



URVASHI ON BIOPICS

Actor Urvashi Rautela says narrating the life of someone else on the screen is always a big responsibility

LEISURE P2



‘ARNAB VIOLATED OSA’

Maharashtra Congress says TV anchor Arnab Goswami has violated provisions of the Official Secrets Act

TWO STATES P7



BIDEN'S GIFT TO IMMIGRANTS

On day one of his Presidency, Joe Biden may propose 8-year citizenship path for immigrants

INTERNATIONAL P10

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RAHANE & CO BREACH GABBA FORTRESS

PANT, GILL, PUJARA SCRIPT INDIA'S REMARKABLE 3-WICKET WIN IN BRISBANE TO SEAL TEST SERIES 2-1

AGENCIES

Brisbane, Jan 19: A fearless India, driven by its courageous youngsters, pulled off an exhilarating three-wicket win over Australia in the fourth Test to claim the series 2-1 and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy here Tuesday.

Resuming at four for none on the final day, India overhauled the target with 18 balls to spare in a match that went down to the wire. Rishabh Pant led the chase with his aggressive yet mature unbeaten 89 while Shubman Gill scored 91.

Cheteshwar Pujara endured many painful blows on his body for his dogged 56-run knock. Australia had won the pink-ball Adelaide Test while India struck back with victory in Melbourne. The Test in Sydney had ended in a draw. India had won a historic Test se-



ries Down Under two years back and now the team is cherishing back-to-back series victory. The visitors had lost the ODI series before winning the T20 series that preceded the Test rubber.

At the start, India lost experienced vice captain Rohit Sharma (7) early but young Gill rose to the occasion with an impressive knock that kept India in the hunt as Pujara dug heels on the other end. Rahane did try to build on the good start with his short but attacking 24-run knock before his soft dismissal.

With Pant's ability to strike the ball at brisk pace, India always had a chance to go for the kill. Pant pulled off some breathtaking cover drives off Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood in the final session though he benefitted from missed stumping chance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was

one of the first to congratulate the team, complimenting it for its passion and energy. "We are all overjoyed at the success of the Indian Cricket Team in Australia. Their remarkable energy and passion was visible throughout. So was their stellar intent, remarkable grit and determination. Congratulations to the team! Best wishes for your future endeavours," he tweeted.

Tendulkar lauded the fact that every member of the team took responsibility to take the side across the line at some point during the series.

"Every time we got hit, we stayed put & stood taller. We pushed boundaries of belief to play fearless but not careless cricket. Injuries & uncertainties were countered with poise & confidence. One of the greatest series wins! Congrats India," he said.



15 crushed to death by truck in Gujarat

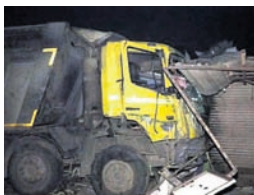
AGENCIES

Surat, Jan 19: Thirteen migrant labourers and a year-old girl from Rajasthan who were sleeping by the roadside in Gujarat's Surat district were among 15 dead after a dumper truck ran over them Tuesday, police said.

Those killed include eight women and a migrant worker from Madhya Pradesh, police said. While 12 of them died on the spot, three died during treatment at a hospital, police added. Except for the 19-year-old worker from Madhya Pradesh, all the other deceased were from villages in Banswara district in south Rajasthan, police said.

The tragedy took place near Kosamba village, around 60 km from Surat. The truck driver, who apparently lost control over the vehicle after hitting a sugarcane laden tractor, has been booked under sections of the IPC and Motor Vehicles Act, police said.

The truck driver and the vehicle's 'cleaner' were also injured in the accident and are being treated at a hospital. The truck ran over the migrant construction workers on the Kim-Mandvi



road shortly after midnight, Surat SP Usha Rada said.

The truck driver lost control over his vehicle after dashing against the tractor and veered off the road onto the pavement where the workers were sleeping, she said. "The truck was on its way to Mandvi from Kim. The driver lost control of the vehicle after it hit sugarcane hanging out of the tractor trolley coming from the opposite direction.

"The truck's front window pane shattered on impact, which blocked the driver's vision. The truck then veered off the road and crashed into the sleeping labourers," she said. Except for one, a native of MP, all other victims were from Rajasthan, police said. Prime Minister Modi announced that ex-gratia of two lakh from the PM's National Relief Fund would be given to the next of kin of each person killed and ₹50,000 would be given to each injured.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



SHORT TAKES

■ Bose birth anniv Parakram Diwas

New Delhi: The government has decided to observe January 23 as 'Parakram Diwas' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel said Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the first 'Parakram Diwas' programme in Kolkata January 23 on Bose's 125th birth anniversary and inaugurate an exhibition on the grounds of National Library to mark the occasion, Patel said.

■ No food subsidy in Parl canteen

New Delhi: The subsidy on Parliament's canteen food served to Members of Parliament and others has been stopped, LS speaker Om Birla said Tuesday. He also said that from now India Tourism Development Corporation will handle canteens in Parliament in place of Northern Railways. With the subsidy coming to an end, the Lok Sabha secretariat can annually save more than ₹8 crore. From now the food in Parliament canteen will be sold at their actual cost. The canteen had food priced at a very low cost.

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
SENSEX	49398.29	▲	834.02
NIFTY	14521.20	▲	239.90
DOLLAR	73.70	▼	₹0.13
EURO	88.82	▲	₹0.25
GOLD	₹48,939	▲	₹45
SILVER	₹65,808	▲	₹379

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
TEMP	31.3°C	31°C	
MIN	15.8°C	14.2°C	
Humidity	90%	90%	Forecast
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Fog or mist in the morning

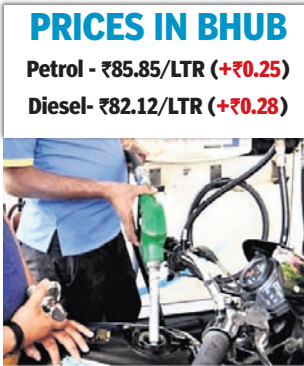
Petrol, diesel prices breach record high levels

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 19: Petrol and diesel prices rose again by 25 paise per litre each Tuesday after oil marketing companies decided to continue the upward price revision of auto fuels in the wake of enlarging under recovery on sale of the two products.

The increase in the pump price of petrol and diesel has come on a day when global oil prices gave a glimpse of softening with crude falling below \$ 55 a barrel after almost a week of hovering above that range.

With Tuesday's increase, petrol is being sold at ₹85.20 a litre in Delhi from the previous day price of ₹84.95 a litre. Similarly, diesel prices also increased to ₹75.38 a litre, up from previous day's level of ₹75.13 a litre.



Across the country as well pump price of petrol and diesel increased but the quantum of the rise varied from state to state depending on the level of taxation on the two petroleum products.

The last two days of increase in pump prices in petrol and diesel has taken its price to record levels across the country in all major metro cities and other towns. The last time the retail price of auto fuels were closer to current levels was on October 4, 2018 when crude prices had shot up ₹80 a barrel.

The current price rise is largely on account of steep increase in the central taxes of petrol and diesel as crude prices are still below \$ 55 a barrel.

A NEW DAWN BEGINS



Artist Jagjit Singh Rubal gives final touches to portraits of US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the eve of their oath-taking ceremony at his home workshop in Amritsar, Tuesday. Rubal intends to send the paintings to the new President and Vice President as a gift.

2nd tranche of Covishield arrives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The state government Tuesday received the second consignment of Covishield from the Serum Institute of India (SII) through a special aircraft to boost the ongoing inoculation drive in the state.

Now, the government hopes left-out health workers who were deprived of vaccination owing to short supply of the vaccine would be benefitted. The state health department Tuesday said it has now received ample supply of the vaccines to cover left-out health workers.

"We received a total of 3,34,534 Covishield doses from SII. With the first consignment, we had targeted to inoculate 1.92 lakh health workers. Now we have ample supply and the left-out health workers will be vaccinated," Bijay Panigrahi, Director, State Health and Family Welfare, said.

He said there is no information from Bharat Biotech on its next consignment of Covaxin. "Even if



we keep 10 per cent of vaccines as buffer stock, we are able to utilize the current supply for the people registered in the first list," he said.

The government is now looking into the requirement of the doses from each district and the new doses will be dispatched to districts as per their demand over next three days.

The vaccination drive continued in the state even Tuesday but with fewer people getting the shots owing to observance of the Village Nutrition Day in rural areas. The department vaccinated people at 192 sites and targeted a total of 16,261 beneficiaries against its earlier target of 31,902 Monday.

Expressed concern about 68

Fresh circular

BHUBANESWAR: State health and family welfare director Bijay Panigrahi Tuesday said the health department has issued circulars to clarify that those health workers who refused to take vaccines would not be given free vaccines from the government. He hinted that health workers who recently protested against government and boycotted the vaccination drive would not get free shots. He, however, said those who were absent due to other reasons can be considered for rescheduling. The officer said several health workers have given in writing that they would not take vaccines while several others have opted out of the current vaccination drive voluntarily. He requested the health workers to come forward and vaccinate themselves.

per cent vaccination in Bhubaneswar Monday, Panigrahi declared that there were no reports of reaction from shots in any individual in the state capital.

State asks Centre to clear ₹6039cr dues

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The state government Tuesday asked the Centre for urgent release of pending subsidy of ₹6,039 crore to complete the paddy procurement process in the state.

Food supplies and consumer welfare minister Ranendra Pratap Swain Tuesday wrote a letter to this effect to his counterpart at the centre, Piyush Goyal. The state government will get the dues pending against its claims made during 2014-15, 2017-18, 2018-19 and the current year till December, 2020.

Swain said the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation has so far borrowed a staggering ₹15,000 crore to run the programme due to non-release of subsidy by the centre although it has pending subsidy

claims towards provisional and advance subsidy of ₹6039 crore.

"Since all resources including the sanctioned limits of bank finances have been exhausted, further paddy procurement from farmers may be severely affected. The pending subsidy, therefore, may be released urgently," Swain said.

Raising another issue on the lifting of the surplus paddy from Odisha, he said the Food Corporation of India has asked the state government to limit the delivery of surplus parboiled rice to the extent of 50 per cent of the last year's delivery and not to accept any surplus in the form of parboiled rice during the rabi season of the current kharif marketing season 2020-21. Odisha is primarily a parboiled rice consuming state as 24 out of 30 districts consume parboiled rice.

Easing paddy procurement

India asks WhatsApp to withdraw changes to privacy policy

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 19: The Indian government has asked WhatsApp to withdraw the recent changes in the privacy policy of the messaging app, saying unilateral changes are unfair and unacceptable. In a strongly worded letter to WhatsApp CEO Will Cathcart, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said India is home to the largest user base of WhatsApp globally and is one the biggest markets for its services.

The proposed changes to the WhatsApp Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, without giving users an option to opt-out, "raise grave concerns regarding the implications for

the choice and autonomy of Indian citizens," it wrote.

The ministry asked WhatsApp to withdraw the proposed changes and reconsider its approach to information privacy, freedom of choice and data security.

WhatsApp had January 16 delayed the introduction of the new privacy policy after user backlash over sharing of user data and information with the parent company, Facebook Inc.

Stating that Indians should be properly respected, the ministry said, "any unilateral changes to the WhatsApp Terms of Service and Privacy would not be fair and acceptable." With over 400 million users in India, the changes will



have a disproportionate impact on the country's citizens, it said.

It asked WhatsApp to provide details of the services provided by it

in India, categories of data collected and permissions and consents sought. Also, WhatsApp has been asked to explain if it conducts pro-

cessing of Indian users on the basis of their usage, as well as explain difference between the privacy policy in India and other countries.

WhatsApp has also been asked to provide policy on data and information security, privacy and encryption. It has also been asked to detail data sharing with other apps and if it captures information about other apps running on the mobile phones of the user.

Besides, complete technical architecture and server hosting data of Indian users have been asked to be furnished along with details of access to a third party. The changes "enable WhatsApp, and other Facebook companies, to make invasive and precise inferences about

users which may not be reasonably foreseen or expected by users in the ordinary course of assessing these services, the ministry said.

The updated terms would enable WhatsApp to collect "highly invasive and granular metadata" such as time, frequency and duration of interactions, group names, payments and transaction data, online status, location indicators as well as any messages shared by users with business accounts.

"The collection and onward sharing with Facebook companies, of sensitive personal data of individuals portends an ecosystem where any meaningful distinction between companies and WhatsApp will cease to exist," it said.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You will remain undecided today, which is quite unlike you, says Ganesha. This will lead to speculation, which is not a bad thing by itself, unless you put all your money into the bargain. Also, be careful not to take wild guesses in love and relationships.

TAURUS

There is a strong likelihood of some dispute or misunderstanding cropping up between you and your parents. This, Ganesha assures, could easily be resolved through a positive, meaningful dialogue. You will be clear, coherent and persuasive in your communications.

GEMINI

Your health interests will take precedence over career, says Ganesha. There are indications that you will spare more time working out at a gym. Those in the field of marketing and advertising will have a fabulous time. A good marketing strategy will bring maximum profits with minimum efforts.

CANCER

You are likely start the day in the best of spirits today. Your enthusiasm and cheerfulness will be infectious, and you will be able to lift the mood wherever you go. However, your enthusiasm can be short-lived and pumelled under the weight of some bad news, leaving you distraught.

LEO

Call it the momentary re-ignition of the spark of brilliance and energy. This day finds you at the peak of your dynamism. Ganesha predicts a fantastic day for all, especially those in the freelancing business, as your imagination and inspiration reach new heights and motivate others to excel.

VIRGO

Your ambitions and desire to undertake more work will be very prominent today. After working hard all day, try to get yourself some recreation and relaxation, perhaps at a private party, a social gathering or maybe even at a marriage reception, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

You never let a favour go unacknowledged, or let a ridicule pass by unanswered. So, it's time to settle those old accounts that are so important to you, feels Ganesha. This will increase chances of interesting developments that will continue to surprise you throughout the day. All in all, Ganesha wishes you a vibrant day today.

SCORPIO

Expressing your feelings becomes important at some point of time. Today, you are in a mood to express emotions for your near and dear ones. And why not? After all, they need to be appreciated. Though your heart is full of emotions today, do not express in a way that you become vulnerable in eyes of general public.

SAGITTARIUS

A balanced day is in store today. Find yourself as much at home as at your desk. You may engage in a time of fun and games with your buddies. But when it comes to family, something more practical, like re-arranging your house, is on the cards.

CAPRICORN

If you are a sports person, you will enjoy both good health and fame, while engineers will mull investing money in new business ventures, foresees Ganesha. But make sure you know what you are doing, a minor slip can cost you a fortune, and you would have realised by now that repenting won't undo anything.

AQUARIUS

Money matters are very important, and your family will demand your presence in all financial dealings. At work, things will be more comfortable. You may also get new projects. Ganesha predicts a trip in the offing.

PISCES

Your inherent dynamism and energy will sparkle forth today. Freelancers will be struck with inspiration, and will conjure masterpieces. Pleasant surprises await you in the evening, says Ganesha.

MILEY CYRUS FINDS GIRLS 'WAY HOTTER' THAN MEN

Singer Miley Cyrus says girls are way hotter than men. In 2019, she had a brief fling with *The Hills: New Beginnings* star Kaitlynn Carter after her marriage to actor Liam Hemsworth ended. Now, the singer has declared she finds the female body more attractive than the male one, reports *mirror.co.uk*.

ALWAYS HAD IMPOSTER SYNDROME: JESSICA ALBA

Actress Jessica Alba has admitted that she suffered from imposter syndrome when she moved on from acting career and embarked on an entrepreneurial journey. "I've always had this imposter syndrome thing - and I always felt like I didn't deserve to be here," Alba revealed.

'Biopics are a great challenge for actors'

Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela will soon be seen essaying a role that has been inspired from real life, and says narrating the life of someone else on the screen is always a big responsibility.

Urvashi will be seen as the wife of Randeep Hooda's character in the web series, *Inspector Avinash*. The thriller series is based on real events in the life of police officer Avinash Mishra. "I play Poonam Mishra, wife of Randeep Hooda's character. Biopics are a great challenge for actors - instead of creating a character from nothing, they have to portray a version of a real person on screen," Urvashi said.

"Bringing someone else's story to life is a big responsibility, but one that also helps a real life person's story be told," she added. The *Pagalpani* actress has been hanging out with Poonam to get into the skin of the character.

The web series also features Mahesh Manjrekar, Rajneesh Duggal, Freddy Daruwala, Govind Namdev, Adhyayan Suman, Amit Sial, Priyanka Bose and Abhimanyu Singh.

Sherlyn accuses Sajid of sexual misconduct

Mumbai: Actress Sherlyn Chopra has brought fresh #metoo charges against film director Sajid Khan, alleging that the filmmaker had in 2005 asked her to touch his privates.

In a tweet she posted

Tuesday, Sherlyn wrote: "It's not an accusation but the disclosure of a fact. Our phone records of the past may be checked regarding the same. After flashing his p***s, he had not only asked me to touch it and feel it but also asked me if I had ever seen a p***s as well endowed as his."

"When I had met him in April 2005, a few days

after my father's demise, he had taken his p***s out of his pants and had asked me to feel it. I remember having told him that the purpose of my meeting with him was not to feel or rate his p***s," Sherlyn wrote in an earlier tweet.

In the last couple of years, Sajid Khan has been accused by multiple women in #metoo including assistant director

Sonali Chopra, actress Rachel White and a journalist who brought allegations of sexual misconduct against him in 2018.

Rakul shares her latest mantra in life

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh Tuesday shared her latest mantra in life with fans on social media. She believes that strong is the new sexy.

Rakul has posted a new workout video from the gym on Instagram. In the video, she is seen doing squats with the help of a dumbbell.

"Life has its ups and

downs, I call it squats @smackjil#burn#strongisthenewsexy#fitnessenthusiast," she wrote alongside the image.

Rakul is all set to star alongside Amitabh Bachchan and Ajay Devgn in the thriller drama *MayDay*. The film is directed and produced by Ajay Devgn. The actress will be seen in the role of a pilot. This is her second film with Ajay after *De De Pyaar De*.

She will begin the shoot of *MayDay* mid-December in Hyderabad. IANS

An online musical ode to unknown soldiers

THE EVENING WILL SEE AN EXCITING LINE-UP OF INDIAN CLASSICAL ARTISTES WHO WILL COME TOGETHER ON ONE STAGE TO CREATE A MEMORABLE CONCERT

In the run-up to this year's Republic Day, music aficionados can gear up for a musical tribute to the valour and courage of the brave Indian soldiers who laid down their

lives battling for the nation. Organised by the Tabla Wizard Pandit Chatur Lal Memorial Society, the 22nd edition of *Amar Jyoti: A Tribute to Unknown Soldiers* will take

place online January 23. The musical evening will see an exciting line-up of Indian classical artistes who will come together on one stage to create a memorable concert. The

highlight will be a soulful Jugalbandi by renowned folk singers Padma Shri-recipient Malini Awasthi and Roshan Khan (Mangniyar). Many other artistes will accompany, including the likes of Rafik Khan Merasi, a masterful Kamaicha player; Latif Khan on Dholak, Zaheer Khan will be on Khartal and vocalist Sawai Khan. On organising the concert, Shruti Chatur Lal Sharma, the granddaughter of the tabla legend and the Program Director at Pandit Chatur Lal Festival said, "It is an honour to have this opportunity to organise an event to pay tribute to the martyrs of our nation. With this soulful music, we extend our gratitude to all those un-

known soldiers who risked their lives for the nation and our safety. Our entire team looks forward to the main event.

The event is organized in association with ICCR and Indian Raga. "The musical ode will be streamed LIVE January 23 2021 at 7 p.m. on the Society's social media handles. AGENCIES



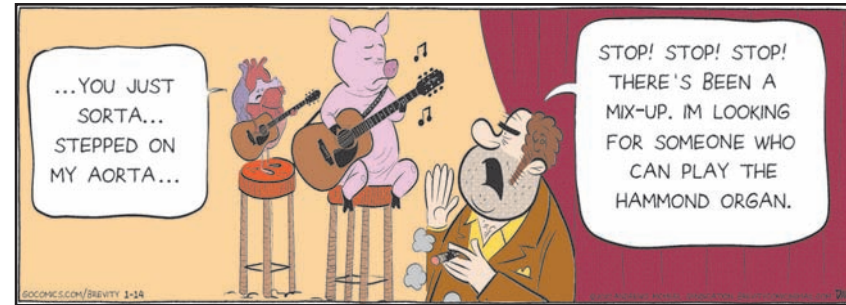
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

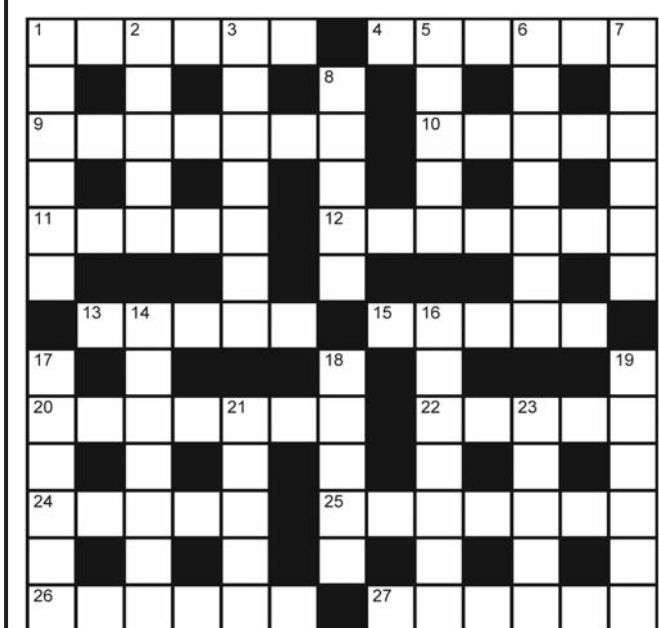


BREVITY



FUN post

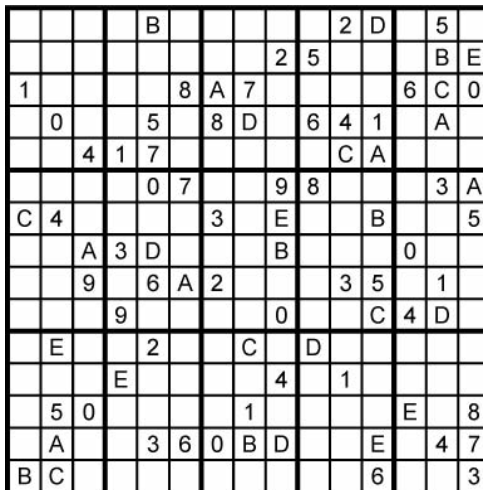
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Jean Arp, e.g.
 - 4 Talk foolishly
 - 9 Circus item
 - 10 Fatuous
 - 11 After bar or pie
 - 12 Earthquake follower, at times
 - 13 Length measurement
 - 15 Goa, e.g.
 - 20 Swiss cheese
 - 22 Distressed
 - 24 True heath
 - 25 Old World crocus
 - 26 Movie parts
 - 27 Curative
 - 5 Word of farewell
 - 6 Barefaced
 - 7 Cilia's place
 - 8 Melee (3-2)
 - 14 Learned
 - 16 Prized fungus
 - 17 Acquiesses
 - 18 Bakery supply
 - 19 Tight
 - 21 Delete
 - 23 Twilled fabric
- Down
- 1 Capers
 - 2 Queen topper
 - 3 Cardigan

SUDOKU

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

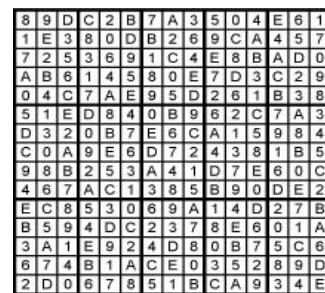


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

SJTA floats tender to deposit funds

EARLIER, PVT BANKS USED TO TAKE PART IN THE BIDDING PROCESS. NOW, ONLY GOVERNMENT BANKS ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Jan 19: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) invited tenders from 10 nationalised banks for the fixed deposit of around Rs 11 crore corpus fund of the 12th century shrine.

“The bidding would be held January 21. A total of 10 nationalised banks would participate in the bidding process. The bank promising highest rate of interest would be given priority,” said SJTA administrator (development) Ajay Jena.

According to sources, the SJTA has added Rs 2 crore to its corpus fund by providing temple land for the establishment of a medical college in the Holy City.

It is worth mentioning here that the temple authorities have kept Rs 102 crore in the State Bank of India after withdrawal of Rs 592 crore from Yes Bank.

Similarly, 259.19 crore has been kept in Bank of Baroda and Union Bank as fixed deposit. Temple fund of Rs 231.31 crore has also been kept in these banks as fixed deposit.

These two banks had emerged highest bidder in the tender



TEMPLE AUTHORITIES HAVE KEPT RS 102 CRORE IN THE STATE BANK OF INDIA AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF RS 592 CRORE FROM YES BANK

SIMILARLY, ₹259.19 CRORE HAS BEEN KEPT IN BANK OF BARODA AND UNION BANK AS FIXED DEPOSIT

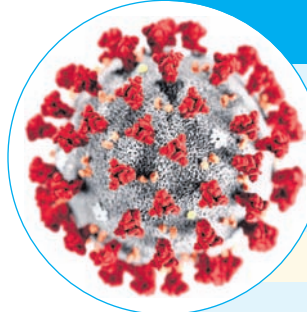
process last year and agreed to give maximum rate of interest. Union Bank had offered 6.20% interest while Bank of Baroda had quoted 6.15 per cent annual interest.

Earlier, private banks used to take part in the bidding process. Now, only government banks are allowed to take part, sources said.



NOBLE DEED

NCC cadets undertake a cleanliness drive at Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	9,61,43,100	6,87,98,954	20,52,780
India	1,05,81,837	1,02,28,753	1,52,556
Odisha	3,33,566	3,30,051	1,902

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Orissa POST scribe thrashed, looted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: While police personnel are busy in checking traffic violations, the city roads have turned a happy hunting ground for looters. Incidents of looting and robbery are now taking place at every nook and corner of the City.

Monday night, when Pramod Kumar Mohanty, an employee of English daily Orissa POST, was on his way home, he was attacked by unknown miscreants with iron rods near CRP petrol pump.

The miscreants, traveling in a SUV, first hit his motor cycle.

As a result he fell off his vehicle and sustained injuries. Later, the accused came out of the vehicle and started beating him with iron rods.

Subsequently, the looters also decamped with his gold ring, mobile phone and purse carrying around Rs 4000. A severely injured Mohanty sought help from some people present at the spot who did not rush to his help.

Police have started investigations into the matter after registering a case on the basis of the complaint lodged by Mohanty. Police sources revealed that CCTV footage from the nearby areas have been collected and they are trying to identify the accused.



Hockey stadium works from April



Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, ST secretary VK Pandian and other officials go through a blueprint for the stadium

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Jan 19: The construction of the proposed world-class hockey stadium in Rourkela will begin in the month of April, informed Odisha Chief Secretary Suresh Mohapatra Tuesday.

Along with the 5T secretary, Mohapatra reviewed the proposed stadium which will come up in Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) campus in Rourkela and is touted to be India's biggest stadium for hockey.

Speaking to the media, Mohapatra said, “India's biggest stadium will come up in BPUT campus. Construction works of the stadium, spread over 15 acres of land, will begin from April.”

Parking and development works of other infrastructure will also begin from the same date, he said adding that efforts will be made to complete the stadium works within a year along with accom-

modation facilities for hockey players on the BPUT campus.

Speaking about the varsity, the CS said the number of professors and other non-teaching staff will be increased at the varsity in order to improve the quality of education. He assured that the construction of the stadium will not hamper the existing campus.

Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in December last year had announced setting up of the new world-class hockey stadium in Rourkela city which is co-hosting the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023. The stadium will have a sitting capacity for 20,000 spectators.

“The stadium along with the allied facilities will be developed as a benchmark for other Hockey stadiums around the world. Spread over 15 acres of land, the stadium will be constructed in the Biju Patnaik University of Technology campus, Rourkela,” Patnaik had said in a video message.

Micro plan to finish PMGSY works early

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: For early completion of road projects taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra asked concerned officials to prepare a micro plan for each project.

He gave the instruction while holding a high-level review meeting Monday evening here. He directed the collectors, SPs and executive engineers of the concerned districts to prepare a micro-plan against each project, particularly for the projects taken in left wing infected areas. He also directed the district administrations to provide all support to contractors working in those areas.

Issues relating to availability of materials, mobilisation of machinery and engagement of more manpower were discussed and resolved in the meeting.

Director General of Police Abhaya, participating in the discussion via video conference, assured that Odisha Police is all set to provide ground level support.

Development Commissioner PK



TARGET SET

72% OF PMGSY ROADS SANCTIONED FOR 2020-21 COMPLETED

TARGET SET TO COMPLETE BALANCE PROJECTS BY MARCH

Jena said, “Road connectivity is a prime focus area of the government and there is no problem of funding for the projects under PMGSY, UPANTA, SETU scheme and BIJU Setu Yojana.”

All ground level works should be expedited through concerted efforts among the police engineers of Rural Development department and the contractors in a time bound manner, Jena said. RS special secretary Upendra Kumar Mund said roads of total length of 2,095 km have been taken up in the state under PMGSY.

18 platoons for darshan

PURI: Arrangements for facilitating devotees' visit to Srimandir sans Covid negative reports has reached its last phase, said an official of the district administration Tuesday.

The administration would deploy at least 18 platoons (55 sections) of armed police personnel to ensure smooth darshan for devotees without producing Covid negative reports from January 21, said Puri district Superintendent of Police (SP) Kanwar Vishal Singh.

“If required, we would deploy additional number of police personnel in and around the 12th century shrine to facilitate darshan for the devotees with strict adherence to the Covid-19 norms,” Singh added.

According to the SP, two inspectors, eight sub-inspectors (SIs) and assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs), 20 constables, 10 home guards and nine sections of police force would be deployed inside Srimandir to

regulate the crowd.

At least six SIs and ASIs, 13 sections of force and six constables would be deployed at the four gates of Srimandir, said the SP. “There would be special arrangement at the Lions' Gate of the temple. A total of eight inspectors, SIs and ASIs along with equal number of constables and four sections of police personnel would manage crowd at the Lions' Gate,” he added.

The SP further revealed that a total of 16 inspectors, SIs and ASIs along with 14 sections of police personnel would be asked to regulate traffic and maintain law and order on the Grand Road. “We would also deploy adequate police personnel at some strategic places in the Holy city and on the beach for the safety of visitors. The administration is ready to facilitate darshan for around 30,000 devotees on a daily basis,” the SP said.



CYBER CROOKS TURN TO LOAN FRAUDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Cyber criminals adopt different modus operandi each time they dupe innocent persons of their hard-earned money. Popular tricks used by cyber crooks are fake loan apps, marriage offer through matrimonial sites and online shopping with victims' credit or debit card.

Meanwhile, Google removed around 30 fake loan apps from its Play store following barrage of complaints in connection with fraud through these loan apps. Cyber crooks were sending out loan offers under the guise of various government schemes to mobile phones of the victims.

Recently, some city youths reported that unknown miscreants sent SMS to their mobile phones offering them loan at very cheap interest rates under various government schemes.

Recently, a young scribe in city identified as Braja Mohan Mallick received an SMS from an unknown number in which the sender offered loan in the range Rs 1 lakhs to 25 lakhs at very cheap interest

rate. The criminals also informed through the SMS that anyone with their Aadhaar card or PAN can get loan without caring for any other documents.

Subsequently, the scribe contacted the miscreants on the number given in the message. The person who received the call promised Mallick that he was an employee of Central government and calling from Sansad Marg, New Delhi.

The miscreant said that the loan would be offered without any mortgage under the Mudra loan. The young scribe has to submit only his pan card, Aadhaar card and bank account details.

When the scribe asked to name the bank through which he would get the loan, the cyber criminal replied that the loan would be directly sent to his bank account.

Smelling arat, Mallick forwarded the mobile number and the bank account details to the cyber desk of

Eight-year-old girl served with notice from CP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: In a bizarre incident, the Commissionerate Police served a notice to an eight-year-old girl accusing her of endangering public peace and tranquility. The girl has been residing along with her parents at Dhaulidharapur village under Balipatna police limits here.

According to sources, the family of the girl recently engaged in a quarrel with their neighbor over a pity issue related to dumping of garbage.

Subsequently, the matter was referred to the office of Executive Magistrate cum additional DCP. However, the sub-inspector investigating into the issue reportedly mentioned the girl's age as 19. The family was issued a notice to be present before the magistrate 19 January, 2021.

Astonished over the notice, the family Tuesday reached the office along with their lawyer. DCP Umashankar Dash stated that the additional DCP, after seeing the little girl, realized the mistake committed by the concerned SI.

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18	Political Science	1 (OBC)	x
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VILLAGES LOCATED IN DISPUTED BORDER AREAS

House panel to review situation soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The House Committee of the Odisha Assembly will visit a number of villages in Koraput district as well as other localities that are facing border disputes with neighbouring states. The members of the House Committee will review the problems the people of these localities are facing. The decision over the border dispute issue was taken at the meeting of the House Committee held under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker SN Patro here Tuesday.

The panel took a detail review of the areas having border dispute with Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. Patro expressed his desire to know the current status of cases pending in the Supreme Court with regard to villages located in disputed areas. He asked the concerned officials to present the latest status of such cases in next meeting of the panel.

Members of the House



INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO BE DEVELOPED IN ALL VILLAGES LOCATED IN DISPUTED BORDER AREAS

HOUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO VISIT ALL SUCH VILLAGES TO TAKE STOCK OF SITUATION

SPs AND COLLECTORS OF DISTRICTS FACING BORDER DISPUTES ASKED TO HOLD MEETINGS ONCE A MONTH WITH COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER STATES

GOVERNMENT GRANT TO BE PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS LOCATED IN DISPUTED BORDER ZONES

Committee expressed unanimity over a proposal asking collectors and SPs of districts having border disputes to hold meetings with their counterparts of other states at least once every month. Chief Secretary and Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) was asked

to inform the panel on what action has been taken so far on this issue.

Secretaries of Revenue, Law, Housing & Urban Development departments have been asked to be present at the next meeting of the committee and informed the mem-

bers regarding the development activities that have been taken up in the disputed areas.

The Committee also discussed about development of education, health infrastructure, communication, law and order, drinking water facilities and other related infrastructure within five-kilometre radius of the border villages. It was decided at the meeting that the School & Mass Education Department will upgrade schools located within five-kilometre radius of the border and provide them with government grant.

Among others, Deputy Speaker Rajnikant Singh, Revenue & Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi, School & Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash, Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Charan Majhi, MLAs Kishore Mohanty, Bhupinder Singh, Amar Prasad Satpathy, Anant Das, Aswini Kumar Patra, Aditya Madhi and Rajkishore Dash attended the meeting.

BORDER ROW

Utkal Sammilani asks Odisha MPs to resolve issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The 'Utkal Sammilani' has written a letter to all MPs to resolve border issues that Odisha have with other states. 'Utkal Sammilani' president Dilip Das Sharma said in the letter that Odisha have several land-related issues with neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. He alleged that these four states are using the disputed land for their benefits. Sharma has asked the MPs from Odisha to raise the issue in Parliament.

A report has said that Odisha's border issues with neighbouring states continue to remain unresolved. As per the report, 14 of Odisha's 30 districts share borders with Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Dialogues to resolve the disputes with the four states are in different stages and efforts are on to find permanent solutions, said government sources.

Earlier, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to seek the support of the Central Government in mediating resolution of the boundary disputes between Odisha and the neighbouring states.

HANDLOOM EXPO TO START JANUARY 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The 20th 'National Handloom Expo 2021' organised by 'Boyanika' will start January 20 at the Exhibition Ground, in the city. The expo will be inaugurated by Padmini Dian, the Minister of Textiles, Handlooms and Handicrafts, Government of Odisha. The inauguration programme will also be attended by the Commissioner-cum-secretary of the same department Jyoti Prakash Das and senior officials of Boyanika. The expo will offer opportunity for weavers and craftsmen to sell handloom products of different varieties under one umbrella.

The expo is being sponsored by Textiles, Handlooms and Handicrafts Department, Government of Odisha. Besides Odisha, the other states participating in the programme are New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, J&K, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The expo will remain open from 11.30am to 9.30pm daily and will continue till February 17.

Odisha's Covid-19 toll mounts to 1,902

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Odisha's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 3,33,566 Tuesday as 122 more people tested positive for infection. One fresh fatality pushed the death toll in Odisha to 1,902, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said.

Among the fresh cases, 72 were reported from various quarantine centres and 50 detected during contact tracing, said the official.

Sundargarh recorded the highest number of new cases at 26, followed by Sambalpur (23) and Puri (17). Twelve districts have not reported any new case since Monday, said the official, adding that the fresh fatality was reported from Bargarh.

A total of 32,526 people had received shots of Covid-19 vaccine Monday, as against a target of 31,902, the official informed.

"The vaccination programme is going on at all the identified sites for the third day - Tuesday and the state recorded 102 per cent immunisation coverage January 18," the H&FW department official stated.

According to the Health department, 13,980 people received the jabs across the state January 16, the opening day of the nationwide inoculation programme.

IN A NUTSHELL



SUNDARGARH RECORDED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NEW CASES AT 26, FOLLOWED BY SAMBALPUR (23) AND PURI (17)

12 DISTRICTS HAVE NOT REPORTED ANY NEW CASES SINCE MONDAY

THE NEW FATALITY WAS REPORTED FROM BARGARH

THE STATE HAS CONDUCTED OVER 74.26 LAKH SAMPLE TESTS, INCLUDING 23,553 MONDAY

THE POSITIVITY RATE STANDS AT 4.49 PER CENT

The Odisha government has appealed to people not to pay heed to rumours about Covid-19 vaccines. "Covid-19 vaccines are approved by the government, completely safe & have undergone various trials," the H&FW department said on Twitter.

"Those who were not able to turn up for vaccination on the design-

ated dates will receive the shots in the next phase for free," Health Department director and vaccine in-charge Bijay Panigrahi said.

Meanwhile, another 250 Covid patients recovered in Odisha.

Odisha now has 1,560 active cases, while 3,30,051 patients have so far recovered from the disease. The state has conducted over 74.26 lakh

Odisha to host int'l summit on gastroenterology

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: The stated capital is all set to host a hybrid international summit on gastroenterology, January 22 to January. The meet will be attended by reputed doctors from all across India and abroad.

The summit is being organised jointly by the Society of Gastroenterology Endoscopy of India (SGEI), the World Endoscopy

Organisation and American College of Gastroenterology. Eminent physicians will meet and brainstorm on the latest advancement of abdomen-related diseases and their treatment.

"This summit is going to be of a unique hybrid concept where we will be having physical and online meetings. There will be group as well as online discussions that will be attended by experts across the world. Such sessions will help doctors living

in remote areas and other states get the latest information and updates. They can also share their feedback with the global community of experts," Dr Manoj Sahu, organising secretary of the summit said.

The meet at the state capital has been christened as 'Midterm Endocon 2021'. The programme has been specially planned to have inter-active lectures, training sessions and live surgery workshops.

GEARING UP



A man cleans up an arch depicting Azad Hind Fauj personnel near Dargahabazar Old Jail in Cuttack, Tuesday, ahead of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

OP PHOTO

SAFETY FIRST



Police personnel donating helmets to kids travelling on two-wheelers near Badambadi Square in Cuttack, Tuesday, to mark National Road Safety Month celebration

OP PHOTO

DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

Naveen wants timely completion of projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewed Tuesday various healthcare infrastructure projects. He asked the concerned officials to speed up the progress for timely completion of the projects.

Stating that the Odisha government has made healthcare top priority, Naveen said his government is committed to provide modern and quality medical facilities to people of Odisha.

Work has started to make SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack a world-class health institution, he informed.

The Chief Minister reviewed the infrastructure development projects of nine newly-constructed medical colleges by the Odisha government.

He also reviewed the progress made on construction of five new district headquarters hospitals (DHH) and six major hospitals in Odisha.

Naveen also took stock of the development of the Cardiac Care

Hospital in Jharsuguda, the construction work of the Multi Utility Complex for students at Sishu Bhawan in Cuttack, Linac block at Acharya Harihar Cancer Hospital, the modernisation of Capital Hospital and the construction of a cancer hospital at Bargarh. The Chief Minister advised health officials to coordinate with other departments for speedy and timely completion of the pending projects.

Among other issues, the meeting focused on filling up various vacancies including teaching personnel in the newly-opened medical colleges.

A decision to appoint doctors and health workers at periphery hospitals was also taken. During the meeting it was decided that the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) is going to issue advertisements soon for recruitment of more than 2,000 doctors and dentists.

Officials who attended the meeting felt that the appointment of doctors and dentists will improve the healthcare facilities in various districts of the state.

Fab Expo to continue till Jan 27



Visitors checkout at the Cotton-Fab Expo currently on in the state capital

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Due to public demand, the Cotton-Fab Expo 2021 has been extended till January 27, a senior official of the event said Tuesday.

"This is a best opportunity for customers who are fond of traditional Indian textiles and want to buy those directly weavers and artisans. This expo is a one-stop shop for varieties of handloom items from across India. Also the products on display are being sold at very affordable prices," said Javed Alam,

The expo is a one-stop destination for varieties of handloom items from across India. An array of handloom sarees are available at affordable prices

who is the in-charge of the expo.

The official also said that an array of handloom sarees, dress materials, kurtas, stoles, dupattas

and other items are available at the expo at very affordable prices. He informed that the variety of products available at the expo makes it a very lucrative destination to visit.

The most popular items on display among the visitors so far has been Banarasi and jamdani sarees.

Also a large number of buyers are making a beeline for batik-printed dress materials, said an official. Kantha printed sarees from West Bengal have also been on huge demand, he added.

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SKOCH AWARD FOR NABARANGPUR DIST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Jan 19: Project director watershed-cum-deputy director Soil Conservation, Pradeep Kumar Nayak has received the national-level prestigious SKOCH award for FY 2020-21. Under the tutelage of district Collector Ajit Kumar Mishra, Nayak has bagged the award. Pradeep Kumar Nayak has been awarded Silver medal for construction of a water harvesting structure through check dam in a drought-prone area of the district.



None to care for seasonal hostels

EDUCATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS' CHILDREN SUFFERS A HIT AS SEASONAL HOSTELS REMAIN CLOSED BUT THE BABUS ARE CLUELESS AND SHIFTING THE BLAME

I don't know about any outstanding bills of the teachers managing these seasonal hostels

SASTHI PRASAD JHANKAR |
BLOCK EDUCATION OFFICER

The teachers have failed to submit the utilisation certificates in time for which the payment of outstanding bills has been delayed

PRASANT SARAF |
DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICER



Govt. Upper Primary school at Sana Gurjibhata



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

Cops crack Gaon Sathi's murder case, 2 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Jan 19: Odisha Police cracked the Gaon Sathi murder case and arrested a man and his mother-in-law for their involvement in the case. Sundargarh Sadar police recovered a severed arm and limbless torso of the murdered Gaon Sathi January 14 and his head the next day at Bhabanipur village under Sundargarh Sadar police limits. Ramesh Singh, the deceased Gaon Sathi, paid with his life for having forced himself upon Madhabilata Singh, informed Sundargarh SP Sagarika Nath Monday. The accused have been identified as Madhabilata and her son-in-law Bhaja Oram. According to the police, Ramesh had been in an illicit affair with Madhabilata who ran a grocery shop in the village. At times, he in an inebriated state would visit Madhabilata and force her physically. Madhabilata was at the end of the tether.

Lathore, Jan 19: Children of migrant workers under Khaprakhol block in Bolangir have been deprived of school education as the seasonal hostels operating in schools are yet to reopen due to fund shortage and non-clearance of outstanding bills, a report said. The hostels were established to help curb child migration and child labour but their closure has dealt a heavy blow to the education of the children of migrant workers. As a result, hundreds of children belonging to the families of migrant workers have stopped receiving school education. As the hostels are yet to reopen, they have migrated with their parents for a living to outside of the state. Every year, nearly 3,00,000 people from the state migrate to neighbouring states to work in brick kilns. Children accompanying their parents work with them, and suffer physical and mental torture, according to reports of rights group and civil society organisations working with migrant labourers. Many suffer from health problems as well. However, establishment of these seasonal hostels in migration prone-districts of the state are

helping build the lives of migrant children, the report said. Reports said that the Khaprakhol block in Bolangir district is prone to migration and every year thousands of people leave their homes and migrate to other states to earn their livelihood. Realising the gravity of the situation, the state government established seasonal hostels in various schools under the block so that the children are not deprived of education when their parents migrate to other states. These hostels do not function all round the year but are opened from the month of November till April for a period of six months. The poor villagers who migrate to other states for work would take their children along. But establishment of these hostels have helped solved the problem. The children can now live in these hostels where they are looked after and educated till their parents return home from other states. The state government sanctions funds for the food and lodging of these children in the hostels. Accordingly, the district administration opened 15 hostels in various schools under the block in the 2018-19 financial year. As many as

KHAPRAKHOL IN BOLANGIR IS PRONE TO MIGRATION AND EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LEAVE THEIR HOMES AND MIGRATE TO OTHER STATES TO EARN THEIR LIVELIHOOD

The state govt established seasonal hostels in various schools under the block so that the children aren't deprived of education when their parents migrate to other states

These hostels don't function all round the year but are opened from November to April for a period of six months

715 students, all children of migrant workers within the age-group of six to 14 were admitted to these hostels. The hostel authorities had to spend Rs 70,27,162 lakh towards providing food to these children. The district administration provided Rs 53,82,000 lakh to meet the cost of food to the teachers who were in-charge of these hostels. The teachers spend the money in providing food to these students while Rs 16, 45,162 lakh has remained as outstanding. Similarly, seasonal hostels were opened in 16 schools in the 2019-20 financial year where 754 students were accommodated to receive education. The hostels were managed with the funds provided by the state government which fell short of the total expenditure incurred during the period. The hostel authorities have informed about it but the state government is yet to sanction the

funds in the last installment. As a result, the teachers in these schools are reluctant to take charge and reopen the hostels. Some teachers on condition of anonymity said that they have borrowed from the provision stores and from outsiders to run the hostels but they are yet to receive the payment towards the arrears. They have drawn the attention of the higher authorities but their pleas are yet to be addressed. When contacted, block education officer Sasthi Prasad Jhankar denied having any knowledge towards the outstanding bills of the teachers managing these seasonal hostels. Prasant Saraf, district planning officer, blamed the teachers for the impasse. He alleged that these teachers have failed to submit the utilisation certificates in time for which the payment of outstanding bills has been delayed.

A biz man who dons a sanitation worker's hat

MEET RABINDRANATH SAHU, A 60-YEAR-OLD MAN FROM SARASKANA AREA IN MAYURBHANJ DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Jan 19: Be it a sunny or a rainy day going out with a broom and a basket to clean his locality has been the norm for this businessman for last 20 years. Meet Rabindranath Sahu, a 60-year-old man from Saraskana area in Mayurbhanj district. He is a businessman by profession, but his passion is to clean the environment. Rabindranath still remembers how cleanliness and environment grew on him. "Puri Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb visited Saraskshetra located at Saraskana in 2002. In order to get the whole area cleaned before his visit, I contacted some local youths and when asked for their help in cleaning the area, they readily agreed," he reminisced. "That incident made me decide to work for the environment," he added. Since that day onwards, he has been giving two hours every day to give the society a healthier and



cleaner environment. Every morning, he goes out with a broom and basket. Local people say they have never seen him skipping his job

Puri Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb visited Saraskshetra here in 2002. In order to get the whole area cleaned before his visit, I contacted some local youths and when asked for their help in cleaning the area, they readily agreed. That incident made me decide to work for the environment

RABINDRANATH SAHU

even for a day. Most importantly, he does his job happily, never complaining of any sorts. Some local social activists are also helping him in his noble work. There are many people who say many a thing to do for the society. But when it comes to walk the talk, very few turn up. But in case of Sahu, it's a different story. His act has forced us to think about the environment we live in, observed some local residents. He has set an

example for younger generations, said an elderly local. Remembering the initial days, Sahu said he without giving an ear to expletives and comments has been listening to his inner-self. "I have been advising people to give at least two hours a day for the cause of society," he added. Sahu is taking care of the areas including block office, all the ponds, tube wells, markets, Jagannath temple front, medical front, all the educational institutions, government offices and some areas of nearby villages. He was felicitated as a true social activist during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019. This part, he has also been felicitated by various social organisations including Jagannath Sanskruti Manch and Odisha Samajsebi Mahasangha. Unless and until youth mass rise up to the situation, a healthy society minus environment pollution can't even be dreamt of, Sahu opines.

SAMALESWARI TEMPLE TO UNDERGO MAJOR REVAMP

Like Srimandir in Puri and Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar, Samaleswari temple will get a similar facelift with a heritage corridor, Bhoga Mandap, accommodation facilities for tourists and parking space



Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and WODC Chairman Asit Tripathy among others take a tour of the temple

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 19: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday announced the much-awaited beautification project for Goddess Samaleswari temple in Sambalpur town, one of western Odisha's most famous shrines. A high-level team comprising Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) Chairman Asit Tripathy visited the shrine Tuesday and held discussions with district Collector, director RDC (North), DIG and SP. Beautification of the shrine has been a long standing demand of the people here. With the announcement and visit of a high-level team, they are a happier lot. Like Jagannath temple in Puri and Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar, Samaleswari temple will get a similar facelift with a heritage corridor, Bhoga Mandap, accommodation facilities for tourists and parking space. For this, a special rehabilitation package will be announced for the servitors of the shrine as well as for those who will be evicted for carrying out the beautification project. It is learnt that the project will be carried out under the 5T initiative of the state government and a target of two years has been set for its completion.

cussions with district Collector, director RDC (North), DIG and SP. Beautification of the shrine has been a long standing demand of the people here. With the announcement and visit of a high-level team, they are a happier lot. Like Jagannath temple in Puri and Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar, Samaleswari temple will get a similar facelift with a heritage corridor, Bhoga Mandap, accommodation facilities for tourists and parking space. For this, a special rehabilitation package will be announced for the servitors of the shrine as well as for those who will be evicted for carrying out the beautification project. It is learnt that the project will be carried out under the 5T initiative of the state government and a target of two years has been set for its completion.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R.W.S.&S. DIVISION, NUAPADA.
E-mail: eerwssnpsd@rediffmail.com

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. RWS&S 15/2020-21

No. Q-018:- Remaining unaltered of all terms and conditions, the following changes are hereby made to Bid Identification No. RWS&S_15/2020-21 of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Nuapada by virtue of this corrigendum as mentioned below:

As per Original NIT	As per Corrigendum
Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 10.01.2021 at 10.00 A.M.	Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 22.01.2021 at 10.00 A.M.
Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 21.01.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 30.01.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.
Date of Opening of bid: 23.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	Date of Opening of bid: 01.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Nuapada
OIPR-25043/11/0011/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-484

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

"e" Procurement Notice - 3 / 2020-21

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SAL-BDK-3-P1 OF 2020-21

1. Name of Work	Maintenance of Canal and Embankment (River & Saline) works
2. Class of Contractor	Varies from "D" Class to "A" Class
3. No. of Works	32 Nos. (Details as per NIT available in website)
4. Value of Work	Rs.10.73 lakhs to 53.67 lakhs
5. Time of Completion	1 to 3 Calendar months
6. Type of Bid	Percentage Bid
7. Summary for key dates is provided below	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender for Online bidding		Date & time of Opening Bid	Date & time of Opening of Financial Bid for Sl. No. 15
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, Salandi Canal Division, Bhadrak	SAL-BDK-3 P1 of 2020-21	21.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	02.02.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	02.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	04.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in> / www.dowrodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation to the above notice will be published in this website only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Salandi Canal Division, Bhadrak
OIPR-32005/11/0004/2021

Dam construction across Saberi irks Malkangiri tribals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Jan 19: Tribals here have opposed the construction of a dam by the Chhattisgarh government on Saberi river bordering this district, a report said. The opposition of the tribals stems from the fact that the new dam at Kokram in Chhattisgarh 'will affect over 52 villages under nine panchayats of Mathili block in the district'. The matter came to fore after the tribals under the aegis of Odisha Adivasi Sangh took out a rally at Kamarpalli and opposed the construction of dam. Tribals hailing from nine panchayats of Mathili block participated in the rally and demanded an immediate intervention of the state government to sort out the issue. They warned of a serious confrontation on the issue if the Chhattisgarh government did not desist from the dam construction works soon. The tribals were seen holding their traditional weapons and giving away slogans against the Chhattisgarh government during the rally. The tribals alleged that the dam construction will seriously affect their lands, water bodies, forest cover, and mineral deposits in the area which in turn will rob them off their livelihood. They questioned how the dam construction received clearance at the government-level without looking into the damages it might cause to Malkangiri district in the state. The dam is being constructed for development of agriculture and boost power production in Chhattisgarh. They alleged that the dam is being constructed at the cost of the interest of the residents in 52 villages under nine panchayats of Mathili block.

OVER 52 VILLAGES UNDER NINE PANCHAYATS OF MATHILI BLOCK IN MALKANGIRI MAY GET AFFECTED, TRIBALS FEAR

THE TRIBALS ALLEGE THAT THE DAM CONSTRUCTION WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT THEIR LANDS, WATER BODIES, FOREST COVER, AND MINERAL DEPOSITS IN THE AREA



The tribals under the aegis of Odisha Adivasi Sangh took out a rally at Kamarpalli

INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, PANPOSH
Tel. No. 0661-2501011, Fax: 2501011, e-mail: itdapn@nic.in
No. 73 Date: 18.01.21

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. ITDAPAN-03/2020-21

No. CAD-1092: The Project Administrator, ITDA, Panposh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Online mode for Construction of the work detailed below:

1. Number of Works	: 15 (Fifteen)
2. Nature of Work	: Civil Construction work
3. Class of Contractor	: D & C
4. Period of Completion	: Varies from 4 Calendar months to 6 Calendar months
5. Estimated Cost	: Varies from Rs.6.23 lakhs to 12.32 lakhs
6. Date & time of online availability of details of this notice and the tender documents	: 20.01.2021 to 04.02.2021 upto 5.00 P.M. in the site www.tendersorissa.gov.in and in the Office of the P.A., ITDA, Panposh (on working days)
7. Online Bid receipt	: 04.02.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
8. Last date, time & place of receipt of tender through Speed Post/Registered Post	: The documents should be uploaded through online
9. Bid received Online shall be opened (date)	: 05.02.2021 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of the P.A., ITDA, Panposh
10. Designation and address of the authority inviting Bids	: Project Administrator, ITDA, Panposh

The bidders have to participate through online bidding only.
Sd./- Project Administrator, ITDA, Panposh
OIPR-19056/11/0003/2021

No. B-652

WORKS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROURKELA (R&B) DIVISION, UDITNAGAR , ROURKELA
E-Mail Id – eepwdrkl@gmail.com

Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.: 47/ 2020-2021 Dated:08.01.2021

1. Number of works: 8 (Eight) number of Works
2. Estimated cost: Rs.77.64 Lakhs to 97.80 Lakhs
3. Period of completion: 4(Four) calendar months
4. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: Dt 25.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
5. Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal: Dt 08.02.2021 up to 05.00 P.M.
6. Date of opening of Bid: Dt.11.02.2021 at 11.00A.M.
7. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, (R & B) Division, Rourkela , Uditnagar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>"

Sd./- Executive Engineer, R & B Division , Rourkela
OIPR-34068/11/0025/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-646

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, SUNDARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, SUNDARGARH
E-mail Id: pwd_sng@yahoo.co.in
Tel./Fax: (06622)272230

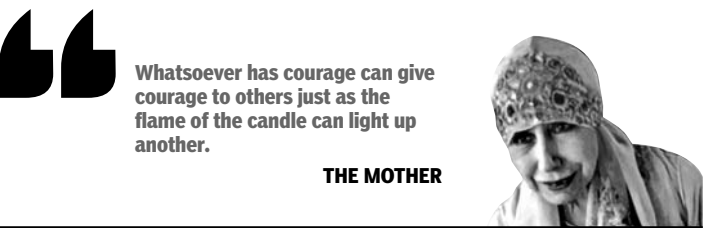
"e"-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.- EE-R&B-SNG-66 OF 2020-21

Letter No. 283/WE Date: 14.01.21

1. The Executive Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in single cover system on ON-LINE mode from eligible contractors with valid licenses for execution of Road works as detailed in DTCN.
2. Nature of Works :- Road Works
3. No. of work :- 07 (Seven) Nos.
4. Tender Cost :- Rs.4,000/- & Rs.6,000/-
5. Class of Contractor :- 'D', 'C', 'B' & 'A'
6. Availability of bid :- From 10.00 A.M. of date- 20.01.2021 to 05.00 P.M. of date- 28.01.2021.
7. Date of opening of Bid :- 11.00 A.M. on Dt.29.01.2021
8. The bidders have to participate in ON-LINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>). Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the website said only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division
OIPR-34043/11/0032/2021



“Whatsoever has courage can give courage to others just as the flame of the candle can light up another.”

THE MOTHER

Tractors and Tanks

The Supreme Court’s ruling on January 18 about the farmers’ proposed tractor rally in Delhi on Republic Day says that it is a matter of law and order and the Delhi police has to take a call. This nips in the bud an attempt by the executive to abdicate its responsibility and make the judiciary do its dirty work. The Apex Court, very smartly, observed during the hearing on a plea seeking an order against the rally that the Centre has all the authority to deal with this matter.

The ruling comes close on the heels of a controversial direction of the SC to form a four-member expert committee to ascertain whether the three contentious farm legislations against which the farmers have been spearheading an agitation at the borders of Delhi for nearly two months are beneficial for farmers or not.

The Apex Court’s direction on constituting the committee was pronounced when the government was trying to buy time and tire out the agitating farmers after nine rounds of talks with them had failed to yield results, with both the sides refusing to budge from their respective stand. While the farmers have been insisting on repealing the three laws in totality, the government continues to parrot its position that it is ready to discuss the laws clause by clause, but would not concede the demand for their annulment.

To escape the yoke, the government has been conveniently diverting critical decisions to the judiciary. This has become the favourite escape hatch for the executive. The farmers easily saw through this game and refused to appear before the committee.

The composition of the committee was a big let-down as all the members are known supporters of the three laws. The court ignored the suggestion of senior lawyer Dushyant Dave appearing for a farmers’ group to include former CJI RM Lodha in the committee to make sure there was balance. CJI SA Bobde did not consider well known journalist specializing on agriculture and rural development Magsaysay award winner P Sainath as a member, an idea he himself had toyed with earlier. Within hours of announcement of the names, one of the members, Bhupinder Singh Mann, national president of Bharatiya Kisan Union, recused himself from the committee. As if to strengthen the suspicion that the committee would only put its seal of approval on the government’s position on the laws, Mann said he dissociated himself from the committee because he wanted to be on the side of the farmers.

The Apex Court, as is usual habit, strayed into the role of a mediator instead of adjudicating the legal challenge. The challenge was mainly on two grounds. First, it was contended the Parliament is not competent to enact the laws as the subject comes under the State List. The second plea is that the manner in which they were passed in the Rajya Sabha violated Constitutional provisions. Articles 100 and 107 of the Constitution and the rules of the House stipulate that all matters at any sitting of either House or joint sitting of the Houses shall be determined by a majority of votes of members present. The majority has to be determined only by recording of votes even if one member demands division. The three Bills were passed in the RS by voice vote amidst raucous demand by Opposition members for division. The Deputy Chairman of the House, who was conducting the proceedings, was in such a hurry that he declared them passed without recording the votes. According to Article 107, a Bill shall not be deemed to have been passed unless both Houses agreed to it. What strains credulity further about the honesty of the government exercise is that the President gave his assent to the Bills the same day they were presented to him.

In this backdrop, the SC ruling on tractor parade appears to be a boon to the government. It is a known fact that the Delhi police is administered by the Union Home Ministry. So much so that the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has often been physically attacked in the presence of Delhi police personnel and has not received any protection from them. Kejriwal’s dissatisfaction with the Delhi police surfaced when he refused use of several sports stadiums of the Delhi government as ‘jails’ or detention grounds for farmers in the initial stages of the protests. The SC ruling is a clear under-cover support to the Union government to derail the tractor rally.

It would indeed be a victory for democracy if Delhi police would actually allow the tractor parade to take place and not hide under the pretext of breakdown of law and order or traffic issues to stop it.



Sampad Patnaik

CONTRARY TO
MAINSTREAM
MEDIA
PROPAGANDA
IN THE USA,
AMERICANS ARE
NOT AS
CULTURALLY
POLARISED AS
THEY ARE
ECONOMICALLY
DESPERATE

The Democratic Party does not appear to have a clear grasp over the nature of the mandate it has won. In a country desperate for economic relief, the Democrats are signalling they may repeat Trump’s cardinal mistake of ignoring promises on the economy and spearheading the intensification of culture wars.

The Trump campaign in 2020 was as culturally toxic as in 2016. The difference lies in his economic agenda during both campaigns. Trump, in 2016, ran on a clear economic populist message breaking with the traditional Republican playbook. He slammed Clinton and Obama trade deals such as the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), major factors in the immiseration of the manufacturing (rust belt) states that won him the Electoral College.

In 2016, Trump even eschewed standard Republican rhetoric on cuts to Medicare, a federal health insurance programme for Americans aged 65 and older, and Social Security Payroll Taxes, roughly the equivalent of India’s Employees Provident Fund. In doing so, he won Hillary Clinton’s supposed firewall by flipping voters that Obama had won in the previous cycles.

As President, Trump took a number of poor decisions, separating immigrant children at the borders to banning entry from some Muslim countries. However, voters gave Trump the lowest marks in his presidency when the Republicans passed \$1.8 trillion tax cuts for the rich. Taxes are an immensely significant political topic in America, which can trace its transformation from a colony to a country partly due to a famous tax protest – the Boston Tea Party.

The Trump administration negotiated the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) that experts have termed a cannibalised copy of NAFTA. In the 2020 campaign, Trump proposed future cuts to Medicare and Social Security Payroll Taxes.

Disillusioned with Trump, Americans have given a clear mandate to the Democrats who now control the White House and both Houses of the US Congress. Control over all three levers will allow the



In a country reeling from a pandemic, Democrats need to prioritise economic welfare and hold back on trickle down cultural warfare. Their choices should be a case study for elected governments across the world

Democrats and Biden to act on their policy promises, such as efficient vaccination programmes, raising the minimum wage, using federal dollars to buy American goods, enacting criminal justice reform, re-joining global climate pacts, and improving on the health-care system passed during the Obama years.

However, one of the first legislative items executed by the Democratic Party, after it regained control of the House of Representatives by a slim majority, was the replacement of gender-specific words with gender-neutral words in legislative language.

The Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, introduced changes in the “Rules of the House of Representatives,” a document where an incoming Congress has to formulate and observe a new set of rules. The fresh rules substitute “he and she” with “such member, delegate,” and “himself or herself” with “themselves.” “Father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister” were replaced with “parent, child, sibling” and so on.

Democrats claim the rules were changed to reflect the growing diversity in the US House of Representatives that saw the election of many openly LGTBTQ+ members this cycle. However, the

Republican Party and its ideological partners in the media saw an opening to reignite culture wars and hide their own failure on developing popular economic agenda. They have begun the task of painting Democrats as immature cultural radicals and economic failures.

The Republican leader in the House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy, tweeted the Rules document stating – “This is stupid. Signed, A father, son, and brother.” Fox News host Tucker Carlson, widely seen as a future presidential candidate, said in his news segment – “Now, we learn it is an act of hostility against women to acknowledge that women exist. The word women itself is an offence against women.” Right leaning media spun the move as Democrats trying to be inclusive by excluding the human experience and human biology that lies in gender.

Democrats have been happy to participate in this debate, while getting side-tracked from the economic promises they must now fulfil. Instead of using their majority and public platforms to corner Republican leadership on popular economic measures, they have begun their tenure playing defence on cultural debates.

Even before he takes office, Biden is personally under fire for wriggling out of a major campaign promise that won his party critical control of the US Senate this month. Had Democrats lost the Senate, their victory in the House of Representatives and presidential elections would have been meaningless with Republicans blocking legislation in the Senate.

Faced with the prospect of a razor thin defeat in two Senate races in the state of Georgia in January, Biden realised he needed economic populism and accept a proposal he was not keen on – \$2,000 in relief checks. Polls have shown support for the checks as high as 65 per cent among the American public.

In a campaign speech for Georgians, Biden said, “The debate over \$2,000 isn’t some abstract debate in Washington. It’s about real lives...If you send (Democratic candidates for Senate) to Washington, those \$2,000 checks will go out of the door...if you send senators (from the Republicans) back to Washington, those checks will never get there.”

The announcement has been acknowledged as the push that helped Democrats tip two statewide races in a Republican state and achieve legislative control over the Senate. However, days later, Biden unveiled an economic package that has whittled down the promised relief to \$1,400. Biden supporters are now saying his campaign speech meant additional relief of \$1,400, following the \$600 relief checks that were passed under Trump, prior to the Georgia election. The backpedalling has infuriated some Democrats, who have called him out in public.

The two moves signal Democratic leadership has not grasped the answer on why Trump won in 2016 and lost in 2020. Contrary to mainstream media propaganda in the USA, Americans are not as culturally polarised as they are economically desperate. If the Democrats fail to use their political majorities to push on economic relief, they invite major electoral losses in the future.

The writer is an Oxbridge scholar and former Assistant Editor with The Indian Express.

WISDOM CORNER

- “Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you.”
WALT WHITMAN
- “Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
- “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”
MARTIN LUTHER

WORDSWORTH

Yale

Your first thought may be of the famous Yale University in the US, or perhaps of a make of cylinder lock. Neither is the sense that’s involved here, though there is a close link with two colleges of Britain’s Cambridge University and Yale does come into the story. We are concerned here with mythical beasts. Classical and modern literature is full of them, ranging from centaurs and dragons to jabberwocks and Harry Potter’s blast-ended skrewts. This one is classical Roman, having first been described by Pliny the Elder. He gave it the name of eale – we don’t know why: the word turns up nowhere else in classical literature – and included it as an animal of Ethiopia: It is the size of the river-horse, has the tail of the elephant, and is of a black or tawny colour. It has also the jaws of the wild boar, and horns that are moveable, and more than a cubit in length, so that, in fighting, it can employ them alternately, and vary their position by presenting them directly or obliquely, according as necessity may dictate -- The Natural History, by Pliny the Elder, circa 77 CE, translated by John Bostock. We know river-horse better by its ancient Greek name of hippopotamus. A cubit was a measure of length roughly that of the forearm, about 18 inches (44 cm). Nobody knows what animal Pliny was trying to describe. As so often, he may have been conflating inaccurate travellers’ tales about a number of different kinds of beasts, such as a type of big-horned African ox, an antelope or a species of goat. Following Pliny’s description, the yale is usually shown in illustrations as a mixture of bits of other animals, a chimera, with the snout of a wild boar, the body and head of an antelope, and a couple of long pointed horns of indeterminate origin. The beast turns up in English heraldry in late medieval times, with its form borrowed from Pliny. By then its coat had changed to silver with gold spots. In herald-speak these are bezants, a name originally attached to gold coins minted in Byzantium. Because of the animal’s supposed skill in using its horns it came to represent proud defence. The connection with Cambridge University comes via Margaret of Beaufort, the mother of King Henry VII and reputedly the richest woman in medieval England. She founded two of the colleges of the university – Christ’s and St John’s – at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Because of this, her arms, including yales, may still be seen over the gatehouses of the two colleges. Yale University has borrowed the heraldic beast as a play on its own name. Two in chains flank the portico of Davenport College, one is depicted on the official banner of the president of the university and the campus radio station uses a yale as a logo. The university was actually named in memory of Elihu Yale, a governor of the British East India Company. His name comes from Iâl, a place in north Wales, which in turn is from the Welsh word for a fertile or arable upland.

IN JEST THIS



Melvin Durai

THE SAMOSA
CAME SO CLOSE TO
THE PLANE THAT
THE CIVIL
AVIATION
AUTHORITY OF THE
UK ALMOST
RECORDED
THE FIRST
SAMOSA-PLANE
COLLISION IN
HISTORY

Sharing a samosa in space

An Indian restaurant in the city of Bath, England, made news recently when it sent a samosa into space. The samosa went all the way to a foreign land and was enjoyed by a samosa-loving creature of some sort.

The samosa was sent into space by a restaurant called Chai Walla and its owner, Niraj Gadher, according to a report by Somerset Live, a news site that covers Bath, the cleanest city in England.

Chai Walla has been ranked as one of the best restaurants in Bath, but that distinction was not enough for Gadher. He apparently also wanted it to be recognised as the only restaurant in the world with a “samosa space program.”

As he told Somerset Live, “I said as a joke once that I would send a samosa into space, and then I thought during this bleak time we could all use a reason to laugh.”

Gadher used large weather balloons filled with helium to send a package holding the samosa, as well as a wrap, into the atmosphere. It took three attempts to send the samosa off on its mission, as you will undoubtedly read



one day in “The History of Samosas in Space.”

Gadher attached a GoPro video camera and a GPS tracker to the package, so if you watch the video on YouTube, you can actually see the samosa looking down on the earth like some sort of Samosa God.

The balloons lifted the samosa so high that in one of the shots from the video camera, you can see a plane in the background. I wonder if any eagle-eyed passengers spotted it.

Husband: “Did you see that, Jenny?”

Wife: “See what, Bob?”

Husband: “A samosa — right be-

side the clouds.”

Wife: “You silly man. You need to stop drinking so much!”

The samosa came so close to the plane that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of the United Kingdom almost recorded the first samosa-plane collision in history.

Thankfully the samosa made its way safely across the English Channel, before landing in a field in Caix, Northern France. Gadher pinpointed its location using the GPS tracker and turned to social media for help. An Instagram user named Axel Mathon drove to the location and found the package. The camera was still there, but the samosa and wrap had disappeared, presumably eaten by an animal of some sort—a hungry animal whose prayers had been answered by the Samosa God.

It’s important to note that this wasn’t the first time that a samosa has travelled to space. Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams took a samosa with her on her expedition to the International Space Station in 2012. But Chai Walla did become the

first restaurant to send a samosa into space. I hope many more restaurants launch samosas into space, partly because one of these samosas may eventually find its way to my home. If I spot a samosa landing nearby, I promise to share it with every member of my family who can name five cricketers.

Samosas are the greatest snack in the world, popular in so many countries. They’re especially popular in the UK, where they’re not only being launched into space but also being made in huge sizes. About three years ago, a humanitarian charity called Muslim Aid UK made a 153.1 kg samosa, setting a Guinness World Record for the world’s largest samosa.

I always thought that samosas originated in India, but according to Wikipedia, they originated in the Middle East and were brought to the Indian subcontinent in the 13th or 14th century by traders from Central Asia. I’m not sure how samosas made their way to the UK, but it’s quite likely that one of Niraj Gadher’s ancestors launched them into space from India.

Overburdened courts

Sir, A division bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice SK Kaul has expressed serious concern over appeals made in each and every case decided by the lower courts. Elaborating on a case referred to it for further review where the Delhi High Court had upheld the orders passed by two academic authorities for vacating premises of an educational institution in larger public interests, the apex court has made it clear that there must be an end to referring the cases where judgements have been given by as many as two empowered authorities and a lower court. The court has not ruled out the possibility of its own judgements made null and void had there been an upper forum above it. The pronouncement carries substantial strength and intensity as the process of frequent referrals to the highest court of the land would cost not only time of the entire judicial process, but also money and energy involved in repetition of the procedures and leaving many more sensitive cases in cold storage of the already crowded volumes of cases in the registry. It’s time for the appellants to be judicious by not knocking at the doors of the court each time they get a rebuff from the lower courts. This apart, the habitual litigants must be put on alert for not overburdening the High Courts and the Supreme Court for every trivial issue that can be solved in forums vested with quasi judicial powers.

Sanjib Das, CUTTACK

Regulate online gaming

Sir, The NITI Aayog has released a draft report titled ‘Guiding Principles for the Uniform National-Level Regulation of Online Fantasy Sports Platforms in India’ and mentioned that there is a public interest in the fantasy sports industry receiving the government recognition as an industry and having its own identity. In this matter, the online gaming industry has requested the government to set up a self-regulatory body to standardise regulations for the entire online skill gaming sector and not just the fantasy sports industry. The Online Rummy Federation stated that India’s skill gaming industry suffers from the same Byzantine set of state-by-state laws and regulations. A common self-regulatory body will result in the removal of a lot of uncertainty for foreign investors, spur foreign investment to the tune of a few billion dollars, drive innovation, employment, and taxes. The need of the hour is that the NITI Aayog should include all skill gaming sectors in this draft and regulate the whole online gaming industry.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA (MP)

Arnab violated Official Secrets Act: Congress

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Jan 19: Expressing serious concerns over the recent leaks of social media chats of two media personalities, the Maharashtra Congress Tuesday said they compromised national security and violated the provisions of the Official Secrets Act. In a memorandum submitted to Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, a Congress delegation led by spokespersons Sachin Sawant and Raju Waghmare said that the leakage of the purported social media chats conducted between Republic TV chief Arnab Goswami and ex-BARC CEO Partho Dasgupta undermined national security of the 'highest order'.

On his part, Deshmukh assured that he would take up the matter in the state Cabinet before taking a decision. Headed by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government comprises Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress.

The developments came a day after the NCP demanded a joint parliamentary committee probe into the matter and Deshmukh said January 18 that the government is trying to ascertain how Goswami got access to such highly classified details pertaining to national security.

Sawant and Waghmare pointed out how, in one of the chats, Goswami tells Dasgupta that he



had confirmed information about India planning a cross-border strike on Pakistan in retaliation for the Pulwama terror attacks on CRPF troopers.

"Even the date and time stamps on this message show that this chat happened 3 days before the Indian Air Force conducted an air strike on Balakot in Pakistan on February 26, 2019," the Congress memorandum said.

Both leaders informed Deshmukh how it was a matter of serious concern that Goswami was not only privy to information of the highest secrecy regarding national security operations of the armed forces but was also openly sharing it with Dasgupta, and it is not known as to how many other people he (Goswami) may have leaked these secrets to.

"Goswami's actions are a clear violation of Section 5 of the OSA, 1923 which forbids a person with

knowledge of classified national security operations from revealing them to unauthorised persons," the two leaders said.

Besides, the OSA 1923 vests the power of investigating and prosecuting offences related to Sec. 5 with the concerned state government, said Sawant and Waghmare.

They urged the state home minister to order a probe and register an offence if needed against Goswami for compromising national security, probe how he was privy to the information and who leaked such sensitive information to him.

Sawant and Waghmare raised another issue of Republic TV allegedly illegally using Doordarshan Prasar Bharati satellite frequency signals without paying the uplinking fees to reach millions of additional subscribers free in an illegal manner.

The matter figured in another chat of Goswami in which he is claiming that the then Information & Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore kept the matter pending till Republic TV escaped action from the government.

This issue, the duo demanded must be investigated along with the TRP probe of Mumbai Police in which Republic TV and certain other private television channels manipulated viewership data causing huge losses to the Indian exchequer.

Kerala expects Covid cases to fall only by July

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 19: The Kerala Health Department, headed by Minister KK Shailaja, is sceptical as the number of Covid patients has been on the rise every day and a study conducted by it says that the cases were expected to come down to 1,000 per day only by July.

Kerala has the highest number of Covid positive cases per day followed by Maharashtra. While the state had 3,346 positive cases Monday, Maharashtra had 3,081 cases.

The number of positive cases per day in other states has come down below thousand since the past few weeks. Karnataka had registered 745, West Bengal 589 and Tamil Nadu 589 per day once. Death figures per day show the

state is second only to Maharashtra.

As the number of recoveries was more than positive cases per day, the health department is of the opinion that the medication and precautions were giving results.

Shailaja said that the local body polls and the festivals were the reason for the increase in cases in the state and called upon the people not to let their guards down.

"The vaccination drive is a positive sign but it does not mean that we can relax. We have to be

on guard and all the security measures we are adopting have to continue," she told the media.

Health experts are of the opinion that sticking on to antigen tests and the population density are the main reasons for the rising Covid cases in the state. Antigen tests generally don't give proper results. Better results are generally obtained by RTPCR tests which other states were using.

However, Rajeev Sadanandan, Chief Minister's Covid Advisor, told the media: "No need to worry regarding the spike in cases. We are the only state where the number of deaths was not increasing."

The vaccination drive is a positive sign but it does not mean that we can relax. We have to be on guard and all the security measures we are adopting have to continue

KK SHAILAJA I
HEALTH MINISTER



ON WARPATH

The Kerala police use water cannons to disperse several Youth Congress activists during their protest march against the alleged backdoor appointments in various sectors, in Thiruvananthapuram, Tuesday.

PTI PHOTO

Catholic prelates meet PM, Kerala BJP upbeat

The meeting of the Catholic heads with the Prime Minister assumes significance as it was held at the behest of Mizoram Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai, a former president of Kerala BJP



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Mar George Cardinal Alencherry (Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church), Cardinal Oswald Gracias (Archbishop of Bombay and President of CBCI), and His Beatitude Basileios Cardinal Cleemis (Major Archbishop-Catholikos of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church), in New Delhi.

PTI PHOTO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram/New Delhi, Jan 19: The Syro Malabar Church's Archbishop, Cardinal George Alencherry, the Malankara Syrian Church's Archbishop, Cardinal Basileios Mar Cleemis and Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Mumbai's Cardinal Archbishop Oswald Gracias met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi Tuesday to discuss various issues.

The three Cardinals later told the media that the meeting was positive and that the Prime Minister had lent a patient ear to their issues.

Cardinal Mar Basileios Cleemis said that the church heads had apprised Modi about the discrepancies in the distribution of scholarships for minority students, insofar that Christian students are getting only 20 per cent of the minority scholarship amount, while another minority community is garnering the rest.

The church leadership is of the opinion that the community should get at least 41 per cent of the allocation on the basis of their proportion.

It is learnt that the contentious issue of 'Love Jihad' was also conveyed to the Prime Minister as the Catholic community is worried over several Christian

girls getting converted to Islam after marrying Muslim youths. Three Christian girls who married Muslim youths and converted to Islam have gone to IS territory in Afghanistan and Syria. The Christian community is worried over this trend and the Kerala BJP has been taking this issue up.

The meeting of the Catholic heads with the Prime Minister assumes significance as it was held at the behest of Mizoram Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai, a former president of the Kerala BJP.

The party state leadership is upbeat over the Prime Minister meeting the Catholic Church's heads as the party knows that the support of the Christian community is crucial for it in the state. With the BJP taking the lead to settle the issues between the Orthodox and Jacobite churches, it feels that there will be a definite support base evolving among the Christian community for the BJP.

BJP state president K Surendran, speaking to IANS over telephone, said: "The PM meeting the Church heads is a good development. They have aired their genuine grievances and let us see how things move ahead."

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BJP state president K Surendran, speaking to IANS over telephone, said: "The PM meeting the Church heads is a good development. They have aired their genuine grievances and let us see how things move ahead."

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K SURENDRAN I
KERALA BJP CHIEF

Vaccination resumes in Maha after 2-day pause

There was hardly any rush of registered beneficiaries at the vaccination centres

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 19: After a gap of two days, the COVID-19 vaccination drive resumed in Mumbai and Pune Tuesday morning, but unlike the first day, there was hardly any rush of beneficiaries for taking jabs in the metropolises.

A doctor at a vaccination centre in Mumbai said the response was slow in the morning, but the process was gradually picking up.

The inoculation drive resumed at nine centres in Mumbai and 28 centres in the neighbouring Pune district, officials said.

The Maharashtra government had suspended the inoculation process Sunday and Monday due to some problems in the Co-WIN app, created by the Centre for managing registration for the vaccination.

On the first day of the vaccination on Saturday, only 1,923 out of 4,000 registered beneficiaries got the doses in Mumbai, as per the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Tuesday, the vaccination process started around 9 am at all the centres in Mumbai, as per BMC officials. However, unlike Saturday, there was hardly any rush of registered beneficiaries at the vaccination centres.

The waiting room at a vaccination centre in the civic-run KEM Hospital was almost empty at around 10.30 am.

"Only 15 to 20 people have come



since the start of the process today," a staffer at the vaccination centre said. One or two registered beneficiaries are coming at a gap of 5 to 10 minutes, he said.

"The response was slow in the morning, but it is slowly picking up," a doctor at the facility said, adding that the centre will remain open till 5 pm. Some healthcare workers, who were asked to go to the KEM Hospital for inoculation, told PTI that they received calls for vaccination from the BMC's war room between 8.30 pm and 11.30 pm Monday.

Besides, some registered beneficiaries also said they either did not receive any message, while a few said they received the message early Tuesday morning.

"I got a call for vaccination at 11.30 pm Monday, which was very late, but haven't received any message," said a health care worker from the KEM Hospital's microbi-

ology department, who came to take the vaccine shot.

In Pune, the vaccination resumed at 28 out of the 31 centres Tuesday, a senior district health official said.

There are 31 vaccination centres in the district: eight each in Pune city and Pimpri-Chinchwad civic limits and 15 in rural areas.

Pune Municipal Corporation's health chief Dr Ashish Bharti said the vaccination could not be started at three centres due to some technical issues.

"We are trying to rectify the issues at the three centres. The vaccination at the remaining five centres in the city started at 10 am," he said.

He also said the administration is trying to conduct more vaccinations than the designated target of 100 per day at bigger medical facilities in Pune, like the Sassoon Hospital and the Kamla Nehru Hospital.

Oommen Chandy to lead UDF in Assembly polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 19: Former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy will be leading the Opposition Congress led UDF battle in the crucial Assembly polls during April-May this year in Kerala.

A 10-member Election Management and Strategy committee, with Chandy as its Chairman, has been approved by Congress president Sonia Gandhi and it would come into effect immediately, an AICC press release said Tuesday.

The committee, which includes KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran, Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala, AICC organisational secretary, KC Venugopal and AICC secretary in charge of Kerala Tariq Anwar, will meet frequently to discuss matters related to electioneering, co-ordination and formulation of election strategies, the release said.

MPs K Muraliedharan, K Sudhakaran, Kodikkunil Suresh and Shashi Tharoor, besides former KPCC president, VM Sudheeran, are the other members of the committee.

Chandy (77), along with CWC member AK Antony, Ramesh Chennithala and Mullappally Ramachandran, had held discussions with Sonia Gandhi and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi at Delhi Monday.

Antony had later said the chief ministerial candidate would be announced after the front's 'victory'.

The leaders later told media personnel that they would face the polls unitedly and the only agenda



was to ensure that the party and the front come out with flying colours.

Chandy was showered with rose petals and given a warm welcome by party workers at the airport here on his return late last night from Delhi.

The Indian Union Muslim League and RSP, both coalition partners of the front, had come out openly after UDF's lacklustre performance in the recent local body polls and suggested that Chandy be brought back to the forefront and given more responsibility.

Meanwhile, KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran said Tuesday said he would foray into the electoral arena in the polls if the party asked him to do so.

"I have always obeyed whatever the party says. If the party asks me to contest, I will do so. Till today I have not gone beyond what the party has said," he told reporters at the airport here soon after he returned from Delhi after crucial meetings with the party high command.

People favoured MVA govt in GP polls: Sena

The party said in its mouthpiece 'Saamana' that while PM Modi is the most popular leader in the country, in Maharashtra, it is Uddhav Thackeray

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 19: The Shiv Sena Tuesday said the people of Maharashtra had favoured the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the recently-held Gram Panchayat elections in the state, results of which were declared Monday.

Taking a dig at the BJP in the party's mouthpiece 'Saamana', the Sena said a "political revolution" cannot be staged in the state using the central probe agencies.

The BJP should accept the public mandate favouring the MVA, or

else, people of the state will further rout that party, the Sena said.

About 1.25 lakh candidates emerged victorious in the polls held for 12,711 Gram Panchayats January 15. These polls are not fought on party symbols, but panels are fielded by political parties or local leaders.

The ruling MVA -- comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress -- Monday claimed a 'huge win' in the Gram Panchayat elections, while the opposition BJP said it had come out stronger in the elections.

The Sena claimed the Thackeray government was addressing peo-

ple's problems and the state's development has gained momentum on its watch.

"All the MVA constituents have put up an emphatic show in the Gram Panchayat polls. What else is this if not a mandate favouring the Thackeray government in the state?" the Sena asked.

The Sena claimed that the BJP had lost the Gram Panchayat polls in home turfs of its key state leaders such as Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Raosaheb Darve, Chandrakant Patil, Ram Shinde and Nitesh Rane.

It further stated that the Congress and NCP took a "big leap" in the polls in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.

"The Shiv Sena has prevailed in Konkan, but there was a setback at some places. It will be reviewed later. But the overall results from the



entire state show that people have rejected the BJP. This can also mean that people have accepted the Thackeray government," the editorial said.

The Sena went on to say that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the most popular leader in the country, in Maharashtra, it is Uddhav Thackeray.

of the day quote

If I cannot defeat her (West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) with half lakh votes in Nandigram I will quit politics. She only remembers Nandigram when election time comes

SUVENDU ADHIKARI | BJP LEADER

'Atmanirbhar Bharat' does not mean an isolated India. 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' means India is an active participant in the global economy

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD | UNION LAW MINISTER

The Samajwadi Party would fight the 2022 polls on its own, but keep space for smaller parties and keep its doors open for them

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Elephant gored to death

Latehar/Medininagar: A domesticated elephant has been gored to death by two wild tuskers in Betla National Park in Jharkhand, a senior forest officer said Tuesday. The incident took place at a shelter for domesticated elephants in Palamu Fort late Monday night, Palamu Tiger Reserve Deputy Director Kumar Ashish said. On account of being tied with chains, the 40-year-old male elephant 'Kalabhairava' could not flee or retaliate and succumbed to his injuries on the spot, he said.

10,064 new Covid cases

New Delhi: India reported the lowest number of daily coronavirus infections in over seven months with 10,064 new cases, which took the caseload to 1,05,81,837, while recoveries have surged to 1,02,28,753, according to Union Health Ministry data updated Tuesday. The country's death toll increased to 1,52,556 as 137 fatalities, the lowest in around eight months, were recorded in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,02,28,753, pushing the national Covid-19 recovery rate to 96.66 per cent, while the Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.44 per cent.

Activist held in drugs case

Mumbai: A 49-year-old anti-drugs activist was arrested on Monday by the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of the Mumbai Police in connection with a drugs case, an official said. The name of the activist, identified as Asif Sardar, had cropped up as a supplier during interrogation of one Ayyaz Yakub Mandiwala (46).

Schools reopen in Tamil Nadu

Chennai: After a gap of 10 months, schools were reopened for Classes 10 and 12 in Tamil Nadu Tuesday with students undergoing body temperature and oxygen level checks before entering the premises. The Tamil Nadu government last week announced reopening of schools from January 19 which were shut following the Covid-19 outbreak since March 2020 while Chief Minister K Palaniswami appealed to parents and teachers to extend their full cooperation to the government in its efforts.



Who is he (BJP president JP Nadda) that I have to answer to him? Is he my professor? I will answer to the country

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

BANGALORE CIVIC BODY TO CONDUCT SURVEY OF BEGGARS

In a bid to contain the begging menace within the city limits, the Bangalore civic body has decided to constitute a committee to collate the data of beggars across the city, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Commissioner N Manjunath Prasad said



STRAINS IN CONGRESS-DMK ALLIANCE IN PUDUCHERRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puducherry, Jan 19: Cracks appeared to have developed in the decade-old alliance between the ruling Congress and DMK in the Union Territory just months ahead of the Assembly elections, with a senior leader of the Dravidian party pitching for contesting all 30 seats.

Party sources said DMK, which has been of late distancing itself from the Congress, felt the V Narayanasamy government had ditched the party on several occasions and matters, including appointment of chairpersons to various statutory bodies, and occasions though it had been supporting it from outside since 2016.

Amid the visible strains, senior leader and MP S Jagathrathagan, deputed by the party leadership, Monday told a party executive committee meeting here that DMK should win in all 30 constituencies in the next polls, likely in April-May, seen as an indication that it should go it alone.

At the meeting, local DMK leaders, including MLA R Siva and former minister SP Sivakumar, projected Jagathrathagan, who represents Arakonam in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, as the Chief Ministerial candidate of the party.

"The DMK should romp home in all the 30 Assembly constituencies in the Union Territory in the next polls," the MP said, adding the party needed to emerge a big winner so that it could strive hard to ensure that Puducherry made a rapid stride in every field.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2021



Indications of strains in the ties had been there since the past few months with the DMK keeping away from various agitations staged by the Congress

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sure that Puducherry made a rapid stride in every field.

While welcoming Jagathrathagan on his arrival at the venue of the meeting, the DMK workers raised slogans hailing him as the Chief Ministerial candidate of the party. DMK had won two seats out of the ten it contested under the Congress-led alliance in the 2016 Assembly elections. Its tally rose to three after the victory in the byelection to Thattanchavady held in 2019.

Indications of strains in the ties had been there since the past few months with the DMK keeping away from various agitations staged by the Congress.

The DMK had held a separate protest last month over the central farm laws issue when the Congress gave a call for the stir and its three MLAs were absent when the assembly passed a resolution seeking repeal of the contentious acts

Monday. Despite being part of the democratic secular progressive alliance, the DMK did not take part in the agitation by the combine earlier this month demanding the recall of Lt Governor Kiran Bedi for allegedly impeding implementation of welfare schemes.

It was the general wish of the rank and file that DMK party should contest in all the 30 seats in the coming Assembly poll on its own, a party source told PTI Tuesday.

The developments come at a time when the strength of the Congress in the assembly has come down to 14 after the disqualification of rebel MLA N Dhanavelu on charges of anti-party activities and the party banks on the support of the three DMK MLAs. In fact, Opposition parties, including AIADMK, Monday demanded that Narayanasamy prove his majority in the Assembly, pointing to the cold ties between Congress and DMK.

SC panel to keep aside personal views on farm laws: Ghanwat

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 19: Under attack from protesting unions for their "pro-government" public stand on three contentious farm laws, members of a panel set up by the Supreme Court to resolve the crisis said Tuesday they will keep aside their own ideology and views while consulting various stakeholders, even as they indicated a complete repeal won't augur well for much-needed agriculture reforms.

A key committee member and president of Maharashtra-based Shetkari Sanghatana, Anil Ghanwat said the farm sector reforms are much needed and no political party in the next 50 years will ever attempt them again if these laws are repealed.

He, however, added the panel will listen to all farmers, including those supporting and those opposing the laws, and accordingly prepare a report for submitting to the apex court.

He also said that the laws implemented in the last 70 years were not in the interest of farmers and about 4.5 lakh farmers have committed suicide.

"Farmers are getting poor and are under debt. Some changes are needed. Those changes were happening but the protest began," he added. After their first meeting here, Ghanwat said the first round of consultations with farmers and other stakeholders has been scheduled for Thursday. Noting that the "biggest challenge" is to convince



Supreme Court-appointed farm panel members PK Joshi, Anil Ghanwat and Ashok Gulati address the media after their first meeting in New Delhi, Tuesday

Govt-farmers talks postponed to Jan 20

New Delhi: The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on Monday said that the meeting between a group of ministers and farmer unions scheduled for January 19 has been postponed to January 20. The meeting is scheduled to take place at 2 p.m. here at Vigyan Bhawan. It would be the 10th round of talks between Centre and the representatives of the agitating farmers who are on streets along the borders of Delhi since almost two months, demanding withdrawal of the newly passed

farm laws passed by the Central government. In a letter to the representatives of the protesting farmers, Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare said the scheduled meeting of a Group of Ministers with agitating farmer organisations for January 19 has been postponed to January 20 due to some unavoidable reasons. Stating in the letter that the meeting would be held on January 20, the farmers' leaders have been requested to attend the meet.

the protesting farmers to appear before the panel, Ghanwat said they will be still given a priority as the panel wants the long-running protest to end at the earliest.

Agri-economists Ashok Gulati and Pramod Kumar Joshi are the other two members of the panel who were present in the meeting.

The Supreme Court had set up the four-member panel January 11 to look into the contentious three farm laws, against which thousands are protesting on Delhi borders for almost two months now. But one of the members, Bhupinder Singh Mann, later backed out of the panel.

Bharat Biotech releases risks, benefits of Covaxin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Jan 19: Bharat Biotech's fact sheet on Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, has advised pregnant or breastfeeding women, besides people with high fever or bleeding disorders, not to take the antidote.

The vaccine maker in the fact sheet on Covaxin, posted in its website, said the clinical efficacy of the vaccine is yet to be established and is being studied in Phase 3 clinical trial and hence it is important to appreciate that receiving the vaccine does not mean other precautions related to Covid-19 need not be followed.

"You should not get Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin if you have any history of allergies. Have high fever. Have bleeding disorder or are a blood thinner. Immune compromised or are taking a medicine that affects your immune system. Are pregnant. Are breast feeding," Bharat Biotech said.

"Have received another Covid-19 vaccine. Any other serious health related issues, as deter-

mined by the vaccinator/ Officer supervising vaccination," the fact sheet said.

The fact sheet also asked people to inform the vaccinator or a supervising official about their medical condition before taking the vaccine.

Bharat Biotech said in an ongoing clinical trial Covaxin has been shown to generate immunity following two doses given four weeks apart.

Covaxin is a vaccine with approval for restricted use in emergency situations that may prevent Covid-19.

The Central Licensing Authority has granted permission for the sale or distribution of the antidote for restricted use in emergency situations in public interest as an abundant precaution, in clinical trial mode, the fact sheet said.

Covaxin is a highly purified and inactivated two-dose SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, manufactured in a Vero cell manufacturing platform with an excellent safety track record of more than 300 million doses, the company had said.



RIDE BACK HOME



Villagers cross the Beas river on a improvised cable rope bridge after casting vote during the second phase of Himachal Pradesh Panchayat elections in Kullu district, Tuesday

BJP more dangerous than Maoists: Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 19: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Tuesday, "Those who want to join the BJP can leave, but we will not bow our heads before the saffron party." Speaking about the defection of some TMC leaders, she further said, "Politics is a solemn ideology, philosophy; one can change clothes daily but not ideologies."

Addressing a rally in Purulia Tuesday, Banerjee spoke on a host of issues ahead of 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections. Mamata Banerjee said that the BJP is "more dangerous than Maoists".

"You all voted for the BJP in Lok

Sabha elections, but does your MP visit you? Have they given you anything? They will make false promises before election and once it's over, they will flee," said Banerjee. "In Bengal, the BJP is more in media than on the field. The party is using IT to scare and intimidate the Opposition. They have created WhatsApp groups to spread fake news. The BJP is far more dangerous than the Maoists. They came and insulted Birs Munda. They say Bengal, but they are Kangal for votes," Mamata Banerjee said while launching a scathing attack at the BJP.

Hitting out at the Centre, Banerjee said, "We were the first to

announce that we will celebrate the day as Desh Nayak Divas. What the Centre has announced is their discretion, but we are not happy."

"I still think that the Central government should declare it a national holiday. They (Centre) said that it will declassify all Netaji files, but they have not. They only remember Bengal just before elections. They can't even pronounce Bengal properly," Banerjee said.

Taking a dig at the BJP over a complaint filed against actor Saayoni Ghosh, Banerjee said, "How dare the BJP threaten actor Saayoni Ghosh. I dare the BJP to touch her or anyone from the Bengali film industry."

Kashmiri Pandits to move SC for probe into 1989-90 genocide

IT HAS BEEN 32 YEARS SINCE HUNDREDS OF KASHMIRI PANDITS WERE KILLED AS PART OF ETHNIC CLEANSING IN THE KASHMIR VALLEY, AND THEIR WOUNDS REMAIN RAW AS JUSTICE ELUDES MANY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 19: It has been 32 years since hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits were killed as part of ethnic cleansing in the Kashmir Valley, and their wounds remain raw as justice eludes many in the community who lost their loved ones. Seeking justice for the community, Roots in Kashmir, an organisation representing the displaced Pandits, will move the Supreme Court next week seeking a probe into the genocide.

A bench headed by then Chief Justice JS Khehar July 24, 2017, had declined to entertain a review

petition filed by the Pandits. The top court had noted that instances referred to in the petition pertained to 1989-90 and more than 27 years have passed since then. No fruitful purpose would be served as there will not be any evidence at this late juncture, it had said.

"We are filing a curative petition with a hope that the courts will appreciate that it erred in 2017. That it opened Sikh riot cases much older than the Kashmiri Pandit genocide," said Amit Raina of Roots in Kashmir.

The organisation has argued that the top court August 21, 2017, re-opened and ordered further inves-



tigation into 241 cases closed by the SIT in connection with anti-Sikh riot

cases and "this amounts to discrimination".

Raina contends that the top court formed the Mukherjee Commission to probe Netaji's death, then why can't investigations be ordered into Kashmiri Pandits' genocide.

He insisted that it will be significant step in the fight for justice for the community members, who have been pursuing this matter relentlessly to send the perpetrators to the jail. On January 19, the community observes every year as "holocaust day".

"We will also be reminding the apex court that the case against JKLF chief Yasin Malik for kidnapping Rubaiya Sayeed in 1989 and killing of 4 IAF officials in 1990

should also be reopened," said Rahul Mahanoori, a senior member in the organisation.

Against the backdrop of revocation of Articles 35A and 370, the organisation feels the situation is conducive to reopen the investigations.

Neal Pandita, 15, who is the co-ordinator of Roots in Kashmir, said she is hopeful that the top court will deliver justice to our community. "It is a large community with half a million people who are eager to get justice for their family members, comrades, who had been killed in the name of genocide, ethnic cleansing," she said.

of the day quote

I am ashamed of women who carry a child in their womb for nine months and “throw” it away if it’s a daughter



ANANDIBEN PATEL | UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNOR

Since 80s China is constructing road. They’ve built Longju to Maza road. During Rajiv Gandhi’s regime, China occupied Sumdorong Chu Valley in Tawang



TAPIR GAO | BJP MP FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The Prime Minister is so eager to take credit for the development of the vaccine, he should also have gotten himself inoculated first in order to boost the confidence of the people about the safety of this vaccine



PRAMOD TIWARI | FORMER UP MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Debt-ridden farmer commits suicide

Fatehpur (UP): A 35-year-old debt-ridden farmer allegedly committed suicide in Khatauli village here, police said Tuesday. Kuldeep Tiwari allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan in his house on Monday, SHO, Lalauli, Sandeep Tiwari, said. According to the farmer’s family, Kuldeep had taken a loan of ₹70,000 from a bank and had also bought fertilizer by taking money on loan on Sunday, the SHO said. The family has told police that the deceased was facing financial problems and took the extreme step over it, the SHO said, adding revenue department officials have been informed.

Newborn found abandoned

Firozabad (UP): A newborn baby girl was found wrapped inside a plastic bag in a temple premises in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh amid a severe cold wave condition. The baby was found Sunday when a sweeper was cleaning the temple premises in Mohammadabad village in Tundla. The plastic bag nearly got swept away except he was suspicious and decided to peer inside its contents. To his shock, he found a baby inside.

Three booked for rape-murder

Mahoba (UP): Three persons have been booked for allegedly raping and killing a Dalit girl, whose body was found hanging from a tree. “The 18-year-old had left home to buy vegetables Sunday afternoon but did not return. Later, her family members found her body hanging from a tree in the Belatal area,” Circle Officer Rampravesh Rai said. The victim’s mother filed a complaint and an FIR was registered against three men Monday for allegedly raping and killing the Dalit teenager.

Two women Naxals arrested in Ch’garh

Bijapur: Police have arrested two women Naxals, including a key cadre carrying a reward of ₹8 lakh on her head and wanted for attacks on police personnel, in Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur district, an official said Tuesday. Joint teams of the District Reserve Guard, Special Task Force and District Force nabbed the two rebels on Monday, the police official said. Korsa Mase alias Shanti (24) was apprehended from her native place Padeda under Gangaloor police station area, while Sunita Karam was nabbed from Cherla Road.



I want the Viswa Bharati to withdraw the allegation that my family is in “illegal” possession of land in its Santiniketan campus and alleged that the accusations are a crude attempt at harassment

AMARTYA SEN | NOBEL LAUREATE ECONOMIST

RENOWNED ONCOLOGIST V SHANTA NO MORE

Veteran oncologist V Shanta died at a private hospital in Chennai Tuesday early morning. A Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padama Shri and Ramon Magsaysay awardee Shanta, 93, was admitted to a private hospital Monday night



RSS set to see changes; new face may replace Bhaiyyaji Joshi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 19: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is set to witness a major organisational change after its crucial meeting in March.

The Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, the RSS’ highest decision-making body, is scheduled to meet March 19 and 20 in Bangalore.

For the first time, the meeting related to the organisation’s election would take place away from its Nagpur headquarters.

In the March meeting, a new face is likely to be chosen for the number two position in the RSS. Sources say that Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi may be replaced.

According to sources, Joshi, who has been the Sarkaryavah (general secretary) for the past 12 years, had

wished to give up the post three years ago in 2018. However, he was given an extension due to his organisational skills. Sources say that Bhaiyyaji Joshi may be given the responsibility of coordination among all the Sangh Parivar organisations in his new role.

In the RSS, the post of Sarkaryavah is elected every three years. It is an executive post in the organisation, while the Sarsanghchalak is regarded as the guide. Sarkaryavah is responsible for conducting the regular work of the organisation.

Bhaiyyaji Joshi, 73, has been on the post of Sarkaryavah since 2009.

In 2018, due to illness, he had wished to quit the post then but was asked to continue. However, this time, sources say, he may leave the post. The election to the post of

The Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, the RSS’ highest decision-making body, is scheduled to meet March 19 and 20 in Bangalore. For the first time, the meeting related to the organisation’s election would take place away from its Nagpur headquarters

Sarkaryavah in the RSS is always a unanimous decision, and the decision is unanimously taken by about 1,400 representatives from

all the provinces of the country.

Nagpur Sangh ideologue Dilip Deodhar told this news agency: “There is going to be a unanimous decision for the post of Sarkaryavah in the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha. Sarkaryavah Bhaiyyaji Joshi will get an extension or a new face will get a chance. The delegates will take a unanimous decision on this. Dattatreya Hosbole’s name is being discussed for this post.”

Deodhar said the election for Sarkaryavah post in the Sangh is very important from the point of view of the next two events. First, the general election of 2024 and, second, the centenary year on the completion of 100 years of the Sangh in the year 2025. Considering these two key occasions, the election of new Sarkaryavah is important. Sources said if Bhaiyyaji Joshi

does not get the extension again, then the responsibility of the post of Sarkaryavah could be given to the present co-head Dattatreya Hosbole since in terms of the organisation-related work, he is considered senior to other co-workers.

Hosbole is 65-years-old. In such a situation, he can further complete two terms of Sarkaryavah until he reaches 71 years. Sources told IANS that the Sangh has a focus on the southern region as several states are slated to go to the polls.

In such a scenario, Hosbole, who oversees the southern affairs, could play quite an important role.

Dattatreya has developed organisational skills during his long stay at the ABVP. Also, the name of Krishna Gopal and Manmohan Vaidya are also in the discussion for the post of Sarkaryavah.

Netaji’s birthday to be marked as ‘Parakram Diwas’



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 19: The Ministry of Culture Tuesday said that the government has decided to celebrate the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose that falls January 23 as ‘Parakram Diwas’ from now on every year.

“To honour and remember Netaji’s indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation. The government of India has decided to dedicate his birthday (January 23) every year as ‘Parakram Diwas’, to inspire people of this country, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity as Netaji did, and to infuse in them a spirit of patriotic fervour,” the Ministry of Culture said in the gazette.

The gazette said that the people of India fondly remember Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s unparalleled contribution to this great nation in his 125th birth anniversary.

“The Government of India has decided to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary year of Netaji beginning from January 2021 in befitting manner at national and international level,” it said.

The announcement assumes significance ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections scheduled later this year.

Bose, a noted freedom fighter, had floated Azad Hind Fauj to fight for India’s independence.

HOLY PROCESSION



Sikh devotees participate in Nagar Kirtan (holy procession) at Golden Temple on the eve of birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh in Amritsar, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

Man rapes 13-yr-old Dalit girl, tries to bury her alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Betul, Jan 19: A 13-year-old Dalit girl has been allegedly raped by a man who then tried to bury her alive in a pit in Madhya Pradesh’s Betul district, police said Tuesday.

The incident took place Monday evening following which the 35-year-old accused was arrested, and the girl, whose condition is serious, has been referred to a hospital at Nagpur in neighbouring Maharashtra, they said.

The girl had gone to a farm in a village under Ghodadongri police station area to switch off a motor and on finding her alone, the accused allegedly raped her, Betul Superintendent of Police Simala Prasad said.

In a bid to hide the crime, the accused then dragged her to a drain and dumped her in a nearby pit which he covered with stones and thorny bushes, the official said.

When the girl did not return home till late evening, her parents and sister started searching for her, he said. When her sister reached near the pit, she heard the voice of someone writhing in pain.

Gupkar Alliance suffers first blow as Sajad Lone moves out

Sajad Lone said it is difficult for his party to be part of the Gupkar Alliance because there has been a breach of trust among partners, which is beyond remedy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 19: In what comes as the first major blow to J&K’s Gupkar Alliance, the People’s Conference led by Sajad Lone has pulled out of it.

In a letter to Fariq Abdullah, chief of the Gupkar Alliance, Sajad Lone said he is leaving the alliance because other parties fielded proxy candidates against his party in the recent DDC elections.

“It is difficult for us to stay on and pretend as if nothing has happened. There has been a breach of trust between partners, which we believe is beyond remedy. The majoritarian view in our party is that we should pull out of the alliance in an amicable manner rather than waiting for things to get messier,” Sajad Lone said.

Sources say Sajad Lone has been under pressure from within his party to pull out of the alliance.



A meeting of his party was held on Monday in Srinagar with most leaders weighing in for the dis-continuation of any electoral tie-up with the Gupkar Alliance.

“This alliance needed sacrifice. Every party had to sacrifice on the ground in terms of giving space to fellow allies. No party is willing

to cede space and no party is willing to sacrifice. We fought against each other in Kashmir province, not against the perpetrators of August 5 (abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019). And those who perpetrated August 5 and their minions are now vocally gleeful,” Sajad Lone said in his letter.

Recently, leaders like Imran Reza Ansari and Abdul Ghani Vakil from the People’s Conference had openly criticised Sajad Lone over his decision to remain in an electoral alliance with the National Conference and the People’s Democratic Party.

The Gupkar Alliance, an amalgam of six political parties, was given a formal shape on October 15, 2020.

This was seen as a joint political approach by the mainstream political parties from Kashmir against the central government’s move to abrogate Article 370 and strip J&K of its special status in 2019.

Dawood relocates key family members outside Pakistan

AS GLOBAL PRESSURE MOUNTS ON PAKISTAN TO DISMANTLE TERROR NETWORKS ON ITS SOIL, INDIA’S MOST WANTED FUGITIVE DAWOOD IBRAHIM HAS REPORTEDLY RELOCATED KEY FAMILY MEMBERS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 19: As global pressure mounts on Pakistan to dismantle terror networks on its soil, India’s most wanted fugitive Dawood Ibrahim, operating from Karachi, has reportedly relocated key family members, including his son and the children of two younger brothers. Earlier Dawood had arranged Portuguese passports for his eldest daughter Mahrukh, married to Pakistani Cricketer Javed Miandad’s son Junaid, Indian intelligence sources revealed to this news agency.

Sources said that Dawood’s younger brother Mustakeem Ali Kaskar is already settled in Dubai and looks after D-company’s “legitimate” business in United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

Mustakeem, who runs a garment factory in UAE, reportedly takes care of a few close relatives of the D-family who were recently flown to Dubai from Karachi. Intelligence sources said that Dawood’s brother Anees Ibrahim, who lives in Defence Housing Area in Karachi, has also gone off the radar for the past two weeks. Dawood’s notorious lieutenant and extortion points-man Chhota Shakeel is also lying low these days.

Looking after the D-company’s financial empire, Anees Ibrahim, an accused in the Mumbai serial blasts of 1993, has also shifted his children to a country in the Middle East.

At present Ibrahim looks after Mehran Paper Mill located 154 km away from Karachi in Kotli



Industrial area of Sindh province. The paper mill, patronised by Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), is allegedly involved in printing of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN). Earlier, the US Department

of the Treasury Office of the Foreign Assets Control had asked Islamabad to shut the paper mill as it was subject to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act filed against fugitive Dawood Ibrahim.

While Nurul Haque, another Dawood sibling, died in Pakistan, his eldest brother Sabir Ahmed was gunned down in a shootout in Mumbai in 1981. Sabir’s family later shifted to Pakistan and is being looked after by Dawood. Sources said the don’s son Moin Kaskar frequently flies to London after marrying the daughter of a well-known South Asian Muslim businessman in Britain. The couple was reportedly living in Dawood’s Clifton bungalow in Karachi till 2019. Moin handles the D-company’s multi-million real estate business in Karachi, Lahore and the UAE.

Reeling under pressure from the global agency Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Pakistan government recently issued an ar-

rest warrant against Maulana Masood Azhar, kingpin of the banned terror organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM). As soon as JeM chief was targeted by the Imran Khan government, the focus (largely of media in South Asia) shifted to Dawood Ibrahim whose name also figures on the list of Interpol and global terrorists.

While the D-Company seems to face the heat after the arrest of Lashkar e-Toiba commander Zakir-Rehman Lakhvi, sources said that Prime Minister Imran Khan, a former cricket colleague of Javed Miandad, might not give a go-ahead to pin down Dawood Ibrahim. From time to time, the entire D-company has been relocating its key members whenever the syndicate comes on the radar of global authorities.

of the day quote

Gensler will tip the SEC away from making it easy for companies to raise money and toward protecting unsophisticated investors



ERIK GORDON | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

When there isn't an independent judicial system ... Applying sentences like this could be interpreted as a political move to punish any Nicaraguan citizen



MIGUEL ROSALES | LIBERAL CONSTITUTIONALIST PARTY, NICARAGUA

Rather than talk about how to make that next big buck... (let's) talk about how we can mobilise to fundamentally contribute to the country



INDRA NOOYI | CEO, PEPSICO

SHORT TAKES

26 soldiers, five civilians test +ve

Seoul: Twenty-six more American soldiers and five civilians have tested positive for the novel coronavirus upon their arrival in South Korea, the US Forces Korea (USFK) said Tuesday. In a statement, it said that the 31 USFK-affiliated individuals were infected with the COVID-19 after arriving in South Korea between December 29, 2020 and January 18, reports Xinhua news agency. The confirmed patients have been transferred to designated isolation facilities at the US Army Garrison Humphreys and the Osan Air Base.

US cop killed in armed standoff

Washington: A police officer was shot dead during an armed standoff in the US state of Ohio, authorities said. The incident took place Monday evening in Toledo city, Xinhua news agency reported. Officer Brandon Stalker, 24, was shot and died after being taken to hospital, said Toledo Police Department Chief George Kral. The police believed the suspect vandalised the Rosary Cathedral earlier in the day. The suspect was also shot during the standoff.

Yemen: 23 killed in clashes

Sanaa: At least 23 fighters from both Yemeni army and Houthi militia were killed in clashes in Yemen's Red Sea port city of Hodeidah, a local government military source said. "The clashes erupted after the Houthis attempted to infiltrate to the army positions in the liberated areas in the district of Al-Durayhimi in the southern part of the port city, but the army fought back, killing at least 21 rebels and forced them to retreat," the source told Xinhua news agency Monday.

Quake injures 3 in Argentina

Buenos Aires: A 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck in northwestern Argentina near the border with central Chile, injuring at least three people, authorities said Tuesday. Two children and an adult were hospitalised in San Juan province in Argentina after the quake hit just before midnight Monday, provincial Gov. Sergio Uñac said. The shaking caused the collapse of a house, damage to roads and some other buildings in several cities, as well power and water cuts, he said.



The latest revelations from (a) communication of an Indian journalist, known for his warmongering, reveal the unholy nexus between the Modi govt and Indian media

IMRAN KHAN | PM, PAKISTAN

'HUMAN ERROR' WIPES POLICE RECORDS IN UK

Britain's policing minister said that "human error" led to hundreds of thousands of DNA records and other data on criminal suspects being erased from the national police computer



BIDEN'S GIFT TO IMMIGRANTS

ON DAY ONE OF HIS PRESIDENCY, JOE BIDEN MAY PROPOSE 8-YR CITIZENSHIP PATH FOR IMMIGRANTS

AGENCIES

Washington, Jan 19: President-elect Joe Biden plans to unveil a sweeping immigration bill on Day One of his administration. It is hoped at providing an eight-year path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people living in the US without legal status, a massive reversal from the Trump administration's harsh immigration policies.

The legislation puts Biden on track to deliver on a major campaign promise important to Latino voters and other immigrant communities after four years of President Donald Trump's restrictive policies and mass deportations. It provides one of the fastest pathways to citizenship for those living without legal status of any measure in recent years, but it fails to include the traditional trade-off of enhanced border security favored by many Republicans, putting passage in a narrowly divided Congress in doubt.

Expected to run hundreds of pages, the bill is set to be introduced after Biden takes the oath of office Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the legislation and granted anonymity to discuss it. As a candidate, Biden called Trump's actions on immigration an "unrelenting assault" on American values and said he would "undo the damage" while continuing to maintain border enforcement.

Under the legislation, those living in the US as of January 1, 2021,



President-elect Joe Biden waves to reporters as he walks out of The Queen theater in Wilmington

without legal status would have a five-year path to temporary legal status, or a green card, if they pass background checks, pay taxes and fulfill other basic requirements. From there, it's a three-year path to naturalization, if they decide to pursue citizenship.

For some immigrants, the process would be quicker. So-called Dreamers, the young people who arrived in the US illegally as children, as well as agricultural workers and people under temporary protective status could qualify more immediately for green cards if they are working, are in school or meet other requirements.

The bill is not as comprehensive as the last major immigration overhaul proposed when Biden was vice president during the Obama administration. For example, it does not include a robust border security

element, but rather calls for coming up with strategies. Nor does it create any new guest worker or other visa programs.

It does address some of the root causes of migration from Central America to the United States, and provides grants for workforce development and English language learning. Biden is expected to take swift executive actions to reverse other Trump immigration actions, including an end to the prohibition on arrivals from several predominantly Muslim countries.

During the Democratic primary, Biden consistently named immigration action as one of his "day one" priorities, pointing to the range of executive powers he could invoke to reverse Trump's policies.

Biden allies and even some Republicans have identified immigration as a major issue where

The move will impact an estimated 11 million people living in the US without legal status

The legislation puts Biden on track to deliver on a major campaign promise important to Latino voters and other immigrant communities



People hold signs as they assemble for a group photo following a vigil supporting a peaceful transition from President Donald Trump to President-elect Joe Biden

the new administration could find common ground with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and enough other GOP senators to avoid the stalemate that has vexed administrations of both parties for decades.

That kind of major win — even if it involves compromise — could be critical as Biden looks for legislative victories in a closely divided Congress, where Republicans are certain to oppose other Biden priorities that involve rolling back some of the GOP's 2017 tax cuts and increasing federal spending.

Medical experts to help in rescuing trapped workers

THE BLAST TOOK PLACE JANUARY 10, AND 22 WORKERS ARE TRAPPED UNDERGROUND

AGENCIES

Beijing, Jan 19: China's National Health Commission (NHC) Tuesday sent an expert team to Qixia in Shandong province to guide and assist the rescue mission for the trapped gold mine workers.

The team consists of five medical experts from leading hospitals in Beijing, Xinhua news agency quoted the Commission as saying.

The NHC has sent two medical experts from Shandong to Qixia to guide in the preparation of emergency medical aid.

The blast took place January 10, and 22 workers are trapped underground. Tuesday's development comes after the trapped miners sent a note Sunday, saying that 12 workers were still alive, while the state of the other 10 was unknown.

In a related development, China's National Mine Safety Administration has ordered a com-

prehensive inspection of the country's non-coal mines to forestall major accidents.

According to a directive issued by the administration, the campaign will last till the end of March, with efforts focusing on preventing the occurrence of severe accidents including collapses in mined-out areas and explosions.

In recent years, the workplace safety situation of mines in China has been steadily improving.

But the sector still faces safety risks given the huge number of scattered mines, many of which are small and ill-equipped, according to an official with the safety watchdog. At present, there are 32,000 non-coal mines in the country, 86.4 per cent of which are small.

Most of these mines are backward in technology and equipment, with undertrained staff and poor safety management, the official said.



Hondurans take part in a new caravan of migrants, set to head to the United States, in Vado Hondo, Guatemala

REUTERS

Hong Kong's unemployment rate hits 16-yr high

AGENCIES

Hong Kong, Jan 19: Hong Kong's unemployment rate hit a 16-year high in the period between October-December 2020 as the fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic further compounded the city's labour market situation, official data revealed Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 6.3 per cent in the September-November period to 6.6 per cent in the October-December period, the city's Census and Statistics Department said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the underemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.4 per cent, Xinhua news agency reported.



Law Chi-kiang, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, said the unemployment rate in the consumption- and tourism-related sectors, including retail, accommodation and food services, rebounded by 0.5 percentage point to 10.6 per cent in the October-December period.

The Secretary added that the situation in the food and beverage services sector was the most severe, with the jobless rate being up to 13.8 per cent.

GIULIANI WON'T REPRESENT PREZ TRUMP AT TRIAL



Due to the fact that I may be a witness, the rules of legal ethics would prohibit me from representing the President as trial counsel in the impeachment trial

RUDY GIULIANI | DONALD TRUMP'S PERSONAL LAWYER

AGENCIES

Washington, Jan 19: Rudy Giuliani, Donald Trump's personal lawyer, has said that he will not be a part of the outgoing US President defence team during the impeachment trial at the Senate, which stemmed as a result of the January 6 Capitol riots.

In a statement to The Hill news website Monday, Giuliani, also a former New York City Mayor, said: "Due to the fact that I may be a witness, the rules of legal ethics would prohibit me from representing the President as trial counsel in the impeachment trial."

January 13, the House of Representatives impeached Trump for a second time following the riots at the Capitol building in Washington D.C. after he addressed his supporters during which called for "patriots" to take a stand against the 2020 election results.

Along with Trump, Giuliani had also addressed the supporters and called for "trial by combat".

The House has charged Trump with inciting an insurrection and threatening democracy.

Under the impeachment process, the Senate will hold a judicial-style trial of Trump with the senators acting as jurors.

No announcement has been made over who will represent Trump at the impeachment trial.

Giuliani told The Hill earlier this month that he would be willing to represent Trump at a Senate trial, as did Alan Dershowitz, the controversial celebrity attorney who was among those representing the outgoing leader at his first impeachment trial last year.

The House is yet to transmit the article of impeachment to the Senate. It is not immediately clear when the impeachment trial will begin.

Afghan Prez & NATO chief discuss peace process with Taliban

AGENCIES

Kabul, Jan 19: Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg held a phone conversation during which they discussed the peace talks between the Kabul government and the Taliban, an official statement said here Tuesday.

The two sides Monday discussed "the Afghan peace process and NATO's continued support for Afghanistan Defense and Security forces," Xinhua news agency quoted the statement issued by Ghani's office as saying.

"NATO remains committed to supporting the Afghan Defense and Security forces and continues its mission to train, advise and assist the forces," the statement quoted Stoltenberg as saying.



The development comes as the second round began January 5 after a three-week break.

This round will focus on a ceasefire and reduction in violence in the war-torn country, TOLO News reported.

China & WHO should have 'acted quicker' to contain spread

AGENCIES

Geneva, Jan 19: A panel of experts commissioned by the World Health Organization has criticized China and other countries for not moving to stem the initial outbreak of the coronavirus earlier and questioned whether the UN health agency should have labeled it a pandemic sooner.

In a report issued to the media Monday, the panel led by former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said there were "lost opportunities" to set up basic public health measures as early as possible.

"What is clear to the panel is that public health measures could have been applied more forcefully by local and national health authorities in China in January," shortly after the coronavirus began sick-

ening clusters of people, it said.

The panel also cited evidence of cases in other countries in late January, saying public health containment measures should have been put in place immediately in any country with a likely case, adding: "They were not."

"The reality is that only a minority of countries took full advantage of the information available to them to respond to the evidence of an emerging pandemic," the panel said.

The experts also wondered why WHO did not declare a global public health emergency — its highest warning for outbreaks — sooner. The U.N. health agency convened its emergency committee on Jan. 22, but did not characterize the emerging pandemic as an international emergency until a week later. At the time, WHO said its expert committee was di-



vided on whether a global emergency should be declared.

"One more question is whether it would have helped if WHO used the word pandemic earlier than it did," the panel said.

WHO did not describe the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic until March 11, weeks after the virus had begun causing explosive outbreaks in numerous continents,

meeting WHO's own definition for a flu pandemic.

As the coronavirus began spreading across the globe, WHO's top experts disputed how infectious the virus was, saying it was not as contagious as flu and that people without symptoms only rarely spread the virus. Scientists have since concluded that COVID-19 transmits even quicker than the flu and that

a significant proportion of spread is from people who don't appear to be sick.

Over the past year, WHO has come under heavy criticism for its handling of the response to COVID-19. US President Donald Trump slammed the U.N. health agency for "colluding" with China to cover up the extent of the initial outbreak before halting U.S. funding for WHO and pulling the country out of the organization.

The U.N. health agency bowed to the international pressure at the annual assembly of its member states last spring by creating the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, which produced its first report in November. The WHO chief asked Johnson Sirleaf and Clark — who both have previous ties to the U.N. agency — to lead the team.

An Associated Press investigation

in June found WHO repeatedly lauded China in public while officials privately complained that Chinese officials stalled on sharing critical epidemic information with them.

Although the panel concluded that "many countries took minimal action to prevent the spread (of COVID-19) internally and internationally," it did not name specific countries. It also declined to call out WHO for its failure to more sharply criticize countries for their missteps instead of lauding countries for their response efforts.

Last month, the author of a withdrawn WHO report into Italy's pandemic response said he warned his bosses in May that people could die and the agency could suffer "catastrophic" reputational damage if it allowed political concerns to suppress the document, according to emails obtained by the AP.

of the day quote

The rooftop solar project is yet another testimony of our expertise in the rooftop solar domain and our track record of keeping up high project execution standards

SIMARPREET SINGH | DIRECTOR AND CEO, HARTEK SOLAR

The company has witnessed a sequential improvement in its quarterly performance as the challenges posed by COVID-19 reduced

AJAY SHRIRAM | CHAIRMAN AND MD, DCM SHRIRAM

From buying and selling homes to managing and maintaining them, real estate digitalisation is now a root concept. ApnaComplex is a pioneer in providing a trustworthy tech platform

ANU PURI | CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK

SHORT TAKES

Tata Motors gets 98 patents in '20

New Delhi: Homegrown auto major Tata Motors Tuesday said it has received 98 patents last year under its accelerated drive for engineering excellence and innovation. These patents predominantly relate to the megatrend of CESS (connected, electrified, sustainable and safe) automobiles, the company said in a statement. The patents also encompass an eclectic mix of improvements in automotive electronics and noise vibration.

HT Media Q3 profit falls 54%

New Delhi: HT Media Tuesday reported 54.08 per cent fall in consolidated net profit at ₹9.43 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2020, on account of lower total income. The company had posted a net profit of ₹20.54 crore during October-December period of the previous fiscal, HT Media said in a regulatory filing. Total income declined 37.64 per cent to ₹391.65 crore as against ₹628.05 crore in the year-ago period.

CSB Bank Q3 net up 88 pc

Mumbai: Aided by a smaller base, south-based CSB Bank on Tuesday posted an 88 per cent jump in December quarter net profit at ₹53 crore, but witnessed a jump in provisions for bad loans. The Kerala-based private sector lender's core net interest income grew by 61.8 per cent to ₹155.2 crore during the reporting quarter, while the treasury profits helped in non-interest income more than doubling to ₹116.6 crore. Its advances grew 22 per cent.

Amazon partners with Startup India

New Delhi: Amazon on Tuesday said it has partnered with Startup India, Sequoia Capital India and Fireside Ventures to launch an accelerator programme to help early-stage startups take their brands to global audiences. The Amazon Global Selling Propel (AGSP) programme has been designed to support early stage startups (raised funding in post seed to pre-series A stage, if funded) in the consumer products space to launch in international markets and create global brands from India.

BIZ BUZZ

Dunzo raises \$40 mn in funding

New Delhi: Local commerce platform Dunzo Tuesday said it has raised a fresh round of USD 40 million (about ₹292.7 crore) in capital from a clutch of investors including Google and Lightbox, among others. The funding round saw participation from new and existing investors, including Google, Lightbox, Evolve, Hana Financial Investment, LGT Lightstone Aspada, and Alteria, among others, a statement said. "This capital stems from a year of robust growth amidst the pandemic. In the coming year, the local commerce platform will focus on deploying its playbook for sustainable growth across its fastest-growing cities such as Mumbai, Chennai and Pune," it added.



Agritech firm DeHaat raises \$30 mn

New Delhi: Agritech firm DeHaat Tuesday said it has raised USD 30 million (around ₹220 crore) from various investors to fund its expansion plan and strengthen technology platform. The company raised USD 30 million in Series C funding, led by Prosus Ventures (formerly Naspers Ventures). RTP Global co-invested in the round with participation from existing investors, Sequoia India, FMO, Omnivore & AgFunder, the company said in a statement. "The recent investment from marquee investors like Prosus Ventures, RTP Global and others is a strong validation of our goal to become the world's largest farmer aggregator and will help us scale up in both size and scope," Shashank Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, DeHaat said.



JBM Auto bags huge order from DTC

New Delhi: JBM Auto Ltd Tuesday said it has bagged an order from Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for supply of 700 BS-VI compliant AC low-floor CNG buses. The company will be supplying 700 'CITYLIFE' BS-VI buses, equipped with modern features like smartcard ticketing system, real-time passenger information system (PIS), intelligent transport management system (ITMS), automatic bus vehicle location system and CCTV cameras, among others, in the coming financial year, JBM Auto said in a statement. "These buses are expected to cater to 50 million passengers per annum, covering around 20 routes across Delhi," it added.



India's plans could hit Amazon

INDIA'S TRADE MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF E-COMMERCE COMPANIES IN PRIVATE MEETINGS

REUTERS

New Delhi, Jan 19: India is considering revising its foreign investment rules for e-commerce, three sources and a government spokesman told Reuters, a move that could compel players, including Amazon.com Inc, to restructure their ties with some major sellers.

The government discussions coincide with a growing number of complaints from India's bricks-and-mortar retailers, which have for years accused Amazon and Walmart Inc-controlled Flipkart of creating complex structures to bypass federal rules, allegations the U.S. companies deny.

India only allows foreign e-commerce players to operate as a marketplace to connect buyers and sellers. It prohibits them from holding inventories of goods and directly selling them on their platforms. Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart were last hit in Dec. 2018 by investment rule changes that barred foreign e-commerce players from offering products from sellers in which they have an equity stake.

Now, the government is considering adjusting some provisions to prevent those arrangements, even if the e-commerce firm holds an indirect stake in a seller through its parent, three sources said. The sources asked not to be named because the discussions are private.

The changes could hurt Amazon as it holds indirect equity stakes in two of its biggest online sellers in



BYPASSING FEDERAL RULES

India only allows foreign e-commerce players to operate as a marketplace to connect buyers and sellers

It prohibits them from holding inventories of goods and directly selling them on their platforms

Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart were last hit in Dec. 2018 by investment rule changes that barred foreign e-commerce players from offering products from sellers in which they have an equity stake

India. Amazon said e-commerce created "huge job opportunities" and is a significant contributor to economic growth. "Any major alterations" to the policy will adversely impact small- and medium-sized businesses, it said in an emailed statement.

Walmart and Flipkart did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Yogesh Bawja, the spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce & Industry which is working on the issue, confirmed to Reuters any changes will be announced through a so-called "press note," which contains foreign direct investment rules. He did not give details.

"It's a work in progress," Bawja said, adding an internal meeting on the subject last took place about a month ago. "Of course Amazon's a big player so whatever advice, whatever suggestions, whatever recommendations they make, they are also given due consideration."

The 2018 rules forced Amazon and Flipkart to rework their business structures and soured relations between India and the United States, as Washington said the policy change favoured local e-tailers over U.S. ones. India's e-commerce retail market is seen growing to \$200 billion a year by 2026, from \$30 billion in 2019.

Da Naturo Italy makes Odisha market entry

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Da Naturo Italy, a footwear designed for supreme function and fashion, forayed into the Odisha market Tuesday. The distributor for Da Naturo Italia in Odisha is Ramji Enterprises.

It has been recently launched in India and is available in all states and regions.

GB Snug technology is gait balancing technology and Springlight technology makes the footwear extremely light and comfortable.

The Springlight range caters to all age groups. The starting price of the brand has been kept very aggressively in India for the launch at ₹399 upto ₹799. With the GB Snug range, we are targeting the women of the country with sandals and ballerinas under the price range of ₹699 to ₹999.



The GBSnug technology provides essential support in the arch, heel and metatarsals area which makes you move biomechanically the way you should. The extra cushioning, breathable lining, balanced heel to toe and lightweight materials helps you to walk longer and comfortably.

The brand is also working on a very special product with a unique technology that has not been launched in India before and plans to launch it in SS 2022. The brand would also be launching its sports footwear range in India in AW 2021. The house has seen many successful brands.

Aluminium body seeks govt help

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 19: Aluminium Association of India (AAI) Tuesday urged the Central Government to eliminate cess on coal to support highly power intensive industries like Aluminium.

AAI claimed that there is a GST compensation cess of ₹400 per metric ton which is a bone of contention and makes cost of producing aluminium higher than the world average.

As the union government is going present the Union Budget for 2021-22, AAI sought the government's attention to tide over this challenging phase and expected to see industry friendly measures in the forthcoming Union Budget. The Union Budget will be presented February 1.

AAI said that the challenges have been further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has adversely impacted the domestic de-



mand for aluminium. The association also highlighted that the industry is not able to compete effectively in the global markets as the burden of Central & State taxes and levies amounting to 15% of aluminium production cost put the domestic industry in a significant disadvantage compared to its global peers.

AAI also urged to increase the

basic custom duty on primary aluminium and aluminium scrap to 10%. The association stated that to battle current challenges being faced by the industry in sustaining the share of the domestic aluminium demand, which is today being imploded with imported aluminium – both scrap aluminium and primary aluminium.

They also demanded reduction in

AAI said that the challenges have been further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has adversely impacted the domestic demand for aluminium

custom duty on critical raw materials for aluminium industry value chain such as Calcined and Raw Petroleum Coke, Caustic Soda and Alumina. The association claimed that these high input costs make Indian aluminium more expensive and uncompetitive in the global markets. This also encourages local manufacturers of aluminium goods to seek out import channels to meet their requirements, thereby making it a lose-lose for the country and the industry.

Budget seen raising import duties on dozens of items

THE MOVE TO INCREASE IMPORT DUTIES IS PART OF PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S SELF-RELIANT INDIA CAMPAIGN THAT AIMS TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING

REUTERS

Mumbai, Jan 19: India is considering hiking import duties by 5-



10% on more than 50 items including smartphones, electronic components and appliances in the up-

coming budget, three government sources privy to the discussions told Reuters Monday.

The move to increase import duties is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's self-reliant India campaign that aims to promote and support domestic manufacturing, said the sources, who asked not to be named as the discussions are not public.

One of the sources said the government was seeking to target additional revenue of about 200 billion to 210 billion rupees (\$2.7 billion to \$2.8 billion) from the moves, as it looks to shore up revenue amidst the pandemic-driven slowdown that has stung the economy.

Two of the government sources also said the duty hikes could impact furniture and electric vehicles, potentially hurting the likes of Swedish furniture maker Ikea and Tesla, which is planning to launch

its cars in India this year.

The officials, however, did not specify how much of a hike was planned on furniture and electric vehicles. Both Ikea and Tesla executives have previously expressed concerns about the steep duty structure their products already face in India. The list of items likely to attract steeper duties is set to include appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners too, three of the sources said. The finance ministry could not be reached by telephone and did not reply to an email seeking comments.

India's finance minister will on Feb. 1 unveil the government's annual federal budget for the 2021-22 financial year, which begins April 1. The sources said the proposals may still be tweaked further before they

are finalised. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will unveil the budget on Feb. 1 amid the shadow of a projected economic contraction of 7.7% for the current fiscal year.

India has in recent years taken a series of measures that industry executives say discriminate against foreign companies. Government officials say such taxes are essential to promote India as a destination for local manufacturing and to support domestic businesses.

"This is part of revenue raising and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) plan," said one of the government sources. Last year, India raised import taxes on a wide range of products such as footwear, furniture, toys, electrical and electronics items by up to 20%.



SENSEX SOARS 834 POINTS

Reversing two days of heavy losses, the Sensex posted its biggest jump in almost four months on Tuesday as investors returned to buying mode amid expectations of fresh stimulus in the US and other economies.

FALL, RISE & CONQUER



From humiliation to domination: Magnificent Pant, dependable Pujara and stylish Gill power India to historic Test win at Gabba as Rahane & co retain Border-Gavaskar Trophy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brisbane, Jan 19: An Indian cricket team saddled with broken bones and battered bodies showed a never-seen-before zeal to retain the coveted Border-Gavaskar trophy with a historic three-wicket win over Australia in the fourth and final Test here, successfully chasing a 328-run target to seal the four-match series 2-1.

A minefield of talent called Rishabh Pant (89 n o, 138b) channelled his inner 'Mad Max' to scare the daylight out of the Australians with his breathtaking strokeplay, ending the home team's 32-year-old unbeaten run at the 'Fortress Gabba'.

The result has the potential to end Tim Paine's reign as Australia captain having lost back-to-back home series against India.

The highlights package of Pant's battle with Nathan Lyon can be enjoyed repeatedly in times to come as he demolished the 100-Test man in company of debutant Washington Sundar (22), who hooked the world's best fast bowler, Pat Cummins, for a six.

While Shubman Gill (91, 146b) announced his arrival on the global stage, Cheteshwar Pujara (56, 211b) surpassed all the pain barriers en route his slowest Test fifty that held the game in balance for Pant to launch a final assault.

The Australian team wouldn't feel too good about not being able to win a Test match with an opposition that was finding it difficult to field a fit first XI a day prior to the Test match.

The series will be remembered for ages and the impact that Ajinkya Rahane's team had on the cricketing fraternity and the fans in general will be written in golden words

when a fresh history of Test cricket after 2000 is written.

In terms of relevance, a series win without Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah not being available at various points, is zillion times more significant than the 2-1 win in 2018-19 when the opposition didn't have Steve Smith and David Warner in their ranks.

First time, people celebrated draws, became empathetic to players with limited abilities

ties and believed in their team.

With its beautiful ebbs and flows, the fifth day was witness to three separate schools of batsmanship, so very dissimilar to each other.

Gill, who is now going to be the 'Real Deal', was free-flowing in his stroke-making with his 'beside the line of the ball' technique as he rode the bounce to hammer home the advantage and briefly make India favourites to win the battle.

Pujara, on the other hand, saw the Australian try out the menacing short ball tactic. He took a few on the helmet, a few more on the chest and other parts and a painful one on the knuckles but remained unfazed.

Gill and Pujara showed that there are multiple ways to skin a cat. If Pujara was ready to duck, sway and cop body blows off Josh Hazlewood and Cummins, showing the art of survival, Gill, on his first tour of Australia, was ready to be the intimidator by bringing the pull shot out of his repertoire.

The duo, during its 114-run stand, showed that very contrasting styles can co-exist without conflict even as fans of both genres argue who has the more appropriate approach for the format.

Even Pant with his cavalier ways would have added his two cents to the debate on various styles. But for the uninitiated, the three distinct schools can be suitably de-constructed – Pujara's was more of investing in an LIC policy with safe returns while Gill's

SCORECARD

AUSTRALIA 1ST INNINGS 369
INDIA 1ST INNINGS 336
AUSTRALIA 2ND INNINGS 294
INDIA 2ND INNINGS (overnight 4/0)

Rohit Sharma c Paine b Cummins 7, Shubman Gill c Smith b Lyon 91, Cheteshwar Pujara lbw b Cummins 56, Ajinkya Rahane c Paine b Cummins 24, Rishabh Pant not out 89, Mayank Agarwal c Wade b Cummins 9, Washington Sundar b Lyon 22, Shardul Thakur c Lyon b Hazlewood 2, Navdeep Saini not out 0; Extras: 29 (b-18, lb-8, nb-3); Total: 329/7 (97 overs).

Fall: 1/18 (Rohit), 2/132 (Gill), 3/167 (Rahane), 4/228 (Pujara), 5/265 (Mayank), 6/318 (Sundar), 7/325 (Thakur).

Bowling: Mitchell Starc 16-0-75-0, Josh Hazlewood 22-5-74-1, Pat Cummins 24-10-55-4, Cameron Green 3-1-10-0, Nathan Lyon 31-7-85-2, Marnus Labuschagne 1-0-4-0.



Man of the Series Pat Cummins

approach, with his collars-up, was akin to mutual funds and Pant would most likely play his game in high-stakes stock market where winner takes it all but at times at a heavy price.

Pant surpasses Dhoni

BRISBANE: Rishabh Pant Tuesday surpassed the iconic MS Dhoni to become the fastest Indian wicketkeeper-batsman to reach the 1000-run mark in Test cricket. Pant achieved the feat in only 27 innings, scoring at an average of 40.04. Dhoni had taken 32 innings to reach the milestone. South Africa's Quinton de Kock holds the record for being the fastest wicketkeeper batsman to reach 1000 runs in Test matches. He did in 21 innings. De Kock is followed by Sri Lanka's Dinesh Chandimal (22 innings), England's Jonny Bairstow (22 innings), the legendary Kumar Sangakkara (23 innings) and AB de Villiers of South Africa (23 innings).

India on top of WTC standings

DUBAI: The stunning three-wicket victory over Australia at the Gabba, that resulted in a phenomenal series win, propelled India to the top of ICC World Test Championship (WTC) standings, Tuesday. The victory Down Under handed India 430 points, putting it ahead of New Zealand (420) and Australia (332). India have played 13 matches in five series, winning nine and losing three Tests. The team has got 71.1 per cent of the total possible points. England and South Africa are at the fourth and fifth spots respectively in the standings. India also replaced Australia at No.2 in the ICC Test Team Rankings after the Test series triumph. New Zealand is on top with 118.44 rating points, ahead of India (117.65) and Australia (113).

Rs 5 crore bonus for team

NEW DELHI: The BCCI Tuesday announced a Rs 5 crore bonus for the Indian cricket team after the Ajinkya Rahane-led side won the fourth and final Test against Australia to clinch the series 2-1 and retain the Border-Gavaskar trophy. BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and Secretary Jay Shah tweeted within minutes of each other to make the announcement. The Board later issued a formal statement, applauding the team. "The Board applauds the efforts displayed by the team on and off the field. The BCCI is proud of this magnificent feat and has announced a cash reward of 5 crore INR to the team," BCCI said.

Post match statements

AJINKYA RAHANE

Captaincy: It's an honour to lead the country. It was not about me but about the team. I looked good because everyone contributed. For us it was about having that character on the field, having the fighting spirit, the attitude.

Series journey: It was really tough after the Adelaide Test but it was all about showing character and fighting spirit. We were not thinking too much about the result. We just wanted to play good cricket. Credit to everyone in the squad including the support staff.

Final day talk: This morning we spoke about playing simple cricket. What we did in this tour was fight very hard. Yes, we were looking to play session by session. During tea time, we sent messages to Rishabh but he was always looking to chase the total. Credit to him, he took that risk and took on the Aussies. His and Pujara's innings gave the platform to win the game.

TIM PAINE

Team performance: Whether it was with bat, ball or field, every time we had a chance to go ahead in the game, we let it slip. (It) happened little bit in Sydney with our fielding and then probably

yesterday with our batting. We lost wickets when we tried to put foot down and couldn't quite get a partnership together. And I thought every-time India needed to (do) that, needed a wicket, somehow managed to do it, so again you got just to give them credit, they won the key moments.

RAVI SHASTRI

Toughest tour: I got emotional. I am not someone who generally has tears in his eyes and even I got emotional. I had tears because this is unreal. What these guys have pulled off will go down in history as one of the greatest series ever played. When you look at the COVID situation and state of injuries and then to show the stomach for a fight, after being bowled out for 36 is unimaginable. It is the toughest tour ever. Nothing surpasses this.

About Pant: In his mind Pant was always chasing. You could see he was looking at the scoreboard. He is a good listener. As coach, you don't want to change anyone's natural ability but you need to strike the right balance between caution and aggression. You can't be reckless. Rishabh has learnt that. When he doesn't keep well, people criticise him but he can help you win matches like these.

JUSTIN LANGER

Never underestimate Indians: It was an incredible Test series and in the end there is always a winner or a loser. Today Test cricket is the winner. It's gonna hurt us big time. India deserved full credit. They have been outstanding but we have learnt lessons from it. First, you can never take anything for granted, second never ever, ever underestimate the Indians. There are 1.5 billions Indians and if you play in that first eleven you got to be really tough, don't you?

Praising India's resolve: I can't compliment India enough. They haven't gone away after that first Test match which we won in three days, bowled them out for 30 odd. For them to fight back like they did is amazing, credit to them. The big lesson for us is that you can't take anything for granted. India never got away.

About Pant: It was an amazing effort. (Rishabh) Pant's innings somewhat reminded me of Ben Stokes' innings in Headingley actually. He came in, he was almost fearless and he will be lauded because of it. It was an unbelievable innings.



Rishabh Pant raises his bat in celebration after hitting the winning run as Josh Hazlewood wear a dejected look at the Gabba, Tuesday

VIRAT KOHLI: WHAT A WIN!!! Yesssss. To everyone who doubted us after Adelaide, stand up and take notice. Exemplary performance but the grit and determination was the standout for us the whole way. Well done to all the boys and the management. Enjoy this historic feat lads.

SOURAV GANGULY: Just a remarkable win...To go to Australia and win a test series in this way... will be remembered in the history of Indian cricket forever.. Bcci announces a 5 cr bonus for the team.. The value of this win is beyond any number.. well done to every member of the touring party..

VVS LAXMAN: Rahane led the side brilliantly, giving a lot of confidence to youngsters and Pujara exhibited his steely resolve once again. Can't forget the young bowling unit.

VIRENDER SEHWAG: Khushi ke maare pagal. This is the new India. Ghar mein ghuskar maarta hai. From what happened in Adelaide to this, these young guys have given us a joy of a lifetime. There have been World Cup wins but this is special. And yes, there is a reason Pant is extra special .

HARBHAJAN SINGH: Well done captain Rahane this biggest series win I feel.. Without many big names you guys have showed the way how it's done. congratulations @BCCI

AB DE VILLIERS: What a Test match! The depth of Indian Cricket is scary. Pant, sweet number 17. Well played young man. #testcricket at its very best

KEVIN PIETERSON: Only issue with India beating Australia in such an INCREDIBLE manner, is that the Test was played in Brisbane. A city that doesn't deserve an event so good! Rolling on the floor laughing. Pant - the boy who turned into a man today in Australia, in cricketing terms!

MICHAEL VAUGHAN: Well done India you have just shown

the way for England to get back those Ashes back later in the year. Wow. That has to go down as one of the greatest if not the greatest Test victory of all time!! Egg on my face over here in the UK.. but I love to see character & skill.. India have it in abundance.. btw Gill & Pant are future superstars

IAN BISHOP: Remarkable. Injuries galore, absent players, & beating Australia at their fortress at the Gabba. This has been the most remarkable test series victory I've watched in my experience. India's depth of talent, heart and character must forever lift an entire nation. Congratulations.

SHANE WARNE: Congrats to the Indian cricket team @BCCI That's one of the best series wins I can ever remember on Aust soil & to do it after being bowled out for 36, plus a depleted squad-shows tremendous character, resilience, courage & belief. Just fantastic Ravi Shastri & Rahane

MITHALI RAJ: Speechless !!! Fortress Gabba has been breached !! What a great game of Test match cricket . I still have goosebumps . Complete team effort . Jab hausle ho Buland toh har muskhil lage aasaan!

MAHESH BHUPATHI: Congrats Team India. This is one of the greatest upsets of all time. Winning the series at the Gabba. #goosebumps #thereisnointeam #fortress Rahane

KIREN RIJUJ: Congratulations to Team India. Flag of India for the historic victory and retaining the Border-Gavaskar trophy Trophy We are proud of your excellent performance and the grit & determination displayed by our young players.

SUNIL CHHETRI: A victory to celebrate. A series to inspire. Take a bow Team India, for an incredible show of character - session after session. One of those performances that we'll often run back to, when the chips are down.

Squad named for England series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 19: Virat Kohli returned to lead India against England in the upcoming home Test series while the selectors also recalled all-rounder Hardik Pandya and pacer Ishant Sharma to bolster the squad, announced by the BCCI Tuesday.

Kohli, who headed back to India on a paternity leave after the Adelaide Test, was named in the 18-man squad along with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. The squad was named only for the first two Tests of the four-match series, starting February 5 in Chennai.

THE SQUAD

Virat Kohli (C), Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal, Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant, Wriddhiman Saha, Hardik Pandya, KL Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, R Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel.

Senior pacer Ishant had missed the Australia tour due to the side strain he suffered during the IPL in the UAE while Pandya only played the ODIs and T20Is Down Under. T Natarajan was dropped as the

selection panel added Axar Patel to the squad as he would be more effective to counter England on Indian pitches. He is an apt replacement for Ravindra Jadeja.

The selection panel retained youngster Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur and Mayank Agarwal.

The second Test will also be played in Chennai (February 13-17) while Ahmedabad will host the third (February 24-28) and fourth Test (March 4-8). The 4-Test series will be followed by a five-match T20I series and three-match ODI rubber that will conclude March 28 in Pune.

AGENCIES

Goa, Jan 19: Odisha FC cancelled out the slender lead taken by Hyderabad FC in the first-half to settle for 1-1 draw in the Indian Super League (ISL) clash, Tuesday. Hyderabad FC are on the fourth place with 17 points while Odisha remain at the bottom with seven. Halicharan Narzary (12th minute) scored the opening goal for Hyderabad while Cole Alexander equalised (51st) for Odisha. Liston Colaco once used his space to run past the Odisha defenders and



laid the ball for Halicharan who came steaming in to hit the ball at the back of net.

Odisha equalised through Cole Alexander after Mauricio held on the battle with Hyderabad defenders to pass the ball to him who hit the ball to the far post as Kattimani remained unmoved.

Odisha missed out on a late winner in the 88th. Akash Mishra did well to keep the shot from Nandhakumar away by clearing it off the goalline. It crossed the goal-keeper who charged down in anticipation.