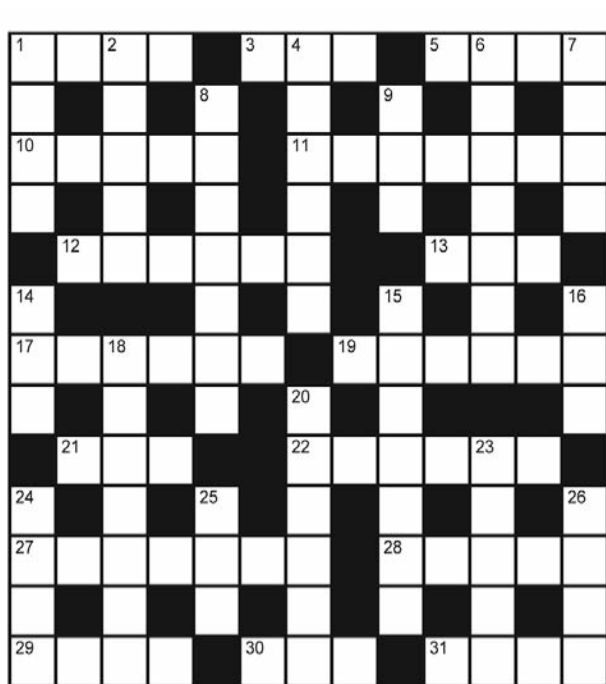


BREVITY



FUN post

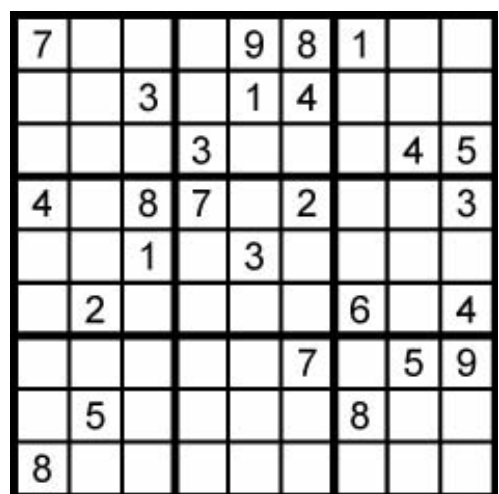
CROSSWORD



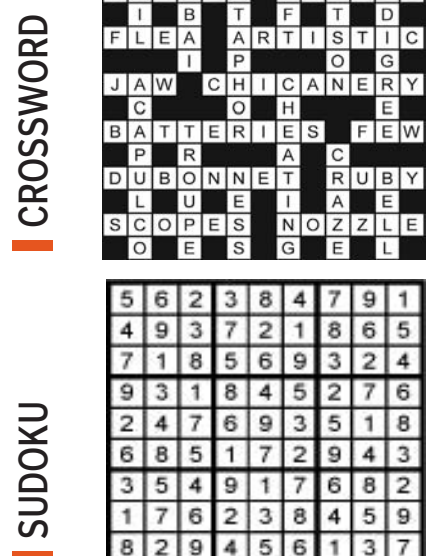
- Across**
- 1 Extinct bird
 - 3 Kind of cabin
 - 5 Like a stuffed shirt
 - 10 Trend
 - 11 Hot sauce
 - 12 Sushi condiment
 - 13 ___ de cologne
 - 17 Often-unpaid worker
 - 19 Organ stop
 - 21 Swelter
 - 22 Virago
- Down**
- 1 Honkytonk
 - 2 Words to live by
 - 4 Clothing ensemble
 - 6 War paint
 - 7 Foul-up
 - 8 Auto expense
 - 9 Samurai's sash
 - 14 Headlight setting
 - 15 Full of fight
 - 16 Darjeeling or oolong
 - 18 Despots
 - 20 Napoleon locale
 - 23 Gibson garnish
 - 24 Martial art
 - 25 Pendulum's path
 - 26 Sleeveless garment

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.



SOLUTIONS



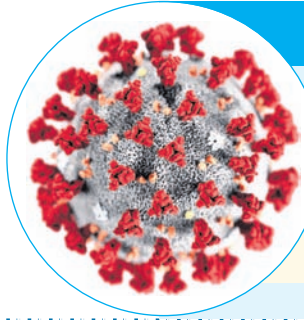
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DRAMA SHOW

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



COVID-19 TRACKER

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

Omicron replaces Delta as dominant Cov strain

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.

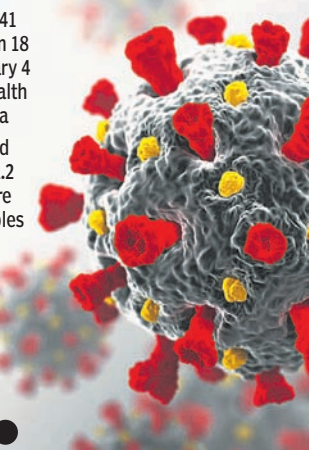
Districts from where samples were collected included those like Khurda, Sundargarh and Cuttack, which have reported over 500 cases daily for nearly a month.

As many as 13 out of 14 sam-

■ 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 variant. All 30 samples from Cuttack were found to be Omicron. Out of the 49 samples 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 four-fold in a month



ples received from Angul were found with Omicron BA.2 variant. Similarly, all 30 samples received from Cuttack district were found to be Omicron. Out of the 49 samples from Khurda, 45 were tested with Omicron.

Apart from Khurda, Nayagah and Puri district have recorded two non-Omicron cases. All 47 samples 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 undergoing genome sequencing January 10 had tested positive for the Omicron strain, which means it has increased 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.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, recorded the highest number of new cases at 233. Four patients, including a six-year-old boy, succumbed to the infection in Jajpur, while Bhubaneswar, Balasore and Kendrapara recorded three fatalities 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. Fifty-three patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it added.



TRYST WITH HISTORY

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 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 fauna as well as temples and other historical and architectural excellence.

"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 which is an important site for conservation of wildlife like leopard, Indian Gaur, and four-horned antelope, are all located in western Odisha," he said.

The BJD MP further said places like Buddhist shrine in Boudh district, ancient engravings at Bhim Mandali in Rairakhol, Ushakothi in Badrama wildlife sanctuary, Gudguda waterfall in Sambalpur district, Deuljhari hot spring in Athmallik, Harishankar temple and waterfall in Bolangir district, Papanga Hills in Bargarh district have immense architectural and



The leaning temple on the bank of Mahanadi river at Huma in Sambalpur

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 | BJD MP

Centre urged to open PMAY-G portal

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

The BJD MP said the state government has requested the Centre to open the Aawas portal for a month to include over 6 lakh left out beneficiaries in the PMAY (G).

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, affected by cyclonic storm Fani in



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 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.

tation with the Odisha government, for all-round development and protection of these places," he said.

Former legislator Roshni Singh Deo passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

Singh Deo died at the residence of her son Pushpendra Singh Deo, a BJD leader and former minister. She was twice 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.

Puri admin gears up for President's visit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Feb 11: The district administration is gearing up for the two-day visit of President Ram Nath Kovind to the Holy City here, starting February 19.

The President is scheduled to visit Srimandir and participate in an event at Sri Chaitanya Gaudiya mutt in the city here.

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 Saradhahali. He will

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 March 22, 2021.

Inspector General of police (central range) Narasingha Bhol Friday reviewed the security arrangements for the President's visit. Bhol visited Srimandir, Sri Chaitanya Gaudiya mutt and Saradhahali 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.

'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 Himalayan 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 climate-sensitive, 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 Aryabhata 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



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

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.

A recent study has showed that precipitable water vapour exhibits a positive radiative effect at the top of the atmosphere in high-altitude remote locations in the order of about 10 watts per square metre at Nainital and 7.4 watts per square metre at Hanle

It highlighted 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.

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



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

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POSSESSION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Regional Office : 41, Shakespeare Sarani, 1st. Floor, Duckback House, Kolkata - 700 017

APPENDIX - IV, [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower (s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of PCHFL for an amount, as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

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, Tahasil - 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 & Krupindhu Tanga	All that piece and parcel of the property being No : Khata No. 10, 18, 5, 7/343, Plot No. 2774, Mouza - Dandamkundapur, 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

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

OUAT asst prof found dead

'Focus on students in tribal belt'

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

■ 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

all round development of students with academics, digital technology and sports being in the forefront. Sethi also instructed to pay 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

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.

Bhubaneswar, Feb 11: The Mo School campaign has formed 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."

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

The deceased lady's family alleged that the couple used to often engage in quarrel 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

However, her family members have not filed any complaint against Das alleging any foul play



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

an eight year relationship in 2012. Das, along with his son and a 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 jumping off boundary wall.

"I climbed the boundary wall 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.

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 marital 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: 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 yet 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.

BOOST TO EDU



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

33RD FOUNDATION DAY OF ILS BHUBANESWAR

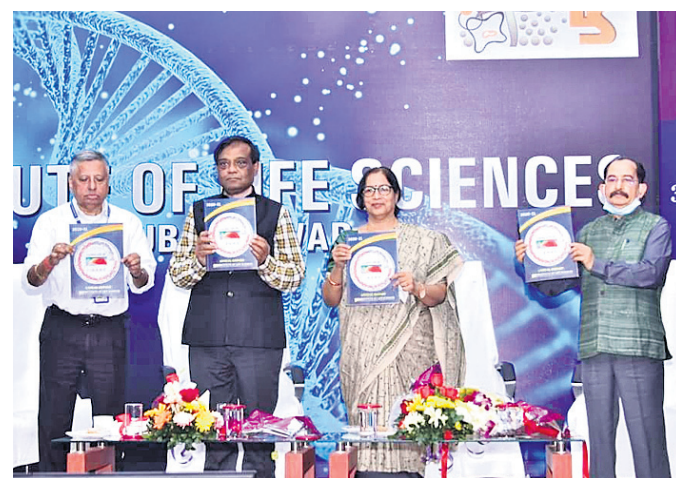
Experts all praise for Cov war, research output

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 immunogenetics 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.

Utkal University VC Sabita Acharya briefed the gathering over the ongoing collaborative efforts between ILS and the uni-

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 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.

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.

Carbon removal capacity of NE India forests may reduce

A multi-year study from north-eastern 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 sophisticated 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 weakens

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



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

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

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.

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The IITM scientists also analysed

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

isotopic and other means of investigation, the IITM scientists observed a strong link between the hydrological and carbon cycles, which may be unique to the Kaziranga ecosystem, the release added.

The changing climatic condition under global warming scenarios is a cause of worry. "Analysis of the rainfall data shows that rainfall in this region has decreased for 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. IANS

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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...

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

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.

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.

- The proposal for establishment of an oil refinery was first mentioned in the 2017-18 budget of the NDA government. The project stirred hopes among the locals as it would create employment opportunities for over scores of people.

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 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 refinery 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 annually.

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.

CROWD-PULLER



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

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur/Balasure/Bolangir, Feb 11: Hundreds of investors who have lost their hard-earned savings deposited in various chit fund companies staged agitations Friday in Ganjam, Bolangir and Balasure districts.

The protestors demanded quick investigations into the fraud cases 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.

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 Balasure are still waiting even



CHIT FUND SCAMS

staged protests in front of Balasure 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 Balasure are still waiting even

though chit fund companies where they had deposited their money had closed years back.

The Odisha government had earlier promised to identify the victims and return the money. However, the government seems to have forgotten the promise, the depositors alleged.

They agitators said they had invested their hard-earned money in several companies which ditched them. It was alleged that many vic-

PONZI FIRM OWNER NABBED

Berhampur: Berhampur Town police arrested the owner of a ponzi company here Friday after an arrest warrant was issued against Jitendra Kumar Mishra, 46. A resident of Ganesh Nagar locality here, Jitendra owned a company by the name of 'Green India'. Police said that four warrants were issued against him. He was forwarded to court, said ASI Surya Chandra Padhi. 'Green India' allegedly defrauded crores of rupees from people through lucrative schemes. A large number of depositors had filed complaints against Mishra at different police stations.

tims are yet to be identified by the government. They appealed to the government to take necessary steps for return of their money at the earliest.

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 Rudrapur Baliaanta area, a flat at Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, a house in his native village Redhua, his relatives' houses at Jadatira in Jagatsinghpur, his official residence at Sundargarh town and his

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 Baliaanta in Bhubaneswar.

AWARENESS DRIVE



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

DGP reviews poll preparations in Koraput, Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput/Malkangiri, Feb 11: DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal said Friday that helicopters and drones will be used to ensure peaceful elections in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district.

It should be stated here that in the last 10 years, elections could not 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.

During his visit to Koraput and Malkangiri districts, Bansal took stock of the administration's preparations for the upcoming panchayat 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.



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.

NEET ASPIRANT GOES MISSING IN BERHAMPUR

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, Friday.

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.

EGG ATTACK ON NABARANGPUR MP

Locals gherao PS for release of accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur/Jhargana, Feb 11: Police arrested Friday 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 Jhargana 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 Jhargana 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 Jhargana 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 at the gathering: "If you vote for other candidates, you should not come to me with complaints about PDS rice, Indira Awas, roads and cowsheds."

LACK OF MOTORABLE ROADS IN KENDRAPARA DISTRICT

Tents as makeshift poll booths

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



FILE PHOTO

Poll officials have no way but to walk to some of the booths, because vehicles cannot access those areas due to the lack of proper roads

to conduct the election. Among them 19 are tents.

Five such makeshift booths will be set up in Marshaghai as well as in Rajnagar blocks; 17 in Sadar block and six in Garadpur block.

"At some places, boats will be used to transport the polling staff," District Collector Amrut Rutaraj said. Officials also said that the administration has identified 1,575 booths as sensitive in the district where security was beefed up.

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 Chandabansamuli 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.



EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 36/ET/SBP/ENGG/2021-22 Dtd.: 09.02.2022 (1) e-Tender No. 35-eT-DENC-SBP-21 Name of work: MISCELLANEOUS PWAY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS IN SARLA (EX) - DUNGRIALI (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, EMD: ₹ 2,13,700/-

FOCUS UNION BUDGET

NOTHING FOR ENVIRONMENT



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

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 efficiency 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 relentless 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 measures 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.
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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 ex-

ample 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

Although the last year was 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 seven-minute 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 compared 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 year 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



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

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



Oil Sector Worried

Former 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 intention 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

WISDOM CORNER

- There is nothing impossible to him who will try. ALEXANDER THE GREAT
- Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world. DESMOND TUTU
- It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light. ARISTOTLE ONASSIS

WORDSWORTH

■ Abracadabra

These 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 kehadraba, 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 abbadra 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 (Abrasax 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

A man jumps out of an airplane with a 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



down. The wind is ripping past his face, he's 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?!"

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Which infrastructure?

The budget has laid considerable 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 will 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, may, 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 pro-poor 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 Incentives.

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



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

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

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

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

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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of the day quote

The days of divisive and issue-less politics are over in western Uttar Pradesh

RAKESH TIKAIT | Biju LEADER

Lata Mangeshkar ji, who has her ancestral home in Goa, was a devotee of Lord Ram and sang many devotional songs praising him. A roundabout will be named after her in Ayodhya. This is the unity of India

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Did we ever demand proof from Rahul Gandhi of being Rajiv Gandhi's son?

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

1st part of Budget Session concludes

New Delhi: The first part of the Budget Session of Parliament concluded Friday after debates on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address and the General Budget.

Panic grips Jammu after explosion

Jammu: An inflammable material exploded at a locality here Friday, triggering panic among the residents, police said.

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.

TMC, I-PAC relation touches rock bottom

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Feb 11: Though the Trinamool Congress is yet to sever ties with I-PAC, the election management team hired by the party 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 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

behalf of one or two persons.

Party leaders say I-PAC's introduction 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



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.

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 Banerjee 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

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



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 George Fernandes as great socialist leaders.

"What can I do if Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not have a child. Everyone 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."

Skin-to-skin verdict judge Pushpa Ganediwala quits

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.

DEMANDING RIGHTS



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

PTI PHOTO

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) protesters 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

to the law laid down by the apex 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).

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.

4 DEAD, SEARCH ON FOR OTHERS

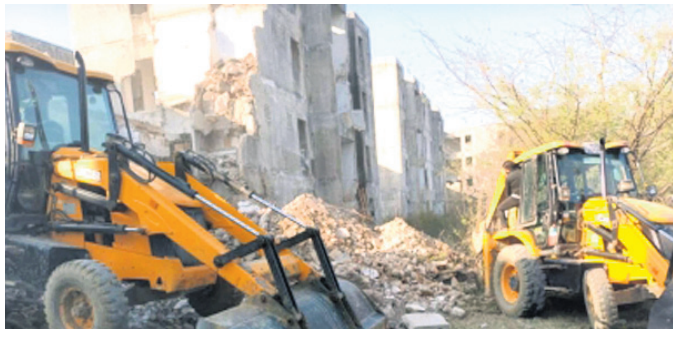
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 hospital 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 Urgan 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.



Chodon 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.

Advertisement for tender call notice for disposal of EMAS Ambulances (108) from Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer cum District Mission Director, NHM, Subarnapur.

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

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 years 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 Rampur

come out of jail. This is the new India of the BJP," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister added.

"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

out," he said. Khan got the Jauhar University built in Rampur. He is currently lodged in the Sitapur jail on 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.

"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 results were out by yesterday evening. "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 Rampur.

"BJP leaders lie a lot. The first time they had lied was during demonetisation, when they had said the move will curtail corruption. Corruption could not be curtailed, but it doubled during the double-engine government," he said in a reference 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.

BJP leaders lie a lot. The first time they had lied was during demonetisation, when they had said the move will curtail corruption. Corruption could not be curtailed, but it doubled during the double-engine government

AKHILESH YADAV
SP PRESIDENT

Lieutenant Governor 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-its-kind in the country.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the Quick Response Code-based mechanism for labelling of the carpets in the Union Territory. With the QR-based 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 hand-icraft 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

The case relates to an infant from Rae Bareilly who fell from the rooftop and developed a head injury in January 2020

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 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.



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

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 Mayawati 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 PL. 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.

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 circular issued here.

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.

According to official statement, the virtual MoC signing ceremony was presided over by Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Sinha, on the occasion, said that the overarching objective of the MoC is to improve farmers' remuneration, transfer of technology, marketing & value addition of sheep products of J&K.

The MoC was signed by Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal

Secretary to J&K Government, 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 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

MANOJ SINHA | LT GOVERNOR, J&K

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 Chaturvedi, Secretary, 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 of livestock products like wool for adding value to farmers' produce.

business

of the day quote

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

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

Life Insurance Corporation of India has the potential to become the biggest stock in the Indian markets

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.

Oil India profit jumps 37% in Q3

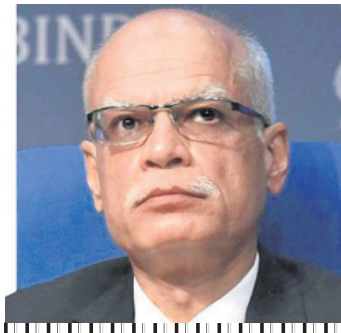
New Delhi: State-owned Oil India Ltd Friday reported 37 per cent jump in third quarter net profit as it benefitted from a rise in international oil prices.

Chandrasekaran gets extension

New Delhi: N Chandrasekaran was Friday reappointed as the chairman of Tata Sons - the holding company of the salt-to-software Tata Group - for a second five-year term.

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 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.



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

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 discussion 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.

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.

son, and whenever demand comes, it is funded, the minister noted.

She said ₹73,000 crore is provided for rural employment guarantee scheme MNRREGA and will give more if demand comes. Fertiliser subsidy rose from the

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

FM pointed out that retail inflation was 9.1 per cent during the financial crisis of 2008-09

Size of the economy has grown from ₹110 lakh crore 7 years ago to ₹232 lakh crore, she said

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.

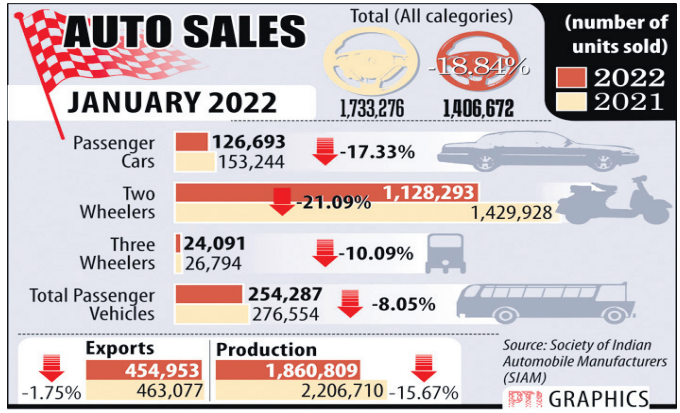
Replying to the opposition charge that small businesses were shuttered, she stated that 67 per cent of MSMEs were temporarily shut due to the lockdown. India has witnessed breaching the 6 per cent tolerance limit for inflation on 6 occasions since 2014.

'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.

CHIP CRUNCH CONTINUES

PV sales dip 8% in Jan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

11,28,293 units from 14,29,928 units in the year-ago period.

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.

Similarly, three wheeler wholesales dropped to 24,091 units last month as against 26,794 units in January 2021.

Last month, passenger car dispatches stood at 1,26,693 units as compared to 1,53,244 units in the year-ago period.

Last month Maruti Suzuki dispatched 1,28,924 units as compared to 1,39,002 units in January.

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.

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.

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.

US inflation sings D-street

Bangalore, Feb 11: Indian shares ended sharply lower Friday, dragged by worries of more foreign outflows after red-hot US inflation data increased 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.

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



Table listing Top Gainers and Top Losers for the BSE and NSE indices.

Foreign investors have sold a net \$5.58 billion in Indian equities so far this year, Refinitiv data showed, compared with a net purchase of \$5.06 billion in the same period last year.

In Mumbai trading, the Nifty IT index was the top loser among sub-indexes, falling 2.7%.

Among individual stocks, staffing service provider Quess Corp rose as much as 9.7% after a jump in quarterly profit.

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.

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.

Such frauds, while not unique to crypto, netted \$7 billion for scammers in 2019 but dropped massively the following year.

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.

Chainalysis reported that over-all crime related to crypto fell hugely last year.

"As soon as the stolen bitcoins start moving again, everyone knows," he says. "Now, almost no company will deal with bitcoins that have been stolen."



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.

Stanford, author of "Crypto Wars: Faked Deaths, Missing Billions & Industry Disruption".

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

