

## AUDACIOUS ALIA

Actor Alia Bhatt says that she is ready to face whatever lies ahead of her in 2021

LEISURE P8

## AADHAAR MUST FOR PENSION

Odisha decides to make Aadhaar mandatory to avail benefits under social security schemes from Feb

DOWNTOWN P4

## PAK TEMPLE ATTACK

Over 30 people were arrested after a Hindu temple was vandalised and set afire by a mob in Pakistan

INTERNATIONAL P9

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



There is no New Year party here. No crowd! I am just watching a news debate.

Wishing our readers  
**A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2021**  
—EDITOR

## Justice S Muralidhar new Orissa HC Chief Justice

**New Delhi:** President Ram Nath Kovind Thursday appointed Justice S Muralidhar, judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court, as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, the President is pleased to appoint Dr Justice S Muralidhar, judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court, to be the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office. **P7**

## OHRC summons DCP (traffic)

**Bhubaneswar:** A livid Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has summoned the Deputy Commissioner of Police (traffic) to depose personally as she failed to appear commission despite notice. On 29 December, the Commission issued the summons while hearing a plea related to traffic mismanagement in the Bhubaneswar and Cuttack twin cities filed by one Siba Shankar Dash from Cuttack. The commission has asked the DCP (traffic) for the twin city, Soumya Mishra to appear before it January 11, 2021. The DCP was also summoned to help in disposing of the matter December 7.

## 4 killed as SUV turns turtle

**Keonjhar:** In a tragic incident, four persons were killed and four others injured after a SUV in which they were travelling overturned at Somagiri under Pandapada police limits in the district late Wednesday night. The SUV carrying 11 persons was coming to Jirang near Harichandanpur and lost control and rammed into a road side tree before skidding 10ft off the road. Of the 11 persons, four died on the spot while four others sustained critical injuries. The identity of the deceased persons is yet to be ascertained.

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX			VARIATION
SENSEX	47751.33	▲	5.11
NIFTY	13981.80	▼	0.20
DOLLAR	73.46	▼	₹0.13
EURO	89.71	▼	₹0.19
GOLD	₹50,184	▲	₹49
SILVER	₹68,600	▼	₹14

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
TEMP	28.2°C	27.8°C	
MIN	13.8°C	12.8°C	
Humidity	89%	76%	Fog/mist in the morning
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	

# ₹3,500 cr for SCB modernisation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 31:** The state government has decided to invest ₹3,500 crore for the modernisation and makeover of Cuttack-based SCB Medical College and Hospital and develop it into an AIIMS Plus institution. The premier institute will have an integrated ultra-modern health system over the next three years. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday reviewed the progress made on the modernisation of the institution and set January 1, 2024 for inauguration of the project. The decision to invest such a huge amount came a day after the Union Cabinet approved ₹3,000 crore to turn Paradip Port into world class by setting up a dock. According to a press statement issued by the CMO, the project will be undertaken under 5T initiative of the state government and make SCBMCH a world-class institution. Ticketed as biggest medical institution project in government sector



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

THE REDEVELOPED MEDICAL COLLEGE WILL HAVE 5,000 BEDS COVERING AN AREA OF 175 ACRES

THE RENOVATED SCB CAMPUS WILL BE INAUGURATED JANUARY 1, 2024

in the country, the hospital project with 5,000 beds will come up over an area of 175 acres. Initially, the hospital will be converted into a 3,500-bedded healthcare institution and later another 1,500 beds will be added. The government also has plans to construct 1,280 staff quar-

ters for the employees and hostels for more than 2,200 medical students of SCBMCH. In addition, the project will introduce best-in-class technologies in the field of medical education, research and healthcare, and make the medical college ready to address the chal-

lenges of future. Besides, the institution will have all modern facilities like playground, parking facility, open landscape space, five entry points, robust circular plan, transport facilities, restaurants and commercial centres. During the review meeting, Naveen directed the officials to form an independent managing committee for the new SCB Medical College and Hospital. The Chief Minister is himself monitoring the project. He hoped that SCB Medical College and Hospital would among the best three health institutions of the country. In 1944, the SCB Medical College and Hospital was established in Cuttack and it has been providing healthcare services to patients from different states in the eastern region. Among others, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy, Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Additional Chief Secretary Pradipta Mohapatra and CM's 5T Secretary VK Pandian were present. Works secretary Kishan Kumar presented the details of the project.



Children play badminton as the sun sets for the last time in 2020 in the backdrop of Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

## Odisha hockey great Kindo passes away

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Dec 31:** Former India international and Odisha hockey great Michael Kindo breathed his last Thursday due to age-related ailments at a hospital here. He was 73 and is survived by his wife, son and two daughters. He became a legend after winning the bronze medal in the 1972 Summer Olympics. Three years later, he became a World Champion with India after winning the 1975 World Cup. Kindo was bestowed with the Arjuna Award in 1972. Kindo's last rites will be completed at Hamirpur Church, Friday. **MORE P11**



## We 'may' have a Happy New Year



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 31:** India is likely to have a Covid-19 vaccine in the New Year, Drug Controller General of India VG Somani hinted Thursday. Speaking at a webinar, Somani said the most important thing is that the industry and research organisations have stood the test of time. He said vaccine candidates have got the funding and also talked about the efforts made by the Department of Biotechnology. "...and probably we will have a very happy New Year with something in hand. That's what I can hint at," Somnai said. The Serum Institute of India, Bharat Biotech and Pfizer have applied to the DCGI seeking emergency use authorisation for their Covid-19 vaccine candidates and are awaiting approval. Somani said the approval process was fast-tracked in view of the pandemic by quickly processing all applications, allowing parallel phase 1 and 2 trials without waiting for complete data. "There has been no compromise on the safety or efficacy of the data. The only thing is that the regulator has accepted partial data," he said. An expert panel in the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) that met Wednesday to consider emergency use authorisation applications by SII for the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine and Bharat Biotech's 'Covaxin' will reconvene January 1 to further deliberate on the matter. Meanwhile, a dry run for Covid vaccine will be held in all states January 2, the government said as authorities hinted that approval for a vaccine could be around the corner. The Union Health Secretary Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with all states and Union Territories. This is the second dry run being conducted in the country -- the first was held December 28 and 29 in four states and had gone off without a hitch, the health ministry said. The dry run will happen at selective places in each state, sources said. The process, in which participants receive dummy Covid vaccines, is meant to test the mechanisms and reveal possible gaps in the system ahead of the actual vaccination drive.

## China deploying drones in Indian Ocean

DEFENCE ANALYST HI SUTTON WRITES IN FORBES THAT THESE UNDERWATER DRONES ARE EMPOWERED WITH LARGE WINGS TO GLIDE FOR LONG PERIODS

AGENCIES

**New Jersey, Dec 31:** If defence analyst HI Sutton is to be believed, China has deployed a fleet of underwater drones called Sea Wing (Haiyi) glider in the Indian Ocean, which can operate for months on end and make observations for naval intelligence purposes. An article by Sutton in the Forbes magazine says that these sea gliders, which the Chinese are deploying "en masse", are a type of Uncrewed



Underwater Vehicle (UUV) launched in mid-December 2019 and recovered in February after making over 3,400 obser-

vations. These gliders are similar to those deployed by the US Navy, one of which was seized by Beijing in 2016 to ensure

"safe navigation of passing ships", Sutton wrote citing government source. "Taken at face value, it may be surprising that China is now deploying these types of UUV en masse in the Indian Ocean. China has also deployed the Sea Wing from an ice breaker in the Arctic," the defence analyst wrote. Reports from December 2019 hinted that 14 such drone would be employed in the Indian Ocean mission but only 12 were used, Bloomberg quoted Sutton

as stating in his report. He said that these gliders are unpowered with large wings to glide that can run for long periods of time, adding that they are not fast or agile. However, they are employed for long-range missions. Furthermore, the defence analyst said these Chinese gliders that are placed in the Indian Ocean were reportedly gathering oceanography data, which "sounds innocuous," however, is commonly gathered for naval intelligence purposes."



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# WHAT 2021 HAS IN STORE FOR YOU

## OrissaPOST

FRIDAY | JANUARY 1 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR


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### Aries

21st March to 20th April

As per the Vedic Astrology analysis, the year is expected to start on a positive note with many surprises. During the mid-part of the year, certain planetary positions may bring challenging and fresh professional opportunities at the career front. It is suggested to keep control of your negative emotions during this phase. In the latter half of the year, there may be some professional growth. But it is advisable to keep control of your temper. Otherwise, it may affect your relationship. With the arrival of New Year, your financial status may experience good growth. It is a favourable time for the long-time investment, but be careful about the greedy scheme as it may lure you. It is advised to stay away from any kind of risk-taking scheme in the share market this year. As the year will end, you may find some good opportunities for financial growth. As far as your love life is concerned, you may be blessed with some positive cosmic events, but it is suggested to have your focus on enjoying rather than expecting. This year, you can expect great support and love from your partner. However, someday you may feel low in intimacy, but remember, it is just for a temporary period. studies, or you may face some mental pressure also.



### Taurus

21st April to 21st May

As per the Vedic astrological analysis, the period would remain supportive of your professional life. You may expect growth in knowledge and personality. You may find creative ways to accomplish your project and see benefits regarding all your undertakings. Some days you may feel sluggish, but overall, the period would keep you in a happy mood which only enhances your performance. The later year, the planetary situation would support your career growth, and you may also be confident about your ability to earn. Regarding your financial segment, the year would be satisfactory and receive plenty of opportunities. Expenses may increase social commitments. But as the year progresses, you may see growth in fortune and wealth. The mid-year 2021, is good for long-term investment and for implementing your economic plans. By mid-September, you may take your financial status to new heights with a crucial plan and a new way of thinking. But, it is advised to just relax. This year, your supportive destiny would bring positive results in your love and relationship. It may be a decisive year when it comes to your relationship status. You may experience everything new in your love life. Over expectation may hurt, and your harsh words create harm in your love life.



### Gemini

22nd May to 21st June

As per the Vedic Astrological analysis, with the back of the Luck, the year would be happy and with minimum obstacles for natives. You would readily put an end to all the old issues and start refreshing. This may be the year where many of your planning would see a new light if timely executed. So fasten your seat belt for a much much better ride of 2021. Regarding the financial segment, you may witness a rise in your income. Income undertaken on the chance of success would be rewarding. Going for a long-term investment proves favourable. However, it is suggested to take expert advice before taking any risk. This may help optimize the gain. For romantic relationships, the year would be good. Singles may encounter someone special. The aspect of Jupiter on Libra would be rewarding. Libra in the house of romance for Gemini may prove auspicious. Thus, the year is good for natives already in a relationship. The duo finally decides to settle down in a married relationship. Regarding your education, the year is favourable. Students may feel highly enthusiastic and energetic to learn new subjects. Saturn in the house of Capricorn would insist you to learn a new practical course. Jupiter may improve your theoretical concept. So, overall, the period would be wonderful for the Gemini natives.



### Cancer

22nd June to 22nd July

For Cancer native, the year might be slightly challenging because of Jupiter in Capricorn which is notorious for prompting challenges and difficulties. But Saturn is known for rewarding hard work, so all the natives may be able to get through this and change fortune for better. At the same time, Jupiter in Aquarius which is known for curbing impediment, may also not be able to put a complete pause to the obstacles. Thanks to the Jupiter transit in Leo which may be the reason you would see a continued rise in income in the initial year. You may see an improvement in the cash balance, that would enable your fortune to change. However, Saturn in Capricorn may double your expenditure. Also, you may see a spike in expenditure just because of the transition of Jupiter in Aquarius. so, it is advised to be a little careful and don't rush to the temptation. Considering the personal and romantic life, you may see some challenges due to misunderstanding and also may be the reason for fighting. Saturn dwelling in the house of a partner and loving may cause misunderstanding and lead to fights and personal clash. You are advised not to be firm and harsh upon your point of view. As far as the academic area is concerned, the year may demand a lot of efforts.



### Leo

23rd July to 22nd August

This may be the year when your opinion towards your decision would be strong. This may cause you to make radical decisions. Inflexibility and stubbornness may ask for your attention. You may experience a deep emotional attachment with your beloved. You may be in sync with your roots and families values. Those who love may appreciate your efforts, but there may be some who may envy your position and may want to tarnish your image. Just Be aware of the desire to learn as it may expand your horizon of knowledge. Regarding your communication, you would be effective. Your logical and analytical abilities will flourish. You are likely to join communities, forums and other social networks. If you have been ignoring something related to your career, then it is advised you to confront such issues. This year you may witness an increase in a temptation to buy comforts. So, it is suggested to not make such mistakes. If you cross your limits, it may be difficult for you to tackle such pressure. Here, you need to follow a very clear path as there may be a tendency to make a quick decision which may lead to confusion. You may find yourself in trouble by different areas in your life which would require you to be on your toes. At times vitality may be below.



### Virgo

23rd August to 22nd September

The period is good for the natives. You may experience a thrilling positive development in your life. Creativity and enthusiasm will flow in whatever you touch. You may see your life moving in the right direction, so it becomes necessary for you to know what you are into and what is expected out of it. Figuring out the value and responding to the opportunity promptly can be mandatory. It may prevent you from missing the boat. In the middle part of the year, new pressure may grasp your personality and resources. Just make sure you don't lose your confidence while making a fresh move. You are likely to feel a new kind of pressure to create new ideas and witness a tremendous flow of creativity. You may also feel some unusual pressure to structure your life. You may gain a great depth of understanding and experience which would make you make some wise decisions. Perseverance and hard work may be your greatest tool this year to overcome failures. At times you may prefer an isolated place and think deeply about various issues of life. Redefining life's goal may enable you to bring clarity into your life. Ending part of the year may make you a bit philanthropist. Interest may be the key to your success. Thanks to the creativity and barrage of ideas in you that may bring success.



### Libra

23rd September to 22nd October

According to Vedic Astrological outlook, for Libra native, the year would be auspicious. With the transit of Saturn and Jupiter, the duo may enjoy enhancement of benevolence. Saturn may bring stability in your life. As 4th being related to mother and domestic issues, you may witness happiness in your domestic life. It would be a wonderful year for most of the Libra natives. The only area you may need to be careful about is your mother's health. Just make sure to provide timely medical help. In case of income-related matters, with the help of Jupiter in Aquarius and it's the direct impact upon your sign, you may see a hike in your income. You may even expect an increment in your present job and certificate of recognition. For natives into business, you may see a rise in your business income. You may look for alternative sources to boost income. Regarding your higher studies, the transit of Jupiter and Saturn may make it encouraging. It may be the year where your focus would be on hard work and even improve your learning skills. Taking part in creative competitions would prove beneficial. Just be aware of your overconfidence. At the career front, this year all your impediments and occasion success may come to an end.



### Scorpio

23rd October to 22nd November

From the initial year, Scorpion may experience a mixed response. The start might be courageous or even you can make a new resolution. Thanks to Jupiter in Capricorn and Jupiter in Aquarius which enable you to be courageous and remain firm on your decision. Thus, the year would be progressive and you may be determined to achieve success. In regard to Finance, the year may have some good opportunity to earn from new avenues. Although, the earning would be moderate, but the source would be robust and long term. Outcome can be stable and steady. You may receive praise by your peers. Just be meticulous in your action and the year would be a wonderful journey. Regarding love and relationship, the year would be auspicious for those who are already in Relationship. Thanks to Jupiter and Saturn which may bring stability. You may be happy with your relationship and also experience a steady rise in social status. But for singles the year would not be that auspicious. Encountering a new partner is not on the card this year. But in the end year, you may see some light. On the academic front, Saturn and Jupiter may enable you to learn and apply the knowledge practically.



### Sagittarius

23rd November to 21st December

As per the Vedic Astrological Views, the year is likely to bring many surprises for all age groups. Prosperity, Success, and fortune are likely to manifest across the year. Even education and higher studies is likely to be impressive. As the year will progress, you would experience the luck by your side. The initial month may be spent planning your activities. Energy level may be high and so is your enthusiasm. You would prefer to be meticulous and try to leave no stone unturned. The effect of good planning and execution can be seen for eight month in the first three month. This is also the period when you expand your social circle. The association with new friends turns out to be beneficial. Moreover, if natives are looking for someone special, then they may find one. Regarding your finance, your work may lead to an increase in income. Having Saturn in the 2nd house of income and family, you may witness the perfect balance of two. At the academic front, pursuing mass media and planning to pursue the same can find success by enrolling in a reputed institute. It would give you a recognition that you have been looking for. This is also the good year for pursuing a master programme. If writing these, then you may be appreciated for your findings.



### Capricorn

22nd December to 20th January

According to the Vedic Astrological outlook, the year is likely to be a year with heavy transit. This would make you introspect and induce you to make adjustments. In fact, the decision you would take, will decide the outcome of your action. So, it is advised to think deep before taking any action. On the financial front, the Saturn would make you spend money, but on a calculative note. Saturn, being the lord of finance, and Jupiter brings the house of loss, the amalgamation of both make your work on a irrelevant and secondary project. Planning your investment and controlling your expenses may be the first step. If married, then you may guard your savings for future commitment. Regarding love and relationship, the upcoming year may improve the bonding between the two by subsiding past ego clashes. As Jupiter is out of friction, thus, you would be happy with your partner and enjoy some beautiful romantic moments. On the academic front, the year would be good for students pursuing higher studies. The combination of both Jupiter and Saturn may make you include subjects like finance, Language and Engineering. The transit of Venus would give the boost to creativity. You may even take one subject as your master and major in the same.



### Aquarius

21st January to 18th February

According to the Vedic Astrological outlook, the year is likely to give you more experience than usual. In the initial month, you may see a rise in tension due to Saturn being in a 12th house. Weak position of Jupiter may add to the woes. Many of the planning may not be as per schedule. For some these events may be discouraging. As the year progresses, the events may be in your favour. The good part is that the transit of Jupiter is considered auspicious regarding finance, marriage, wealth, romance, marriage, education, profession and even in expanding social circles. Thus, you may see an expansion in your life all above the matter. Regarding the financial front, the initial year may be stringent. Steady rise in expenditure may put you in a dizzy at times. There may be occasions when the expenditure may be more than flow of income and force you to rely on credit. Make sure such credit is only restricted on a short term. Gradually, from the middle of the year, you may expect a steady rise in income and the second half is better than half. In fact, the year is promising for those looking to invest in property. As much as romance and love is concerned, you may come across someone important. The emotional connection with the new person may sow the seed of romance and love.



### Pisces

19th February to 20th March

For pisces, the year is likely to be mixed. At the starting of the year, the lord Jupiter is well placed on 11th house, albeit in a weakening position. Both Saturn and Jupiter are likely to bring steady growth. Fulfillment of desire may make you confident. On the financial front, the house of gain is robust due to which you may witness a rise in income and tapering of flow of money. Some money you may save for day which would give you some relief to deal with the future. At the end of April, the flow of money may stabilize. The only advice is just guard yourself from the money spike. In fact, taking part in social gatherings may be beneficial. New friends and associations may forge between January and April. Taking a cue from such an association may help in planning monetary and financial matters very well. Your new investment may give better returns and gains. However, a contrast producing investment may help stabilize your return. The time after May, there may be a need to relook at your investment portfolio and avenues of income flow. On the academic front, the support of Jupiter may be encouraging till mid April. So, it is advised to take the benefit of luck if preparing for any exam. Thereafter, the students are advised to plan their academic journey for better performance and success.



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# City cinemas brace for raising curtains

THE CITY CINEMA HALL OWNERS STARTED SANITISING THEIR PREMISES FOR WELCOMING THE AUDIENCES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 31:** A day after the state government allowed cinema halls to reopen from January 1, owners of cinema halls and theatres Thursday started preparations for raising the curtains with strict adherence to Covid-19 norms. The cinema hall owners started sanitising their premises for welcoming the audiences. As per the guidelines, cinema halls will reopen with 50 per cent capacity. The big screens were shut for audiences in March 2020 as part of the lockdown guidelines in the wake of the pandemic. Orissa POST had earlier highlighted the financial burden on the cinema halls in the Capital city due to the lockdown. Maintenance and equipment costs, salary bills and other expenditures pushed the cinema hall owners into trouble. Big cinema halls in the city have incurred losses of around ₹20-30 lakh each due to the restrictions.



A cinema hall in Bhubaneswar being sanitised, Thursday

OP PHOTO

“We welcome the state government’s decision of reopening cinema halls with Covid-19 protocols. We have started sanitising the seats and hall premises. We will be ready

for reopening the halls after January 14,” said Maharaja Cinema Hall owner Biswajit Mohapatra. Though many big-budget movies have been released through over-the-

top (OTT) platforms during the lockdown, it is expected that some good movies would hit the silver screen ahead of the Republic Day, Mohapatra added.

“With 50 per cent capacity rules in place, it is expected that movies will run for longer periods in cinema halls. We request the government to stop sending power bills to us for now,” Mohapatra added.

All Odisha Cinema Hall Owners’ Association president and owner of Sriya-Swati-Stutee Cine Complex, Bijendra Mohanty, said, “It will be difficult to bring the audience back to cinema halls as there was no movie show for the last several months. Gone are the days when people were treating a

movie ticket as a prized catch. Emergence of private television channels, pirated CDs and OTT platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime have dented on our business. It will take some time to recover the losses.” Producer Shridhar Maratha said that they would take steps for re-releasing their new movies ‘Dil Mora Manena’ and ‘Patnagarh’ soon. “The cinema halls will take some time to resume shows. The release dates of our movies would be announced after due consultation with cinema hall owners,” Maratha added. In the present scenario, it is difficult for cinema halls to get large number audiences. But, one cannot stop re-releasing movies at cinema halls for long, said actress Archita Sahu.

With 50 per cent capacity rules in place, it is expected that movies will run for longer periods in cinema halls. We request the government to stop sending power bills to us for now

BISWAJIT MOHAPATRA | MAHARAJA CINEMA HALL OWNER

# State leaders reveal New Year resolutions

Even as everyone is welcoming the New Year and setting the goals for the year ahead after the end of a year that brought a pandemic of this scale, several state ministers and political leaders, in interaction with Manish Kumar of Orissa POST, revealed their resolutions for 2021. Excerpts...

## Will ensure none goes hungry

My New Year resolution is to implement the vision of our Chief Minister that nobody in the state will be deprived of food security. As the Departmental Minister, I will continue the good work of our department like in 2020 and ensure that nobody in the state goes hungry to the bed.

Ranendra Pratap Swain | Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister



## Will try to bring school education back on track

The pandemic affected normal schooling. I plan to put the school education back on track. I will try my best to work on how the school curriculum could be well balanced and examinations are held on time to reduce any hardship to the students. I will also work towards improving the quality of education in the state.

Samir Ranjan Dash | School and Mass Education Minister



## Will be more active in Parliament

I have resolved that in this New Year, I will work strongly and resolutely under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik towards the holistic development of Odisha. This I resolve to do through active interventions in the Parliament as a lawmaker, placing the just demands of Odisha before Union Ministries and policy support to the state government.

Sasmit Patra | Rajya Sabha MP



## Will work for farmers’ welfare

The year was marred by Covid-19 pandemic. I want to see a Corona-free year and relief from the woes of the pandemic. I expect the farmers’ concerns are sorted out. The state is riddled with the issues of unemployment and corruption. I want the governments to address these issues. At the same time, I will try to work for the people in best possible ways.

Niranjan Patnaik | OPEC President



# Aadhaar mandatory for pensioners from Feb

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 31:** The state government has once again moved to make Aadhaar mandatory to avail benefits under social security schemes — National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) from February, 2021. Aadhaar will be made manda-

ficiaries for disbursement of pension and to complete 100 per cent of Aadhaar seeding and verification of existing beneficiaries under both the schemes.

“The process of collecting Aadhaar details of the beneficiaries will be completed by January 31, 2021. Starting from February 2021, Aadhaar will be made manda-



Collectors have been given one month's time to provide Aadhaar to all the beneficiaries for disbursement of pension

Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEP) secretary Bhaskar Sarma has written to all Collectors, in this regard, Thursday. As of date, the progress in Aadhaar verification in the state is 78 per cent under MBPY and 87 per cent under NSAP. However, Sarma said Aadhaar seeding and verification need to be 100 per cent for smooth disbursement pensions under the two schemes. The district Collectors have been given one month's time to provide Aadhaar to all the bene-

ficiaries for receiving pension,” Sarma wrote to the Collectors. However, he said the state government has decided that an eligible beneficiary should not be denied pension for not having Aadhaar if he/she is alive and identifiable. It was the responsibility of the local administration to identify these cases and provide them with Aadhaar ID before the next phase of disbursement, he added. Earlier, the government had sent a similar letter to the Collectors in August and later withdrew it.

## FOR LORD'S DARSHAN



Residents of Puri city queuing up to visit Srimandir, Thursday, as the temple will remain shut January 1 and 2 in accordance with Covid protocol. Devotees with Covid negative reports would be allowed to visit the shrine from Jan 3

# 12 agri projects worth ₹72.95Cr okayed

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 31:** In another step towards sustainable agriculture and doubling farmers’ income, the state government sanctioned 12 new projects worth ₹72.95 crore under Rashtriya Krushi Vikash Yojana (RKVY). The projects have been sanctioned by the State Level Sanctioning Committee headed by Chief Secretary

Asit Tripathy. These projects would be financed both by the Centre and state on 60:40 sharing basis. The major projects approved include promotion of pheromone traps for managing army worm and insects on crops, e-paste surveillance & management, supply of kitchen garden kits, support to women SHGs for mushroom cultivation, renovation and modernisation of old dairy plants and pro-

motion of nutri gardens in tribal areas. The committee also approved the Annual Action Plan (APP) of ₹91.36 crore under different sub-schemes like bringing green revolution to eastern India, reclamation of problematic soils and crop diversification programme. Tripathy directed the officials concerned to specify deliverables

## ECOR to run 6 special trains

**BHUBANESWAR:** The East Coast Railway (ECOR) will run six more special trains from second week of January, 2021. The trains are: Bhubaneswar-Pune-Bhubaneswar Special, Bhubaneswar-Tirupati-Bhubaneswar Special and Sambalpur-Jammu Tawi-Sambalpur Special. The Bhubaneswar-Pune-Bhubaneswar Special will leave Bhubaneswar every Tuesday at 9:30pm beginning January 12 and from Pune every Thursday at 11:15am starting January 14. Bhubaneswar-Tirupati-Bhubaneswar Special will leave Capital city every Sunday at 12:10hrs from January 10 onwards and from Tirupati every Monday at 10:25am beginning January 11, according to ECoR sources.

## Chief Secy for timely reply to Lokayukta notices

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 31:** Expressing concern over delay in submission of replies to Lokayukta notices, the state government has directed all government offices to ensure timely submission of such replies. Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy has recently written a letter to all administrative departments, heads of departments and Collectors in this regard. “It has come to the notice of the

government that at times government officials do not respond to the notices issued from the Lokayukta, even though the proceedings before the Lokayukta are deemed to be judicial proceeding within the meaning of Section 193 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860,” Tripathy said in his letter. Stating delay in compliance to any notices of the Lokayukta will impede the functioning of the statutory body, he asked the officials to ensure that the notices/instruc-

tions issued by the Lokayukta are responded with utmost promptitude to facilitate proper functioning of the Lokayukta and speedy disposal of the proceedings before it. The Lokayukta in the state has started functioning with effect from March 20, 2019. As per Section 22 of the Odisha Lokayukta Act, 2014, the Lokayukta may require any public servant to furnish information or produce documents relevant to preliminary inquiry or investigation.

## STF seized 23.5kg brown sugar in 2020

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Dec 31:** The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch claimed to have achieved record success in 2020 as it seized brown sugar and ganja weighing around 23.5 kg and 44 quintals respectively in the year. The STF, a specialised unit of Odisha police, has been created to tackle organised crimes, illegal wildlife trade and drug peddling. According to a press release, the

STF has arrested 140 persons in 73 cases in 2020. As many as 14 arms and 34 ammunition have been seized by the STF during 2020. The STF achieved a major success in connection with the illegal trade of wildlife during the above period. As many as 7 leopard hides seized while two live pangolins along with 5 kg pangolin scales were recovered during 2020. This apart, 2 deer skins were also seized during the previous year. The STF sleuths recovered 4.6 quintals of sandal wood in 2020.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Junagarh, I Laxmipriya Rout, W/o. Suresh Chandra Rout, At/PO.-Junagarh, Kalahandi declare that in land record Khata No. 171/3427 my name is Laxmipriya Nayak & Laxmi priya Rout is same person.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Dec 31:** The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sambalpur, is all set to take another giant leap with the advent of the New Year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for permanent campus of the institute virtually January 2. Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, and other dignitaries are also scheduled to grace the occasion. Over 5,000 invitees include dignitaries from the Centre and state, industry leaders, PSU executives, di-



A model of the IIM-Sambalpur permanent campus

rectors of IIMs, IITs, IISERs, media persons, members from weaving community, members from farmer

community, students, alumni, faculties, and staff of the institute will also participate in the event.

IIM-Sambalpur director Mahadeo Jaiswal said, “We are privileged to have the Prime Minister and many

other dignitaries with us on this landmark day. In line with the vision of the New Education Policy, IIM Sambalpur has embraced an innovative shift in its teaching learning pedagogy from teacher centric to learner centric. IIM-Sambalpur is the first IIM to implement idea of flipped classroom, a learning environment where the basic concepts are learnt in digital mode. Here the experiential learning happens through live project from the industry.” Mahadeo revealed that the institute is focusing on research to create the best management practices in line with emerging changes due to digitisation, decarbonisation and democratisation of business.

“We have set up incubation centres to promote start-ups in weavers producers organisations (WPOs) and farmers producers organisations (FPOs) in collaboration with Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises,” he said. IIM-Sambalpur has received generous support from the state government in the form of 200 acres of land being provided by it for the construction of the proposed campus. The Ministry of Education has extended all kinds of support and financial grant of ₹401.97 crore for the realisation of the project, institute sources said. The proposed campus will be a state-of-the-art structure with energy efficient green features.

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Koraput villagers stay indoors after sunset

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Dec 31:** These days residents of Ladijodi village under Borigumma block in Koraput district are spending sleepless nights. The reason is around six bears who have been visiting the village for the last couple of days, causing fear and apprehension among the villagers.

After sunset, the villagers are forced to stay indoors for they feared attack from these bears. According to these terrified villagers, the bears are sneaking into the village in the evening and roaming around the village till dawn.

Some others allege that as in the case of elephants, the bears are also not getting enough food in jungles. They are coming to the village in search of food.



“Particularly children and elderly persons have been in fear. They have stopped going out to attend the nature’s call. After sunset, the village bears a deserted look,” they observed, adding that the forest department is doing very little to drive away the wild animals.

Grade tampering of minerals: IBM points to rev loss for state



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda, Dec 31:** Some of the new lease holders had shown in their returns that they had mined low quality iron ores in September, 2020. Thereby, their sales value had decreased.

Taking serious note of the matter, Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) had issued a letter to the directorate of mines of the state government, asking it to assess the average value of all minerals produced by all mines in September and intimate it to the IBM.

It is learnt that when lease holders show the extracted minerals as low quality stuff in records, their sales value affects the revenue collection of the state government.

As per the Rule-45(5) B of the MCDR-2017, lease holders usually file returns for the minerals ex-

tracted every month.

According to the Rule-42(3) and 43 of the Mineral Concession Rule-2016, on the basis of their returns, the IBM usually gets to know the monthly average sales value of minerals and publish them.

On the other hand, the state government determines the revenue of extracted minerals on the basis of their monthly sales average value and grades of the minerals.

The IBM asserted that as compared to previous months, the sales value and total sales value of the extracted minerals in September had decreased, leading to a huge loss of revenue for the state government.

A high-level committee of the IBM had held its meeting to assess the average value of the minerals sold in September. Then it came to know that the grades of the minerals at Jajang and Jiling Langalata mines have fallen by 55 per cent in

Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has asked the directorate of mines to assess the average value of all minerals produced by all mines in September, 2020

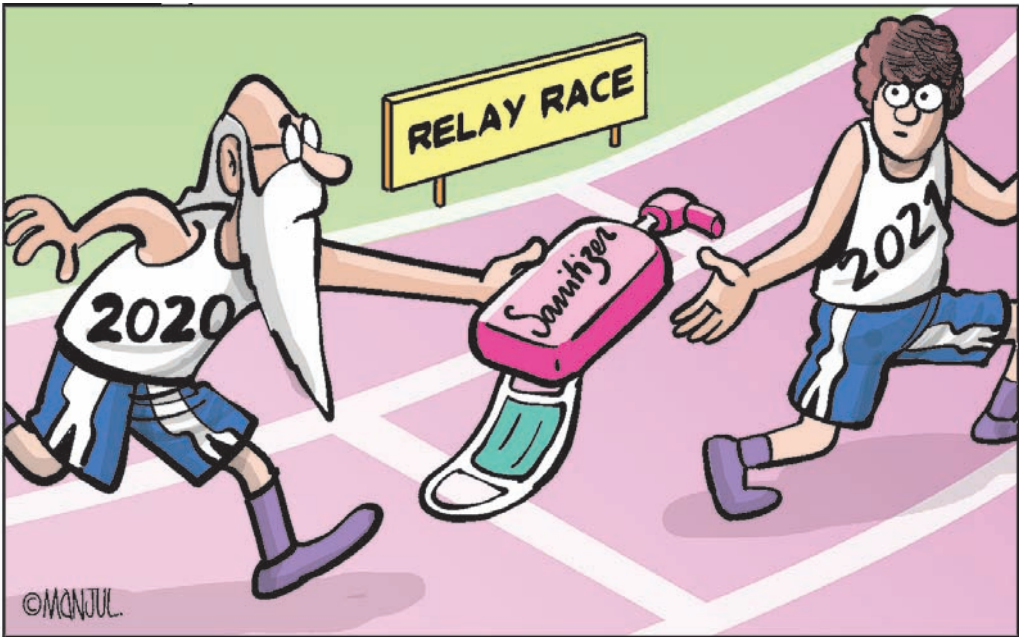
September as compared to previous months.

Similarly, grades of iron ores mined from Bhapali, Jajanga, and Badampahad mines had fallen by 55 and 58 percent respectively in the same month.

As the state government has suffered huge loss in terms of revenues, the IBM, in its letter dated 28.12.2020, has sought GST and invoices of the extracted minerals for the month of September.

On the other hand, grades of minerals are allegedly tampered and shown as low grades before exporting them outside the state. High grade minerals usually generate more revenue than the low grade minerals. It may be noted here that this newspaper had carried a report about mineral grade tampering and tax evasion by some lease holders in the last part of September, this year.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Taratarini to reopen from Jan 3; picnicking banned

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Dec 31:** Devotees are happy as the Ganjam administration has decided to reopen famous Taratarini shrine for public from January 3, but panicking in the area has been prohibited.

All the shrines had been closed for nine months due to Covid norms. Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange held talks with servitors.

However, certain safety norms are to be followed by the devotees.

Servitors and people engaged in the temple management will carry identity cards

Devotees will have to wear masks and maintain social distance. The administration had laid stress on sanitization of the temple premises. The temple will be open for devotees from 6am to 12pm and then from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Barricades will be put up and

devotees allowed to enter the temple by maintaining social distance.

Every year, thousands of people come to this place for picnicking. But this year, cooking and picnicking have been denied around the foothill. Vehicles will not be allowed to the temple.

Drinking water and parking facility will be put in place at the foothill. The administration has made arrangement of buses to carry devotees from the foothill to the temple.

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vedanta transforming elements

High drama as orphaned jumbo calf is shifted to Kapilas zoo

POST NEWS NETWORK



**Chikiti, Dec 31:** Forest department staff and local people Thursday bid tearful adieu to the elephant calf rescued after being ostracized from the herd here in Ganjam district Monday as it was shifted

to Kapilas forest in Dhenkanal district. A herd of elephants had entered into Bahuda river and was causing extensive damage to fish enclosures near Soral under Chikiti block Monday night.

Forest officials with the help of local people had driven away the elephants from the river. However, a calf remained stuck in the river. The forest staff rescued it and dropped it at a place a few meters away from the spot where the herd was. To the utter dismay of the officials and local people, the elephants did not allow the calf into their herd and disappeared in the jungle, leaving the calf gazing towards its mother and others.

This scene had moved one and all. With their eyes brimming with tears, they all remained rooted to the spot while watching at the calf which was trumpeting frantically as if calling its mother to take it with her. “How could its mother be so ruthless,” was the only reaction heard from onlookers.

They and the calf kept watching the herd go into the forest. Later, the forest department officials had rescued it and taken it to Tamana nursery. During these three days, the forest department staff had developed a bonding with this orphaned-by-fate calf.

The calf was shifted to Kapilas zoo in Dhenkanal district Thursday. It was when the calf was put into the special van and it left Tamana nursery, the staff and local people could not help weeping. Especially those who had been taking care of the calf and feeding it for last three days were seen weeping inconsolably.

Dongria’s Kapdaganda shawls to be available on e-com platforms

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Dec 31:** Dongria women will soon make use of machines to weave their famous Kapdaganda



shawls instead of following the tedious way of weaving them in hands, a report said. Moreover, proper marketing facility will also be provided to sale these shawls on e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Government e-market (GEM), the report said.

This was stated here at a one-day workshop organised by the ministry of handlooms, textiles and handicrafts at a city hotel here. The Dongria women living in Rayagada district will be provided training to weave their shawls in machines and arrangements will be made to sell their products on these e-commerce platforms. The machines have been made available due to the efforts of deputy director Kumari Shailaja of the Handloom ministry

Reports said 44 Dongria women artisans of Khajuri and Khambesu villages and 22 Dokra artisans of Gotiguda village were given away with identity cards provided by the Union government for the first time in this programme.

Collector Pramod Kumar Behera gave away 20 sewing machines and other necessary materials to the Dongria women. Other officials exuded hope that this will help in weaving more shawls which will be eventually sold in the market and on e-commerce platforms. Amazon state head Durga Madhab Nahak and GEM representative Sudhansu Pradhan provided necessary tips on the sales of Kapdaganda shawls and Dokra articles on the e-commerce platforms.

In the next phase, 44 more Dongria women will be trained to weave Kapdaganda shawls in machines and their sales on e-commerce platforms. In subsequent phases, at least 500 Dongria artisans will be provided with identity cards and government support.

SBI 2021

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SRI AUROBINDO



# Low-hanging fruits

Lending apps in the country offering easy loans to people has come up as a challenge for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Reports of harassment of borrowers by recovery agents engaged by these unauthorised app companies have come from many states. Acting on these complaints, the RBI has issued a directive asking people not to fall prey to such easy baits. The ownership pattern of these app-based firms and their modus operandi are not transparent. They offer loans with minimum paperwork, that too at quickest possible time. These loans come with a very high rate of interest and exorbitant processing fees, eventually making borrowers to default on schedule of repayments. These shady entities engage recovery guys, read goons, to extract money from defaulters. Since these apps have access to phonebooks of borrowers, they do not hesitate to call up contacts and relatives of a defaulting individual to mount pressure on him. Such shady business has been there for some time. However, the volume of this business shot up following the outbreak of Covid-19. The pandemic has resulted in millions of people losing jobs and livelihood. Therefore, people in large numbers turned to easy money being given on a platter by these lending apps. More the number of loans, the more the number of defaults and eventually higher number cases of harassment of borrowers. We welcome the RBI's decision cautioning potential borrowers not to share documents with such unauthorised entities. It, however, remains to be seen how effective the RBI's warning is going to be. Public lending in our country is usually done by banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). There are also laws framed by state governments to regulate money lending business. The RBI has asked digital lending platforms to disclose their bank and NBFC affiliations upfront, but there are many unscrupulous entities who have not listened to RBI's instructions. The central bank has done well by sounding an alert note against these app-based lenders. But that is not enough. Since the banking regulator can not enforce its dictate, the government, for good measure, must step in to ensure such entities are weeded out, once for all. Inasmuch as this business model revolves around technology, the government must activate its digital prowess to tackle this menace. It can also crack the whip against IT behemoths like Google and others to not host these apps in their app stores. Last week, the government asked Google to stop hosting these apps. These actions must be backed up by stringent rules. Besides, the government must launch a massive awareness campaign to educate people against going in for such low-hanging fruits. With easy penetration of smartphones, operations by these shady companies and their accessibility to people have become easy. It is also important to bring in new laws and amend, if necessary, existing laws to tackle the menace. The RBI must be more alert and should leave no stones unturned to protect the common man. It must try to understand why at all people fall prey to such easy baits while they know for sure that the outcome will not be desirable. The Central government makes tall claims of having taken several measures to take banking to maximum number of people in the country. Measures like Jan Dhan programme and direct benefit transfers have not achieved their desired purposes yet no matter what the BJP-led government at the Centre may claim. Banks, especially state-owned PSBs have been rather stingy about extending loans to potential borrowers, forcing them to approach such lending apps. In the present situation, a concerted measure must be taken to end the menace. Lack of right laws and their implementation led to mushrooming of money-lending business in the country. People fall victim to coercive methods adopted by these money-lenders. The government and the RBI should keep this fact in mind and ensure people avoid plucking these specious low-hanging fruits.

## WISDOM CORNER

- It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then. LEWIS CARROLL
- The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now. CHINESE PROVERB
- It was a Monday and they walked on a tightrope to the sun. MARCUS ZUSAK

## WORDSWORTH

### Bread-and-butter letter

It has indeed been used in the UK; it still is to some extent. However, it's most definitely North American in its genesis and continues to be used there more than anywhere else. Outside of one's own room there is seldom more for a visitor to do than to arrange the flowers for the hostess, to send her a "bread and butter" letter when one has left her house and a present on Christmas proportionate to the length of the visit. Bread and butter letter figuratively extends the literal meaning of bread and butter to refer to hospitality in general. I suspect that it was originally a flippant reference by some young person, bored with the chore of having to write such a letter to his or her hostess and equating it with work. It echoes the older figurative use of bread and butter to refer to what one does to earn the money to buy the necessities of life: "it's my bread and butter", one might say. We do know from occasional references that the term was "society" slang in the US early on. It moved across the Atlantic with some speed and became established in the UK. In 1910 an enquiry in the British Journal Notes and Queries states it is by then the common term for a thank-you letter. The writer of that enquiry was puzzled about an unfamiliar term for the missive, one that has long since died out, but which I might mention as an intriguing linguistic aside: a Collins. It appeared in Chambers's Journal in 1904 but vanished again sometime after 1940. It's a literary joke based on William Collins, an elaborately polite character in Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, published in 1813: "The promised letter of thanks from Mr. Collins arrived on Tuesday, addressed to their father, and written with all the solemnity of gratitude which a twelvemonth's abode in the family might have prompted."

### Break a leg

Of all theatrical superstitions, this attempt to ward off the forces of darkness by wishing one's fellow performers the opposite of good luck is the one that's perhaps best known outside the profession. It belongs with other superstitions, such as that it's bad luck to whistle in a theatre, that you should never utter the final line of a play at the dress rehearsal, or that you must never say the name of the Scottish Play in the green room. Actors have always been a superstitious bunch, as you might expect from a profession in which employment is sporadic, audiences fickle and reputations fragile. The saying is widely used among actors and musicians in the theatre today, sometimes before every performance, but more often reserved for first night.

## LOL

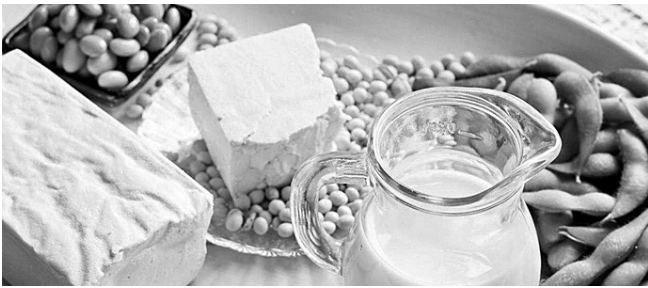
### Blonde joke

A blind man enters a bar and finds this way to a barstool. After ordering a drink, and sitting there for a while, the blind guy yells to the bartender, "Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?" The bar immediately becomes absolutely quiet. In a husky, deep voice, the woman next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, you should know something. The bartender is blonde, the bouncer is blonde and I'm a 6' tall, 200 pound blonde with a black belt in karate. What's more, the fella sitting next to me is blonde and he's a weightlifter. The woman to your right is a blonde, and she's a pro wrestler. Think about it seriously, mister. You still wanna tell that blonde joke?" The blind guy says, "Nah, not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times."



## FOCUS FOOD SECURITY

# LONG LIVE BIO-REVOLUTION



Most leading international institutions with an interest in food security have now called for action to prevent future outbreaks of infectious disease, and to make food systems more resistant to shocks

Michael Chui & Matthias Evers

EVEN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) OF THE UN WARNED THAT MORE THAN 820 MILLION PEOPLE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT

In November, the United Nations World Food Programme and the International Organization for Migration warned of the "unprecedented" threat to food security brought about by Covid-19. The pandemic's collateral damage could turn out to be even worse than the disease itself.

Most leading international institutions with an interest in food security have now called for action to prevent future outbreaks of infectious disease, and to make food systems more resistant to shocks. Biological innovation must factor into our thinking as we strive to meet the dual challenge of feeding a growing population and managing natural resources sustainably.

Even before the pandemic, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) warned that more than 820 million people did not have enough to eat. With the global population expected to grow by roughly two billion people by 2050, improving access to affordable and healthy food will be critical in reducing malnutrition and the associated health-care costs.

Innovation in farming and food production is as old as agriculture itself, yet it is sorely needed today. Recent research by the McKinsey Global Institute finds that biological innovation in agriculture, aquaculture, and food production could yield economic returns of up to \$1.2 trillion over the next decade or two. To put that into context, the global food and agribusiness industry is worth about \$5 trillion today.

What could deliver this growth? The most promising innovations include alternative proteins, marker-assisted breeding, genetic engineering of plant and animal traits, and microbiome mapping and modification. Consumer interest in alternative protein sources is increasing globally, owing to concerns about health, the environment, and animal welfare.

Plant-based meat substitutes are already widely sold, though the economics of their production needs to be improved. Plant-based milk, for example, accounts for 15% of retail milk sales in the

United States and 8% in Britain. And companies like Clara Foods are using advanced yeast engineering and fermentation technologies to produce animal-free egg-white proteins.

Likewise, cultured meat and seafood – whereby muscle tissue grown from cells in the lab is made to mimic the protein profile of animal meat – is on the horizon. Earlier this month, Singapore became the first government to approve the sale of lab-grown meat (cultured chicken created by the San Francisco-based company Eat Just). Over the next ten years, cultured meat and seafood could become cost competitive with conventional animal proteins.

Selective breeding of plants and animals is not new, but marker-assisted breeding has made the process cheaper and significantly faster, because it enables the selection of desirable traits even if the precise genes that generate them have not yet been identified or understood. The plunging cost of DNA sequencing means that thousands of potential markers can be detected simultaneously. Whereas developing new crop varieties previously could require 25 years, it now can be done in as few as seven. And because marker-assisted selection is not yet as prevalent in developing countries as it is in advanced economies, there are significant opportunities for growth.

Since the development of the first genetically engineered plant

(tobacco) in the early 1980s, genetic engineering has become well established. But, again, the technology is still improving rapidly. New tools like CRISPR have made gene editing more precise, allowing for crops to be tailored much more effectively to local conditions such as temperature and soil type. CRISPR-edited produce could land on grocery store shelves in the US over the next ten years, starting with sweeter strawberries that have a longer shelf life.

Another promising area of innovation is portable DNA-sequencing devices, which could soon be used by farmers to diagnose plant diseases, possibly improving quality and yield while eliminating or reducing use of pesticides. Genetic editing to improve health and productivity in food animals such as dairy and beef cattle, swine, and poultry is still nascent, but interest in the field has soared since the 2019 outbreak of African swine fever.

Similarly, the mapping of the microbiome – including bacteria, fungi, and viruses – is helping researchers find ways to increase the resilience of crops, animals, and soil to drought and disease. Here, too, advances in computing and sequencing are accelerating the pace of discovery, such that the biotech company Novozymes is already offering genetically engineered microbes to use in place of yield- and quality-boosting chemicals.

Many of these biological inno-

vations can help us address not only hunger but also resource depletion and broader climate risks. According to the FAO, raising livestock for meat, eggs, and milk generates 14.5% of global greenhouse-gas emissions; and one-third of all cropland is used to produce animal feed. Agriculture is also the largest contributor to deforestation, occupying 43% of the world's ice-free and desert-free land. The plant-based "Impossible Burger" embodies 89% fewer emissions than a traditional beef burger.

Climate change reinforces the need for biological innovations, such as crops that have been engineered to withstand severe weather, or to grow in new environments, including areas with extreme temperatures, high salinity, or frequent droughts.

Many innovations are already contributing to food security, and the full potential of affordable DNA sequencing and CRISPR technology will continue to be revealed over time. It will take longer for lab-grown meat to make inroads, but when it does, the impact is likely to be felt far and wide.

Regulation and public perceptions have long played a role – both positive and negative – in biological innovation. The first wave of commercially available genetically engineered products has not yet reached many countries, and 19 EU member states still support partial or full bans on their sale. In Africa, genetically modified food products are legal in only a tiny handful of countries.

Safety is clearly paramount. But if regulators and consumers' concerns can be addressed, the bio-revolution could take us a long way toward tackling global challenges like food security and climate change.

Michael Chui is a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute, specializing in big data. Matthias Evers is a senior partner in McKinsey's Hamburg office and co-leads the firm's global research and development work in the pharmaceutical and medical products practice.

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## SPECTRUM NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

# What is your moral plan for 2021?

Many people make New Year's resolutions. The most common ones, at least in the United States, are to exercise more, eat healthier, save money, lose weight, or reduce stress. Some may resolve to be better to a particular person – not to criticize their partner, to visit their aging grandmother more often, or to be a better friend to someone close to them. Yet few people – just 12%, according to one US study – resolve to become a better person in general, meaning better in a moral sense.

One possible explanation is that most people focus on their own well-being, and don't see being morally better as something that is in their own interest. A more charitable explanation is that many people see morality as a matter of conforming to a set of rules establishing the things we should not do.

That is not very surprising in societies built on the Jewish and Christian traditions, in which the Ten Commandments are held up as the core of morality. But, today, traditional moral rules have only limited relevance to ordinary life. Few of us are ever in situations in which killing someone even crosses our mind. Most of us don't need to steal,

and to do so is not a great temptation – most people will even return a lost wallet with money in it.

For those who take this view of morality, and can make an honest living sufficient to meet their own essential needs, being a good person hardly seems worthy of a special resolution. This is suggested in a survey of US adults that found that only 23% report that they often think about or research the ethical aspect of a choice in their life.

Most people can just live as they have always been living, and as their friends and co-workers live. In the same survey, another 31% reported that they sometimes think about ethical aspects of choices in their lives, suggesting that moral choices arise only in unusual circumstances, and many people thus simply cross those bridges when they come to them. What of the remaining 46%? It seems that they never think about ethics at all!

These findings could be interpreted as indicating that nearly half of Americans don't regard ethics as important. But in the same survey, 87% said that it is important to teach ethics to children, from kindergarten through high school. The correct interpretation, therefore, seems to be that

at least three-quarters of Americans think that ethics is important, but they don't believe that it requires much thought or research.

We reject this view. Being a good person today requires thought and work. The moral intuitions that evolved during many millennia of living in small, face-to-face societies are no longer adequate. Our actions now – or our failure to act – affect people all over the world and people who will live on this planet for many centuries to come.

That means we face moral choices all the time. Global problems like climate change, extreme poverty, the cruel confinement of billions of animals in factory farms, overfishing of the oceans, and of course the pandemic raise complex questions about how we should spend our money, how much of it we should give to help others, what we should eat, and how we should use our abilities to influence others and our governments. Moral codes written thousands of years ago are silent about climate change, and usually say nothing, or very little, about protecting the environment, the treatment of animals, and how we should exercise our responsibilities as citizens in a democracy. No short set of rules can possi-

bly deal with the variety of circumstances in which individuals find themselves today. To be a good person today requires time and thought. We need to inform ourselves about problems like those just mentioned, decide on our priorities, and consider where we can make the most difference. That's why this is an appropriate area for the kind of commitment involved in making a resolution.

Setting goals works better, especially if the goals are incremental, steps along a path. So make a moral plan. Think about your values, and choose one or two issues that are important to you. Then you can affirm those values by living in a way that addresses the issues you care about, whether it is by reducing your personal contribution to climate change, or animals' suffering, or finding the most effective organizations helping people in extreme poverty, and supporting them with your time or money.

Peter Singer is Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University and founder of the non-profit organization The Life You Can Save. Agata Sagan is an independent researcher living in Warsaw.

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## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Rahane as Test captain

Sir, Indian men's cricket team is known to bounce back from the brink. When India crumbled to their lowest ever test score, an unbelievable 36 at Adelaide, critics and fans panned the players but at the back of their minds they always knew that this Indian team would come from behind sooner than later, most probably in the second Test itself, and their gut feeling did not go off the mark. So when Jasprit Bumrah and debutant Mohammed Siraj, along with Umesh Yadav, forced the Austrian batsmen to puff and huff, by pushing them on the back foot, the Indian team looked complete - good batting lineup, excellent opening bowlers to wrest early momentum from the opposition, undoubted spinning prowess of the 'twins' Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, and ably supplemented by young legs that can run furiously, throw themselves in the air, and come up with blinders. Skipper Ajinkya Rahane's innings held India together after the bowlers had done the initial damage. Coming into the test after being bundled out for 36 in the previous outing, notwithstanding the fact that they all are top class world cricketers, is not easy, and Rahane's innings, therefore, was a gamechanger. But the icing on the cake was his splendid captaincy; Rahane seems to revel in responsibility. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### Problems in e-content

Sir, The Karnataka government has contemplated to evolve a system of e-content in the Department of College Education. The rationale behind introducing this system is welcome. But the teachers face a number of problems in preparing the E-content. Teachers, by and large, have expertise in teaching in classroom. Teachers, especially in verge of retirement, find it very difficult to prepare PPT, MCO and study materials for e-content. Now, the authorities concerned are exerting pressure on teachers for preparation of PPT video study material without any training imparted to them for the last 5 months. The on-going training through online meeting for preparing e-content is not only unscientific but also not yielding desired result due to network problem. However, E-Content learning limits learning ability of the students. Video PPT study material goes against the concept and spirit of traditional method of teaching and learning system. This system spoils the education-teacher-student relationship. It is not that e-content should not be introduced. It should be supplemental to, not in lieu of, the present popular traditional system. It is not good to impose the e-content system on teachers. KV Seetharamaiah, HASSAN



# national

## of the day quote

I used to say 'jab tak dawai nahi dhilai nahi' but now our mantra for 2021 should be: Dawai bhi, kadaai bhi (yes to medicine and yes to caution)

**NARENDRA MODI** | PRIME MINISTER

The Modi government this year waived loans of Rs 2,37,876 crore of a few industrialists. With this amount, 11 crore families could have been provided Rs 20,000 each in these difficult COVID times. The truth about Modi ji's development

**RAHUL GANDHI** | CONGRESS LEADER

Yediyurappa is daydreaming, even if assembly elections are held tomorrow, Congress will win, get majority and come back to power

**SIDDARAMAIAH** | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### CBI summons Binay Mishra

**New Delhi:** The CBI has summoned Binay Mishra, believed to be a confidante of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, January 4 for questioning in connection with a cattle smuggling case, officials said Thursday.

### TN extends lockdown

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami Thursday extended the Covid-19 lockdown by month, subject to certain relaxations. In a statement issued here, he said the lockdown has been extended, but various relaxations have been given, including permission to hold indoor social/religious/political/sports/education/cultural gatherings subject to a maximum of 200 persons or 50 per cent seating capacity from January 2021.

### Bird flu alert in Rajasthan

**Jaipur:** Rajasthan is in the throes of a Hitchcockian nightmare with dead birds falling from sky. The reason Thursday was confirmed as cases of Avian Flu. A high alert has been sounded across the desert state after Avian Influenza was confirmed in the samples of around 100 crows which were found dead in Jhalawar. The same samples have been sent to Bhopal for further testing.

### Highest nCoV recoveries

**New Delhi:** India has crossed a significant milestone in its fight against coronavirus, with the national COVID-19 recovery rate crossing 96 per cent, one of the highest globally, the Union Health Ministry said today. "The total recovered cases have crossed 98.6 lakhs (98,60,280), the highest globally. The gap between active cases and recoveries is continuously increasing and stands at 96,02,624," the ministry highlighted. Further, the active cases have drastically declined to 2.57 lakh. The total positive cases of the country are 2,57,656 and now comprise merely 2.51 per cent of the total cases. "With a high number of COVID patients recovering every day and the sustained fall in the mortality rate, India's steady trend of registering dipping active cases continues," the ministry said.

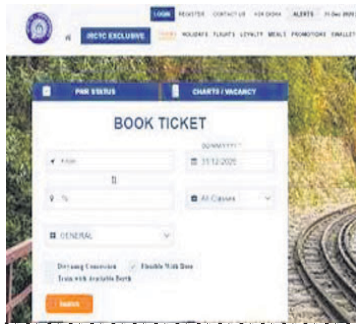


On the eve of New Year 2021, let us work together towards creating an inclusive society instilled with the spirit of love, compassion and forbearance that promotes peace and goodwill

**RAM NATH KOVIND** | PRESIDENT

### IRCTC'S UPGRADED E-TICKETING WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal Thursday launched an upgraded version of the e-ticketing website of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), which has personalised features



## Covid vaccine dry run across India Jan 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 31:** A dry run for COVID-19 vaccination will be conducted by all state and union territory administrations on January 2 to test the linkages between planning and implementation and to identify the challenges, the Centre said Thursday.

The activity is proposed to be conducted in all state capitals in at least 3 session sites. Some states will also include districts that are situated in difficult terrain/have poor logistical support, while Maharashtra and Kerala are likely to schedule the dry run in major cities other than their capital, the Union Health Ministry said.

The central government has also asked all states and UTs to ensure effective preparedness for the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness at session sites for COVID-19 vaccination with principal secretaries (Health) and other health



administrators of all states and UTs through video-conferencing.

The planning for the vaccine introduction will be as per the Operational Guidelines issued by the Health Ministry December 20.

Regarding the dry run to be held, for each of the three session sites, the Medical Officer In-charge will identify 25 test beneficiaries (health-care workers). The states and UTs have been asked to ensure that the data of these beneficiaries is uploaded in Co-WIN. These beneficiaries will also be available at the session site for the dry run. The states and UTs shall prepare the facilities and users to be created on Co-WIN application including uploading the data of Health Care

Worker (HCW) beneficiaries, the ministry stated. The states and UTs have been asked to ensure physical verification of all proposed sites for adequacy of space, logistical arrangements, internet connectivity, electricity, safety, etc. And prepare at least three model session sites in each state (at state capital) for demonstration. They have been asked to ensure that the model sites have separate entry and exit in a 'three-room set-up' with adequate space outside for awareness generation activities, display all IEC material at these sites and ensure that all SOPs and protocols are being practised at the identified sites in an ideal environment along with vaccination teams to be identified and

## Cops use water cannon, tear gas on farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh/Jaipur:** The Haryana Police Thursday used a water cannon and tear gas as farmers on tractor-trailers broke through barricades at the Shahjahanpur border with Rajasthan, trying to push towards the national capital.

While farmers on around 25 tractor-trailers pushed past the Haryana Police barriers, others stayed behind on the Rajasthan side of the Shahjahanpur-Rewari border, police said. Farmers have been on a dharna



at the site, blocking the road for several days in protest over the three new agri-marketing laws enacted at the Centre.

Farmer leaders at the site made clear that the protesters who forced their way into Haryana did not have their consent.

Kisan Mahapanchayat president Rampal Jat said the agitation was going on peacefully but some of the farmers forcibly entered Hayaran, which was not expected of them. Haryana Police officials said a group of farmers, mostly youths, broke through the barricades set up by them in a bid to move towards Delhi.

The Haryana Police tried to stop them using a water cannon and tear gas even as their leaders urged them not to go towards the national capital, they said.

## Pak troops violate ceasefire along LoC

**Srinagar/Jammu:** Pakistani troops opened fire and shelled mortars in unprovoked violations of a ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Thursday. In the Tangdhar sector of Kupwara, Pakistani troops specifically targeted mosques and houses in border villages, an Army official said in Srinagar. "Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along LoC in Tangdhar Sector, Kupwara by firing mortars and other weapons yesterday evening," the official said. In the Nowshera sector of Rajouri, Pakistan Army personnel engaged in heavy firing and mortar shelling on forward posts. "At about 1515 hours today, Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along LoC in Nowshera sector in Rajouri district," a defence spokesman said in Jammu. Indian Army personnel guarding the LoC retaliated befittingly to the unprovoked ceasefire violations, officials said. Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5,100 instances of ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC in 2020 -- the highest in the past 18 years -- in which 36 people were killed and over 130 were injured, official sources said.

## Lone BJP MLA in Kerala votes against farm laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 31:** In an unprecedented move, BJP's lone member in the Kerala Assembly, O Rajagopal, Thursday supported the resolution seeking scrapping of the three contentious farm laws against which farmers have been agitating for over a month in Delhi borders, embarrassing the saffron party.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had moved the resolution at a special session Thursday which was unanimously passed by the House with the ruling LDF, Opposition Congress-led UDF and BJP supporting it. When pointed out again that the resolution was for scrapping the three central farm laws, Rajagopal said he supported it (resolution). "I supported the resolution and the central government should withdraw the three farm laws," the senior BJP leader said, adding he agreed with the general consensus in the House. That is the dem-



ocratic spirit, he said. Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan said the resolution had been passed by voice vote in the House and no one had objected. When pointed that he was going against his party's stand, Rajagopal said in a democratic system, we need to go as per consensus. However, hours later in a U-turn, Rajagopal said in a statement that he had strongly opposed the resolution in the House. "My stand I had clearly stated inside the House. I had neither opposed the central laws nor gone against the union government. The laws would immensely benefit the farmers," he said.

## 4 HC CJs transferred

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 31:** Four high court Chief Justices, including Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, were transferred Thursday, the Law Ministry said.

Four judges were also elevated as high court Chief Justices. The Supreme Court collegium had recently recommended to the government the transfer of four Chief Justices of high courts and elevation of some judges as Chief Justices of high courts.

A couple of transfers and elevations may take place in January, sources said. Justice Maheshwari has been transferred to the Sikkim High Court as its new Chief Justice in place of Justice Arup Kumar Goswami.

Justice Goswami will be the new Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, according to a Law Ministry notification. The SC collegium had recommended transfer of Justice Maheshwari to the Sikkim High Court, weeks after Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy had complained to the Chief Justice of India about the state's top judiciary. In an unprecedented move, the Andhra Pradesh chief minister had October 6 written to CJI S A Bobde alleging that the state high court was being used to "destabilise and topple" his democratically elected government.

Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan, the Telangana High Court Chief Justice, has been transferred as the chief justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. Justice Mohammad Rafiq, the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, will be the new Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Justice S Muralidhar of the Punjab and Haryana High Court has been elevated as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.

### OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, SORO DIST- BALASORE

Notice No.-163 Dtd- 31.12.2020

#### QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

Sealed Limited Quotations are invited from reputed Indian Manufacturers/ Suppliers / Agencies, their authorized dealers / GeM registered Firms for supply of "Marble/Tile Logo intended for 24 No. of GPs of Soro PS, Soro". The detail information of the tender process are made available in Balasore Dist. Website i.e. <http://www.baleswar.nic.in>

The date and time of receipt of Sealed Quotations are from 01/01/2021 to 11/01/2021 upto 4.00 P.M. on working days only.

**Sd./- Block Development Officer, Soro**

### Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

e-mail ID: [rw\\_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rw_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in), Phone No.: 0663-2401850

**Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR-10 of 20 21**

**No. 4102 Dated: 29.12.20**

1. Name of the Work : Road & Building Works as per DTCN available in the website: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

2. Total No. of Work : 03 (Three) Nos.

3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.2.00 lakhs to 10.62 lakhs

4. Period of Completion : 01 (One) Calendar months

5. Period and time of availability : 04.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M. to 14.01.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.

6. Date and time of opening of bidding : 15.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : E.E.R.W. Divn., Sambalpur

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website [www.tenderodisha.gov.in](http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in).

**Sd./- Executive Engineer**

**OIPR-25076/11/0009/2021 Rural Works Division, Sambalpur**

E-mail: [pdws.ganjam@gmail.com](mailto:pdws.ganjam@gmail.com)

### TENDER NOTICE

No. A-423: Sealed tenders in the prescribed form are invited from intending persons for collection of cashew nuts and Thalamus from the Shelter Belt Cashew plantations located at Kirtipur/Markandi-I/Markandi-II/Dankalpadu/Eksingi/Ramayapatna Sections of Soil Conservation Range Golabandha under the Project Director Watersheds Ganjam, Berhampur preference will be given to the owners/lease holders of Cashew processing plants in Odisha. Tender forms along with the terms and conditions can be obtained from Office of the Project Director Watersheds Ganjam, Berhampur on payment of Rs.200/- only by hand or on payment of Rs.250/- only by Post. Details list of plantation along with area and period of lease is as follows.

Sl. No.	Location of Cashew Plantations	Total area in Hectares	Period of Tender	Harvesting Year
1	2	3	4	5
1	Kirtipur	119.35	01.03.2021 to 31.05.2021	One Year
2	Markandi - I	94.00	01.03.2021 to 31.05.2021	One Year
3	Dankalpadu	102.04	01.03.2021 to 31.05.2025	Five Year
4	Eksingi	107.12	01.03.2021 to 31.05.2025	Five Year
5	Ramayapatna	34.00	01.03.2021 to 31.05.2025	Five Year
6	Markandi - II	9.96	01.03.2021 to 31.05.2025	Five Year
	Total	466.47		

Sealed tenders are to be received in the Office of the Project Director Watersheds Ganjam, Berhampur upto 5.30 P.M. of 27.01.2021 and will be **Opened on 28.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M. onwards** of Kirtipur/Markandi-I/Markandi-II section and on 29.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M. onwards of Dankalpadu, Eksingi, Ramayapatna and Markandi-II section in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives in the Office of the Project Director Watersheds-cum-Dy. Director, Soil Conservation Ganjam, Berhampur. If necessary, the tender committee may enter into negotiation with the tenderers on the same day or next day. The price should be quoted separately for each individual plantation exclusive of GST and other charges as applicable. The tender applications should accompany earnest money @ 10% of the quoted price in case of tender for 1 (One) year and @5% in case of tender for 5 (Five) year in shape of Bank Draft/Bankers Cheque in favour of Project Director Watersheds Ganjam, Berhampur be drawn at SBI Main Branch, Berhampur along with the tender forms, failing which it will not be considered as valid tender. Earnest money in shape of hard cash or personal cheque is not allowed. Incomplete tender papers or any conditional tender papers will not be accepted. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders or to accept a portion thereof. Interested parties may inspect the plantation with due permission of competent authority in the office hours during any working days before taking part in the tender. The tender papers should be sent through "REGISTERED POST" or "SPEED POST" in a sealed cover duly captioned "Tender papers for Auction Sale of Cashew Plantation ..... Village located in Soil Conservation Range Golabandha". No hand delivery will be accepted.

**Sd./- Project Director, Watersheds, Ganjam, Berhampur**

**OIPR-32249/11/0002/2021**

## ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ବେଳପାହାଡ଼

ନବବର୍ଷ ୨୦୨୧ ଅବସରରେ ବେଳପାହାଡ଼ ପୌର ପରିଷଦ ତରଫରୁ ସମସ୍ତ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ଅନେକ ଅନେକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ।

**ପୌର ପରିଷଦର ପରିଚଳିତ ଯୋଜନାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରିତା:-**

୧. ନୂତନ ବସ୍ ଷ୍ଟାଣ୍ଡ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ । ୨. କଲ୍ୟାଣ ମଉସମ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଗତି ପଥେ। ୩. ଗୁମାଡେରା ବଡ଼ କଟାର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ସମାପନ। ୪. ପୌରବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ପାନୀୟଜଳ ଯୋଗାଣ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାରମ୍ଭ । ୫. ନୂତନ ଶୁଶାନ୍ ଘାଟର ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ । ୬. ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନରୁ ସୁପରିଚାଳନା ନିମନ୍ତେ ମାଲକୋଟା କମ୍ପୋଜିଟ୍ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ । ୭. ଭେଣ୍ଡି ଝୋନ୍ଦର ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ ।

**ପୌରବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ନିବେଦନ:-**

- ସମସ୍ତ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନମାନଙ୍କରେ ନାମ ଫନକବୁକିଂ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଭାଷାରେ ଲେଖିବୁ।
- ପୌର ପରିଷଦର ବେଢ଼ ଯଥା ସମୟରେ ପୌର କରବୁ।
- ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣ ରାସ୍ତା ଏବଂ ନାଳ ଉପରେ ନିର୍ମାଣ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ଯଥା ଭଗ୍ନା, ବାଲି ରଖି ରାସ୍ତା ଓ ନାଳ ଅବରୋଧ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ।
- ଗୃହପାଳିତ ପଶୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ରାସ୍ତା ଉପରେ ଏଣେତେଣେ ବୁଲିବାକୁ ଛାଡ଼ନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ।
- ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନରୁ ସୁପରିଚାଳନା ନିମନ୍ତେ ପୌର ପରିଷଦକୁ ସହଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତୁ।
- ୫୦ ମାଲକୋଟରୁ କମ୍ ମୋଟେଲ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ପଲିଥିନ୍‌ର ବ୍ୟବହାର ବର୍ଜନ କରନ୍ତୁ।
- ପୌର ପରିଷଦର ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ଆପଣଙ୍କ ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି, ଏଣୁ ଏହାର ସୁରକ୍ଷା କରନ୍ତୁ।

**ଶ୍ରୀ ଲୋକନାଥ କୁମାର ତିଡ଼ିଆ**

**ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ**

**ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ବେଳପାହାଡ଼**

**ଶ୍ରୀ ଶିବ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରୋ (ଓ.ପ୍ର.ସେ.)**

**ପ୍ରଶାସକ, ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ବେଳପାହାଡ଼**

**ଏବଂ ଉପରିକାପାଳ, ଝାରସୁଗୁଡ଼ା**

## Services of Festival Special Trains Extended

<b>SAMBALPUR - JAMMU TAWI - SAMBALPUR SPECIAL</b> From Sambalpur as 08309 on every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday from 11.01.21 to 01.01.21 further order. From Jammu Tawi as 08310 on every Thursday, Friday, Sunday, Tuesday from 14.01.21 to 01.01.21 further order.	<b>BHUBANESWAR - ANAND VIHAR (T) - BHUBANESWAR SPECIAL</b> From Bhubaneswar as 02819 on every Wednesday & Sunday from 03.01.21 to 31.01.21. From Anand Vihar (T) as 02820 on every Friday & Tuesday from 05.01.21 to 02.02.21.	<b>BHUBANESWAR - LOKAMANYA TILAK (T) - BHUBANESWAR SPECIAL</b> From Bhubaneswar as 02880 on every Monday & Thursday from 04.01.21 to 28.01.21. From Lokamanya Tilak (T) as 02879 on every Wednesday & Saturday from 06.01.21 to 30.01.21.
<b>BHUBANESWAR - TIRUPATI - BHUBANESWAR WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Bhubaneswar as 08479 on every Saturday from 02.01.21 to 30.01.21. From Tirupati as 08480 on every Sunday from 03.01.21 to 31.01.21.	<b>BHUBANESWAR - CHENNAI CENTRAL - BHUBANESWAR WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Bhubaneswar as 02839 on every Thursday from 07.01.21 to 28.01.21. From Chennai Central as 02840 on every Friday from 08.01.21 to 29.01.21.	<b>BHUBANESWAR - BANGALORE CANT. - BHUBANESWAR WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Bhubaneswar as 02845 on every Sunday from 03.01.21 to 31.01.21. From Bangalore Cant. as 02846 on every Monday from 04.01.21 to 01.02.21.
<b>BHUBANESWAR - PUDUCHERRY - BHUBANESWAR WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Bhubaneswar as 02898 on every Tuesday from 05.01.21 to 29.01.21. From Puducherry as 02897 on every Wednesday from 06.01.21 to 27.01.21.	<b>BHUBANESWAR - RAMESWARAM - BHUBANESWAR WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Bhubaneswar as 08496 on every Friday from 01.01.21 to 29.01.21. From Rameswaram as 08495 on every Sunday from 03.01.21 to 31.01.21.	<b>SAMBALPUR - HOWRAH - SAMBALPUR WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Sambalpur as 08306 on every Friday from 01.01.21 to 29.01.21. From Howrah as 08305 on every Saturday from 02.01.21 to 30.01.21.
<b>SAMBALPUR - MANDUADIH - SAMBALPUR SPECIAL</b> From Sambalpur as 08311 on every Wednesday & Sunday from 03.01.21 to 27.01.21. From Manduadih as 08312 on every Thursday & Monday from 04.01.21 to 28.01.21.	<b>PURI - PATNA - PURI WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Puri as 08449 on every Monday from 04.01.21 to 25.01.21. From Patna as 08450 on every Wednesday from 06.01.21 to 01.01.21.	<b>PURI - JAYNAGAR - PURI WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Puri as 08419 on every Thursday from 07.01.21 to 28.01.21. From Jaynagar as 08420 on every Saturday from 09.01.21 to 30.01.21.
<b>PURI - SURAT - PURI WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Puri as 02827 on every Sunday from 03.01.21 to 31.01.21. From Surat as 02828 on every Tuesday from 05.01.21 to 02.02.21.	<b>PURI - LOKAMANYA TILAK (T) - PURI WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Puri as 02866 on every Tuesday from 05.01.21 to 26.01.21. From Lokamanya Tilak (T) as 02865 on every Thursday from 07.01.21 to 28.01.21.	<b>PURI - CHENNAI CENTRAL - PURI WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Puri as 02859 on every Sunday from 03.01.21 to 31.01.21. From Chennai Central as 02860 on every Monday from 04.01.21 to 01.02.21.
<b>VISAKHAPATNAM - NIZAMUDDIN - VISAKHAPATNAM SPECIAL</b> From Visakhapatnam as 02851 on every Monday & Friday from 01.01.21 to 29.01.21. From Nizamuddin as 02852 on every Wednesday & Sunday from 03.01.21 to 31.01.21.	<b>VISAKHAPATNAM - NIZAMUDDIN - VISAKHAPATNAM SPECIAL</b> From Visakhapatnam as 02887 on every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday from 02.01.21 to 31.01.21. From Nizamuddin as 02888 on every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday & Tuesday from 04.01.21 to 02.02.21.	<b>VISAKHAPATNAM - CHENNAI CENTRAL - VISAKHAPATNAM WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Visakhapatnam as 02869 on every Monday from 04.01.21 to 25.01.21. From Chennai Central as 02870 on every Tuesday from 05.01.21 to 26.01.21.
<b>VISAKHAPATNAM - LOKAMANYA TILAK (T) - VISAKHAPATNAM WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Visakhapatnam as 02857 on every Sunday from 03.01.21 to 31.01.21. From Lokamanya Tilak (T) as 02858 on every Tuesday from 05.01.21 to 02.02.21.	<b>VISAKHAPATNAM - GANDHIDHAM - VISAKHAPATNAM WEEKLY SPECIAL</b> From Visakhapatnam as 08501 on every Thursday from 07.01.21 to 31.01.21. From Gandhidham as 08502 on every Sunday from 10.01.21 to 31.01.21.	<b>VISAKHAPATNAM - CUDDAPAH - VISAKHAPATNAM DAILY SPECIAL</b> From Visakhapatnam as 07488 on daily from 01.01.21 to 31.01.21. From Cuddapah as 07487 on daily from 02.01.21 to 01.02.21.

**Dial '139'** For any help, enquiry and grievance redressal, during your travel

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**ALL TRAINS ARE RUNNING WITH RESERVED ACCOMMODATION. PASSENGER WITHOUT RESERVED TICKET WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE STATION AND TRAIN.**

Please Follow Covid Guidelines in Trains and Stations  
Wear Mask properly, wash/sanitise hands frequently and maintain 6ft physical distancing

We Care for you.





## KELVIN TO PLAY BB KING IN ELVIS PRESLEY BIOPIC

Actor Kelvin Harrison Jr is set to essay the role of blues legend BB King in the upcoming Elvis Presley biopic. He will now be seen in the important supporting role in the film directed by Baz Luhrmann, reports deadline.com.

## MADONNA ON 'HOMECOMING' TRIP WITH FAMILY TO AFRICA

Singer Madonna is enjoying a homecoming trip to Malawi in Africa with her kids. She had adopted four of her children from the East African nation. The pop icon took to Instagram to share videos and photos from her trip.



CLASS OF '21

# Debutants coming up this year

One of the high-profile launches in 2020 happened owing to the pandemic, so several aspiring actors are looking forward to the year that is coming up. A mix of star kids and outsiders are scheduled to enter the film industry over the next 12 months.

A look at the names who will most likely to create waves

### Namashi Chakraborty

Early stills of his debut film Bad Boy drew comparisons with the handsome features of his father; yesteryears' superstar Mithun Chakraborty. The youngster is ready to take on all the comparisons and is excited about the romantic comedy film directed by Rajkumar Santoshi. He is paired with debutant Amrin Qureshi, daughter of Sajid Qureshi, who is the producer of the film.

Rinzing

### Vijay Deverakonda

The Telugu superstar, who gained all-India popularity with his 2017 Telugu blockbuster "Arjun Reddy", will be seen alongside Ananya Panday in Dharma Productions' upcoming film directed by Puri Jagannadh.

### Ahan Shetty

Action hero Suniel Shetty's son Ahan is all set to hit the big screen opposite the Student Of The Year 2 actress Tara Sutaria in Tadap. The announcement of the Milan Luthria directorial was made last year. The film is a remake of the 2018 Telugu romantic drama RX 100 that became a big hit.

### Manushi Chhillar

She brought home the Miss World crown in 2017, and is now all set to be launched in period drama Prithviraj, starring Akshay Kumar in the

title role of the warrior king Prithviraj Chauhan. Manushi plays Prithviraj's lover Sanyogita.

### Rinzing Denzongpa

Son of veteran actor Danny Denzongpa, Rinzing will show his action avatar in Squad. He has been cast opposite Malvika, who is the niece of veteran actress Anita Raaj. Many would remember Malvika as

the young Pooja, or Poo in Karan

Johar's 2001 directorial Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham.

### Pashmina Roshan

The daughter of composer Rajesh Roshan is yet to make an official announcement about her Bollywood debut, but there have been rumours. What added fuel was her cousin, actor Hrithik Roshan, sharing social media posts about her and writing positive words like Proud of you Pashmina on Instagram. IANS

Manushi

Namashi

Vijay

Pashmina

Ahan

## City foodies present 'Prayasa 2021' showcasing signature Odia delicacies

BHUBANESWAR: Traditional Odia dishes are not just famous for their sumptuousness, one can get the aroma of the state's culture and tradition in them. The range of Odia cuisine is so vast that it is not possible to explain their uniqueness in just 12 pages.

However, Ashutosh and Abhijit, two youngsters leading a food lovers' community from the city, have shortlisted 12 main delicacies of Odisha and have come up with an annual calendar. Titled 'Prayasa 2021', the almanac is presented by 'Foodies of Bhubaneswar' in association with 'Xpose Advertising'. "Every page comprises a popular

Odia dish dedicated to each month. We could come up with the calendar due to days of planning, execution and hard work of our team members and we are really proud of it," said the duo.

The pages contain cuisines including Chhenapoda, originated in Nayagarh, world famous Korakhai of Lingaraj Temple and the sweetmeat Rasagola which is traditionally served to Goddess Laxmi by Lord Jagannath.

One can get the calendar by visiting the Facebook/Instagram pages of 'Foodies of Bhubaneswar' or by visiting 99 North Restaurant in this city in person.

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Prerana, a city based socio-cultural organisation Thursday staged a street play in Master Canteen area here to create awareness on new strain of coronavirus and lift the spirits of denizens who continue to battle the aftermath of lockdown.

Play's director Prashant Patnaik, said, "Needless to say, the pandemic has made life miserable across all spectrums. We are staging this play to sensitise people on issues like maintaining personal hygiene in these difficult times."

Prerana's president Dillip Srichandan said, "Though the government has launched a slew of awareness pro-

grammes, many are not taking them seriously. Street play is a great medium of spreading awareness which is why we went for it to sensitise people

on the catastrophic effect of the virus and to tell them that we are still vulnerable to the new strain of coronavirus detected in UK."



## Alia ready to face whatever lies ahead



Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan): Amid speculations of her engagement with actor Ranbir Kapoor, actress Alia Bhatt Thursday expressed that she is ready to face whatever lies ahead of her in the year coming up.

Alia shared a photograph on her verified Instagram account where she can be seen standing near a bonfire with a drink in her hand. The actress wears a short red dress with a long shrug, a woollen cap and knee high boots.

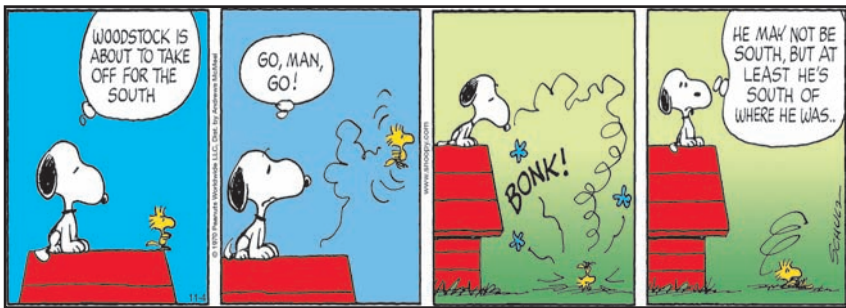
"And to whatever lies ahead of us.. cheers!" Alia wrote on Instagram Thursday.

Fans responded to the post by sharing adjectives like 'beautiful', 'cutie' and 'hottie' to describe the actress.

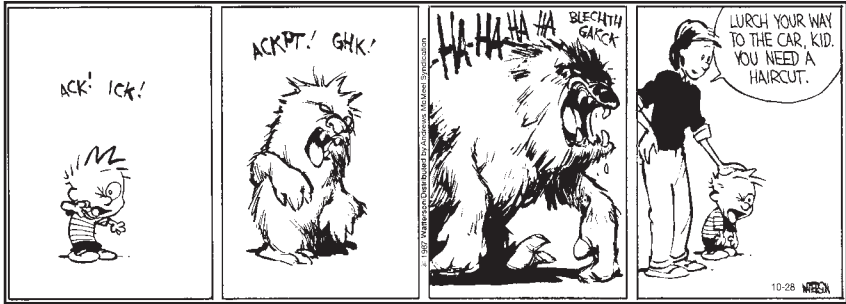
Incidentally, it is not Alia but the person sitting next to her who has caught the attention of a section of netizens. In the picture, a man is sitting near the bonfire next to Alia, who netizens feel is her rumoured beau Ranbir Kapoor. However, the photo has been cropped in a way that the man's face cannot be seen.

IANS

## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

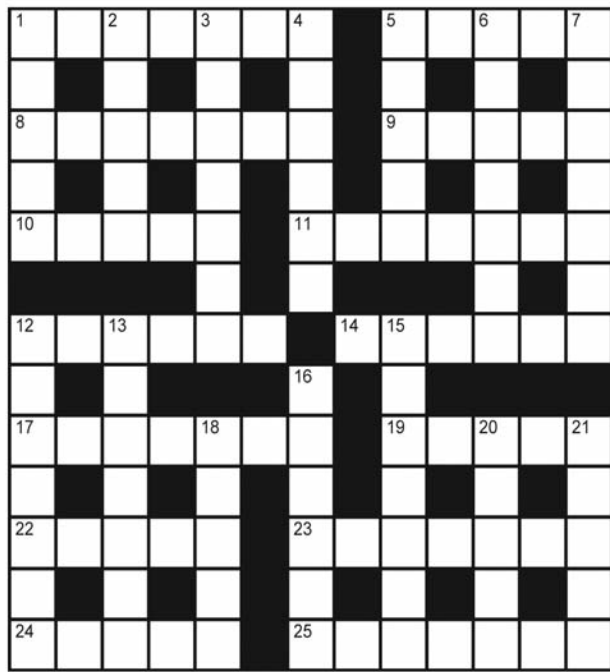


## BREVITY



## FUN post

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- Gable roof
- Rapscallion
- Storm leftovers
- Seating request
- Divvy up
- Eagles and hawks, e.g.
- Movie genre
- Repaired
- Purplish-red
- All thumbs

### Down

- Stares
- Award
- Akin
- Shine
- Slough

- Cupcake topper
- Sinister
- Aswan High Dam locale
- Bacon slices
- Flee with the loot
- Delighted
- Blend
- Exaggerate
- Potions
- Enjoy to the max
- Dusk to dawn
- Irregularly notched
- To-do list items

## SUDOKU

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

A	6	8	1	C	4	9	D	B	2	0	3	5	E	7
0	7	B	3	5	9	E	6	2	1	D	8	C	A	4
9	5	2	D	A	B	0	3	7	C	E	4	1	8	6
4	E	D	8	6	0	1	C	A	9	5	7	3	2	B
C	3	1	7	2	E	8	5	4	B	A	6	0	D	9
8	B	6	A	0	D	3	2	1	4	7	5	E	9	C
D	9	7	5	8	C	B	4	0	E	3	1	A	6	2
E	0	A	4	1	6	C	9	5	8	2	B	7	3	D
1	2	4	9	B	3	7	E	D	A	6	C	8	0	5
5	C	3	E	7	2	6	A	8	0	9	D	B	4	1
2	8	9	6	4	7	A	1	3	5	C	0	D	B	E
3	1	E	0	9	8	5	B	C	D	4	2	6	7	A
7	D	5	B	3	A	4	0	9	6	1	E	2	C	8
6	A	0	C	D	5	2	8	E	7	B	9	4	1	3
B	4	C	2	E	1	D	7	6	3	8	A	9	5	0

## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU

8	A	C	0	E	4	D	6	3	B	5	9	2	7	1
D	2	6	9	3	8	0	4	5	7	C	1	B	A	E
5	9	8	1	2	A	C	7	8	D	0	E	3	6	4
4	3	7	6	C	D	1	B	E	2	A	8	0	5	9
E	0	1	B	7	5	9	A	2	3	6	4	8	D	C
C	B	0	8	D	1	E	3	A	9	7	6	5	4	2
A	8	D	7	6	B	2	1	C	5	4	0	9	E	3
2	1	E	4	9	C	5	0	6	A	8	3	7	B	8
3	6	E	4	9	5	0	7	8	A	1	2	B	D	C
7	4	5	2	A	3	8	9	D	0	E	6	C	1	0
0	E	A	5	8	7	3	C	1	6	9	2	4	8	0
9	D	4	C	1	6	A	2	0	8	B	7	E	3	5
1	C	8	3	0	2	6	D	B	4	E	5	A	9	7
6	7	3	D	4	E	8	5	9	0	1	A	C	2	B
B	5	2	A	8	9	4	E	7	C	3	D	1	0	6

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





**Hungary will buy vaccines either through the European Union's procurement mechanism or directly from China because Russia doesn't have enough capacity to manufacture vaccines**  
**GERGELY GULYAS** | PM VIKTOR ORBAN'S CHIEF OF STAFF, HUNGARY

**POPE TO SKIP LEADING NEW YEAR SERVICES**

Pope Francis won't lead New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services because of a flare-up of his sciatica condition, which causes pain in his right leg



## of the day quote

Iran doesn't seek war but will openly and directly defend its people, security and vital interests



**MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF** | FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

Since most of the hospitalised in the nursing homes are elderly and with underlying conditions, they are at a high risk of death when infected with Covid



**CHOI DAE-ZIP** | PRESIDENT OF THE KOREAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, SOUTH KOREA

If we continue distancing from others, wearing facial coverings and avoiding social gatherings, we will make it to the other side of this pandemic together



**JAY INSLEE** | GOVERNOR, WASHINGTON

## SHORT TAKES

### UAE again logs record cases

**Dubai:** For the second consecutive day, the United Arab Emirates has shattered its single-day record of new coronavirus infections, with 1,730 cases recorded ahead of New Years Eve celebrations expected to draw tens of thousands of revelers to Dubai from around the world. The record figures come after the UAE said it detected its first known cases of the new, fast-spreading variant of the virus in people arriving from abroad. The UAE has remained open for business and tourism.

### Khawaja Asif in NAB custody

**Lahore:** Pakistan's former foreign minister and opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PM-N) stalwart Khawaja Muhammad Asif was Thursday remanded in the custody of the anti-graft body for 14 days in the assets beyond means case. Asif, 71, was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Tuesday in Islamabad in connection with the charges of possessing assets beyond his known sources of income. A Lahore court Thursday accepted the plea of NAB and granted it 14-day remand of Asif.

### Pak to procure 1.1mn vax doses

**Islamabad:** Pakistan has decided to pre-book 1.1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Chinese state-owned company Sinopharm, the health ministry said here Thursday, as the number of coronavirus cases reached 479,715 after 2,475 new infections were detected in the country. China Thursday granted conditional approval to the country's first homegrown COVID-19 vaccine developed by Sinopharm. The approval came a day after Sinopharm said its vaccine showed 79.34 per cent efficacy and a 99.52 per cent antibody-positive conversion rate in the interim results of Phase III clinical trials.

### Relief for Indian fishermen in SL

**Colombo:** Indian fishermen, apprehended in Sri Lanka for allegedly poaching in its territorial waters, have been provided consular assistance by the Consulate General of India in Jaffna, the Indian High Commission here said Thursday. The high commission said it was in touch with the Sri Lankan Government to facilitate the early release of the detained fishermen.

# 30 ARRESTED FOR DAMAGING HINDU TEMPLE IN PAKISTAN

AGENCIES

**Peshawar, Dec 31:** Over 30 people, mostly members of a radical Islamist party, were arrested after a Hindu temple was vandalised and set on fire by a mob protesting against its expansion work in north-west Pakistan, officials said Thursday.

The attack on the temple in Terri village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Karak district Wednesday drew strong condemnation from human rights activists and Hindu community leaders.

Thursday, the provincial government ordered authorities to reconstruct the damaged temple as it vowed to bring the culprits to justice. The temple was attacked by the mob after members of the Hindu community received permission from local authorities to renovate its decades-old building, according to witnesses.

The mob, led by a local cleric and supporters of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party (Fazal ur Rehman group), demolished the newly constructed work alongside the old structure, they said.

According to local police, they arrested more than 30 people, in-



Protest against the attack underway in Pakistan

cluding Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam leader Rehmat Salam Khattak, in overnight raids. Over 350 people have been named in the FIR, Provincial Police Chief KPK Sanaullah Abbasi has said.

Abbasi said all the sections of law relating to terrorism have been included in the FIR against the accused. The police will ensure protection to worship places of minorities in the province, he added. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Thursday took notice of the attack and ordered the local authorities to appear before the court January 5. According to a statement by the apex court, Hindu lawmaker and the Pakistan Hindu Council chief Ramesh Kumar

Vankwani called on Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed in Karachi to discuss the issue.

"The Chief Justice of Pakistan showed grave concern over the tragic incident and informed the member of parliament that he has already taken cognisance of the issue and has fixed the matter before court January 5, at Islamabad," according to the statement.

The court has issued directions to one-man Commission on Minorities Rights, KP chief secretary and KP inspector general of police to visit the site and submit a report January 4.

CM's Special Assistant for Information said that the government would reconstruct the temple.

# SK to roll out its own Covid vax late next yr

AGENCIES

**Seoul, Dec 31:** South Korea will be able to develop its own Covid-19 vaccine late next year, in addition to foreign products to be shipped here in the near future, the country's Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said Thursday.

He was speaking in public at the outset of an interagency meeting on the virus response, Yonhap news agency reported.

"(The government) will be able to introduce a COVID-19 vaccine, which we are developing independently, to the people around the end of next year," he said during the session held at the government office complex in Seoul.

He also pointed out that foreign-made vaccines are scheduled to be administered in South Korea starting as early as in February.

"A review on a treatment, developed by our company, for permission started a few days ago as well," he added, apparently referring to Celltrion Inc.'s antibody treatment waiting for approval by the South Korean Ministry of Food

and Drug Safety.

Chung expressed optimism that South Korea will win the fight against the coronavirus faster than any other nation if it secures such a treatment and vaccines on the basis of its robust virus control and prevention system.

He stressed that the government is "managing the situation" without such measures as lockdowns or travel restrictions.

The country achieved early success in its antiviral campaign with aggressive efforts to "test, trace and treat" infections.

But it is now gripped by another wave of large-scale transmissions, which Chung described as "the most critical moment in the final phase" of the coronavirus crisis.

The country's new virus infections fell below 1,000 Thursday for the first time in three days but the level of new cases remains still high due mainly to cluster infections from churches, private gatherings and other facilities.

The country added 967 more COVID-19 cases, including 940 locally transmitted infections, bringing the total caseload to 60,740, according to the KDCA.



We will be able to introduce a COVID-19 vaccine, which we are developing independently, to the people around the end of next year  
**CHUNG SYE-KYUN** | PRIME MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA



Fireworks explode over the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge as New Year celebrations begin in Sydney, Australia, Friday

# Post Brexit, British PM's father applying for French citizenship

AGENCIES

**Paris, Dec 31:** The father of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Thursday he was in the process of applying for a French passport to maintain his ties with the European Union after Brexit.

Stanley Johnson, a former member of the European Parliament who voted Remain in Britain's 2016 referendum, told RTL radio he wanted to become a French citizen because of strong family links to France.

"If I understand it correctly, I am French. My mother was born



in France, her mother was totally French as was her grandfather. So for me it is about reclaiming what I already have. And that makes me very happy," said the 80-year-old Johnson, who was speaking in French.

"I will always be a European, that's for sure. One cannot tell the

British people: you are not Europeans. Having a tie with the European Union is important," he added.

His son Boris was the public face of the Leave campaign in the 2016 referendum and says Britain can "prosper mightily" as a fully sovereign nation outside what he sees as an overly bureaucratic EU.

But Wednesday the prime minister sounded a more conciliatory note as parliament approved a new trade deal with the EU.

The UK officially leaves the EU's orbit Thursday night, after an often strained 48-year liaison.

# A look at the diverse Biden's transition team

61 PC OF BIDEN'S WHITE HOUSE APPOINTEES ARE WOMEN, 54 PC PEOPLE OF COLOUR

AGENCIES

**Washington, Dec 31:** Sixty-one per cent of the new White House appointees are women and 54 per cent are people of colour, President-elect Joe Biden's transition team has said. It asserted that the Biden-Harris administration will prioritise diversity of ideology and background, and foster talent to address the country's most complex challenges.

Wednesday, President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris surpassed their goal of naming 100 members of their incoming administration. These accomplished indi-

viduals join a historic and barrier-breaking administration that looks like America, and is ready to deliver results for working families on day one, Biden's transition team said.

The Biden-Harris administration will prioritise diversity of ideology and background, and foster talent to address the nation's most complex challenges, it said. The White House staff represents a small percentage of the total number of Biden-Harris appointees that will serve across the federal government, said the transition team.

"The first 100+ White House appointees, including those announced today, represent

America in the following ways: 61 per cent are women, 54 per cent are people of colour; AAPI appointees represent more than twice their share of the national population, LGBTQ+ appointees account for 11 per cent of all White House staff," it said.

According to the statistics released by the Biden transition, almost 20 per cent of appointees are first-generation Americans and about 40 per cent of White House senior staff has children at home. "From the beginning, Vice President-elect Harris and I have sought to build an administration that looks like America. Building a diverse team will lead to better outcomes

and more effective solutions to address the urgent crises facing our nation. The appointees named today will draw from their expertise and life experiences to help us build the country back better. Moving forward together, there's nothing we can't accomplish," Biden said. Harris said to meet unprecedented challenges facing the American people; an administration should be build that reflects the very best of the country.

"These remarkable public servants have the knowledge and expertise to hit the ground running on day one. And I look forward to working with them to get this virus under control,

safely and responsibly reopen our economy and our schools, and build back our country in a way that lifts up all Americans," she said.

"The President-elect and Vice President-elect have been committed to building a White House team that is filled with crisis-tested experts who will hit the ground running on day one. I am thrilled that we have accomplished our goal of naming 100 staff members by the end of 2020—and I could not be more proud of the talented and diverse team we will put to work for the American people," said incoming White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain.



the standoff that erupted in early May. At the latest round of foreign ministry-level talks December 18, the two sides said that they have agreed to continue work towards ensuring complete disengagement of troops in all friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The meeting also decided to hold the next round of military dialogue at an early date.

In the midst of the eastern Ladakh standoff, Chinese President Xi Jinping December 19 appointed a new General as the Commander of the People's Liberation Army's Western Theatre Command which oversees the China-India border.

Xi, who heads the Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high-command of the two million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA), appointed Gen. Zhang Xudong as the Commander of the Western Theatre Command.

Gen. Zhang succeeds 65-year-old Gen. Zhao Zongqi who headed the Western Theatre Command during the 2017 Doklam standoff where the Indian Army stood up against the PLA's plan of laying a road close to the Indian border in an area claimed by Bhutan.

The Ladakh standoff also happened under the watch of Gen Zhao.

# China completes track laying for railway line in Tibet 'close' to India

AGENCIES

**Beijing, Dec 31:** China Thursday completed the track-laying work for a railway line linking the cities of Lhasa and Nyingchi in Tibet, close to the Indian border in Arunachal Pradesh, official media here reported.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. It will go through the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas. The Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province and travels through Ya'an and enters Tibet via Qamdo, shortening the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours.

Linshi, also known as Nyingchi, is located close to Arunachal Pradesh border.







**The reduction in stamp duty has led to a significant surge in sales of homes in Maharashtra, particularly in Mumbai, comforting the long-beleaguered real estate sector of this region**  
**SHISHIR BAJAJ** | CHAIRMAN AND MD, KNIGHT FRANK INDIA

## NON-FOOD BANK CREDIT GROWS 6%

Non-food credit growth of banks stood at 6% in November as compared to 7.2% in the same month of the previous year, RBI data showed. Reversing the downtrend, credit growth to agriculture and allied activities accelerated to 8.5% from 6.5%



## of the day quote

We have seen an enthusiastic response from our passengers travelling between India and the UAE, and there is immense pent-up demand on the said route. This has encouraged us to strengthen the network by adding these services between India and Sharjah

**KAUSHIK KHONA** | CEO, GOAIR

The postal department during the lockdown was at the frontline to deliver essential parcels when rail, road and air traffic were grounded and continues to enhance capacity as trains are not fully operational yet

**PRADIPTA KUMAR BISOI** | SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

While expectations of a rebound in economic growth, breathe into the markets an unusual optimism, the fact that India would continue to be one of the fastest growing economies in the world with a large consumer market, instills greater confidence in not only domestic investors but also overseas investors

**JOSEPH THOMAS** | HEAD OF RESEARCH, EMKAY WEALTH MANAGEMENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Nifty crosses 14,000-mark

**Mumbai:** The Indian equity market rose to new record high during the mid-afternoon trade session Thursday as the NSE Nifty50 crossed the 14,000 mark for the first time ever. The index touched a record high of 14,024.85 points amid a largely subdued trade. BSE Sensex also hit a fresh high of 47,896.97 points. As per analysts, FIIs continued their buying streak and cumulatively bought more than ₹47,000 crore worth of equities in December.

### Crisil segregates ratings business

**Mumbai:** Crisil Thursday announced a transfer of its flagship ratings agency business into a separate, wholly-owned subsidiary to comply with the Sebi mandate for agencies. The capital markets regulator had given rating agencies time till December 31 to segregate the rating and non-rating businesses so as to avoid any conflicts of interest. In a statement,

### Over 17K patents granted till Nov

**New Delhi:** India granted 17,148 patents till November 30 this fiscal out of 37,660 applications filed, according to the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Infrastructure upgradation, manpower augmentation, regulatory reforms and IT enablement have resulted in speedy disposal of intellectual property application, DPIIT said in a statement.

### FDI equity inflow up 21% to \$35.3bn

**New Delhi:** Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India grew 21% to \$35.33 billion during April-October period of the current financial year, according to an official data. In the year-ago period, FDI equity inflows stood at \$29.31 billion, as per the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. During the first 7 months of the current fiscal, total FDI (including re-invested earnings) increased 11% to \$46.82 billion from \$42.06 billion in April-October 2019, it said.

# Apr-Nov fiscal deficit tops 135% of full-year target

*In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit stood at ₹10,75,507 crore at the end of November 2020, according to the latest data released by the CGA*

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Dec 31:** The Union government's fiscal deficit soared to ₹10.75 lakh crore, or 135.1% of the 2020-21 Budget Estimates (BE), at the end of November 2020, mainly on account of low realisation of revenue due to disruption in business activities amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The fiscal deficit at the end of November 2019 had stood at 114.8% of 2019-20 BE.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit stood at ₹10,75,507 crore at the end of November 2020, ac-

cording to the latest data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The lockdown imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus had significantly impacted business activities and, in turn, contributed to sluggish revenue realisation.

The fiscal deficit, or gap between the expenditure and revenue, had breached the annual target in July this year.

The government's total receipts stood at ₹8,30,851 crore (37% of BE 2020-21) till the end of November 2020. This included ₹6,88,430 crore tax revenue (net to centre), ₹1,24,280



crore of non-tax revenue and ₹18,141 crore of non-debt capital receipts. Non-debt capital receipts consist of recovery of loans and disin-

vestment proceeds.

The tax revenue collection was 42.1% of BE of 2020-21, compared with 45.5% of BE (2019-20) during

the corresponding period a year ago. Non-tax revenue was 32.3% of BE. During the corresponding period of the last fiscal, it was 74.3% of BE 2019-20.

During the corresponding period last fiscal, the total receipts were 48.6 per cent of 2019-20 BE.

According to the data, over ₹3.34 lakh crore were transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by the Government of India up to November 2020. The CGA data said the total expenditure incurred by the government stood at ₹19,06,358 crore or 63% of BE.

## Nov infrastructure output contracts 2.6%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 31:** Contracting for the ninth consecutive month, the output of eight core infrastructure sectors dropped by 2.6% in November, mainly due to decline in production of natural gas, refinery products, steel and cement.

The production of eight core sectors had recorded a growth of 0.7% in November 2019, data released by the commerce and industry ministry showed Thursday. Barring coal, fertiliser and electricity, all sectors - crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel and cement - recorded negative growth in November 2020.

During April-November, the sectors' output dropped by 11.4% as compared to a growth of 0.3% in the same period of the previous year.

The output of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel and cement declined by (-) 4.9%, (-) 9.3%, (-) 4.8%, (-) 4.4%, and (-) 7.1%, respectively, in November this year.

On the other hand, coal and electricity sector output grew by 2.9% and 2.2% during the month under review. Fertiliser sector growth stood at 1.6% as against 13.6% in the same month last year.

The eight core industries account for 40.27% of the IIP.

In October, the output of these eight key sectors had contracted by 0.9%, while there was a 0.1% dip in September this year. Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA, said

**In line with the core sector performance, the pace of growth of many other indicators slipped in November, reflecting a combination of the base effect, fewer working days on account of a shift in the festive calendar, and a potential step-down in production following the satiation of pent-up demand**

**ADITI NAYAR** | PRINCIPAL ECONOMIST ICRA



that in line with the core sector performance, the pace of growth of many other indicators slipped in November, reflecting a combination of the base effect, fewer working days on account of a shift in the festive calendar, and a potential step-down in production following the satiation of pent-up demand.

"Based on the available information, we expect the IIP to revert to a temporary but unpalatable 2-5% contraction in November 2020," she said.

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Dec 31:** The government Thursday said the current domestic production is unable to meet the country's demand, even though the country is the world's second-largest producer of fossil fuel and the fifth-largest nation in terms of coal deposits.

Currently, India is producing about 729 million tonnes of dry fuel, the coal ministry said in a statement.

"However, it is a fact that the domestic production is not able to meet the demand of coal in the country," the statement said.

Last year, India imported 247 million tonnes (MT) of coal and spent ₹1.58 lakh crore worth of foreign exchange.

Commercial auction of coal mines along with transparent measures taken by the Centre has come at an opportune time to bridge the mismatch between demand and supply of coal in the country.

"This will not only provide a huge opportunity for employment in the backward regions but will also save foreign exchange to the extent of almost ₹20,000 crore to ₹30,000 crore per year," it said.

These reforms will also have an

effect on other sectors dependent on coal. With an increase in coal production, the positive impact will also be felt on production and processing in steel, aluminum, fertilisers and cement sectors. The auction of coal blocks for commercial mining was launched in June with 38 blocks in the first tranche. Out of the said blocks, the auction process was successfully completed for 19 blocks in November.

Total annual revenue generation from the auction is estimated at ₹6,656 crore, considering production at aggregated peak rate capacity level of 51 million tonnes

per annum. The total upfront amount of ₹262 crore will be received by the states during the financial year 2020-21, and the remaining amount of ₹786 crore will be received subsequently based on the milestones mentioned in the bid documents. Import substitution is one of the topmost priorities of the government.

An inter-ministerial committee has been constituted for the purpose.

Towards the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the ministry along with all stakeholders is actively pursuing to achieve the mission of import substitution.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Dec 31:** The economy, though projected to grow 9.6% in the next financial year in year-on-year growth term, may grow just 1% in real terms to ₹147.17 lakh crore as against ₹145.66 lakh crore in 2019-20, at the 2011-12 prices, according to a report by India Ratings.

The size of the economy, as per the National Statistical Office's data, had stood at ₹145.66 lakh crore in 2019-20, at the 2011-12 prices.

According to the rating agency, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract 7.8% to ₹134.33 lakh crore in 2020-21, but may grow 9.6% to ₹147.17 lakh crore in 2021-22.

In the first quarter of the current financial year that was impacted by the lockdown, GDP tanked 23.9% year-on-year, while the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) contracted 35.9%. But, in a dramatic recovery, GDP contraction was 7.5%

## DOMESTIC COAL



# 'Decision to suspend US tariffs already paying off'

REUTERS

**London, Dec 31:** Britain said Thursday its decision to suspend retaliatory tariffs against the United States was already bearing fruit after it was spared in a new round of US tariff increases which hit French and German produce.

Britain said earlier this month it would use its new-found freedom outside the European Union to diverge from common EU trade policy towards the United States, deciding to unilaterally suspend tariffs relating to a 16-year dispute on aircraft subsidies.

The US government Wednesday said it would raise tariffs on certain EU products, including aircraft



components and wines from France and Germany, arguing that the EU had unfairly calculated its own tariffs. "The UK wasn't hit because we suspended tariffs and brought the US to the negotiating table," a British official said. "(This) shows we are making the right strategic decisions."

The United States and EU have already imposed tariffs on billions

of dollars of each others' goods over a row about state subsidies provided to civil aviation firms Boeing and Airbus. Those tariffs remain in place.

British trade minister Liz Truss has repeatedly spoken out against the measures, earlier rounds of which have hit British exports such as Scotch whisky. Germany has also recently called for a quick resolution to the dispute.

The British decision to suspend tariffs on U.S. goods from Jan. 1, once Britain fully leaves the EU, upset European planemaker Airbus and exposed a growing rift between the UK and Europe over aerospace investment, industry sources and analysts said.

# 'Economy may add mere 1% in real terms'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Dec 31:** The economy, though projected to grow 9.6% in the next financial year in year-on-year growth term, may grow just 1% in real terms to ₹147.17 lakh crore as against ₹145.66 lakh crore in 2019-20, at the 2011-12 prices, according to a report by India Ratings.

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in the second quarter, while IIP contraction was only 5.9% y-o-y. "These growth numbers suggest a strong V-shaped recovery, leading to the belief that the economy is out of the woods and on the path of a strong recovery. Even a moderate improvement in 1Q and Q2 of FY22 reflects a decent annualised GDP and IIP growth due to the low base," India Ratings said in the report. It added that due to the low base of 2020-21, the full-year GDP growth of 2021-22 on a y-o-y basis is expected to do fairly well, and our growth projections for 2021-22 is 9.6 per cent. However, in annual terms, 2021-

## 'OVER ₹70K cr ECONOMIC LOSS IN Q3'

**NEW DELHI:** The farmers' agitation against new agri laws will lead to economic loss of over ₹70,000 crore in the December quarter owing to supply chain disruptions, particularly in Punjab, Haryana and border areas of Delhi, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said Thursday.

The chamber's President Sanjay Aggarwal said "the 36 days farm agitation so far will have more than ₹70,000 crore economic loss in the Q3 FY 2020-21 due to...Disruption in supply chains and day-to-day economic activities particularly in the progressive states of Punjab and Haryana and border areas of Delhi." The

## Jio announces free domestic voice calls to other networks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 31:** Reliance Jio, the nation's largest telecom operator by subscribers, Thursday said calls by its users to other networks in India will become free from Friday when the so-called IUC regime ends.



At present, voice calls to rival networks are charged an inter-connect usage charge (IUC). The IUC of 6 paise per minute was to make up for the cost incurred by the rival network for completing the call.

So, despite Jio charging its users for only data usages and keeping voice calls free, a 6 paise had to be paid to rivals such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea whenever its users made a call to those networks.

The IUC regime, as per the sector regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), comes to an end from January 1, 2021.

Jio, in a statement noted that as per the telecom regulator's directions, 'Bill and Keep regime' is being implemented in the country from January 1, 2021, thereby ending IUC rates for all domestic voice calls.

## China's Zhong replaces Ambani as Asia's richest person

AGENCIES

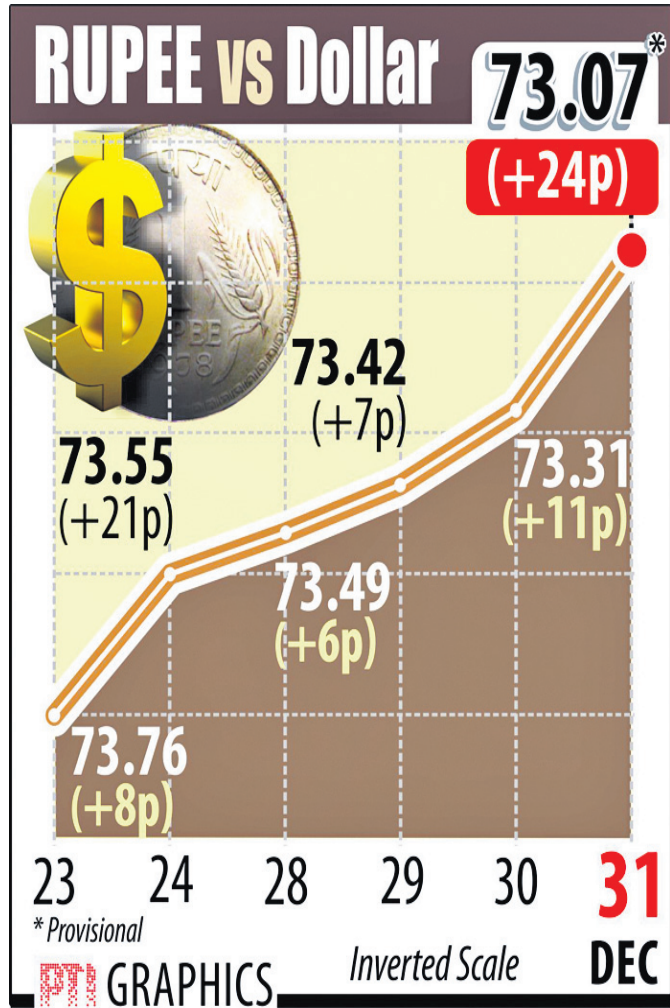
**Mumbai, Dec 31:** Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani is no longer Asia's richest person. You read that right! Zhong Shanshan, vaccine magnate and founder of China's largest bottled water company Nongfu Spring has managed to take his place.

According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Zhong's net worth has soared \$70.9 billion this year to \$77.8 billion, making him the 11th richest person in the world. Things were not easy for Zhong, popularly known as 'Lone



Wolf'. The 66-year-old man worked as a construction worker, a newspaper reporter, drugmaker and beverage sales agent before starting his own business.

Born in Hangzhou, the man dropped out of primary school during the chaos of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China. In April 2020, Zhong-controlled Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy went public on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. His controlling stake in the company saw his overall fortunes surge as much as \$20 billion by August.







BORN-20 JUNE 1947, DIED-31 DECEMBER 2020

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Dec 31:** The world is still going through a tough phase following the coronavirus pandemic. When the people were about to say ‘Goodbye’ to the most wicked years since World War II, India had to deal with yet another heartbreak before the end of 2020.

It couldn’t be any worse as former India international and Odisha hockey great Michael Kindo, Thursday, breathed his last due to age-related ailments at a hospital here. He was 73, and is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

He became a legend after winning the bronze medal in 1972 Summer Olympics. Three years later, he became a World Champion with India after winning the 1975 World Cup. Kindo was bestowed with the Arjuna Award in 1972.

“Michael Kindo passed away at the Ispat General Hospital due to age

# KINDO no more

OLYMPIC BRONZE AND WORLD CUP WINNER ODISHA HOCKEY GREAT DIES THURSDAY DUE TO AGE-RELATED AILMENTS

Kindo. We send out our heartfelt condolences to his family,” the HI said in a tweet.

“Hon’ble Governor is saddened to learn about the demise of former Indian hockey great and Olympic medalist Michael Kindo. The Hon’ble Governor has conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family members. RIP,” tweeted Governor of Odisha Prof. Ganeshi Lal.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik described Kindo as a ‘tribal icon’. “Deeply saddened to know the passing away of hockey legend and Arjuna Awardee #MichaelKindo, a tribal icon and part of India’s World Cup winning team of 1975. My thoughts are with his family and fans,” Patnaik said in his official Twitter handle.

Former India captain Dilip Tirkey also condoled Kindo’s death. “Hockey legend Michael Kindo will be remembered for his memorable sporting performances. He brought home lots of pride and laurels. Undoubtedly a brilliant hockey player, he also made a mark as a great mentor,” he tweeted.

He was born in Jharkhand, but he chose Sundargarh as his home and spent most of his life there, playing a major role in the turning the district’s as well as the state’s fortunes in hockey. He retired from his job at Rourkela Steel Plant in 2004.

## Teen Mendonca becomes India’s 67th chess GM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Dec 31:** Goa’s 14-year-old Leon Mendonca has become India’s 67th chess Grandmaster by winning the third and final norm at a tournament in Italy. Mendonca, who achieved the feat at 14 years, 9 months and 17 days, is the second GM from the coastal state.

The player achieved his first GM norm at the Rigo Chess GM Round Robin in October while the second came in Budapest in November and the final one at the Vergani Cup in Italy. At the Vergani Cup in Bassano del Grappa, he finished second with 6.5 points behind Ukraine’s Vitaliy Bernadskiy (7).

Mendonca and his father Lyndon were stranded in Europe in March in the wake of the coronavirus-enforced lockdown and travel restrictions.

They saw an opportunity in it and took part in several tournaments with an aim of achieving the GM title. In the nine months from March to December, Mendonca played in 16 tournaments and, from an ELO rating of 2452 points, improved to 2544.

Mendonca said he was delighted to become a GM and thanked those who supported him through thick and thin. “I am delighted to become a GM. It has come after a lot of hard work. I can’t thank enough several people including my parents, coach Vishu Prasanna and sponsors for the success,” he said.

The Goa youngster had taken part in a camp organised by Microsense in Chennai late in 2019 when former World Champions Vladimir Kramnik and Boris Gelfand trained a number of Indian players.

After the second GM norm was achieved, his father had said, “It has been challenging to stay in Europe and for him to compete in events. We have been staying in Airbnb rooms. Also, it has been difficult to plan for tournaments due to the uncertainty. But it has been a rewarding one though.”

Chennai player G Akash, had in July, become the country’s 66th Grandmaster. Former world champion Viswanathan Anand congratulated Mendonca.

“Congrats Leon for becoming the 67th Grandmaster. An inspiration for aspiring Grandmasters. I am so proud of your commitment and focus. Just amazing how your family and yourself stayed behind in Europe during the pandemic chasing the GM title! Enjoy the achievement!” the chess maestro tweeted.

# Oz to risk playing Warner in Sydney

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Dec 31:** A struggling Australia are prepared to risk playing seasoned opener David Warner in the third Test against India even if he is not 100 percent fit, assistant coach Andrew McDonald said Thursday.

The third Test is scheduled to be played in Sydney from January 7-11. In the absence of Warner, who was recovering from a groin muscle tear, Australia’s batting failed miserably in the first two matches.

“That’s a real, clear option. He may not be 100 per cent fit – who is coming off an injury? You never know until you get out there,” McDonald said during a virtual press conference. “Look, if he’s 90-95 per cent fit and the conversation is that he’s fit enough to be able to go out there and

perform his duties for the team, then I’m sure that’ll be a conversation the coach has with the player. Most times Justin (Langer) is pretty open with the players in terms of giving them accountability around that.”

Warner has been named in the squad along with Victorian young gun Will Pucovski for the third Test as Australia look to bounce back from the eight-wicket loss in the Boxing Day Test here.

McDonald said Warner is optimistic about making a comeback in Sydney. “He’s (Warner) very optimistic that he should be ready to go, which is a great news for us. We are really excited to have him back. I’m sure that he’s excited to come back into the group as well. There’s nothing worse than being injured when you are at the top of your game as David has been over a period of time.”

# Atletico extend lead after Real draw



Luis Suarez (C) wheels away in celebration after scoring Atletico Madrid’s winner against Getafe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Barcelona, Dec 31:** Luis Suarez led Atletico Madrid to a 1-0 victory over Getafe in the 500th game for coach Diego Simeone, extending their Spanish league lead after Real Madrid drew 1-1 at Elche.

The Uruguay striker used a powerful and precise header to send Yannick Carrasco’s lob from

a free-kick into the lower corner of Getafe’s net in the 20th minute Wednesday. It was Suarez’s eighth goal in the league this season since leaving Barcelona for one of their top rivals.

Atletico’s third win in a row left it two points above Madrid, which saw its five-game league winning streak end at Elche. Atletico also has two games in hand on Madrid.

# SHARDUL LIKELY TO REPLACE SENIOR PACER IN THE TEAM FOR THIRD TEST IN SYDNEY UMESH OUT OF OZ SERIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Dec 31:** Pacer Umesh Yadav was Thursday ruled out of the remainder of the series against Australia due to the calf injury he sustained during the Melbourne match and the Indian team management is likely to prefer Shardul Thakur over left-arm pace sensation T Natarajan for the third Test.

According to sources, senior pacer Yadav, who missed the third Test due to a calf muscle tear, is heading home for rehabilitation. The third Test begins in Sydney from January 7.

“Umesh will have to go for an extensive rehab. He has left for India,” a BCCI source privy to developments in Australia told this agency, Thursday.

“While people are excited about the brilliant progress shown by T Natarajan, we mustn’t forget he has played only one first class match for Tamil Nadu. And Shardul has been a seasoned domestic red ball pacer for Mumbai,” the source added.

“Shardul was really unfortunate that his Test debut against West Indies ended abruptly due to injury even before he could bowl an over. He has been shaping up well and might replace Umesh in the playing XI.”

The final call will be taken by the head coach Ravi Shastri, stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane and



Shardul Thakur is likely to replace Yadav in the third Test in Sydney

bowling coach Bharath Arun after reaching Sydney.

Shardul has so far played 62 first class games and has 206 wickets to show for his efforts. Another aspect that India would like to address ahead of the Third Test is a long tail that has affected the team.

Shardul has six first class half centuries and during his stint with the national team in white ball games, he has proved to be a decent batsman.

“Obviously the next few training sessions will be important and that’s why the final call is likely to be taken in Sydney,” the source said. As far as Yadav is concerned, he is expected to head off to National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore for extensive rehab programme. The 33-year-old had hobbled off the field after suffering the injury during the third day of the Boxing Day Test.



Indian team physio helps Umesh Yadav walk off the ground following his injury during the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne

# Rohit gears up for Sydney Test

INDIAN OPENER GOES THROUGH HIS FIRST PRACTICE SESSION AFTER JOINING THE TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Dec 31:** Joining the Indian team after completing his mandatory 14-day quarantine, star batsman Rohit Sharma Thursday went through his first practice session in Australia under the watchful eyes of batting coach Vikram Rathour.

The prolific opener is expected to play the third Test in Sydney from January 7. “The engine is just getting started and here is a quick glimpse of what lies ahead. #TeamIndia #AUSVIND,” BCCI tweeted with two pictures of the batsman.

While he trained, the rest of the squad took a brief two-day break after India’s fine win in the second Test at MCG.

The 33-year-old Mumbaier, who had missed the limited-overs series as well as the first two Tests against Australia due to a hamstring injury that he sustained during the IPL, was seen taking catching practice in the photographs.

Three throwdown experts – Raghavindraa, popularly known as Raghu, Sri Lankan Nuwan Senewiratne and Dayananda Garani – were also there to assist Rohit. Prior to meeting his teammates, Rohit had spent two weeks in quarantine in Sydney.

Head coach Ravi Shastri had



Rohit Sharma goes through some slip-catching drills during his first practice session, Friday

said Tuesday that the medical team will look at how the player is physically before a call is taken on his inclusion in the playing XI for the third Test.

The BCCI had announced December 11 that the opener cleared an eagerly-watched fitness test at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore, paving the way for his departure for Australia ahead of the four-Test series.

Rohit, along with the Indian team, is likely to leave for Sydney January 4 after a change in sched-

ule due to the COVID-19 situation in the state.

Rohit had sustained a hamstring injury during the IPL, which led to him missing the white-ball leg and the first two Tests of the ongoing tour. It remains to be seen who makes way for Rohit from the side that trounced Australia in the second Test.

Batting great Sunil Gavaskar has backed the swashbuckling Mumbaier to open the batting with the young Shubman Gill in Sydney.

## ICC TEST RANKING

### Rahane climbs to 6th, Ashwin to 7th

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Dec 31:** India captain Virat Kohli held on to his second position while stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane broke into the top 10 after gaining five places in the latest ICC men’s Test batting ranking released Thursday.

Rahane climbed to the sixth spot after scoring 112 and 27 not out to inspire India’s eight-wicket series-levelling win in the second Test against Australia in Melbourne. It is just one below his career-best ranking of fifth attained in October last year.

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, too, was rewarded for his five-wicket haul at the MCG as he gained two places to the seventh spot, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah rose to the ninth position.

Ravindra Jadeja, who scored a crucial 57 and captured three wickets in the second Test, remained at number three but reduced the gap with Jason Holder to seven points in the all-rounder’s ranking.

He, however, gained 11 and four positions to reach a career best-equaling 36th and 14th positions in batting and bowling respectively.

MCG debutants Shubman Gill and Mohammad Siraj made notable entries in 76th and 77th positions in the list for batsmen and bowlers, respectively. Cheteshwar Pujara’s lack of form saw him lose two spots to slip to the 10th place.

# Darlow frustrates Reds in draw at Newcastle



Karl Darlow steers the ball wide of the post to deny Mo Salah a goal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Newcastle, Dec 31:** Goalkeeper Karl Darlow pulled off a string of saves to help Newcastle hold Liverpool to a 0-0 draw as the defending champion’s vaunted attacking trio came up empty.

Mohamed Salah missed two good chances when he had just Darlow to beat, and strike-partner Roberto Firmino saw two headers saved at St. James’ Park Wednesday.

Three days after struggling West Bromwich Albion earned a point at Anfield, Jurgen Klopp’s team was frustrated once again, although Darlow needed some help in the form of a late goal-line clearance from Fabian Schar to deny Sadio Mane and maintain the stalemate.

Liverpool have now won only two of eight league away games this

season but still tops the table, three points ahead of Manchester United.

Liverpool could have taken the lead 11 minutes before the break when Salah beat the offside trap to control the ball in front of the advancing Darlow, who got his hand on the Egyptian’s shot to steer it wide of the post.

The goalkeeper then produced a fine reaction save in stoppage time to repel Firmino’s header from point-blank range. Salah had another chance to break the deadlock in the 67th when he was played in by Firmino but directed his effort past the upright.

Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker then had to pull off a diving save of his own 11 minutes from time when Claran Clark met Matt Ritchie’s free-kick with a downward header.





Models: Bablu and Bebo

Photo and Design: Kumar Sharat

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JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	11	12	13	14	15	16
10	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	25	26	27	28	29	30
Jan 14: Makar Sankranti / Pongal						
Jan 26: Republic Day						

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Mar 11: Maha Shivaratri						
Mar 29: Holi						

APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
Apr 02: Good Friday						
Apr 21: Rama Navami						
Apr 04: Easter						
Apr 25: Mahavir Jayanti						

MAY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	31	4	5	6	7	8
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
May 13: Eid-ul-Fitr						
May 26: Buddha Purnima						

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Aug 15: Independence Day						
Aug 30: Jannashtrami						
Aug 19: Maharam						

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
Sep 10: Ganesh Chaturthi						
Sep 17: Vishwakarma Puja						

OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Oct 02: Gandhi Jayanti						
Oct 15: Dussehra						

NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
Nov 04: Diwali						

DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Dec 25: Christmas Day						

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