

Speaker shocked over Center's reply

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA), Surjya Narayan Patro on Friday expressed shock and displeasure on Centre's reply that it has not receiving any resolution from the Odisha Government on setting up of Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council). Union Minister of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijju on Thursday informed Parliament that the Centre is yet to receive any resolution adopted for formation of Legislative Council or Vidhan Parishad in Odisha. Expressing dismay over this statement of



Mr. Rijju, Speaker here, Mr. Patro said the Assembly had passed the resolution on September 6, 2018 and the same was sent to the Centre on September 18, 2018. The Assembly resolu-

tion was submitted to the Secretary General of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and also to the Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Law & Justice, he said. "It is shocking to know that the Centre has not received any resolution passed by the Odisha Assembly for setting up the legislative council," Mr. Patro said. Speaker Mr. Patro also pointed out that the Assembly had in the past responded to Parliament's query on this matter. The then Assembly Secretary Amiya Kumar Sarangi had written the letters to

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NOTA Option in Urban Poll

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Election Commission (SEC) has decided to provide NOTA (None of the above) option to the voters in the up-

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option NOTA (none of the above) will be provided to the electors for the general elections to Urban Local Bodies," read the or-



coming Urban Election in the State. SEC has issued an order on Friday as per the power vested under Article 243-ZA of the Constitution. The Article has given power of su-

There is no provision of providing NOTA option to the electors under the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950 and the Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003 and the Rules

legislative assemblies and Lok Sabha. "Therefore, the State Election Commission, in exercise of powers vested in it under Article 243 ZA of the Constitution, directs that the

der. As per the order, the word NOTA will be printed in the last panel after the last candidate and NOTA symbol will be print on the symbol column.

Uttar Pradesh polls: SP candidate Rohan Lal Verma booked for taking out procession without permit

SHAHJAHANPUR (KCN): A case was

lice said. The action was

CrPC prohibits the assembly of four or

without permission and a report has been



registered against Samajwadi Party candidate Rohan Lal Verma and his 500 supporters on Friday for taking out a procession here without any permission, po-

taken by a flying squad team as CrPC section 144 is in effect in the district, City Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kumar said. Section 144 of the

more people in an area. Kumar said the SP candidate from the Tilhar seat took out a procession with hundreds of supporters in Nigohi town

filed in this connection. Roshan Lal Verma, along with Swami Prasad Maurya, had recently switched sides from the BJP to the Samajwadi Party.

Centre yet to receive Odisha's resolution on legislative council

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Centre is yet to receive any resolution passed in the Odisha Assembly for setting up of a Legislative Council in the State, Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijju informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. In a written reply to an unstarred question by BJD Rajya Sabha Member Prasanna Acharya, Rijju said that as per record, no such resolution has been received by the Centre. However, information is being collected from the Odisha government with regard to the adoption of a resolu-

tion, he added. Acharya wanted to know whether the Odisha Legislative Assembly had adopted a unanimous resolution for the

Assam, Rajasthan and West Bengal have adopted the resolution for the creation of Legislative Councils. State legislative councils

The Odisha Assembly had passed a resolution in September 2018 for setting up of a Legislative Council or Vidhan Parishad in the State. While 104 MLAs of the BJD present in the house had voted in favour of the resolution, opposition MLAs had staged walkouts. Justifying the need for setting up a legislative council, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had said as development has picked up momentum, wider consultations are necessary to accelerate it further.



creation of a Legislative Council and whether the Central government would move to create such council under Article 169 of the Constitution. Rijju said that

are in existence in six states Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh now, he added.

Transparency most important aspect of good governance in democracy: President Ram Nath Kovind

MUMBAI(KCN): President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday said the word 'darbar' was linked to royalty in the pre-Independence era, but its modern concept promotes transparency, which is the most important aspect of good governance in democracy. He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the newly-reconstructed Durbar Hall at the Raj Bhavan here. The president said that just like the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the national capi-

tal, the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai has become a constitutional symbol of hopes and aspirations of people in the world's largest democracy. "Before Independence, the word darbar was connected to royalty, while in the present times, it is associated with democracy. The modern concept of darbar promotes transparency, which is the most important aspect of good governance in a democratic system," he said. "There is nothing private or secret in a

darbar. Everything happens in full pub-

lic view, by taking everyone along. Even elected representa-

tives are holding 'janata darbars' to connect with the people. This method is becoming popular.

In this context, the new Durbar Hall is a symbol of new India, new Maharashtra and our vibrant democ-

racy," the president said. He added that this heritage site might be a legacy of the British, but its present and future was linked to the glory of Maharashtra and rest of the country. Kovind said there was definitely something special about Maharashtra, which brings him to the state again and again. "Maharashtra is a land of spirituality as well as of brave struggles against injustice. This is a land of patriots and devotees of god. Maharashtra is a major economic and cultural centre in the country," the president said.

He said that during his four-and-a-half years of tenure as the president, he visited Maharashtra 12 times. "But during this visit, I am experiencing a void due to the death of Lata Mangeskar. A week ago, we lost our dear Lata didi, but her music is immortal and it will live among the people for generations to come. A great genius like her is born once in a century. The memory of her simplicity and gentle nature will also be imprinted in the mind of



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Excise and Police Officials Conduct Raid and Seized Huge Cache of ID Liquor



Khordha (KCN) In view of ensuing Panchayat Polls the Excise along with Police Officials have been conducted raid in the village area of Kalasure, Ekadalia, Kaunpur under Begunia Police Sta-

tion and seized 6800 ltrs Gur wash, 570 ltrs ID liquor and distillation apparatus. All the seized materials were destroyed at the spot. The raid operations was conducted under the supervision of

Sanatana Acharya, Additional Tahasildar & Executive Magistrate, Begunia, Bhairab Sahu, Inspector Excise, Khordha, Sasmita Hota, Inspector Excise, Mobile Squad, Alok

Kumar Pradhan, Inspector Excise, Tangi, B. Manoj Kumar, OIC, Khordha, Biranchi Narayan Mohanty, OIC, Begunia and one section of APR force & all Excise Staffs.

Omicron replaces Delta in Odisha

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Omicron, the highly-transmissible variant of Coronavirus, has replaced the Delta variant in Odisha. This was revealed from the latest genome sequencing report of the Insti-

found to be infected with the Omicron variant. All 16 samples from Gajapati and 12 from Jagatsinghpur districts were found to be infected with the Omicron variant. Besides, Jajpur (8),

tions, the recoveries on Thursday have surpassed the daily cases, marking the steady decline in infection. A total of 12,51,431 patients have recovered from the disease so far, including 3,279 in the

the State currently have active cases while Khordha with over 2,500 active cases is placed in the red zone. Sundargarh districts with above 1,000 active cases are bracketed in the yellow zone cat-

Despite wealth rich area, villages are deprived of common facilities. An over view...



Barbil(KCN):It is said Joda mining area in the district of Keonjhar, the epicentre of iron ore mining. But unfortunately 62 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line. The income from mineral extraction has not benefitted the regions from where the minerals are removed. Rather poverty has increased. This has majorly affected the

social fabric, owing to quick gains due to the 'middle men' syndrome. There are many such areas in mineral rich area of Joda block which deprived from common facilities. World knows this area is a wealth rich area. But the story is different here. Wealth is being pocketed by some people where a majority are still in poverty. 'Tanto' a village under Bhadrasahi Pan-

chayat is surrounded by mines and industries. But people are living in miserable condition. They don't have a roof to live in. No regular food to eat. No employment. Then how could these people are believed to be part of wealth rich region. It is said thousands crores of money is reserved in District mineral and OMBAC fund. Then why such

poverty...? Why people are barred from getting good health service? Why people are not having communication facility? Ironically these area deprived of many facilities despite being called wealth rich. Who is responsible for such condition? Elected members of the area? Is it administration? Some intellectuals alleged that these area are deliberately ignored to cook some other intention.



tute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar. As per the report, out of 241 samples sequenced in between January 27 and February 4, Omicron was detected from 235 samples while Delta variant was found only in 6 samples. It means about 98 per cent of the total samples sent for genome sequencing are found to be Omicron one. Out of the detected Omicron cases, six are found to be BA.1, 12 as BA.1.1 and 217 BA.2. As many as 13 out of 14 samples received from Angul district were found with Omicron BA.2 variant. Similarly, 27 Omicron cases were found among 30 samples received from Cuttack district. Out of the 49 samples from Khordha district, 45 were tested with Omicron. Apart from Khurda, Nayagah and Puri district have recorded two non-Omicron cases. All 47 samples of Ganjam district were

Kalahandi (5), Kendrapada (12), Mayurbhanj (17), Nabarangpur (16), Sundergarh (3) and Rayagada (1) scored 100% with the detection of Omicron during the genome sequencing. Meanwhile, the State on Friday logged 1,572 new COVID-19 cases, an increase of around 7% infection than the previous day with Test Positivity Rate (TPR) dropping 2.30% as the State is currently witnessing a gradual slowdown of the disease. On the other hand, the fatality trajectory is on a steady rise with 20 more succumbing to infection in the last 24 hours. The cumulative death toll in the State now stands at 8,838. With the latest daily infection, the cumulative infection tally has climbed to 12,74,575, while the State currently has 14,253 active cases. While 309 positive cases are from the 0-18 year age group among the new infec-

past 24 hours. The State has so far registered 347 Omicron variants. Khurda district reported the highest number of new cases at 233, followed by Cuttack (161) and Sundargarh (113). All the 30 districts in the State currently have active cases while Khordha with over 2,500 active cases is placed in the red zone. Sundargarh districts with above 1,000 active cases are bracketed in the yellow zone cat-

egory while the remaining 28 districts figure in the green zone with fewer than 1,000 active cases. The State's recovery rate currently stands at 98.18% while active cases account for 1.11% of total positive cases registered in the State. New Delhi(KCN): The Union Government has sanctioned Rs 126.97 crore for the development of tourism infrastructures in Odisha under various schemes, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy told Rajya Sabha on Thursday. While replying to a question of BJD MP Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti, Minister Mr.Reddy said there is a substantial tourism potential in the State of Odisha. The Ministry of Tourism, under its Scheme

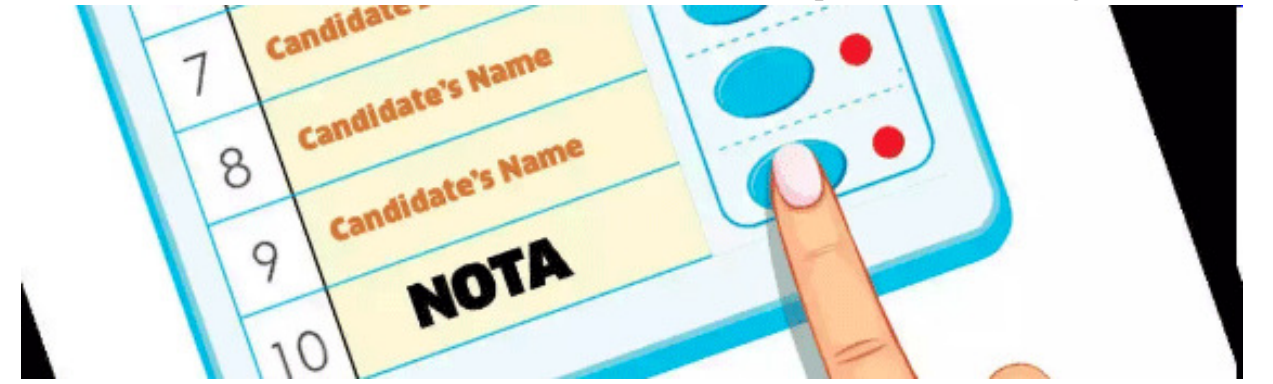
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Center Sanctions 127 Cr for Odisha Tourism

New Delhi(KCN): The Union Government has sanctioned Rs 126.97 crore for the development of tourism infrastructures in Odisha under various schemes, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy told Rajya Sabha on Thursday. While replying to a question of BJD MP Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti, Minister Mr.Reddy said there is a substantial tourism potential in the State of Odisha. The Ministry of Tourism, under its Scheme

of Swadesh Darshan and National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) provides financial assistance to State Governments, Union Territory and Central Agencies etc. for development of tourism infrastructure in the country. The Centre has sanctioned Rs 70.82 crore for development of Coastal Circuit comprising Gopalpur, Barkul, Satapada and Tampara in the year

2016-17, he said. Similarly, Rs 50 crore has been sanctioned for infrastructure development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham-Ramachandi-Prachi River front at Deuli under PRASHAD scheme during the year 2014-15. The projects under the schemes are identified for development in consultation with the State Government and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adher-

ence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier, Reddy said. Under Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned development of tourist amenities at 22 identified railway stations on 50:50 cost sharing basis with the Ministry of Railways, out of which the project at Puri Railway Station has been completed. An amount of Rs 6.15 crore has been sanctioned for this project,

he further stated. However, the Centre has not sanctioned any further fund for development tourism after 2016-17. Informing about steps taken by the Government of India to promote tourism in Odisha, the Union Minister said his Ministry promotes India in a holistic manner, including Odisha. As part of its on-going activities, it releases global print, electronic and online media campaigns in important and potential markets overseas, un-

der the 'Incredible India' brand line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country, through its scheme of Domestic Promotion and Publicity including Hospitality (DPPH) and Overseas Promotion and Publicity including Market Development assistance (OPMD), he pointed out. Promotions are also regularly undertaken through the website (www.incredibleindia.org) and the Social Media accounts of the Ministry, he added

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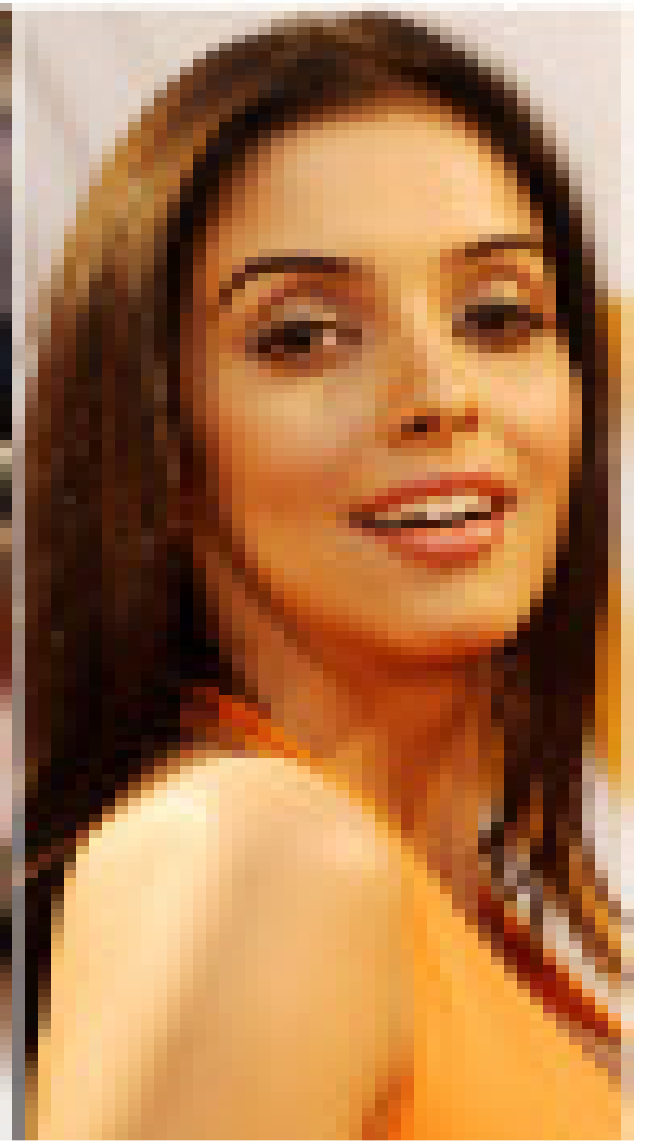
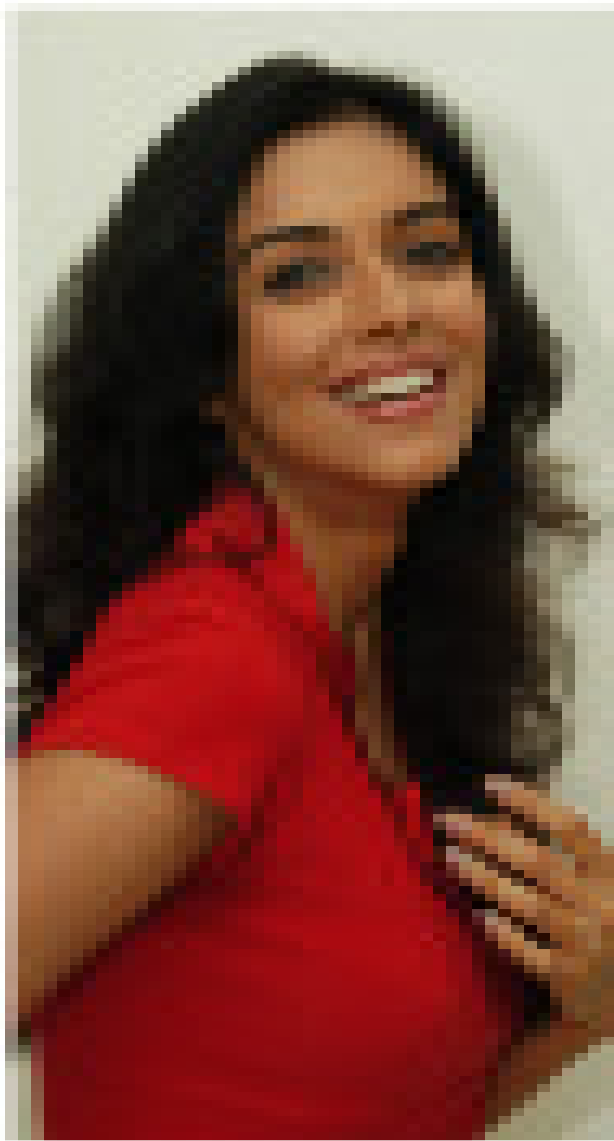
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Asin Thottumkal is a consummate actress who has worked in several blockbuster films across languages. She has the looks, the on-screen effervescence and the acting chops! For all of us who have missed seeing her in action the last few years, here's a nostalgic trip down memory lane through a collection of her rare photos from the 'Express' archive.

'Housefull 4' rakes in Rs 53 crore in first three days



MUMBAI(KCN): Akshay Kumar's "Housefull 4" has earned Rs 53 crore in the first three days of its release, the makers said on Monday.

The Farhad Nadiadwala, how-

ever, believes the film will perform better in the coming days as the festive season has concluded.

ALSO READ: 'Housefull 4' movie review - Akshay

Kumar steals the show in this problematic comedy of errors "The first three days of our film release were like paid previews. People have

come despite the festive season & enjoyed the film. I think we had the best-paid previews with a total collection of 53cr and our actual weekend starts to-

day," Nadiadwala said in a statement. The movie also features Riteish Deshmukh, Bobby Deol, Kriti Sanon, Pooja Hegde and Kriti Kharbanda.

Vijay's 'Bigil' crosses Rs 100 crore mark in three days

CHENNAI: Tamil just three days since ongoing festive sea- more massy than



superstar Vijay's Diwali release, "Bigil", has crossed the Rs 100-crore mark worldwide in

its release. The film, directed by Atlee Kumar, is the big Tamil release of the

son. **ALSO READ:** 'Bigil' review - Thalpathy's 'message' is flawed in this

'Mersal' film Industry tracker and columnist Sreedhar Pillai tweeted: "#Bigil does

it in style in super fast time, crosses 100 cr worldwide in 3 days! Extraordinary! Phenomenal! **ALSO READ:** 'Bigil' madness - Rioting charges on 32 Vijay fans in Krishnagiri Trade analyst and film critic Ramesh Bala wrote on Twitter: "#Bigil has taken more than 100 crs+ Opening at the WW Box Office. Vijay is known as Thalpathy to Tamil fans and the film continues his winning streak at the box-office. Incidentally, this is his third release

with Atlee after "Theri" and "Mersal". With both earlier films emerging blockbusters, Vijay fans hope "Bigil" will repeat the box-office feat. **ALSO READ:** A Bigil-esque script - Two schools in Erode helping girls play their way to success "Bigil" is a sports action film that has Vijay in dual roles as father and son. As the father, he plays a local don and as the son he is the coach of a women's football team. The actor underwent training for the coach's character.

Covid-19 pandemic now in community transmission stage in India: what does this mean?

In the third wave of the coronavirus epidemic, India has acknowledged that the disease is now in the community transmission stage. While it is no more than a statement of the obvious, and has little operational implication at this stage of the epidemic, this acknowledgment has attracted attention because this is the first time India has officially done so.

What it means

In all regions except the origin of the outbreak, the virus is introduced into the population by travellers. In the initial stages of an epidemic, all further transmissions of the disease can be linked, directly or through a chain, to these travellers. But after some time, as more and more people get infected, they pass on the virus to many more, several of whom are never detected because they might be asymptomatic or did not get tested. But even these undetected cases would have transmitted the disease to others. Very soon, it results in a situation where the chain of infections can no longer be traced to the original travellers, and most of the infections become locally acquired. It is this stage of the epidemic that is classified as one of community transmission.

In simple terms, it is a stage where it becomes difficult to establish the chain of infections, or determine who infected whom. This has implications for deciding containment strategies and response measures to deal with the epidemic.

Community transmission is the final stage of classification of the epidemic on this basis. The World Health Organization (WHO) has three more classifications ahead of community transmission — no active cases, sporadic cases and cluster of cases. If no new cases are detected in 28 days, a country or region is said to have

no new active cases.

A situation where all the known infections in the previous two weeks can be linked to an imported case is classified as being in the second category.

India had so far been maintaining that the epidemic in the country was in the stage where it was witnessing a cluster of cases. According to the WHO classification, this is the stage where cases detected in the previous two weeks are “predominantly limited to well-defined clusters that are not directly linked to imported cases, but which are all linked by time, geographic location and common exposures”. It is assumed that there are a large number of unidentified cases, but this is still considered a low-risk situation.

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The manner in which the transmissions are happening is key to deciding actions to be taken to contain further spread of the disease. In the initial stage for example, when only sporadic cases are detected, aggressive testing and contact tracing is supposed to be among the most effective strategies to halt or slow down the spread of the disease. As all direct contacts of an infected person are identified, tested and isolated, the number of virus-carrying people in the population gets reduced significantly, and so does the number of transmissions.

However, such a strategy might not yield much in terms of slowing down the spread in the community transmission stage. In such a situation, it is considered more beneficial to focus attention on measures like hospital management, access to critical

Anuradha Mascarenhas

care facilities or genomic surveillance. Current situation

The recent acknowledgment, made in the latest bulletins released by INSACOG, a network of laboratories that is tasked with genome surveillance, does not reveal anything new. India is known to have entered the community transmission phase within a couple of months of the start of the pandemic in 2020 itself.

From the speed at which the Omicron variant has spread, there never was any doubt that community transmission was taking place. Even before Omicron, India was detecting only one of about 30 infections. Now, this ratio would have shot up even further. At this stage of the epidemic, a discussion on community transmission is largely an academic one, and is unlikely to trigger any change in the kind of response measures that are being taken at the central, state or local levels.

Don't miss IHow to manage Covid-19 in kids: new guidelines

Looking ahead

Since the current wave is producing mostly mild disease, experts argue that a containment strategy might not yield much, especially since the infection was spreading at such a fast rate, and mainly through asymptomatic cases. Instead, it would be better to focus attention on surveillance, with the objective of keeping an eye on future dangerous mutations.

“We should change the strategy of sample collection for genome sequencing. There is no point in focusing on airports. A close watch should, instead, be kept on clinical samples from the ICU or those with serious symptoms to check if there is further mutation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and whether it is changing a bit. There is a need to keep an eye on clusters at localities or parties or any gathering in case there is a sudden eruption of cases and also ensure

a randomised sampling in large areas,” said Rakesh Mishra, former director of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Implications

Mishra said testing and tracking contacts could not prevent the further spread of the Omicron variant at this stage, even though it was still important to test as many as possible. “But the main focus must be on the hospitalised cases, and those who have developed severe illnesses,” said Mishra, who is director of Tata Institute of Genetics and Society.

Several states have already changed their testing strategy and have not been aggressively doing contact tracing, especially those who are not showing symptoms.

Dr Shashank Joshi, member of Maharashtra's Covid-19 task force, said the focus must be on saving lives, because such a large number of cases can overwhelm hospitals. “What is known from the current wave is that it has come in a very explosive and tsunami-like proportion. It is more like a cyclone and not a wave. As 80-90% people are asymptomatic, our focus is directed on symptomatic patients. Those who are unvaccinated, or only partially vaccinated, are in the high-risk category. And so are people with chronic underlying diseases like cancer, heart transplantation or lung disease. The focus clearly is to save lives and ensure health systems are prepared,” Dr Joshi said.

Maharashtra surveillance officer Dr Pradeep Awate said health authorities were no longer tracking every contact of an infected person. “We are already moving on to the endemic stage. Genomic sequencing however will be necessary as Omicron may not be the last variant,” he said.

The author is a senior editor with The Indian Express, Pune. She writes on health, environment, science and related issues.

Ayodhya Verdict Out: All you need to know; Timeline of key events

Ayodhya Land Dispute Verdict has been delivered! The Supreme Court's 5 judge constitution headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi delivered its judgment in the Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case. The Bench has unanimously ruled in favour

of the construction of Ram Temple on the land claimed by Sunni Waqf Board/Ram Lalla/Nirmohi Akhara. Check below the complete timeline of events that had built up the Ayodhya land dispute case.

Ahead of the verdict, the government had tightened up security arrangements across the country to avoid any unforeseen incident post the announcement of historic judgement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government imposed Section 144 across

various states. Moreover, Schools and Educational Institutions of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka and other states were closed to ensure protection and safety of students.

Lutyens' Delhi under Section 144: Besides the deployment of police personnel in Delhi; Section 144 of CrPC was imposed in Lutyens' Delhi. The Delhi Police also kept an eye on the social media platforms to maintain law and order in the state.

Arrangements made ahead of Ayodhya Verdict

- Over 12000 troops have been deployed in Uttar Pradesh.

- Drones and CCTV Cameras have been deployed to monitor the situation post the pronouncement of Supreme Court judgment.
- All schools and Colleges to be closed in

Rupali Pruthi

Justice DY Chandrachud

- Justice Ashok Bhushan

- Justice S Abdul Nazeer

The bench has reserved its judgement on October 16, 2019 after conducting a marathon



UP, Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

- Jammu & Kashmir: Section 144 of the CrPC has been imposed in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the Ayodhya Verdict.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath appealed to the people to maintain peace across the country.

Five Judge Constitution Bench

The Supreme Court's five-judge constitution bench includes:

- Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- Justice SA Bobde

hearing of 40 days.

Ayodhya Land Dispute: Timeline of events till Allahabad High Court Ruling

1885: The Ayodhya land dispute dates back to 1885 when the first-ever suit was filed during the British Rule by Mahanth Raghubar Das to construct a Ram Temple at Ayodhya.

1949: The next major incident that took place was in December 1949, when idols of Lord Ram were found inside the Babri Masjid. Following which, the land was attached under Section 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

1950: (Suit 1) After India's independence, the

first Ayodhya lawsuit was filed in January 1950 by Gopal Sing Visharad, claiming that he saw footprints of Lord Ram in the property. Though Visharad died and the case was substituted then to his son Rajendra Singh in 1986.

1950: (Suit 2) Paramhans Ramchandra Das filed the second suit against Zahoor Ahmad and seven others.

1959: (Suit 3) The Nirmohi Akhara of Ramanandi Varagis filed the second case in 1959, claiming its right over the Ram Janmabhoomi – the inner courtyard and constructed portion of the mosque.

1961: (Suit 4) The UP Waqfs Sunni Board was the third to file the lawsuit, claiming that the land belongs to Muslims and it should be given back to them after the removal of idols.

1989: (Suit 5) Bhagwan Sri Ram Birajman, the deity, filed the fourth suit through senior advocate Deoki Nandan Agarwala.

1992: In December 1992, dozens of right-wing activists demolished the Babri Masjid mosque, built by the Mughal Emperor Babur over 433 years ago. Over 2000 people died in the riots that shook all of India. The dispute is over 2.77 acres of land in Ayodhya.

2010: Allahabad High Court delivered its verdict, dividing the Ayodhya land among the three main litigants--the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

Rupali Pruthi is an academic content writer with over 6 years of experience. She is a Masters in English Literature and has previously worked with an NGO and an IT company. At jagranjoshi.com, she creates digital content for Current Affairs and various Govt Exams. She can be reached at rupali.pruthi@jagrannewmedia.com

UN labour agency cites concerns about China's Xinjiang region

GENEVA: An annual report from the United Nations labour agency Friday highlighted the work conditions of

also chronicled an array of concerns about scores of countries that in effect were urged to improve workplace and job

document states. "The committee is bound to observe, however, that the employment situation of Uyghurs and other

types of courses Uyghurs attend at the training centres, and number of participants. A spokesperson for



Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in China's western Xinjiang region, noting signs of "coercive measures" that deprive workers of free choice in selecting jobs and calling on Beijing to provide more information about how it's respecting their rights. The report from an International Labour Organization Committee of experts tasked with helping countries uphold their own international commitments emphasized the labour rights aspect of China's policies in Xinjiang. Advocacy groups and Western governments, among others, have voiced human rights concerns over the treatment of the region's Muslims. The 870-page report

conditions. The 20-member committee of independent international experts cited the Chinese government's defence, given in a different report, of what it calls vocational training centres in Xinjiang. Beijing says the centres are intended to help improve economic conditions and defuse extremist violence in the region. "The committee takes due note of the view expressed in the government's report that 'some forces recklessly sensationalize the so-called 'forced labour' issue in Xinjiang on various occasions,' adding that this is 'nothing but a downright lie, a dirty trick with ulterior motives,'" the International Labor Organization

Muslim minorities in China provides numerous indications of coercive measures, many of which arise from regulatory and policy documents," the ILO experts wrote. They said "various indicators" pointed to the relocation of workers under security escort, the strict surveillance and "retention" of workers, and "the threat of internment in vocational education and training centres if workers do not accept 'government administration.'" The committee called on China's government to provide more information about how its policies support "freely chosen employment" and prevents forced labour, and to provide information about the

the Chinese diplomatic mission in Geneva, where the U.N. agency is based, did not immediately respond to an email and voice message from The Associated Press seeking comment. The United States, which has repeatedly decried the conditions faced by Uyghurs, quickly responded to Friday's report. The State Department issued a statement "to reiterate our call for the (People's Republic of China) to end its genocide and crimes against humanity perpetrated against the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang," as well as its use of "forced labour."

Covid masks in class: How damaging are they to child development?

WASHINGTON: Two years into the Covid pandemic, concerns around the effect of masks on the linguistic, emotional and social development of children are taking center stage. In the United States, calls to lift mask mandates at school have multiplied in recent weeks, including within the scientific community, at a time when new cases of Covid-19 are plunging.

Scientific studies have shown that masks do indeed impact children's ability to recognize faces and emotions. As with adults, masks can also interfere with verbal communication. But experts are divided on the long-term effects on children's development.

Learning language The first fear concerns the learning of language, which takes place in the first years of life. Children learn to speak through social interactions, and in particular look at the mouths of adults in order to dissect syllables.

"But there are studies that demonstrate that children can tune into these different communication cues and gestures when an adult's mouth isn't visible."

A 2021 study demonstrated that infants were able to recognize unique words through a mask, just as well as without. But according to another, conducted in France, masks can interfere with learning to read among children with learning difficulties.

In general, research remains rare on the subject. But, says Paul, "I really do not see any cause for alarm."

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "the limited available data indicate no clear evidence that masking impairs emotional or language development in children."

The agency recommends masking in public for those aged two and up, while the World Health Organization suggests the age of five. Social and emotional development But among psychiatrists, the story is a little



This path being blocked, it seems logical to suppose a harmful effect.

"You do look at faces when you're learning to talk," Diane Paul, of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) told AFP. "But it's not the only way."

Children also learn by listening to the voices and following the gestures and eye movements of those around them. Paul notes that those with visual impairment also learn to speak well -- and that masks are not worn permanently, for example at home.

"At least at this time, there aren't studies that have directly assessed the long term impact of speech and language development when young children interact with adults who wear masks," says the expert.

ALSO READ | Third wave almost ebbing but not over: Doctors

different. "More important is the emotional side," says Manfred Spitzer, who's also a specialist in cognitive neuroscience at the University of Ulm in Germany. He notes that the first thing lost with a mask is the sight of a smile.

"In educational settings, there is a lot of implicit feedback back and forth between teacher and child," he told AFP.

"If you impair this ongoing communication, you will certainly interfere with successful teaching."

Fears also relate to the ability to form social ties. Numerous studies have shown that masks make it more difficult to identify faces and emotions, including -- or even more -- among the youngest.

But conclusions about the consequences differ.

A study of children aged seven to 13, published in the journal PLOS One, confirmed that emotions (fear, sadness, anger) were less well identified when a person wore a mask -- but with similar results compared to wearing sunglasses.

ALSO READ | India's first homegrown mRNA COVID-19 vaccine currently under final clinical trial stages: Government It concluded that "masks are unlikely to dramatically impair children's social interactions in their everyday lives."

Yet other work, published in Frontiers in Psychology, has shown that performance in identifying the emotions of masked people dropped significantly between ages three and five, results that "suggest that we live in a time that may potentially affect the development of social and emotional reasoning," the authors said.

Carol Vidal, a psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins University, said that she's concerned at a societal level, though parents shouldn't panic. Vidal is part of a group of medics and scholars called "Urgency of normal" calling for the lifting of compulsory masking at school, where it's hard to maintain the stringent use of masks anyway.

"I just think they're not necessary at this point in the pandemic, knowing what we know about the risks for kids in terms of Covid, and knowing that we all have access to vaccinations, and that if we're concerned about our health we can wear N95s (high-caliber masks)," she tells AFP.

It boils down to balancing risks and benefits, she stresses. The downsides of masks "might not be dramatic in the sense that you might not have effects right away, but I think we have to be careful," said Vidal.

Bhubaneswar's private schools cool heels, government institutions see healthy turnout

BHUBANESWAR: As school reopening is being strongly advocated after almost two years of Covid-induced disruption, low students' turnout in Bhubaneswar's private schools which once demanded resumption of teaching in offline mode at the earliest has come as a surprise. Interestingly, government schools are recording 40 to 50 per cent (pc) attendance, while turnout of students in some of the highly-rated private schools has remained as low as 10 pc.

Many parents who strongly back offline education say schools are insisting on online classes for reasons best known to them whereas managements of many schools claim that parents are reluctant to send their wards to campus for offline classes.

The attendance of government-run Capital High School at Unit-III, where the combined student strength for Class VIII, IX and X is around 900, physical attendance in classes has remained around 45 pc and continues to increase. School authorities said around 48 pc students attended classes in physical mode at Class VIII level on Thursday. School and Mass Education department sources said the

overall attendance of government schools has also remained over 60 pc across the State.

However, the picture of private schools is completely different. Officials of KIIT International School, SAI International School, DAV Chandrasekharpur and St Xavier's High School, Kedargouri said offline classes have resumed for Class VIII onwards from February 7 but the attendance of the students has remained extremely low.

"Our attendance for offline classes is in the range of 20 pc to 25 pc," said an official from SAI International. The response from other schools was similar. In St Xavier's School at Kedargouri, officials said out of around 40-45 students in each section at Class VIII and IX level, only 5 to 6 students are turning up for physical classes. Some of the private schools, meanwhile, are planning to resume classes in physical mode from the 2022-23 academic session.

All this defeats the entire purpose of reopening schools while many private schools are sending confusing signals to parents using government advisory. "There is notice for class resumption and examina-

tion for Class IX and XII but none for Class VIII students," claimed a parent of a private school that offers international board. Others also say that though schools put out ambiguous notices, transport systems have not been activated.

This comes at a time when Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urged all to send kids to campuses without fear. The State government's decision to postpone physical classes for Class I-VII till February 28 has only added to the confusion.

The notice of the government to a few of these schools asking students to appear for examinations in offline mode has messed up things further. An official from Loyola School, Bhubaneswar said many parents were reluctant to send their children to attend classes in offline mode during previous Covid outbreak and taking it into account, they decided to continue with online classes.

She, however, admitted that examinations scheduled to be held in coming weeks and difficulties faced by teachers in conducting classes in hybrid mode are other reasons they are sticking to online classes.

Ooty BEO helps students do well in NMMS exam, gets national award

New Delhi (KCN): R Karthik, Block Educational Officer of Ooty, has been conferred the National Award for Innovation and Good Practices in Educational Administration by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) at New Delhi for the academic year 2019-2020. He was selected among 52 nominees across the country.



In the virtual ceremony held on Thursday, the Minister of State for Education, Subhas Sarkar appreciated the awardees. R Karthik told TNIE, "When I was in Bhavanisagar in the academic year 2012-13, only a few students took the NMMS exam, but none had cleared it. The same year, I began training headmasters and teachers

for NMMS, so they could help the children. The next academic year, eight other students cleared the exam. Besides, a PUMS student from Kodepalayam secured second place in Tamil Nadu in the TRUST examination. So, I am selected for this award," he said. Further, he helped poor students get scholarships and took steps to increase students' strength in government schools in Erode and Nilgiris districts. He said, "NIEPA has been conferring this award since 2014 intending to encourage innovations and good practices in education administration to improve the public education system." Following this, top officers in the school education department and district officers appreciated him.

Athagarh forest division in soup over recovery of jumbo carcass

BHUBANESWAR: Months after Athagarh ranger was suspended for allegedly keeping the Forest department in dark about the death of an elephant for over a year, the forest division is in news again after recovery of another carcass in Narasinghpur range. This time too, the elephant carcass was allegedly buried without the knowledge of the higher-ups in the department. The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch that went to the site in Narasinghpur west range to recover the carcass allegedly faced stiff resistance from some forest watchers. PCCF Shashi Paul has ordered an inquiry and directed the Angul RCCF and Athagarh DFO to submit a report in this regard at the earliest. The STF is also probing the matter.

An eight-member STF team headed by an additional SP rank officer recovered the carcass from Balikiari forest under Barasingha section of Narasinghpur

west range in presence of an executive magistrate. When the matter came to light on Tuesday, Athagarh DFO Sudarsan Gopinath Jadav visited the spot. The Angul RCCF will also visit the spot to inquire about the incident. Forest officials will probe whether any carcass was buried in the location in the past as the decomposed bones seem to be a year old. STF, however, suspects that the carcass would be around three months old. A team of veterinary experts from OUAT will carry out the postmortem of the carcass. Meanwhile, the incident has put the Athagarh division in a fix as it has already faced embarrassment last year over burial of a carcass in violation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). A 15-year-old tusker was buried in Subasi reserve forest without following due procedure and the tusks recovered were also not deposited with the division office in violation of the SOP.

Dr Piyush Saxena: Temple of Healing Mumbai Past Life Regression workshop at Gangasar Bhavan, Ganga Sagar



Kolkata: Temple of Healing (Mumbai), organized a 5-days workshop on Past Life Regression through Hypnosis at Ganga Sagar Bhawan, Ganga Sagar. The chief coordinator of Eastern India Mrs. Anuradha

Agarwal, Kolkata (9038085892), advised a big success for the people. In total 28 participants from Indore, Burdwan, Bhagalpur, Mumbai and Kolkata have arrived. Dr. Piyush Saxena (author of

"Mysteries of Life" book available on www.the-temple-ofhealing.org) introduced the concept and immediately thereafter 10 pairs were made each having one Therapist and one Client. They were been watched

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee convenes meeting of TMC top brass amid growing internal strife

KOLKATA: Amid the ongoing internal strife in the TMC, its supremo and West

sources in the ruling camp said. According to the sources, just six senior

political situation in the party. The statements and counterstatements that

the party, is likely to discuss strategies for the upcoming civic polls on February 28.

Hakim, termed the move as violation of party discipline. The recent spat comes



Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has convened an emergency meeting of the party's top officials at her residence on Saturday evening,

leaders – national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, secretary-general Partha Chatterjee, state party president Subrata Bakshi, and ministers Firhad Hakim, Aroop Biswas and Chandrima Bhattacharya -- have been asked to attend the meeting.

"The meeting will be held tomorrow at 5 pm to discuss the present

are being given by some leaders have not gone down well with the party supremo. This has to stop somewhere. Our party supremo is likely to give out a message to all the leaders," a senior TMC leader said on condition of anonymity.

The sources also said that Banerjee, who is yet to form a new working committee of

The infighting in the ruling TMC escalated on Friday as leaders considered to be close to party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee took to Twitter to advocate the "one person one post" policy, according to which a member of the party should be allowed to hold just one position. A section of old guards, including

in the backdrop of the perceived power struggle in the party and apparent differences between the generation-next leaders and the old-timers. Hakim, who is the state housing and transport minister as well as the city mayor, said the party does not endorse any such theory, and some leaders have given out "misleading" posts.




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Union Power Minister stresses for state specific agencies dedicated for energy conservation

NEW DELHI: Union Power Minister R K Singh has stressed on creating a state-specific agency dedicated for energy conservation and efficiency as part of measures to ensure the participation of states and UTs in fulfilling the country's climate

commitments. The minister also asserted that India will replace diesel with renewables to achieve target of zero-diesel use in the agricultural sector by 2024, a power ministry release said on Friday. The minister held a

virtual meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Power and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of Power or Energy Departments of states & UTs. The power ministry

said the role of states and UTs towards the energy transition goals of India was discussed in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Singh stressed the need for collaborative efforts between the Central and State Governments to-

wards the large-scale deployment of energy efficiency measures in potential sectors of

sel with renewables to achieve target of zero diesel use in the agricultural sector by

tween the centre and states to ensure Energy Transition in all potential sectors of the economy. This meeting was organised in line with the Prime Minister's commitment at COP26, towards re-

ducing the carbon intensity of our country. The objective of this meeting was to ensure the state's participation in fulfilling India's climate commitments and each State and UT can be assigned energy saving targets.

Banned in India, but soaring elsewhere: What's next for TikTok's music industry revolution?

PARIS: It might be banned in India, but with a billion users, TikTok has rapidly become one of the most important players in the music industry, and now has its sights set on revolutionising the way artists are discovered and get paid. Success stories such as Lil Nas X -- whose "Old Town Road" became effectively the biggest-selling US single of all time af-

Sometimes, it's old songs given a new lease of life, such as the recent craze for Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" or Boney M's "Rasputin". But often it's new or independent artists, who no longer need the backing of record labels to find a massive audience. "It's hard to overstate how much this is changing everything," said Tom Rosenthal, a London-

an impressive motor for discovering music... and some independent artists use it very well," Jean Charles Mariani, head of strategy in Paris for Universal Music, told AFP. "But labels remain indispensable for the majority, because we have a deep expertise in the uses of this platform." TikTok is already thinking about next steps.

'Night' for their TV ads," he said. "But we have about one million small and medium businesses who want to make TikTok ads using music. And it's an absolute nightmare because our licences don't include commercial usage." Currently, each commercial use requires TikTok to get special permission from the label and all the songwriters, which



ter going viral on TikTok -- have demonstrated the power of the short-form video app. Major labels, which initially freaked out over TikTokers using their music without a licence, quickly realised they needed to get on board. "When a disruptive tech platform appears, understandably the rights-holders get uncomfortable," TikTok's head of music Ole Obermann told AFP. He was brought in from Warner Music in December 2019 to thrash out deals with the labels. "Obviously we had to pay out substantial amounts of money. The good news is we're totally licenced now and we're talking to them every day about new things that haven't been done before." Meanwhile, TikTok has continued to create viral sensations that are reshaping the musical landscape.

based musician whose songs have been used on 1.6 million TikTok videos. ALSO READ | Malawi's 92-year-old music legend Giddees Chalamanda finds fame on TikTok "Major labels are kinda crapping their pants because the traditional systems of marketing no longer apply. (TikTok) is a great leveller. You can do it on your own," he said. Some artists are becoming huge without even knowing about the app. That was the case with Nigerian popstar CKay. His 2019 single "Love Nwantiti" was a decent-sized hit in his home country, but then TikTok users got hold of it, and by November 2021 it had surpassed 15 billion streams and topped charts from Asia to Europe to North America. 'On to something' The major labels say they are not concerned. "TikTok has become

Its latest service, SoundOn, offers unsigned artists a simpler way to upload songs, get paid and find distribution. Obermann hints this could see TikTok become more like a record label. "We think we're on to something," he said, highlighting recent viral hits by unsigned acts Muni Lang and Games We Play. "It's early days in deciding exactly how we work with these artists on building their careers. But we see we can play a much bigger role in the artist discovery process in a very hands-on way." Pent-up demand Obermann also hopes to revolutionise the way that songs are used for adverts -- a part of the business that is currently worth around \$500 million globally per year but could be worth much more. "Traditionally, it meant something like a big car brand licensing Celine Dion's 'I Drove All

can take months. "It's extremely inefficient. If we can redesign the way that works, (the global licensing business) would go from \$500 million to several billion within a few years. There's that much pent-up demand. We're really working on that." Other ideas include live-streaming concerts and direct sales, with some artists already flogging vinyls and merch through the platform. But will TikTok disappear as quickly as it arrived? The ghost of MySpace, a previous revolutionary force in music, haunts its successors. "That's something we think about every day when we wake up," said Obermann. "We're confident TikTok has tipped into the cultural zeitgeist to a tremendous extent at this point. But it's always day one and you have to keep reinventing yourself to stay relevant."

the economy. He emphasised the need to have a state-specific agency dedicated for energy efficiency and conservation. He urged that the states should develop an action plan to achieve the assigned targets. He further said that the central government is working for a new and modern India, which cannot happen without modern power systems, and it looks forward to working with all states and UTs to achieve this. Singh stressed that India will replace die-

2024. The minister during the meeting highlighted that the commercial buildings should follow ECBS and the domestic buildings should follow ECO NIVAS and this should be part of the building by-law. He said that all the power demand will be met by non-fossil fuel methods with the help of energy storage. He reiterated Prime Minister's commitment to ramp up India's fight against climate change & global warming and emphasised the need for collaboration be-

Centre, states meet on rise in edible oil price

NEW DELHI: As prices of edible oil continue to surge, the government on Wednesday said it has held a meeting to curtail any unfair practices like hoarding, black marketing etc. in the market which may lead to any increase in the prices of edible oils. Soaring prices of edible oil is a major

According to the 2021-2022 Economic Survey, "Oils and fats" contributed around 60% of "food and beverages" inflation despite having a weight of only 7.8% in the group. "The demand for edible oils is largely met through imports (60%) and fluctuations in international



roadblock in India's struggle to control inflation. The meeting held by the Department of Food & Public Distribution on Tuesday emphasised that states/UTs authorities may enforce stock limit quantities order without causing any disruption in the supply chain and also any undue hardship to bonafide trade, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said in a statement.

prices have been responsible for the high inflation in this sub group." "For edible oils, the stock limit specified is 30 quintals for retailers, 500 quintals for wholesalers, 30 quintals for retail outlets of bulk consumers i.e. big chain retailers and shops and 1,000 quintals for its depots," the statement said. In case the stocks are higher, it has to be declared on the portal of Department of Food & Public Distribution, it said.

Transparency most important aspect of good governance in democracy: Prime Ram Nath Kovind

Continued from page-1

people," Kovind said. The president said he was private secretary of Morarji Desai when the latter took over as the chief minister of Bombay state and was sworn in at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. He recalled his visit in 2019 when he inaugurated the underground bunker museum at Raj Bhavan, which gives out interesting information about the premises.

Lauding the reconstruction work of Durbar Hall, he said it was done by preserving the heritage structure. The new Durbar Hall has a seating capacity of 750 and retains most of the heritage features of the old Durbar hall, which had a seating capacity of 225. The previous hall was built in 1911 and was designed by architect George Wittet. Post-Independence, the hall was mainly associated with oath-taking ceremonies of constitutional functionaries. It is also the venue of various government and cultural programmes. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the Durbar Hall was witness to the developments that unfolded in the last century. In an apparent dig at the BJP, he said, "When I was in the opposition, I would come here once or twice in a year with a delegation to highlight the issues concerning people. Even today, our dialogue continues." The air here is cool irrespective of the political air, Thackeray quipped. He said it was a matter of pride that the Sanyukta Maharashtra map at Raj Bhavan was unveiled on April 30, 1960 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Thackeray added that the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai was the best in the country as it has sea on one side and greenery on the other. Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari said his endeavour has been to make Raj Bhavan a 'Lok Bhavan' (people's place). All Durbar halls in the Raj Bhavans across the country should be named after saints. "Here, the Durbar Hall can be named as Samarth Hall," he said.

Speaker shocked over Center's reply

Continued from page-1

the Secretary General of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and also to the Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. "I am directed to inform that the Odisha Legislative Assembly in their meeting held on 06.09.2018 have passed the following Resolution by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of more than two thirds of the Members of the Assembly present and voting under Article 169 (I) of the Constitution of India," Mr.Sarangi had said in the letter.

"That this Assembly resolves that the Legislative Council may be created in the State of Odisha and that necessary Legislation may be passed under clause (I) of Article 169 of the Constitution of India, containing such provisions for the amendment of the Constitution as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the Law and also such supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions as the Parliament may deem necessary," noted the letter. State Legislative Assembly Secretariat sources said that the resolution was passed in the absence of the opposition Congress and the BJP in the House. A total of 104 legislators in the 147-member House, including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, had voted in favour of the resolution. Currently, only six states in India -- Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh -- have Vidhan Parishad or legislative council.

Greece hires Gus Poyet as coach after World Cup setback

ATHENS: Gus Poyet was hired as coach of Greece's national team on Friday in a change of leadership after its failure to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar.

The Greek football Federation said it had reached an agreement with the former Chelsea, Tottenham and Uruguay midfielder. Details of the deal were not immediately announced.

The 54-year-old Poyet replaces Dutch coach John van't Schip who resigned in November after Greece finished third in its World Cup qualifying group behind Spain and Sweden.

Poyet has coached teams in several countries, including China, Spain and France, and also had spells at the helm of



Sunderland and Greek club AEK Athens.

The 2004 European Champion, Greece has struggled in recent years to reach major tournaments. Greece is placing its

hopes in a rebuilt youthful side that includes 25-year-old Liverpool defender Kostas Tsimikas to try and qualify for the 2024 European Championships in Germany.

'Students must wear prescribed uniform', says Madhya Pradesh minister on Hijab row

INDORE: Amid protests in Karnataka over some colleges not allowing girls to wear the hijab in the campus, a Madhya Pradesh minister on Friday batted for uniforms in educational institutions. Madhya Pradesh Spiritual, Culture and Tourism Minister Usha Thakur was replying to a query on the hijab controversy while speaking to reporters here. Without using the term hijab or alluding to the controversy, she said, "Educational institutions have their own discipline. Students in these institutes must wear the set uniform. Even the Constitution says so." Incidentally, the MP government had to issue a statement that it had no plans to ban hijab in educational institutions after remarks by school education minister Inder Singh Parmar indicating support to the ban as well as enforcing a dress code caused controversy. Parmar had later claimed his statements were presented in the wrong context.

Junior World No 1 Tasnim Mir wins Iran Fajr International Challenge

SHIRAZ: Junior World No 1 Indian shuttler Tasnim Mir on Friday notched a three-game win over Yulia Yosephine Susanto of Indonesia in the final to claim the women's singles title

which her rival couldn't bridge. The Indonesian came out all cylinders blazing in the second game, jumping to a 9-2 advantage. She kept moving ahead to roar back into



at the Iran Fajr International Challenge here.

The 16-year-old from Gujarat, who became the first Indian woman shuttler to claim the world no. 1 status in u-19 singles, beat second seed Susanto 21-11, 11-21, 21-7 in 51 minutes.

Tasnim, ranked number 404 in the senior world rankings, lagged 1-3 early on but she soon clawed back at 5-5 before reeling off six straight points to create a huge gap,

the contest in a jiffy. In the decider, Tasnim got her bearings back, zooming to 6-1. She didn't look back and shut the door on her rival to comfortably pocket the title. En route to the title, Tasnim defeated Iran's Nazanin Zamani, Armenia's Lilit Poghosyan, Iran's Fatemeh Babaei, India's Samayara Panwar before outwitting top seed and World Number 71 Martina Repiska in the semifinals.

India vs West Indies: KL Rahul, Axar Patel ruled out of T20 series

NEW DELHI: India vice-captain KL Rahul and all-rounder Axar Patel were on Friday ruled out of the three-match T20I series against the West

Indies beginning in Kolkata from February 16 due to injuries with Ruturaj Gaikwad and Deepak Hooda replacing them in the squad. While Rahul has suffered a hamstring injury while fielding in the second ODI on February 9, Axar has not fully recovered from his shin injury

that also forced him to miss the South Africa tour. The spinner had also recently tested positive for COVID, said BCCI. "Rahul sustained an upper left hamstring

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

first ODI to personal commitments before returning for the second game. India's T20I squad: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Ishan Kishan, Virat Kohli, Shreyas



Yyer, Surya Kumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Ravi Bishnoi, Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar, Mohd. Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Deepak Hooda.

Hooda are also part of the squad picked for the ongoing ODI series against the Caribbean side in Ahmedabad. Rahul and Axar's fitness issues have also raised questions over their availability for the home series against Sri Lanka starting February 25. Rahul had missed the

strain during fielding in the 2nd ODI on 9th February 2022 while Axar has resumed the final stage of his rehabilitation after recently recovering from Covid-19. They will now head to the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for further management of their injury," said the

out my best tennis and I am really happy with the way I played and that I was able to stay ahead. [To] win in straight sets is a

Felix Auger-Aliassime downs Andy Murray to enter QFs in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM: The third seed Felix Auger-Aliassime continued his title charge at the 2022 World Tennis Tournament on

Thursday with a statement win over former World No. 1 Andy Murray. The Canadian, who reached the final in Rotterdam in 2020, overcame the Scottish wild card 6-3, 6-

4 in a dominant performance to advance into the quarter-finals after one hour and 37 minutes. "From the start of the

Open, where he lost to finalist Daniil Medvedev. Earlier, Stefanos Tsitsipas was in no mood to hang around



match I was ready and focused and I think that is why I was able to produce a high level from the first point," Auger-Aliassime said in his on-court interview. "He made me bring

great relief." Auger-Aliassime is making his fourth appearance at the ATP 500 event and arrived in Rotterdam off the back of a personal-best run to the last eight at the Australian

in Rotterdam. The top-seeded Greek sent out a clear statement to the rest of the field with an all-around display to beat Belarusian Ilya Ivashka 6-4, 6-1 in one hour, 11 minutes in the second round.

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FIND THE DIFFERENCE

- SURVEILLANCE THROUGH CCTV CAMERA
- SMALL CLASSES
- CONGENIAL ENVIRONMENT
- INTIMATE, SAFE & SECURED PLACE
- INDIVIDUALS ATTENTION TO EACH CHILD
- EXPERIENCED & LOVING TEACHERS
- SPECIOUS PLAYGROUND
- AC ACTIVITY ROOM
- TRANSPORT FACILITIES

MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

PLAYGROUP (2+), NURSERY (3+), LKG, UKG, STD I TO V

N-4/F-24, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR - 751015

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