



IN SEVENTH HEAVEN
Actor Tamannaah Bhatia says she can't wait to share screen space with Chiranjeevi in her movie *Bhola Shankar*

LEISURE P2



BOOSTING TIES
China has delivered to Pakistan the largest and most advanced warship that Beijing has ever exported

INTERNATIONAL P10



FIRST SEMIFINAL TODAY
England lock horns with New Zealand in the first semifinal of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup

SPORTS P12

PUSHKAR FAIR



Camel herders with their livestock ahead of the annual Pushkar Camel Fair, Tuesday

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UK nod to Covaxin from November 22

AGENCIES
London, Nov 9: The UK government has said India's Covaxin will be added to its list of approved COVID-19 vaccines for international travellers from November 22, meaning that those inoculated with the Bharat Biotech-manufactured jab will not have to self-isolate after arrival in England. The move follows the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Emergency Use Listing for Covaxin, which is the second most used formulation in India. Covishield, the India-manufactured Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, was added to the UK's approved list last month.

"More good news for Indian travellers to the UK. From 22 November, travellers fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine recognised by WHO for Emergency Use Listing, including Covaxin, will not have to self-isolate; so joining those fully vaccinated with Covishield," Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India, said on Twitter Monday. The changes will come into effect November 22. Besides Covaxin, China's Sinovac and Sinopharm, both on the WHO Emergency Use Listing, will be recognised by the UK as approved vaccines for inbound travel, benefitting fully vaccinated people from UAE and Malaysia.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



"I'm feeling uneasy and have trouble breathing since the city air improved a bit!"

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	60433.45 ↓ 112.16
NIFTY	18044.30 ↓ 24.20
DOLLAR	74.09 ↑ ₹0.18
EURO	85.96 ↑ ₹0.32
GOLD	₹48,220 ↑ ₹202
SILVER	₹64,951 ↑ ₹70

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.0°C	31.0°C
TEMP MIN	17.4°C	17.5°C
Humidity	66%	63%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Dry weather very likely

NAVEEN-JAGAN MEET

Can bureaucrats do what CMs couldn't?

■ Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Capital did not bear fruits as the two CMs fail to find quick solutions to the range of inter-state disputes

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his Andhra counterpart YS Jagan Mohan Reddy have mutually decided to set up an institutional mechanism to find solutions to the nagging inter-state disputes including Kotia border issue. During a meeting at the Convention Centre of Lok Seva Bhawan here Tuesday, the two CMs discussed a range of issues including water resources, common boundary, energy and left-wing extremism (LWE) and decided to set up an institutional mechanism to find solutions to the inter-state disputes. As per a joint statement issued by both the Chief Ministers, they decided to work closely on resolving the border dispute in Kotia group of villages, construction of Neradi barrage, Jhanjavathi reservoir, Polavaram, release of water for Bahuda river. They also discussed the issuance



of mutual no objection certificates (NOCs) for the Balimela and Upper Sileru hydro electricity projects. Both the states resolved to extend support to tackling the problems of left-wing extremism and ganja cultivation, the statement said. It was resolved that both the states will continue the legacy of mutual cooperation in the true spirit of federalism. The Chief Ministers have decided that chief secretaries of both the states will set up an institutional mechanism to deliberate on outstanding issues and find a solution that is in the best interest of the people of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, both the states will work towards setting up of a chair for Odia and Telugu languages in BR Ambedkar University at Srikakulam and Berhampur University, respectively. Besides, appointment of language teachers in schools in border districts of the two states, supply of books and conduct of language examinations will also be taken up to promote brotherhood.

Sundargarh: Man robs bank with dad's service gun

POST NEWS NETWORK
Sundargarh, Nov 9: Following a dramatic chase and exchange of fire near Sankara village in Sundargarh district, local police nabbed a man who allegedly robbed Axis Bank on Hospital Road in Sundargarh town Tuesday. According to sources, the accused - the son of a police officer - allegedly stole ₹15 lakh from the bank using his father's service gun. According to preliminary findings, the accused entered the bank at about 2:15 pm. He then carried out the robbery by terrorising the cash-counter staff and holding them at gunpoint. The culprit then fled the spot on a motorcycle. "We initially thought he was a customer. Later, he pulled out a gun as he approached the cash counter and asked the staff to hand over the cash. However, our staff raised an alarm and went out of the counter. Later, the accused managed to take away the cash from the cash box," said L Moharana, the bank's Branch Manager. An eyewitness, Malli Bag, claimed to have seen the accused fleeing the scene with a bag in his hand. After a frantic chase, police were able to find the suspect on Shankara road. "The accused fired one round at our team after he was surrounded. In the retaliatory firing, the accused got injured and was immediately shifted to a hospital," Sundargarh SP Sagarika Nath said.

Crorepati babu with 27 properties caught

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday raided multiple properties owned by Pratap Kumar Samal, Deputy Manager in Odisha Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPHC) at various places in Bhubaneswar and Bhadrak on the charge of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Samal went into a tizzy after seeing vigilance officials at his home. During the raid at his residence at plot no N/6-416 in Nayapalli area here, he threw away ₹20 lakhs into a neighbour's building by stuffing the notes in a paper carton. When the sleuths reached Samal's house, he made the officials wait outside his home for around 45 minutes. Later, in a frantic bid to avoid getting caught he threw away the cash bag, officials said. So far, a total of ₹38.12 lakh and 27 immovable properties in the name of Samal and his wife have been seized. He owned 25 immovable properties including two high-rise buildings in Bhubaneswar and a five-storied building at Basudevpur in Bhadrak. He also owns a two-storied market complex at Betada in Balasore. According to the vigilance department, the properties are located in Bhubaneswar's prime locations and the cost of the



five-storied building is valued at ₹3.89 crore and a four-storied building (Plot No N6/235, IRC Village) worth over crores. Samal, 53, completed his diploma in civil engineering from Barapada School of Engineering in Bhadrak in 1987 and joined the Odisha Police Housing and Welfare Corporation August 14, 1988 as a junior engineer at its Bhubaneswar office. After being promoted to deputy manager in 2013, he worked at Rourkela, Bolangir, Keonjhar, and Cuttack offices of the corporation. Later, he returned to the headquarters in 2019 and has since been working here. The technical team of the vigilance was estimating the total value of the properties owned by Samal, his family and relatives while going to the press.

No Baliyatra this year too

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Like last year, the historic Baliyatra in Cuttack city will not be organised this year too due to Covid-19 situation, an official said Tuesday. "In view of restrictions imposed due to Covid-19, we will not be able to conduct the annual Baliyatra this year. Even though the Covid-19 cases came down in the state, it has not been rooted out till now. So the festival cannot be organised," Cuttack collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani said. However, people can celebrate the Boita Bandana Utsav in compliance with Covid-19 guidelines of the State government, he informed. There is a possibility of outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic as a large number of people visit the seven-day long Baliyatra. So, the decision was taken, sources said. Baliyatra, the seven-day festival, is being observed for over 1,000 years in the city simultaneously with Boita Bandana Utsav on the full moon day in the holy month of Kartik. The festival reminds people of the rich maritime glory of Odisha. The traders of Odisha known as Sadhabas used to sail to Bali, Java, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Borneo etc on this day in the distant past. The festival was not organised last year due to an increase in Covid-19 cases in the state.

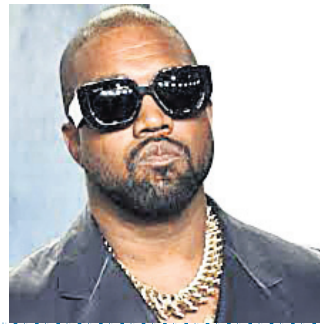


SpaceX returns 4 astronauts to Earth after 200 days

AGENCIES
■ The homecoming paves the way for SpaceX's launch of their four replacements as early as Wednesday night
Cape Canaveral, Nov 9: Four astronauts returned to Earth Monday riding home with SpaceX to end a 200-day space station mission that began last spring. Their capsule streaked through the late night sky like a dazzling meteor before parachuting into the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola, Florida. Recovery boats quickly moved in with spotlights. "On behalf of SpaceX, welcome home to Planet Earth," SpaceX Mission Control radioed from Southern California. Within an hour, all four astronauts were out of the capsule, exchanging fist bumps with the team on the recovery ship. Their homecoming - coming just eight hours after leaving the International Space Station - paved the way for SpaceX's launch of their four replacements as early as Wednesday night. The newcomers were scheduled to launch first, but NASA switched the order because of bad weather and an astronaut's undisclosed medical condition. The welcoming duties will now fall to the lone American and two Russians left behind at the space station. Before Monday afternoon's undocking, German astronaut Matthias Maurer, who's waiting to launch at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, tweeted it was a shame the two crews wouldn't overlap at the space station but "we trust you'll leave everything nice and tidy." His will be SpaceX's fourth crew flight for NASA in just 1 1/2 years. NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur, Japan's Akihiko Hoshide and France's Thomas Pesquet should have been back Monday morning, but high wind in the recovery zone delayed their return. "One more night with this magical view. Who could complain? I'll miss our spaceship!" Pesquet tweeted Sunday alongside a brief video showing the space station illuminated against the blackness of space and the twinkling city lights on the nighttime side of Earth. From the space station, NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei - midway through a one-year flight - bid farewell to each of his departing friends, telling McArthur "I'll miss hearing your laughter in adjacent modules." Before leaving the neighbourhood, the four took a spin around the space station, taking pictures. This was a first for SpaceX; NASA's shuttles used to do it all the time before their retirement a decade ago. The last Russian capsule fly-around was three years ago. It wasn't the most comfortable ride back. The toilet in their capsule was broken, and so the astronauts needed to rely on diapers for the eight-hour trip home. They shrugged it off late last week as just one more challenge in their mission.



leisure



KANYE PUBLICLY ASKS DRAKE TO END FEUD

Rapper Kanye West wants to make amends with rapper Drake. Having been feuding for years, the *Gold Digger* rapper publicly asked the *Certified Lover Boy* artiste to squash their beef and invited him to share a stage at a free Larry Hoover event, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

REGINA TO STAR IN DE NIRO'S MIDNIGHT RUN SEQUEL

A sequel to the 1988 action comedy *Midnight Run* starring Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin, is in the making by Universal Pictures. Regina Hall, the actor best known for *Girls Trip* and *Scary Movie*, is starring in the follow-up. De Niro is one of the producers of the sequel.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

Logic and reasoning will hold court, while creativity takes a backseat today. There are challenges at work, but you are a dynamo and will meet them upfront. All tensions will be relieved by the loving touch of your near and dear. Such is life, sums up Ganesh.

TAURUS

This is a great day for expressions your ideas and feelings. Ganesh urges you to open up and share hopes and concerns, dreams and aspirations with your others. Romance is in the air. You could be flying delightfully high on the wings of love, in the company of your sweetheart.

GEMINI

A fantastic day to enter into all kinds of partnerships. A day to bond with your close friends, open joint accounts, strike deals, and make plans for a bright future, says Ganesh. You will be at the top of your game in almost everything you do.

CANCER

Today, you may find yourself marooned in a sea of emotions, and the tides of turmoil will keep on getting stronger as the day progresses. However, such dire circumstances bring out the best in you, and you will be able to wade through the storm with nothing but patience on your side.

LEO

Some promises are like whispers in the wind — never meant to be realised. Today holds something similar, in that you shall be so close and yet so far from what you desire most. Ganesh advises you to be a generous winner and a graceful loser. Remember, every day is not Sunday; also, you cannot win each time. Lower your expectations in order to avoid disappointments.

VIRGO

The extraordinary way in which you do things will earn you many admirers. Superiors at work will laud you for your commitment. Evenings will be fun-filled and entertaining. Look to relax with some meditation or music... or both.

LIBRA

If ever there was a time when that industrious nature of yours was to listen to your conscience, it is today. Call it a positive day to embark upon new business adventures, particularly for freelancers. It is mighty hard to go wrong when you listen to your inner voice and back it up with zeal.

SCORPIO

Better get down to serious business if you want to reap the benefits of your past actions. You are liable to treat subordinates as equals when deciding the best course of actions to achieve your goals. A golden favourable day for you, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

The horizons of your thoughts are open and serene. Forgive and forget will be your mood today — even for the most serious mistakes. Generosity was never your Achilles' heel, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

Drag yourself out of the house, do some shopping, or better still, appoint an interior designer. You are very likely to move into a new house very soon, foresees Ganesh. This, of course, may also eat into your savings and force you to be thrifty by the end of the day, but you won't regret this once-in-a-while extravagant outing. It's all for a reason, after all.

AQUARIUS

It is your lucky day today! Whatever you wish for, it will fall into your lap, be it name, fame, money or love. During the second half of the day, you will keep yourself occupied with your hobbies like reading, writing, playing active role in discussion groups or research, says Ganesh.

PISCES

Being a graceful loser is just about as important as being a generous winner, for success does not come by every day. Lowering your expectations will help steel you against disappointments today. There are indications you will embark on a pleasure trip with your soul mate, says Ganesh.

Tamannaah can't wait to share screen with Chiranjeevi

Chennai: The unit of film *Bhola Shankar*, which features megastar Chiranjeevi in the lead, Tuesday officially announced that actress Tamannaah Bhatia had come on board the project.

Tamannaah, for her part, replied to the tweet with a tweet of her own.

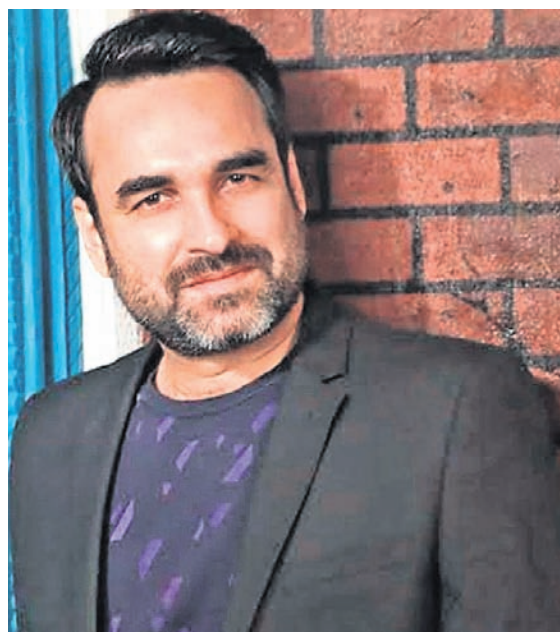
She said, "Honoured and ecstatic to be a part of the MEGA MASSIVE MOVIE #BholaShankar. Can't wait to share the screen with @KChiruTweets sir once again!"

The film, which is being directed by Meher Ramesh, is being produced by Anil Sunkara.

Director Meher Ramesh has announced that the opening pooja of the film will take place November 11 at 7.45 am and shooting would begin from November 15.

Rumours doing the rounds in the industry suggest that *Bhola Shankar* will be a Telugu remake of the Tamil film *Vedalam*, which featured Ajith, Lakshmi Menon and Shruthi Haasan in the lead.

While Keerthy Suresh has been roped in to play the role of the sister character in the Telugu version, Tamannaah has now been roped in to play Shruthi Haasan's character.



Pankaj praises Rani, Saif

Mumbai: Pankaj Tripathi is once again gearing up to enthrall the audience with his character of a wicked cop in the crime comedy *Bunty Aur Babli 2*.

The actor recently shared his experience of working with Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukerjee.

Pankaj says, "It was an amazing experience to shoot with Rani and Saif. I have been an admirer of their work. Rani would wait longer on the set. She has a completely different sense of humour. In fact, one of the scenes required

Bunty Aur Babli 2

me to dominate the two of them to which Saif told me Pankaj ji you are extremely polite, you will need to be slightly rude towards us! Saif's sense of humour, jokes and timing is unique and amazing."

He adds, "I used to have a lot of fun in the scenes with them, most of our scenes are together. It was a fun and happy environment on the sets and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I will always remember the experience."

PETA India names Vegan Fashion Award winners

Thirty-three designers pledged to go leather-free following a letter from Lakme Fashion Week, the Fashion Design Council of India and PETA India

Designers and retailers across India are meeting the skyrocketing demand for cruelty-free clothing and accessories, and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India recognised the best of the best with its Vegan Fashion Awards 2021 in celebration of World Vegan Month (November). Thirty-three designers pledged to go leather-free following a letter from Lakmi Fashion Week, the Fashion Design Council of India, and PETA India.

Actor and supermodel Milind Soman was awarded the **Best Vegan Fashion Style Icon** of the year. He encourages his fans to keep animal skins out of their wardrobes. "No leather, no silk, no wool," Soman wrote on Instagram.

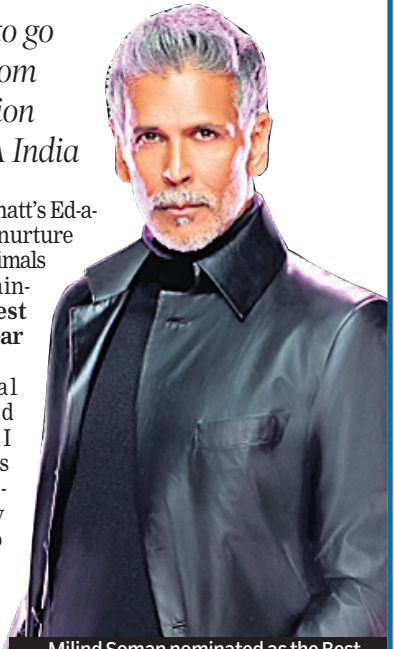
The awards include: Luxury footwear brand Empyrean Luxury made the kind decision to stop using animal skins and switch to all-vegan material and received the **Compassionate Business Award**.

Actor Alia Bhatt's Eda-Mamma helps nurture kids' love for animals and nature, gaining her the **Best Vegan Kidswear Brand**.

From Kunal Avanti and Sunny Leone, I Am Animal's stylish sportswear is proudly vegan and so they win **Best Vegan Activewear**.

Thaely's sneakers are kind to the planet and animals, made from recycled plastic bottles and plastic bags, get the **Best Vegan Sneakers**. Monkstory offers both classic footwear and cutting-edge style, all in luxurious vegan leather for the **Best Vegan Men's Shoes**.

Best Vegan Silk went to GBM Fabrics which uses TENCEL Luxe, a new fibre derived from renewable wood sources. Bioleather's tomato leather is unique, biodegradable, sustain-



Milind Soman nominated as the Best Vegan Fashion Style Icon of the year

Kubbra talks about her Foundation character

Mumbai: Actress Kubbra Sait recently made her international debut with Apple TV+ series *Foundation* where she plays the character of 'Phara Keen', an intense and fierce huntress.

The audiences were flabbergasted at her new avatar as they applauded her acting prowess, her character's get up, the action sequences and her chemistry with co-star Leah Harvey.

Overwhelmed with the response to the show, Kubbra wrote, "The many shades of Phara Keen - The

Grand Huntress. Her story for me is the classic example of, nothing is right or wrong. It's all about fulfilling your purpose. Hers is making those who hurt her and her generations pay for their sins."

"Two wrongs don't make a right, either. So I as the actor had to work so hard to not judge Phara. Phara is a fighter. A warrior. A trained huntress... she will do you in, because she wants to. If you haven't watched Phara, I suggest you should."

Foundation created by David S Goyer and Josh Friedman is based on the *Foundation* series by Isaac Asimov.

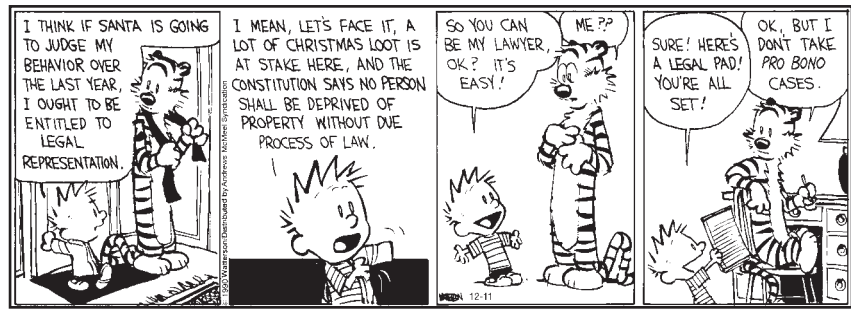


Kubbra's Foundation look

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

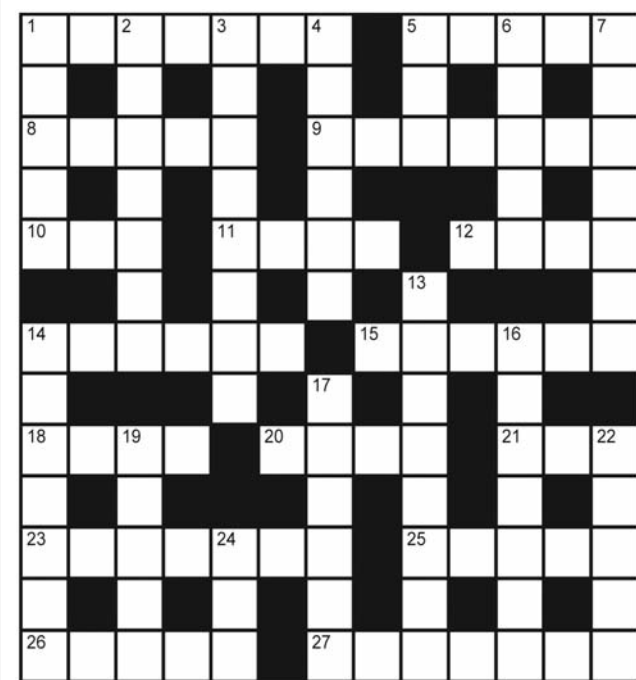


BREVITY



FUN post

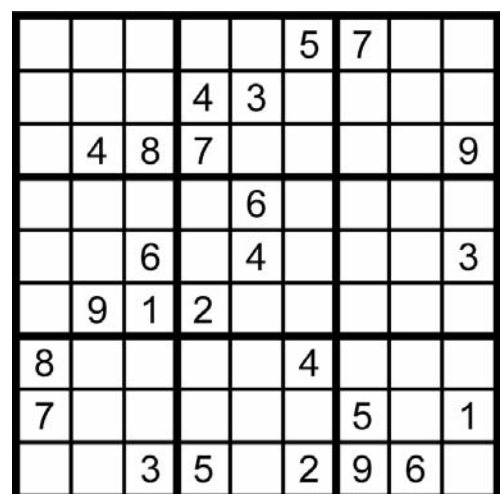
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 ___ of Panama
 - 5 Picture holder
 - 8 Sachet scent
 - 9 Tout
 - 10 Like some smiles
 - 11 Gossip tidbit
 - 12 Crow
 - 14 World-wide
 - 15 Loathes
 - 18 Apothecary's weight
 - 20 Motel employee
 - 21 It comes with a charge
 - 23 TV show unit
 - 25 Obliterate
 - 26 Fry quickly
 - 27 On a horse
 - 5 Coxcomb
 - 6 Fragrant oil
 - 7 Tees off
 - 13 Following orders
 - 14 Diana or Hera, e.g.
 - 16 Japanese art of folding paper
 - 17 Recording device
 - 19 Gallic goodbye
 - 22 Family girl
 - 24 Pindar work
- Down**
- 1 Certain relative (2-3)
 - 2 Fox hunting cry (5-2)
 - 3 Short plaid coat
 - 4 Gun dog

SUDOKU

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

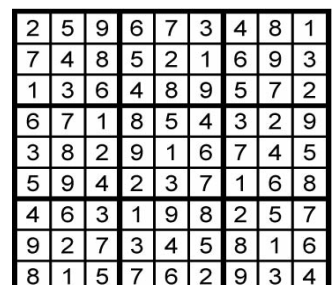


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



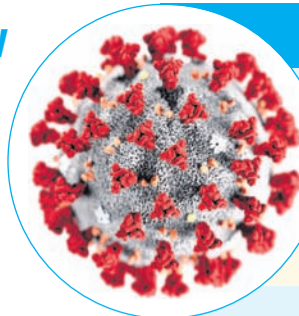
SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

ART EXPO AT RAVENSHAW

Ravenshaw University VC Sanjay Kumar Nayak and other dignitaries at an art exhibition on the varsity premises in Cuttack, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	25,12,54,022	22,74,70,802	50,75,040
India	3,43,77,113	3,37,75,086	4,61,389
Odisha	10,44,041	10,33,027	8,364

2 of KBN gang surrender before court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Two members of the KBN (Koi Bhai Nahi) or Town Tiger gang, seen in some recent viral videos brandishing weapons and firearms in the city, Tuesday surrendered before the SDJM court here. The court later sent the duo to judicial custody after rejecting their bail pleas.

The Commissionerate Police had earlier arrested seven members of the KBN gang in different cases registered at Khandagiri and Nayapalli police stations.

The surrendered were identified as Rajesh Behera alias Chenga and Sanatana Behera. The city police Monday bulldozed the residence of Chenga during a house search on the suspicion of storing firearms at Pokhariput here. Sources revealed that police will seek the court's permission to bring the duo on remand for interrogation. Chenga allegedly procured the weapons and later gave the same to the other gang members. He also allegedly uploaded the viral videos on social media.

The gang members are seen roaming around the city brandishing sharp weapons and firearms late in the night.



Accused Rajesh and Sanatan

Meanwhile, the police Tuesday damaged the house of another member of the group, Sanjay Khuntia, in Nayapalli area during the house search.

A sharp weapon was recovered from his house.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Umashankar Dash Monday informed the media that a case has been registered at Nayapalli police station against 29 persons of the gang in connection with the viral video.

Police had launched a manhunt to nab the other members of the gang.

Dash also said anyone who received any kind of threat or faced any criminal actions by these gangs should inform the police.

He assured that the names of the informants would be kept secret.

State to host first National Yogasana Championship

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: After successfully hosting several hockey and other sporting events, Odisha is now going to host the first Physical National Yogasana Championship, officials said Monday.

Organised by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF), in association with the Odisha government, the championship will be held in Bhubaneswar from November 11 to 13.

Over 500 bright and young Yoga athletes from 30 states will participate in the event.

Odisha Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera said, "Inspired by the great success of nurturing Indian Hockey and other indigenous sports, we now see huge potential in promoting and nurturing Yogasana as a sport. We are confident that India's first Physical National Yogasana Championship will be a step forward in producing the next generation of world-class Yogasana athletes."

NYSF President Udit Sheth said, "With this first championship, we are all poised to create great coaches, curriculum and electronic scoring system to benefit the sport in India and globally. At this first championship, we are expecting to create a ranking system and a proper competition calendar for our athletes."

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Bird flu scare grips Khurda village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Begunia, Nov 9: The fear of possible bird flu outbreak gripped Routapada panchayat of Begunia block in Khurda district as the carcasses of at least 15 crows were found from the locality, Tuesday.

The incident prompted veterinary officials to rush to Routapada and take stock of the situation. However, the exact reason behind the crow deaths is yet to be ascertained.

The carcass of a crow was first spotted at Kotalanga village of Routapada around 9am. Subsequently, more carcasses were found in the village.

On being informed, a team led by Begunia block additional veterinary officer Biswa Ranjan Rout reached the village collected blood samples from the dead crows.

"The carcasses and the blood samples have been sent to the



The dead crows spotted in Routapada area

OP PHOTO

Animal Disease Research Institute at Phulnakhara. If something suspicious is found during laboratory tests, the samples will be sent to a Bhopal-based institute for further examination," Rout said.

Chief district veterinary officer Ashish Kumar Satpathy, mean-

while, directed his department officials to monitor the situation and make necessary arrangements to meet any eventuality.

"The laboratory report can reveal the exact cause behind the deaths of crows. We are closely monitoring the situation," Rout added.

6 Odias conferred with Padma awards for 2021



President Ram Nath Kovind confers Padma Vibhushan on Sudarshan Sahoo

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 9: President Ram Nath Kovind Tuesday conferred Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award, on renowned sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo and Padma Shri on five others from

Odisha for the year 2021 at the civil investiture ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan here.

Sahoo was conferred with Padma Vibhushan for his contribution in the field of art. Shanti Devi, Purnamasi Jani, Rajat Kumar Kar, Krishna Mohan Pathi and Nanda Prusty were felicitated with Padma Shri.

While Shanti Devi received Padma Shri for her distinguished service in the field of social work, Jani got the fourth highest civilian award for her service in the field of art. Veteran educationists Kar and Prusty were awarded Padma Shri for their work in literature and education. Pathi received the award for his contribution to the field of medicine.

The President conferred Padma Awards on 120 distinguished personalities for the year 2021.



Youth Congress activists stage a demonstration against the rising prices of fuel and essential commodities in New Delhi, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Fibre-rich diet cuts risk of crohn's disease, colitis: Study

The study unravels how fibre-rich Indian foods, unlike Western diet, effectively counter the risk of crohn's disease, colon cancer and colitis

Indians eat more fibre-rich plant based diet than people in the Western countries, reducing their risk of gut-related problems such as inflammatory bowel diseases like crohn's disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), colitis, and colon cancer, according to a research Tuesday.

The international study, including researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) - Bhopal, sought to understand the relationship between gut bacteria and inflammatory diseases.

"Increased intake of carbohydrate in the form of fibre such as wheat, vegetables, fruits and lentils, mostly found in Indian diet lowers the incidence of IBD, crohn's disease, colitis, colorectal cancer, etc., than western diets that are generally meat-based," lead author

Vineet K Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, IISER Bhopal, told IANS.

The human gut contains 300-500 types of bacteria that are necessary for our survival. These bacteria help in digestion, protect us from infections and even produce essential vitamins and neurochemicals.

Depending on the kind of bacteria that dominates the gut, human beings are generally classified into three "enterotypes" - Prevotella, Bacteroides or Ruminococcus.

The study included 586 healthy samples from western and non-western populations including 200 samples from India, and 189 IBS samples from western populations.

The 200 gut samples from India were taken from people from several locations in - Madhya Pradesh, Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, Bihar, and Kerala. It is also the largest gut metagenome study from India, as most such studies are largely based on the Western population.

The findings, published in the Nature's Biofilms and Microbiomes journal, showed that the Indian gut microbiome has the highest abundance of the Prevotella genus



The findings showed that the Indian gut microbiome has the highest abundance of the Prevotella genus of bacteria, in particular, a species called Prevotella copri (P.copri)

On the other hand, the guts of Western population were found to have other Prevotella species such as P. intermedia and P. nigrescens

These bacterial species are inflammatory and have high virulence and antibiotic resistance genes, making the Western population more susceptible to gut inflammatory diseases

of bacteria, in particular, a species called Prevotella copri (Pcopri).

This bacterium was also found to dominate the guts of other populations that consume a carbohydrate and fibre-rich diet, such as the Italian, Madagascarian, Peruvian,

and Tanzanian. But, the gut microbiomes of people from Western countries like the US are dominated by Bacteroides.

Further, they found that P.copri is significant in the metabolism of complex polysaccharides and

dietary fibres in non-western populations.

It is thus logical that this type of bacteria predominates the gut microbiome of the healthy Indian and non-western population that consumes a diet rich in plant-carbohydrates and fibres, Sharma explained.

"The proportion of Pcopri in Indians is 30 per cent and can reach upto 60-70 per cent. Of the more than 1200 species of Prevotella, Pcopri is the most abundant in Indian human gut," Sharma told IANS.

On the other hand, the guts of Western population were found to have other Prevotella species such as P. intermedia and P. nigrescens. These bacteria are usually found in the mouth, which points to a mouth-gut axis. These bacterial species are inflammatory and have high virulence and antibiotic resistance genes, making the Western population more susceptible to gut inflammatory diseases.

"Our insights would help in the development of new probiotics and prebiotics for different health-related conditions associated with the gut which is much needed for non-western populations," Sharma said. IANS

Vinayaka Classes felicitates NEET qualifiers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Sri Vinayaka Classes at IRC Village Nayapalli organised a felicitation ceremony on its campus, Tuesday, to honour its successful students in NEET-2021.

All the students, staffers, the achievers with their parents were present to mark the occasion.

Nimain Biswaranjan (675), Shakti Prasad (655), Snehalata (630), Aurosikha (601) and Harihar (588) were felicitated at the event. Govind and Losoram also secured good score in NEET-2021 bringing laurel to the institution.

Among others, Pratap Jena, the chief coordinator, other teachers were present to share the moment. Sanjay Raj, the Director of Sri Vinayaka Classes, gave all the credit of success to both teaching and non-teaching staffers, students and their parents.

Rasananda Raj, the Administrative Officer of the institution, gave vote of thanks at the end.

Cuttack DM flags off mobile health van

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 9: Kanya Express, an innovative mobile health van, was launched by the Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) Tuesday with the aim of addressing Anaemia amongst adolescent girls.

Cuttack Collector & District Magistrate of Cuttack Bhabani Shanker Chayani inaugurated the health van.

Chayani said, the Kanya Express will regularly check Haemoglobin levels of young girls, facilitate distribution of Folic Acid supplements and impart awareness on anaemia related illnesses, nutrition and wellness.

"The mobile van will reach remote locations and create awareness among adolescent girls on education, health, and importance of balanced diet and personal hygiene. This will motivate girls to plan their life ahead and help towards the betterment of our society," he said.

Bhub-Nayagarh MEMU train from Nov 15



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Tuesday decided to run Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains between Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh Town from November 15 by replacing the conventional coaches.

As per ECoR sources, 08423/08424 Bhubaneswar-Nayagarh Town-Bhubaneswar Special with MEMU coaches will run from Bhubaneswar w.e.f November 15 and from Nayagarh Town w.e.f November 16. This train will have six MEMU coaches and two motor car MEMU coaches in its composition. However, the schedule and stoppages for this train will remain unchanged.

Earlier, the ECoR had decided to run special train between Kharagpur and Jajpur-Keonjhar Road from November 12.

08037 Kharagpur-Jajpur-Keonjhar Road Special will leave Kharagpur at 16:15hrs and reach Jajpur-Keonjhar Road at 21:40hrs. In return direction, 08038 Jajpur-Keonjhar Road-Kharagpur Special will leave Jajpur-Keonjhar Road at 06:10hrs and reach Kharagpur at 11:00hrs.

PLEA TO RENAME PURI



Members of various social outfits, Tuesday, submit memoranda to Puri Collector Samarth Verma in support of their plea for renaming the Holy City as Sriyagnath Puri

IAS probationers told to visit rural pockets

The probationers were advised to observe the rural connectivity, rural housing, eco-tourism management, creation of irrigation potential, agricultural development and health services, and the most recent mammoth task of pandemic management

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Advising the IAS probationers to visit rural parts of the state, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said it will add to their expertise for developmental management in future.

Interacting with the five IAS probationers of 2020 batch here Tuesday, Mahapatra said, "There has been a massive change in Odisha over the last 20 years in various spheres of development."

They were advised to observe the rural connectivity, rural housing, eco-tourism management, creation of irrigation potential, agricultural development and health services, and the most recent mammoth task of pandemic management.

Development of roads and bridges along with extensive rural connectivity has brought all parts of Odisha to the mainstream of development, Mahapatra added.

He also told the IAS probationers to see the institutional and response arrangements put in place



The Chief Secretary advised the IAS probationers to see the institutional and response arrangements put in place from villages to state Capital for disaster management

from villages to state Capital for disaster management.

"Management of the unprecedented Covid-19 has yielded amazing results. Realistic assessment of the situation, advance preparations, team building from bottom to the top, standardised operating procedures, adoption of technology, quick response system and above all, people's participation at different levels in Odisha have been the keys to success," he pointed out.

took place and how it could be possible in just some years. Kalahandi, once known as the place of poverty and hunger; became a leading producer of food grains and vegetables," he said.

Jena also advised them to see how changes took place from Super Cyclone 1999 to Fani in 2019 and Gulab in 2021. "The rural connectivity in Odisha today is much better than many other states. Covid management till now has been unique and has given confidence to people. Wherever we have gone, we have heard people appreciating the government's actions in providing quarantine, testing and treatment facilities. It has been a great learning experience for us," said an IAS probationer.

Among them, Bubhuti Bhusan Nayak has been posted in Dhenkanal district, Chavan Kunal Motiram in Balasore, Kulkarni Asutosh C in Sambalpur, Ms Madhumita in Ganjam and Vedbhushan in Koraput for field probation.

Stating that Odisha's experience in disaster and pandemic management has set international standard, the Chief Secretary said, "It would enable you to prepare the administration for countering any public health crisis in future."

Joining the discussion, Development Commissioner PK Jena advised the probationers to stay at least 2 to 3 days in the western districts like Kalahandi, Nuapada and Koraput.

"You could see what changes

State logs 296 new Covid cases, 3 deaths



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Odisha Tuesday reported 296 new Covid-19 cases, 20 more than the previous day, pushing the tally to 10,44,041, the Health department said.

Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported 152 cases followed by Cuttack (23) and Gajapati (10). Nine out of 30 districts of the state did not report any new case in the last 24 hours, a bulletin issued by the department said.

The Covid-19 death toll mounted to 8,364 with three more fatalities – two in Khurda and one in Angul district. Fifty-three more people have died due to comorbidities so far, the Health department bulletin said.

The number of active Covid-19 cases dropped to 3,058 Tuesday from 3,134 the previous day. Khurda

Over 2.64 crore first doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have been administered and 1.27 crore people have been fully inoculated

district has 1,497 active cases and Cuttack has 278, the bulletin stated.

The state had reported 276 coronavirus infections Monday and 318 Sunday. A total of 10,32,566 have recovered from Covid-19 so far, it said.

Over 2.64 crore first doses of the coronavirus vaccine had been administered in the state and 1.27 crore people have been fully inoculated.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

Inauguration of Indulge Bridal Mall, Anuj Times Square, Rupali Square, 6pm

Mourning for social activist Akuli Chandrasekhar, Buddha Mandir, Unit-IX, 6pm

CUTTACK

CM Naveen Patnaik to inaugurate Omfed dairy plant, Arilo, 10:30am

Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to opwassup@gmail.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.



JOB CRY

Junior teacher aspirants stage a dharna at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, to press for their four-point charter of demands

OP PHOTO

CUTTACK MAN ARRESTED WITH 150 LITRE HOOCH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 9: The Excise flying squad here Tuesday arrested a 45-year-old man and recovered around 150 litre of hooch from his possession at Bamphakuda under Cuttack Sadar police limits.

According to Excise department official Debasis Patel, acting on a tip-off, a team of the flying squad raided the residence of Ajit Singh at Bamphakuda under Cuttack Sadar police limits here around 7am.

"We recovered around 150 litre of hooch packed in five plastic barrels. Selling it in open market would fetch around ₹30,000. Singh was arrested under relevant provisions of the law," Patel added.

Officials including IIE Umakant Swain, SI Sachin Behera, ASI Sakirullah, Natabar Mallick, Motilal Mohanta, and constable Dillip Kumar Nanda, Karan Oram, Pradyumna Patra, Gouranga Nayak and Debasis Behera were present during the raid.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

Affidavit before Notary, Aska, I Ashok Kumar Jena, aged - 56, S/o. Satyabadi Jena, Vill: Bangarada, P.O.- Bangarada, P.S.- Ganjapur, Ganjam changed my previous address to Vill: Kendupadar, P.O.- Kendupadar, P.S.- Ganjapur, Ganjam as my permanent residence and used in all official and non-official records. That the fact stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Cyber risk pinned down 77% Indian firms in festive season

During peak festive seasons in the last 18 months, 77 per cent of organisations in India experienced downtime due to cybersecurity risks, while 81 per cent of global organisations experienced increased cyber threats during Covid-19, a new report revealed Tuesday.

According to McAfee Enterprise and FireEye's report titled 'Cybercrime in a Pandemic World: The Impact of Covid-19', the top three most threatening cyber risks that were detected are malware attacks (47 per cent), data breaches (43 per cent), ransomware and cloud jacking (33 per cent each). Over 30 per cent of the IT professionals also experienced vulnerabilities in their

As the holiday and festive season in India has already commenced, 91 per cent of the IT professionals anticipate a moderate or even substantial impact by increased demand for their products and services

Most organisations have invested in cloud security (82 per cent), advanced threat protection (66 per cent), the security operations center (54 per cent), mobile security (48 per cent) and endpoint security (48 per cent)

Further, to take additional security precautions, 69 per cent of the organisations are implementing new software solutions, 68 per cent are strengthening internal IT related communications, 62 per cent are increasing their software updates and 61 per cent of them are shooting up their employee training

'Internet of Things' devices.

"Cyber-attacks tend to skyrocket in India during the holiday season as we spend more time online and often let our guard down.

Taking advantage of this, bad actors adopt newer techniques and sophisticated means to target businesses when they're most vulnerable," said Venkat

Krishnapur, Vice President and Managing Director of McAfee Enterprise India.

According to IT professionals in India, holidays have been the

most challenging periods for cybercrimes. While 52 per cent of them indicate festive holidays such as Diwali, Ramadan, Christmas as the peak period, 32 per cent point at bank holidays, and 12 per cent of them at summer vacations in schools and colleges.

During these periods, 91 per cent of them find maintaining a fully staffed security team/SOC even more challenging. It is because with the adoption of a hybrid work model, 59 per cent of them expect half or more of their organisations' workforce to be remote in some capacity.

As the holiday and festive season in India has already commenced, 91 per cent of the IT profession-

als anticipate a moderate or even substantial impact by increased demand for their products and services. Most organisations have invested in cloud security (82 per cent), advanced threat protection (66 per cent), the security operations center (54 per cent), mobile security (48 per cent) and endpoint security (48 per cent).

Further, to take additional security precautions, 69 per cent of the organisations are implementing new software solutions, 68 per cent are strengthening internal IT related communications, 62 per cent are increasing their software updates and 61 per cent of them are shooting up their employee training.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9778056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemana-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

SHORT TAKES

Brown sugar worth ₹1cr seized, 2 held



Balasure: Over 1 kg brown sugar, worth more than ₹1 crore, was seized in Balasure district, police said Tuesday. Acting on an intelligence input, a STF team conducted a raid near Naya Bazar vegetable market Monday and seized brown sugar weighing 1.52 kg from two drug peddlers. The arrested were identified as Ashok Kumar Behera and Bijay Kumar Yadav. While Bapi is a localite, Yadav belongs to Patna, the STF said. The accused persons were produced before the court of District and Sessions Judge. The STF has registered a case under Sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Since 2020, the STF has seized more than 43 kg of brown sugar/heroin and 86.81 quintals of ganja/marijuana and arrested more than 100 drug peddlers.

Siblings drown in Sambalpur

Sambalpur: Two siblings drowned after falling into a well at Sahu Colony in Sambalpur late Monday night. According to reports, the deceased were identified as Sunil Tripathy (37) and Sushil Tripathy (40). Police have seized the bodies and sent them for post-mortem. Family members said that the two brothers sitting on the edge of the well, but they lost their balance and fell into the well. On being informed, Fire Services personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the two. They were taken to the district headquarters hospital where doctors declared them 'brought dead' Tuesday.

4 BEOs served showcase notices

Baripada: Regular review meetings are being conducted as the state government has been hastening the work of School Transformation programme under 5T Initiative in Mayurbhanj. However, some officials of the education department allegedly played truant during a recent meeting. Taking serious note of the issue, district education officer Nabakishore Giri has served show cause notices (letter No. 11623, November 6, 2021) to four block education officers (BEOs) for remaining absent at the meeting. "If they fail to give satisfactory replies within two days, disciplinary action will be taken against them," said district Collector Vineet Bhardwaj. According to reports, the School Transformation programme in 60 high schools in the district is at its last leg.

HC clears decks for Kendrapara municipal polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 9: Ending the uncertainty over the elections to 150-year-old Kendrapara Municipality, Orissa High Court has cleared all legal hurdles against conducting the urban local body elections here. According to reports, former Councillor Muktar Khan had filed a case in the High Court in 2016 challenging the government's proposal for 64 per cent reservation policy. However, as the state Cabinet has now approved the continuance of the 50 per cent reservation policy, Khan reportedly requested the High Court to withdraw the case. As a result, the HC has approved the withdrawal of the case and cleared decks for the municipal polls in the town.

The latest development has paved the way for holding elections to all urban local bodies across the state simultaneously. At the same time, it has prompted the political parties to gear up for the local urban body polls.

"The dark clouds over holding the municipal election have been removed following the withdrawal of the case related to reservation policy," said Dilip Das, Kendrapara BJP president.

Meanwhile, the BJD is also encouraged about the conduct of the election on time. "Some political

Former Councillor Muktar Khan had filed a case in the High Court in 2016 challenging the government's proposal for 64 per cent reservation policy

As the state Cabinet has now approved the continuance of the 50 per cent reservation policy, Khan requested the HC to withdraw the case

The latest development has paved the way for holding elections to all urban local bodies across the state simultaneously

leaders were dissatisfied about the reservation and delimitation terms in Kendrapara. Now that the legal hurdle has been removed, we are confident about our party's good show in the upcoming municipal election," said Rajesh Das, president of Kendrapara Youth BJD.

Meanwhile, political parties of all hues have started preparations for the upcoming panchayat polls in the state early next year. Soon after the state government finalised the reservation of seats for women, general and ST/SC candidates, the two main political parties have begun a search for suitable candidates. This time, many political parties are banking on women candidates.



Bargarh to have millet procurement centres

MILLET FARMING IS EXPECTED TO SEE A MASSIVE GROWTH IN COMING DAYS, THANKS TO MILLETS MISSION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 9: Here is good news for millet farmers in Bargarh. They will no more face problems in selling their produce as the government has decided to open millet procurement centres across the district.

The district administration has decided at meeting that millets will be purchased from farmers in the same manner as paddy is procured in the district. The millet procurement centres are expected to give further boost to farming in this tribal-dominated district.

The decision was taken in view of the fact that millet farming is witnessing growing acceptance among tribal farmers in the district, thanks to the Millets Mission.

The meeting was presided over by ADM Mirzha Toppo. Speaking on millet cultivation, district agricul-



ture officer Santosh Kumar Maharana said that in the current year, millet has been raised in 2,504 hectares.

A target has been set to procure 443 quintals of millet from 4,422 farmers. It was decided that millet will be procured for ₹3,377 per quintal by the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation of Odisha Limited (TDCCOL).

So far, five farms have been regis-

tered by the Millets Mission and these will take part in millet procurement, while the local regulatory marketing committees will examine the quality of millets.

According to reports, millet farming is expanding in blocks like Bijepur, Gaisilet, Padmapur and Paikamal.

The district agriculture officer said that three millet procurement centres will be opened in each block so

as to make it easy for the farmers to sell their produce in their respective localities.

However, the administration has put a ceiling on millet procurement. A farmer will be allowed to sell only two quintals of millet. The procurement farms will credit the payment of millet into the accounts of the farmers linked to TDCCOL within three days of the procurement.

The ADM has directed the officials concerned to ensure that millet farmers do not face any problem during procurements.

The state government launched the Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) in 2017, targeting its promotion in seven districts with the highest tribal population in its initial phase. The programme was subsequently expanded in 76 blocks of 14 districts. Farmers are trained on following improved practices in millet cultivation.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. 36-KUR-TRD-OT-2021-22, Date: 01.11.2021
NAME OF THE WORK: PROVISION OF VARIOUS TYPES OF BONDS IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION TO ENSURE RETURN PATH FOR TRACTION CURRENT AND TO AVOID FAILURES OF TRACK CIRCUIT DUE TO NON AVAILABILITY OF TRACTION BONDS.
Approximate Value (₹): 89,63,267.80
Tender Closing Date and Time: Upto 1300 Hrs. of 25.11.2021
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Khurda Road, PR-522/M/21-22

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER KEONJHAR WILDLIFE DIVISION, ANANDAPUR

e-Procurement Notice for Building Works Identification No. Bid Identification No. DFO-KJR WL-01 of 2021-22
E-mail address: dfovl_andpur@rediffmail.com
No. MM-236
No. 3580/Dt.08.11.2021
1. Name of the work : State CAMPA Annual Plan of Operation 2021-22
2. Total No. of works : 04 (Four) Nos. (Percentage rate Tender)
3. Estimated cost : Approx. Estimate Cost 8.59 Lakhs to 11.52 Lakhs.
4. Class of Contractor : 'C' Class & 'D' Class
5. Other Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender: Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur	Date & Place of receipt of bid cost & bid security
Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur	Online DFO-KJR WL-01 of 2021-22	17.11.2021 at 10.00 A.M.	23.11.2021 up to 5.30 P.M.	22.11.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.	24.11.2021 at 11.30 A.M.	Tenderer have to produce Bid security declaration form in lieu of Bid security as per Govt. of Odisha Letter No. 13430 dated 30.04.2021

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in & www.tenders.ori.nic.in
OIPR-08042/11/0001/2122
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur

Forest dept focuses on beach patrolling



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 9: With mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles all set to take place soon, the Forest department in Ganjam district with assistance of stakeholders has stepped up a host of measures to protect the endangered species during the nesting.

Ahead of the nesting, the department has laid focus on beach cleaning, awareness on turtle safety among local communities and beach patrolling on Rusikulya river mouth and other places.

DFO Amlan Nayak said that the district administration and the Forest department have initiated joint meas-

ures for protection of turtles and smooth nesting of the endangered marine species. Three control rooms in the five-km stretch of the coast where mass nesting takes place, have been opened, including one near the river mouth

Berhampur DFO Amlan Nayak said patrolling off Ganjam coast has begun after the seven-month fishing ban to protect the Olive Ridley turtles came into effect November 1.

The DFO said, four vessels including three speed boats and a trawler are patrolling the sea since last week to crack down on fishing trawlers and mechanised boats in no-fishing zones.

30 fishermen held for sneaking into turtle habitation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Nov 9: Thirty fishermen have been arrested for allegedly carrying out illegal fishing activity in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Kendrapara district, which is the world's largest nesting beach for Olive Ridley turtles, officials said Tuesday.

Five fishing vessels used in the prohibited sanctuary area, where fishing is prohibited, were also seized by the Forest patrol team

Forest staff have been deployed in 11 camps to ensure safety of the sea turtles.

To facilitate mass nesting, forest officials have decided to make a fence around the stretch from Gokharakuda to Podampeta.

Besides, cleaning of the beach and awareness drive among fishing folk in villages close to the river mouths are being undertaken.

Monday, officials said.

The fishing vessel had trespassed into the prohibited sanctuary corridors contravening the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA) and the mandatory rules of marine sanctuary, forest department officials said.

This comes on the heels of the arrest of 41 fishermen over the past one week for violating the provisions of OMFRA and six fishing vessels used by them were confiscated.

"Last year, the nesting was sporadic but this year we are hoping mass nesting and are taking all needful measures," the DFO added.

Marking the beginning of the mass nesting season of the turtles, the state government has prohibited fishing activities within 20 km of the coast at river mouths from November 1 to May 31.

SELF-DEFENCE TRAINING



A self-defence training camp for girl students in progress at Chhend Public School in Rourkela, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

DE-STRESSING PERSONNEL

CRPF to start 'Chaupal' like get-together

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 9: After the recent incidents of fratricide and suicide, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has decided to start 'Chaupal' like get-together for its personnel to vent off their mental agony.

According to sources, on the lines of 'Chaupal', a popular meeting activity in the rural areas, get-together will be organised in all battalions. Senior officials will interact with the troopers to know their difficulties and other issues which can lead to mental stress.

The fratricide incident occurred Monday morning in Chhattisgarh. The Force also said in a statement that apparently due to some stress leading to sudden psychological disturbance, Constable Reetesh Ranjan lost his control and in a fit of rage opened fire on his colleagues. He was apprehended with his AK 47 rifle. CRPF Director



General Kuldeep Singh has also ordered an inquiry into the incident and asked to submit a report with remedial measures.

There have been over 100 cases of suicides in the largest para-military force from 2020 till September this year.

Sanction of leave to the jawans, family issues and sometimes tough postings are the major reasons for the mental stress among the forces personnel, sources in the CRPF admitted.

To resolve these issues, the Ministry of Home Affairs has asked

all Central Armed Police Forces to ensure that every personnel positively gets 100 days leave in a year but it is yet to be realised in practice, sources added.

The Union Home Ministry also asked the CAPFs to develop a software based transfer-posting system so that the troopers get a peace

posting after a tenure of three years of 'hard' posting but it is also to be implemented in many forces, an official said.

This was not the first time that the CRPF has initiated such a programme to communicate with jawans to know the difficulties leading to mental stress, many other ways have already launched in the past too to de-stress them.

In January this year, the experts from Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow undertook a study to find solutions to the occupational 'stress and strain' being faced by the CRPF personnel that leads to extreme instances like suicides and breakdown of family support system.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, NAYAGARH (R&B) DIVISION, NAYAGARH WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender Call Notice
E-mail: pwdofngd34@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.
S.E.Nayagarh (R&B) Division-Online 03/2021-22
No. B-561:- The Superintending Engineer, Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building works as detailed in the table below:
1. Nature of Work : Building Works
2. No. of Work : 8 Nos.
3. Tender Cost : To be remitted online through a process as mentioned in DTCN.
4. Class of Contractor : As mentioned in DTCN
5. Available of Bid document : From Dt. 16.11.2021, 10.00 AM to Dt.23.11.2021 upto 05.00 PM in the Website
6. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.24.11.2021 at 11.00 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE 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 said website.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh
OIPR-34138/11/0005/2122

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା, ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KHORDHA
H & UD Department, Govt. of Odisha, Khordha - 752055
e-Mail: khurda_municipality@yahoo.co.in, Phone No.: 06755-220674
"e" Procurement Notice
No. 3410 Date: 08.11.2021
No. C-1238: Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in
1. Tender Reference No. : KMPLTY/05/2021-22
2. Name of the Work : Civil Construction works as mentioned in website.
3. No. of works : 10 Nos.
4. Estimated Cost : As per DTCN
5. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): As per DTCN
6. Period of Completion : As per DTCN
7. Date & Time of Bidding : 10.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
8. Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal : 20.11.2021 at 5.00 P.M.
9. Bids received online shall be opened on : 23.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
10. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : O/o. Executive Officer, Khordha Municipality
Further amendments, corrigendum or other communication regarding this letter will be available only on <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> and will not be published in print media.
Sd./- Executive Officer, Khordha Municipality
OIPR-13082/11/0006/2122

Our best friend is he who loves us in the best of ourselves and yet does not ask of us to be other than we are.

THE MOTHER



Pentagon Punctures

It is all very nice that Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered sweets and celebrated Diwali with soldiers November 5 at the Nowshera sector in the border district of Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir. His exhortations and platitudes that the Indian defence strategy has to be geared towards tapping technological advances "unlike in the past when wars were fought on horses and elephants" are good propaganda stuff. It may sound funny but no one alive today would remember of any modern war being fought on elephants. However, cavalry forces did exist for a long time as also soldiers riding camels can be currently observed in places like Rajasthan. What the PM said was more a diversionary tactic than a proper response to China's belligerence and steady and continuing incursions into Indian territories across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. In fact, the government is adopting an ostrich-like policy when it comes to taking on China which is in sharp contrast to the chest-thumping and jingoistic war-mongering towards Pakistan. It is so easy to whip up mob-hysteria against Pakistan as India's military advantages over Pakistan are too evident, while the potential for electoral gains from communal polarisation is immense. Although, it must be noted, Pakistan's military as well as political positioning has changed after the Taliban has come to power in Afghanistan. All this is notwithstanding UP CM Yogi Adityanath's statement that "If Taliban moves towards India, airstrike is ready."

Pakistan bashing was one of the major reasons for the NDA's victory in the last elections through the Balakot strike when the goings were looking tough for the Modi government for its acts of omission and commission starting from Demonetisation to botched-up GST and unemployment crisis that took the country decades back.

But, jingoism will not help when China is the adversary. China is not a Moslem country and no religious rhetoric can be created when the Chinese are involved. The persistent denial by the government that China has nibbled Indian territory since the standoff at Galwan Valley last year shows its weak-kneed response and only emboldens China to make further advances. There are disturbing reports that August 30, over 100 People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers crossed the LAC at Barahoti in Uttarakhand. Chinese soldiers reportedly entered some 5 km into Indian territory. They remained there for about three hours and used the time to damage infrastructure, including a bridge. Strangely, as reports indicate, Indian troops did not challenge them or force them to leave. The Indian government has not issued an official statement on the incident as yet.

Such a major incursion should have been properly answered both militarily and diplomatically. But, India has chosen to remain silent. This is in keeping with the government's response during escalation of border tensions with China over the past year. Denial and stony silence were a key element of the Narendra Modi government's strategy, unlike its aggressive posturing when it comes to Pakistan.

When the media highlighted in April last year China's build-up of its troops in the western sector of the LAC in eastern Ladakh followed by incursions several kilometers into the Indian side of the border at multiple points, the Indian government dismissed the reports. Indian Army chief General Manoj Naravane described the snowballing crisis as "temporary and short duration face-offs." Even after the bloody face-off at the Galwan Valley June 15 resulting in the death of 20 Indian soldiers and an undisclosed number of Chinese soldiers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told an all-party meeting, without naming China, that no one had "intruded into our border, nor has any post been taken over." In his attempt to project himself as being in command of the situation, he only legitimised China's occupation and weakened India's position at the talks.

The 12 rounds of army-level talks on disengagement since then have been tortuous and tardy that only suits China's game plan of keeping border tension alive, serving its military-strategic interests and sending its message across that it will not take lightly India's efforts to form alliance with the USA, Japan or Australia to contain it or hurt its economic interests.

This is exactly how the Pentagon describes the situation in its report to the US Congress stating China has been taking "incremental and tactical actions" to press its claims at the LAC. The aim, the report says, is to prevent New Delhi from deepening its relationship with the US. The Pentagon report comes amid heightened tensions between the US and China over the issue of Taiwan. It almost coincided with the warning issued by the most senior US General, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley about China's military progress. "The PRC (People's Republic of China) seeks to prevent India to partner more closely with the United States. PRC officials have warned US officials to not interfere with the PRC's relationship with India," the Department of Defence told the US Congress last week. The Pentagon has reported that China has been persistently indulging in aggressive and coercive behaviour with its neighbours, India in particular: "Beginning in May 2020, the Chinese Army launched incursions into customarily Indian-controlled territory across the border and has concentrated troops at several standoff locations along the LAC," the Pentagon said.

According to the report, at the height of the border standoff between China and India in 2020, the Chinese Army installed a fibre optic network in remote areas of the western Himalayas to provide faster communication and increased protection from foreign interception. Intelligence gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance are the main aims of the PLA to streamline decision making processes and shorten response timelines vis-a-vis India, the report said.

This perhaps explains why the political resolution of the BJP's national executive meeting November 7 was strangely silent on the Indo-China border tension. It seems to be aware that this time around, any false bravado and blatant use of the country's defence establishment for political gain, which have been a key electoral strategy of the BJP, could backfire.

WISDOM CORNER

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it. MARK TWAIN

It is fatal to be a man or woman pure and simple: one must be a woman manly, or a man womanly. VIRGINIA WOOLF

The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it. ALBERT EINSTEIN

WORDSWORTH

Polychronic

This word is far from new. In the sense of something that takes place in or dates from several distinct periods of time, it's first recorded from 1907. In 1959, Edward T Hall introduced a new meaning in The Silent Language, which became something of a buzzword from the late 1990s on. If you're a polychronic personality, you work happily with many things happening at one time, in a non-linear and emotional way that lets you change your plans at a moment's notice without distress and without worrying about deadlines. It's the opposite of the personality type called monochronic: time-driven, working in a linear and orderly way, intent on getting one job completed before starting the next. The stimulus for the shift of polychronic from an academic environment to popular newspaper articles has been our growing understanding of the stress being suffered by office workers trying to cope with too many things at once. That has led to buzz phrases such as time poor, acceleration disorder, hurry sickness, and compression tiredness. Human-resource experts say that the monochronic personality works best in the modern workplace and that polytonic ones are at a severe disadvantage. Traditionally, cultures are divided into monochronic (where time is regarded as linear, people do one thing at a time and lateness and interruptions are not tolerated) and polychronic (where time is seen as cyclical, punctuality is unimportant and interruptions are acceptable). Daily Telegraph, Dec. 1999.

TWILIGHT OF THE KIMS?

FOCUS NORTH KOREA

Nearly three years after his failed bromance with Donald Trump, North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un is once again angling for US attention. North Korea has tested a new, high-tech missile and hinted that it may agree to restart talks with South Korea, where President Moon Jae-in desperately wants to resuscitate his moribund outreach to the North. But if Kim is expecting a positive reaction from US President Joe Biden, he shouldn't hold his breath. With issues like China and the rebuilding of US alliances topping Biden's agenda, overtures to Kim are unlikely.



Having failed to improve its economic prospects, North Korea is once again launching missiles and hoping that sabre-rattling will lead to a loosening of international sanctions. But the United States and its allies are already familiar with this script and have decided to write a new one of their own



Kent Harrington

UNFORTUNATELY FOR KIM, THERE IS A NEW AUDIENCE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, AND IT IS FAR TOUGHER THAN THE INCUMBENTS IN SEOUL

Kim's dog-eared script is not helping his cause. The latest drama has unfolded all too predictably. In Act One, Kim Yo-jong, Kim's sister and the North's spokesperson on North-South affairs, averred that the regime might be interested in discussing a peace treaty with South Korea - an idea that Moon himself had proposed in September. She hastened to add, however, that South Korea will have to distance itself from US demands for nuclear disarmament and end joint military exercises with US forces.

The predictable sabre-rattling came a few days later, in Act Two. Following the announcement that the regime had launched a new hypersonic missile and carried out a half-dozen other tests, Kim took to the podium (with his missilery in the background) to tout the North's 'world class defence capability.' Although the Biden administration had sent 'signals that it is not hostile,' he declared that the North has 'no reason to believe it.' By challenging US credibility, Kim was all but asking the United States to respond, ideally by following its Korean ally's lead and publicly throwing a bone his way.

But the newly slimmed-down Kim isn't the only one reusing an old script. Moon's offer to negotiate a peace treaty as a prelude to nuclear negotiations has been a perennial feature of North-South talks. As if following Kim Yo-jong's cue, Moon's Democratic Party followers duly played their part by calling for a suspension of military exercises and other preconditions for negotiations.

Yet, in seizing on the prospect of new nuclear talks, the political

leadership in Seoul seems to have already forgotten what Kim said at North Korea's Eighth Party Congress in January: "We must develop tactical nuclear weapons that can be applied in different means in the modern war [sic]... and continue to push ahead with the production of super-large nuclear warheads."

As always, North Korea's blarney and bluster are geared toward only one goal: to loosen the vice of nuclear-related economic sanctions. Despite making economic development his domestic priority five years ago, Kim has failed to improve basic living conditions in the country. Battered by floods, food shortages, and a pandemic-induced lockdown, his initiatives - market-based reforms, decentralised decision-making, and more social investment - have stalled, tanking trade and economic growth. Kim acknowledged as much at the party congress in January, emphasising the need for 'self-reliance' and explicitly sidelining reform.

Unfortunately for Kim, there is a new audience in the White House, and it is far tougher than the incumbents in Seoul. Speaking before a joint session of Congress in April, Biden made clear that Kim should not expect the kind of pre-emptive concessions that Trump offered at the summits in Singapore in 2018 and Hanoi in 2019. According to Biden, the US is prepared to talk anytime without preconditions about the penin-

sula's denuclearisation, but there will be no mano-a-mano deal-making. As Biden's press secretary explained after his speech, "We have and will continue to consult with the Republic of Korea, Japan, and other allies at every step along the way."

Biden's priorities in Asia pose a big problem for Kim. In early October, CIA Director William Burns announced the creation of a new China Mission Center and then disclosed that the agency's North Korea mission center will be shut down. Although countries like North Korea and Iran will remain priorities, that work will be absorbed into the agency's regional divisions. According to a State Department official, US intelligence agencies "will continue to remain in close consultation and coordination with our South Korean allies on issues of mutual concern," especially North Korea.

For Kim, the implications of this reorganisation are obvious. While Trump was willing to backhand longstanding US allies for the sake of his summitry theater, Biden insists on working closely with America's partners. The consequences of this change are already apparent across the region. In South Korea, conservative politicians campaigning for next year's presidential election are calling for greater pressure on the North and to repair ties with Japan, which have become badly frayed under Moon.

Similarly, in his first conversa-

tion with Biden as Japan's newly installed Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida emphasised the importance of allied cooperation. Reportedly singling out the threat from a nuclear-armed North Korea, he highlighted Japan's need for stronger missile and naval defenses.

Biden's overarching focus on China, North Korea's sole ally and source of economic support, also does not bode well for Kim. To be sure, the North Koreans have probably concluded, correctly, that a more fractious US-China relationship will make China less likely to twist their arms on the nuclear issue. Given today's tensions, it is highly unlikely that China would do the US any more favours in this regard.

But Chinese help with the North Korean nuclear issue has only ever been intermittent at best. Because China does not want Korean refugees flooding over its border or a US ally in control of the entire Korean Peninsula, it still has an interest in limiting Kim's provocations.

In any case, having China in his corner is probably the best that Kim can hope for in the next act of the drama. By bolstering US allies and deepening mutual cooperation, America's strategic commitment to Asia not only represents a bulwark against China's own military ambitions; it also changes the balance of forces surrounding the Korean Peninsula. Australia's investment in nuclear submarines and enhanced alliance relations with the US and the United Kingdom represent future capabilities that can focus on Pyongyang. And Kishida's Liberal Democrats back a boost in Japan's defence spending to 2 per cent of GDP.

For its part, Pyongyang would do well to consider these and other forthcoming strategic changes affecting the Korean Peninsula. America's Asian partners, with their strong economies, world-class technology, and modern defense forces, are well prepared for the twenty-first century. Time is not on Kim's side.

The writer, a former senior CIA analyst, served as national intelligence officer for East Asia, chief of station in Asia, and the CIA's director of public affairs.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Food-app hunger is a growing problem

There are many problems in the world, but many of us don't try hard enough to solve them. Thankfully, we have conscientious people like Bengali actor Prosenjit Chatterjee who give it their best effort.



Melvin Durai

IN MY ESTIMATION, AT LEAST 100 PEOPLE ARE PUT AT RISK OF STARVATION EVERY YEAR BECAUSE OF THE FOOD DELIVERY APPS

Chatterjee recently shared one of his concerns in a note on Twitter, addressing it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "On 3rd November, I placed an order on food delivery app Swiggy. After some time the status of the order changed to delivered but I never received the food."

Since the order was prepaid, Swiggy refunded his money. But Chatterjee still wanted to draw attention to this important issue. "What if someone relies on a food app to get food delivered for their guests and the food never arrives?" he wrote. "What if someone is depending on these food apps for their dinner? Will they stay hungry?"

He is right to be concerned. With a single tweet, he may have saved

millions of people from food-app hunger (FAH). FAH is a growing problem in the world and Chatterjee deserves credit for trying to solve it. If you agree with me, please go online and sign the petition I've started for Chatterjee to be nominated for the 2022 World Food Prize.

The prize is presented to an individual who makes a significant impact on the "quantity, quality, availability of, or access to food for a large number of people." Chatterjee, who has more than one million followers on Twitter, may have made a difference in two major ways:

(1) He has warned people not to order meals through food delivery apps when they are in dire circumstances. Indeed, if you are starving, do not use a food delivery app—call one of your relatives!

(2) He has informed the food delivery apps that they are needlessly contributing to world hunger—and if they don't improve, Modi and Banerjee will come after them.

In my estimation, at least 100 people are put at risk of starvation every year because of the food

delivery apps. How do I know this? I've seen some of the messages on social media, messages such as this: "Where is my food? I'm dying of hunger!"

Granted, hundreds of men send similar messages to their wives every evening. And sometimes wives send these messages to husbands. But at least spouses are fairly reliable in getting food to the table. And if they don't deliver, you can head to the kitchen and threaten them with a food delivery app.

Husband: "If I don't get my dinner in five minutes, I'm going to order something better through Zomato."

Wife: "If you do that, I'm going to order something better through Second Shaadi."

Chatterjee's decision to raise his concern to Modi and Banerjee may seem excessive, but it shows how dependent many people are on delivery services.

"I want people in the service industry to be more responsible," Chatterjee told Calcutta Times. "These days, we are all dependent

on all kinds of apps and I personally use them and appreciate it. But people who are serving food or medicines through apps should be even more responsible. If a medicine doesn't get delivered on time, it can be fatal for someone."

Indeed, this should be a major concern for delivery people. When they knock on doors or ring doorbells and get no answer, they shouldn't just leave the food or medicine at the door. They should make sure that the customer is still alive.

Food delivery person: "Sir, are you alive?"

Customer: "Barely. Are you the ambulance driver?"

Delivery person: "No, I'm here with your pizza."

Customer: "Pizza? I don't remember ordering pizza."

Delivery person: "It was in 2019, sir. We are a little late on our deliveries."

Customer: "A little late? You are two years late!"

Delivery person: "Don't be angry, sir. At least we made it while you are still alive."

Mere rhetoric

Sir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first valedictory address to BJP members after the outbreak of COVID-19 lacks context to fix the problems of commoners. Modi's mantra to party workers to become a 'bridge of faith' between the party and the public, while lacking the conscience to address root problems like religious extremism and communal disharmony is outlandishly rhetoric. The ideals and values shared by a supreme leader to his admirers inspire them to stand up for societal causes not distortions.

Debadurllav Harichandan, BHUBANESWAR

Second innings

Sir, It is a test of captaincy for 79-year-old Captain Amarinder Singh. Not that he was not a captain at all in his long political career. In the Army and then as the Chief Minister of Punjab, Captain Amarinder Singh has no shortage of experience by any stretch of imagination. On the contrary, his understanding of politics and exposure to the basics of administration are second to none. After his unceremonious ouster from the post of Chief Minister, Amarinder has taken the fight to the Congress camp. Throughout his political career, Amarinder has not deviated from straight talk, and he has not while penning a candid letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi in which he has lambasted his bete noire Navjot Singh Sidhu. He also attacked Sonia for her 'midnight conspiracy' to topple him. Now that he has formed his own party, Amarinder is a free bird. The Punjab Assembly elections are not far away. Amarinder's presence may not have taken the winds off Congress' sails but the Captain flexing his muscles can do crucial damage to the grand old party's prospects of scraping through because at present that is what is expected of the party. The captain's rendezvous with the BJP caught headlines. The hidden message behind the meeting between Amarinder Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah is unambiguous. Except the Congress and the BJP, with or without the Shiromani Akali Dal, other parties only have an outside chance of making it big. Therefore, Amarinder Singh, whose influence in some pockets cannot be undermined, is sure to try his best to foil the chances of his former party with which he was associated for more than 40 years.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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SHORT TAKES

Man ends life after penalty by kangaroo court

Nayagarh/Ranpur: A man died by suicide at Khatia village under Ranpur police limits in Nayagarh district Monday. His wife alleged he took the extreme step after losing his mental balance after a local kangaroo court imposed penalty on him. On the basis of allegations, the police have launched an investigation. The deceased has been identified as Sunanda Behera (35) and his wife as Geetanjali Behera. As per Geetanjali's complaint, their one of the relatives fell ill Monday. Sunanda had taken him to the Darpanarayanapur health centre, where the doctor on duty allegedly refused to attend the patient, saying he had an important meeting. Hearing this, Sunanda lost his cool and hurled expletives at the doctor before taking the patient back. The doctor, instead of informing the police, reported the matter to the village president. Unfortunately, even after seeking pardon Sunanda was penalized by a kangaroo court. He was forced to cough up ₹8,000 as fine. After this, he had been under distress and took the extreme step Monday.

Land pattas given to 140 families

Chittrakonda: With the state government carrying forward development activities on a priority basis in Malkangiri, as many as 140 families were given land pattas in Swabhim Anchal. Nabarangpur MP Ramesh Chandra Mahji and Chittrakonda MLA Purnachandra Baka distributed land pattas to the families at Badapada. Later the two leaders attended a meeting of party workers at Dhuliput after taking stock of various projects in the area. The two BJD leaders said that the Swabhim Anchal is on the way to rapid development after Gurupriya setu was commissioned. The MP has already proposed to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to set up a fire tender centre at Chittrakonda, a branch office of the SBI at Badapada, a Kendriya Vidyalay in Swabhim Anchal. The MP assured the people that all possible steps will be taken to resolve various issues in the Swabhim Anchal.

Nat'l Legal Services Day

Kashipur: A programme was organised at Uparjhari village under Kashipur block in Rayagada district Tuesday to mark the National Legal Services Day. Surya Narayan Mohanty of Kashipur JMFC, Karam Chand Pradhan, secretary of Kashipur Bar Association, Premananda Naik, para legal volunteers, AK Jan, P Devendra Rao and staff of TLSC attended the programme. Mohanty deliberated on how people belonging to SC/ST categories could take legal recourse in various issues. He assured that the legal fraternity will provide all possible help to the people seeking justice.

Vaishnaw holds meeting with SER, ECoR officials



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jharsuguda, Nov 9: Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has held a high-level review meeting with South Eastern Railway (SER) and the East Coast Railway (ECoR) officials at Jharsuguda. At the meeting Monday, Vaishnaw gave importance to safety issues and suggested several measures to improve passenger amenities over the SER's jurisdiction, according to an official release. Various issues pertaining to infrastructural development works of the Railways in Odisha, especially in Jharsuguda, were elaborately discussed in the meeting, which was attended by SER and ECoR General Manager Archana Joshi. Principal officers of the SER, ECoR and the South East Central Railway also attended the meeting. Vaishnaw stressed on timely completion of all ongoing railway projects, the release stated. Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari, Sambalpur MP Nitesh Ganga Dev and MLA Jayanarayan Mishra, Rengali MLA Nauri Nayak, Sundargarh MLA Kusum Tete and Birmitrapur MLA Shankar Oram were also present and interacted with the Railways minister.

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SCIENCE CONGRESS



A girl student speaking during a debate on sustainable development at the 29th National Science Congress in Ganjam, Tuesday

Labour trafficking rampant in Bolangir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lathore, Nov 9: On the one hand, people in Bolangir district have been facing a lot of difficulties in finding jobs during these pandemic times, on the other hand, illegal labour trafficking is rampant in various parts of the district, a report said.



Taking advantage of absence of job opportunities in the region, middlemen have become active in various areas and are luring people with promises of getting employment outside the state. Every day scores of people are being taken to neighboring states like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana via trains. It was alleged that the district administration and the local Labour department have turned a blind eye to the rampant labour trafficking. Police too are not taking ac-

tion against the middlemen. Lathore has become a hub of labour trafficking. From Harishankar Road railway station, middlemen are sending local people to other states by trains every day. Apart from trains, labourers are also being transported by four-wheelers to other states, it was alleged. After Durga Puja, middlemen had camped in various parts of the Patna sub-division to assemble labourers for various brick kilns, fish processing factories and hotels in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil nadu, Kerala, and Chennai. It is said that the state government has been implementing rural job schemes like MGNREGS to provide job opportunities in the

Project funds 'siphoned off'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 9: Protesting against alleged swindling of ₹42 lakh through fake bills in Baunsabati village under Bhapur block in Nayagarh district, the villagers staged a roadblock on Rakama-Kantilo road at Baunsabati for seven hours starting 8:00 am. They demanded an investigation into the corruption allegations and action against those found guilty. The blockade was withdrawn only after the agitating villagers were promised of initiation of investigation from Tuesday in written. As per the villagers' allegation, a total of ₹41,54,000 was sanctioned for several developmental works like construction of roads and digging up of ponds for the financial years 2019-20 and 2021-22. Instead of carrying out developmental works, the money has been siphoned off by making fake bill vouchers. It was when the villagers got a sense that the money meant for developmental projects in their village has been siphoned off through fake bills that they sought information under the RTI, and the corruption was laid bare. Earlier, an amount of ₹7,50,000 was sanctioned for a 300-metre-long road from Baunsabati Harijan Sahi Raod to Natabarpur village and the money was misappropriated through fake bills. After getting proofs, the villagers had then met the sarpanch, samiti members and BDO, demanding action but to no avail. They had even staged a sit-in at panchayat office September 30. It continued for eight days. The demonstration was called off after the additional block development officer (ABDO) promised them of an investigation. But nothing was done. Consequently, the villagers resorted to road blockade. On being informed, Patgarh police station IIC Girijanandan Pattanayak, Khandapada SDPO Prabhat Mallick, Bhapur tehsildar Trupty Mohanty and Bhapur BDO Janmejaya Sahu reached the spot and discussed with the villagers. It was when the officials promised in written that their allegations would be investigated Tuesday that the blockade was withdrawn at 3:00 pm. "In case of no investigation and no action this time too, we will intensify our protest," observed naib sarpanch Sushant Dhal, village president Prakash Barik and Rajendra Champatiray.

ELEPHANT TUSKS SEIZED, TWO HELD



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 9: Forest officials raided Lunagarh village under Bhuyan Junag Pidhi range in Keonjhar Tuesday, seized two pieces of ivory and arrested two people. The seized ivory weighing over 7 kg was valued at more than ₹5 lakh. The arrested were identified as Daktar Munda of Keonjhar and Ranjan Baith of Bangiriposi in Mahurbhanj district. Acting on a tip-off about deal related to elephant tusks, Forest officials led by DFO HD Dhanraj raided the area. Forest officials laid a trap. A Forest official in plain clothes went to the village as a trader and wanted to buy a tusk (3.059 kg) for ₹2.80 lakh and the other (3.605 kg) for ₹3.20 lakh. As the two brought the tusk to

Jumbo found dead in Sambalpur

Sambalpur: A female elephant was found dead in a forest near Amlapalli in Sambalpur, Tuesday. It was learnt that the animal died after coming in contact with a live wire, which was laid by poachers to kill other wild animals. Forest officials along with PCCF Ranjan Mishra rushed to the spot and started an investigation into the incident amid suspicion of possible poaching of the jumbo. the front yard of their house, Forest officials raided the house and arrested them. The DFO started an investigation to find as to from where the ivory was brought.

Corruption scuttles paddy procurement process

IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, EIGHT SECRETARIES OF PACS AND A GRADE IV EMPLOYEE WERE SUSPENDED, WHILE FIVE DATA ENTRY OPERATORS WERE AXED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 9: Nine employees were suspended and five data entry operators (DEO) were shown the door in the last three years following charges of corruption and irregularities in registering farmers' names and paddy procurement by the primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) in Nayagarh district. However, the reinstatement of two suspended employees has exposed the chinks in the administration's efforts to end irregularities. There are 157 primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) in the district. Every year, the allegations of corruption surface, prompting the administration to take action against those found guilty. In the last three years, eight PACS secretaries and one Grade IV employee were suspended, while five data entry operators were axed. Of the eight suspended PACS secretaries one has died and two others have been reinstated. Meanwhile, it has been alleged that the administration seems to be resting on its laurels after taking action against some corrupt officers and employees. Cashing in on the in-



ertia of the administration, the suspended officers and employees have already started pulling wires to get reinstated, and some are said to be successful in their endeavours. Meanwhile, no meeting has been held for the appraisal of the PACS in the last two years. The purpose of these meetings is to bring in transparency in paddy procurement. The last meeting was scheduled to be held in 2019-20, but was cancelled. The district Collector did not convene any meeting in 2020-21 also citing the Covid-19 pandemic situation as a reason. These meetings were to be held under the chairmanship of the district Collector. The district-level squads, which are formed to investigate into corruption allegations, would have presented their reports at these meetings. With the meetings having been cancelled, the findings of these squads did not come to the fore. Given the situation, the number of fake farmers has substantially increased in the last three years. Acting hand in glove with millers, secretaries of paddy procurement centres and paddy dealers, these fake farmers are earning in lakhs of rupees using the names of genuine farmers. Even before a genuine farmer is aware of the bungling, paddy is sold in his name. The sharecroppers are unable to learn about these irregularities. Some unscrupulous officials even show barren lands, ponds and government lands as irrigated lands to earn illegally during the paddy procurement period. During the three years, many sharecroppers and genuine farmers did get the chance to sell their produce. Even some large farmers are known to be in the same boat. ARCS Bhashkar Chandra Panigrahi said that the allegations regarding irregularities in paddy procurement and farmers' registration are being investigated. Actions are also being taken against those found guilty. Nine employees have been suspended and five DEOs have been sacked.

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PUSHING DAIRY FARMING



A district-level Go Sambardhana Utsav is underway at Koksara in Kalahandi district, Tuesday

Jaga Mission fails in BeMC area

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 9: The Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) has reportedly upgraded an open space measuring 3,870 square feet in ward No. 2 at Ananda Nagar under the Jaga Mission. However, in reality, there is hardly any sign of upgradation. An plaque informs that the ground was leveled, a play ground for children was developed, beautification through painting was done, illumination of trees and pindi (platform) around the trees were constructed. But the real picture is totally different. There is no illumination facility. While the play ground is not being taken care of, the swings installed there are lying damaged. Even the cemented chairs have ruined. The BeMC is little concerned about the cleanliness of the area. According to the local people, the state of the space has come to



such a pass due to lack of proper maintenance by the BeMC. Local residents alleged that the BeMC has converted an open space in the ward into a dumping yard. Recently, a child fell into an open drain and suffered injuries while playing. Then the residents of the ward covered the open space with a concrete plate. But neither the people's representative nor the BeMC showed any interest to cover the open space. As the drains are not being cleaned for days together, there are piles of garbage accumulated in

the drain, choking the flow of water, resulting in water flowing on the road. Worst, the stagnant water and piles of garbage are stinking. Expressing her concern, a local resident Sailandri Patra said that they have been on sufferance for a long period. "There is none to hear our complaints. The other problems we are currently facing are mosquito menace. The BeMC authorities should give preference to cleanliness drive during this Covid-19 time failing which infection will spread," she said.

Malik has links with underworld: Fadnavis

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 9: Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Devendra Fadnavis Tuesday alleged that a company of state minister Nawab Malik and his family members had purchased land in suburban Kurla at a very cheap rate through fictitious documents from two convicts of the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case.

Addressing a press conference, Fadnavis claimed that one of the two convicts, Saleem Ishaq Patel, was working as frontman of Dawood Ibrahim's sister Haseena Parkar in Mumbai.

He also alleged that Malik and his family members entered into land deals with people associated with the Underworld. Responding to a query on why he didn't reveal these land deals when he was chief minister of Maharashtra (from 2014 to 2019), the BJP leader said he would have exposed Malik had he found this information earlier.

Fadnavis' remarks came days after Malik sought to link the BJP with an alleged narcotics dealer by tweeting the latter's photograph with the former Chief Minister and his wife Amruta Fadnavis.

The former CM had then said he will make revelations about Malik's "underworld links" after Diwali and also share the "documents and proofs" of the same with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar.

"Nawab Malik and his family members were part of a company



Devendra Fadnavis

Nawab Malik

which purchased land in Kurla (area of Mumbai) at a very low rate by making some fictitious documents. There are four such land purchase deals where I can firmly say that Malik has entered into land deals with the underworld."

He claimed the land was purchased from Sardar Shahwali Khan and Saleem Ishaq Patel who were convicted in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case. "Why did you do business with the killers of Mumbaikars?" the BJP leader asked. As many as 257 people were killed and about 1,400 injured when serial blasts ripped through Mumbai March 12, 1993.

"Another question arises that

'Hydrogen bomb tomorrow', says Malik

Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik Tuesday refuted former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' charge that the former had bought land parcels from the people linked with the underworld, saying he will drop a "hydrogen bomb" Wednesday and expose the "underworld links" of the BJP leader. Malik said he did not buy any property from anyone who is linked to the underworld or is a convict in a bomb blast case. He said by trying to link him with the underworld and bomb blast convicts, Fadnavis is maligning his image.

why did these two accused persons sell their land to Malik? They were about to get convicted under then TADA (Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act). As per that legal provision, all the properties of convicts get attached and come under gov-

ernment control. Did Malik help them to avoid such land on prime location from getting attached?" he asked. The LoP claimed Nawab Malik's son Faraz Malik had signed the agreement documents of the Kurla land deal with Khan and Patel.

Maharashtra joins UN Race to Resilience Campaign at COP26

AGENCIES

Glasgow, Nov 9: Maharashtra Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray on Tuesday announced state's entry to the United Nations Race to Resilience campaign.

"As India's most industrialised state, Maharashtra is a crucial voice in building climate resilience in the Global South. By joining the Race to Resilience, Maharashtra aims to be a leading example for regional governments, inspire climate action and sustainable development," Thackeray told the media at the ongoing 26th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in this Scottish city.

What is Race to Resilience? The Race to Resilience is the UN-backed global campaign focuses on helping the most vulnerable, frontline communities to build resilience and adapt to the physical impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, drought, flooding and sea-level rise.

Maharashtra's climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes aim to build resilience and a culture of climate action at every level of the government.

Started in 2020, the mission aims to achieve climate resilience in the state by bringing together local administrations, businesses, NGOs, and the citizens of all age groups to enable climate action amongst



Image credit: istockphoto.com

Last year, the state government had incurred losses worth \$2 billion paid as compensation for those impacted by extreme weather events

all stakeholders.

This is the first programme in the world to incentivise all levels of local government to act on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The local bodies are driven to take progressive climate action under the programme which is driven by performance incentives

and a healthy competition. At the end of its first year (2020-21), the mission awarded \$7.4 million (Rs 55 crore) amongst all local bodies.

The Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan saved 11,145.4 million litres of water in its first year of operation, which is equivalent to one day of water supply in the state, a statement by the state government said.

There has been a decrease of 3,70,978 tonnes of CO2 emissions, which is the equivalent of 17 million fully grown trees absorbing CO2.

Water conservation measures included the installation of 5,774 rainwater collecting facilities, the construction of 1,455 extra rainwater percolation pits, and the cleaning of 775 water bodies.

Siddaramaiah's 'Arab Sheikh' look goes viral



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mandya, Nov 9: Karnataka Opposition leader Siddaramaiah's "Dubai Sheikh's avatar" has gone viral on social media platforms.

The attire was gifted to him when he visited Congress leader Munawar Khan's residence in Mandya district.

The minority community party workers presented him the attire and prevailed upon him to flaunt it. The crowd cheered and clapped as Siddaramaiah wore it happily. Sporting the look of a "Dubai

sheikh", the leader posed for photographs with party workers. He had also spent time with family members of Munawar Khan. The photos and videos have gone viral on social platforms.

Siddaramaiah, a vocal critic of RSS and launches scathing attack on "Hindutva", is known for his positive demeanor. He was also seen shaking a leg with party workers on earlier occasions. While the Congress workers have praised his new avatar, the BJP has slammed it, terming it a "gimmick to appease minorities".

PET DOG LICENSING TO BE COMPULSORY SOON

THE PET OWNERS MUST MAKE A SUBMISSION THAT THEY WILL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY IN CASE OF ATTACK ON PEOPLE BY THE PET

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 9: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to make pet dog licensing and registration compulsory for owners in the state capital.

Sources said that the government is ready with a draft of the new guidelines under the BBMP Act, 2020 regarding the pet dog registration, licensing and insertion of microchips into pets.

The draft of the new law will be made public in 15 days time. Public can file objections and suggestions in 30 days. After that, the new guidelines for pet owners will come to force.

There are about more than 80,000 pet dogs in Bangalore and the process of licensing and registration of pet dogs has begun since 2017. The proposal in this regard was made in 2014. After five years,



Representational image

the civic agency of the Silicon City is now all geared up to implement the BBMP Act-2020, which makes registration of pet dogs compulsory.

The new Act will also include fee for pet dogs, licensing, microchip insertion to pets, restriction on ferocious breeds and yearly renewal. During the first year of the implementation of the Act, all pets will be given registration, however after one year; three pets will be allowed in independent houses and one pet is allowed in apartment flats, sources explain.

Importantly, the pet owners will have to clean the excreta of their pets from public places. The new

Act prohibits rearing of ferocious German Shepherd, Doberman, Rottweiler; Hounds breed of dogs, sources explain.

In case of failure to get the registration according to new law, Rs 1,000 will be imposed as fine, further Rs 300 will be levied on every day until registration is done.

If pet owners fail to clean the excreta in public places Rs 500 fine will be levied and if it is repeated a fine of Rs 1,000 will be imposed, sources said. There will be no fee for indigenous breeds of dogs, rescued dogs, the owners will have to obtain a certificate from the BBMP veterinary doctors.

'Mumbai-Karnataka' region to be called as 'Kittur Karnataka'

The Mumbai-Karnataka region comprises Uttara Kannada, Belagavi, Dharwad, Vijayapura, Bagalkote, Gadag and Haveri districts in Karnataka.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had made an announcement in this regard during campaigning for the recent bypolls



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 9: The Karnataka government at the cabinet meeting held Monday decided to rename the 'Mumbai-Karnataka' region as 'Kittur Karnataka' region, state Law Minister JC Madhuswamy confirmed.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had made an announcement in this regard during campaigning for the recent bypolls.

The region comprising Uttara Kannada, Belagavi, Dharwad, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Gadag and Haveri districts was referred to as Mumbai-Karnataka region as they were under

Maratha rule once and were included into the state of Karnataka at the time of formation of states on the basis of language. The people of the area have been demanding renaming of the region to mirror the local culture and language.

Kittur was the capital city of the erstwhile queen Chennamma, who had waged a war against the British and sacrificed her life for the country. The people have welcomed the decision of the government.

The government also decided to hold a winter Assembly session at the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi between December 13 and 24.

Karnataka exempts Maharashtra from RT-PCR test rules

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 9: The Karnataka government Tuesday exempted visitors from neighbouring Maharashtra from producing negative RT-PCR test report while on short trips.

Those who visit for two days or less need not produce negative Covid-19 test report. The decision by the Health department has been taken in the wake of decline in Covid cases in both the states, sources said.

However, the visitors must have been administered with both the doses of Covid vaccination and should follow Covid protocols. This will apply to travellers who arrive by bus, rail and air for a couple of days in Karnataka.

The visitors should not have any symptoms and carry a self declaration form with them. Thermal scanning on their arrival is a must as per the directives of the health department, they said.

The decision was taken in the recently held State Advisory Committee Meeting on Covid-19.

Karnataka to celebrate Onake Obavva's 'Jayanti'

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Nov 9: The Karnataka government has announced it will celebrate Onake Obavva 'Jayanti' November 11 across the state on the occasion of the 18th century woman warrior's birthday.

A circular was issued by Under Secretary, Kannada and Culture, AK Venkateshappa, in this regard.

A household name in Karnataka, Onake Obavva is known and celebrated for valour and bravery as she took on then soldiers of then ruler of Mysuru Hyder Ali when they attacked the Chitradurga fort.

Killing the soldiers who sneaked into the fort one by one as they came through a small space between boulders with a wooden grain pounding stick 'Onake' with a iron-covered base, Obavva alerted her soldiers about the attack and saved the kingdom - but at the cost of her own life, the circular said.

The circular says that the name of Onake Obavva is etched permanently in the history of Chitradurga, and she stands in

SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE BEING TAKEN TO CHITRADURGA FORT, ESPECIALLY TO SPOT WHERE OBAVVA KILLED HYDER ALI'S SOLDIERS TO IMBIBE HER COURAGE

the company of Kittur Chennamma, Queen Abbakka who fought against the British and sacrificed their life.

Onake Obavva's husband Muddahanumappa served as a guard under Madakari Nayaka, who ruled Chitradurga province. The spot where she killed the enemy soldiers and became popular as Onake Obavva is protected even today and known as "Onake Obavva kindi" in Chitradurga fort, the circular said.

No vax jab, no salary: Thane civic body

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, Nov 9: The Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) in Maharashtra has said its employees who have not taken even one dose of vaccine against Covid-19 will not be paid salaries.

The decision was taken Monday during a meeting of senior TMC officials, including civic commissioner Dr Vipin Sharma and Thane Mayor Naresh Mhaske.

According to an official release issued late Monday night, the civic employees who have not taken the first dose, will not be paid salaries. The civic employees who have not taken their second vaccine dose within the stipulated period will also not get their salaries, the release said.

The TMC has made it compulsory for all civic employees to submit their vaccination certificates at their respective offices.

These measures are part of an effort to achieve the target of cent per cent vaccination in the city by this month-end, Mhaske told reporters after the meeting. A massive vaccination drive has been initiated in the city, located adjoining Mumbai, from Tuesday to



Representational image

achieve the target of cent per cent vaccination, he said.

The mayor sought cooperation of the citizens in achieving the target and appealed to them to take the vaccine shots, and those who have taken one jab to take their second dose as well. The TMC has made available different vaccination centres, including 'on-wheels' inoculation facilities and jumbo vaccination centres. Regular outreach camps are also being held in

the city, he said.

Those who accompany patients to the civic-run Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj General Hospital at Kalwa here are required to produce their certificates establishing that they are fully vaccinated. Those who have not been inoculated so far will be given the jabs, the release said. Besides, teachers of various schools and colleges have also been roped-in to create awareness about the vaccination drive among students.

GREAT INITIATIVE

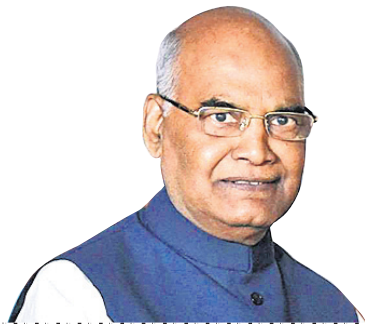
In addition to this, under the 'Har Ghar Dastak' programme, health employees, ASHA workers and nurses will go door-to-door and collect details of those who have not taken the vaccine

The garbage collection vehicles moving in the city will also spread the message about the importance of vaccination

The students will in-turn pass on the message about the importance of vaccination to their parents, the release said. The garbage collection vehicles moving in the city will also spread the message about the importance of vaccination, it said. The mayor said it was a good sign that COVID-19 cases in the city were coming down, but every care should be taken that the infection does not rise, and the mega vaccination drive is the only solution for it.

On Sunday, Thane district reported 118 new cases of coronavirus, taking the infection count to 5,66,749, while one death raised the toll to 11,543, as per official data.

national



May this Chhath Puja strengthen our eternal relationship with nature that helps us to protect our environment
RAM NATH KOVIND
PRESIDENT OF INDIA

VICE ADMIRAL R. HARI KUMAR TO BE NEXT INDIAN NAVY CHIEF

Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar will be the next Chief of Naval Staff, the Defence Ministry announced Tuesday. Kumar is presently serving as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command. He will take the reins of the Indian Navy November 30 when the incumbent Admiral Karambir Singh retires from service



of the day quote

The matter of the Mekedatu project is in the court. Our government is legally dealing with it. The Central Water Commission's consent is required to begin the work at Mekedatu. As soon as clearance is obtained, we will implement the Mekedatu project

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

Once husbands start brewing tea for their working wives after they return home from work, only then we would be able to witness equality of sexes in the society

REKHA SHARMA | NCW CHAIRPERSON

Security situation in J&K has deteriorated to an extent where not a week goes by when an innocent doesn't lose his life. Unfortunate that despite repressive measures taken in name of security, people are being killed & have no sense of dignity or normalcy. Condolences to his family

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

India downplays incursion report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 9: Days after a Pentagon report said China has built a large village in a disputed area along the LAC in the Arunachal Pradesh sector, sources in India's security establishment Tuesday sought to downplay the report, saying it is in a territory controlled by the Chinese military for nearly six decades. They also said that the village has been built by China in an area that was occupied by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) after overrunning an Assam Rifles post in 1959.

"The village along the disputed border in the upper Subansiri district is in the territory controlled by China. They have, for years, maintained an Army post in the region and the various constructions undertaken by the Chinese have not happened in a short time," a source said. "The village has been built by China in an area that was occupied by the PLA after overrunning an Assam Rifles post in 1959, in an operation known as Longju incident along the frontier in Arunachal Pradesh," the source said. In the report on military and security developments involving China, the US department said China has continued taking "incremental and tactical" actions to press its claims at the LAC despite its ongoing diplomatic and military dialogues with India to reduce border tensions.

"Sometime in 2020, the People's Republic of China (PRC) built a large 100-home civilian village inside disputed territory between

In its recent report, the US Department of Defence said China built a large 100-home civilian village inside disputed territory between its Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern sector of the Line of Actual Control (LAC)

the PRC's Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh state in the eastern sector of the LAC," it said.

"These and other infrastructure development efforts along the India-China have been a source of consternation in the Indian government and media," the report had said.

Following the eastern Ladakh standoff last year, India has bolstered its overall military preparedness along the LAC in the Arunachal Pradesh sector as well.

Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Manoj Pande said last month that China has increased the intensity of its military exercises and deployment of troops in its depth areas opposite the LAC in the Arunachal Pradesh sector. He said that India has correspondingly readied contingency plans to deal with any eventualities.

Lt Gen Pande had said new villages have come up on the Chinese side of the border in certain areas and India has taken note of it in its operational strategy.



IN PUNJAB CM'S TRUCE WITH SIDHU, TOP LAWYER IS OUT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 9: Yielding to the pressure mounted by Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, the state Cabinet Tuesday accepted the resignation of Advocate General A P S Deol.

Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi said a new advocate general will be appointed Wednesday. Addressing a press conference here after the Cabinet meeting, Channi said Deol had resigned a few days ago. "The Cabinet today accepted it (resignation)," said Channi, adding that it would be sent to the state governor. The move came amid Sidhu's strong opposition to the appointments of Deol as the state's advocate general and Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota as the officiating DGP of the state.

Deol had represented former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in cases related to the 2015 post-desecration police firing incidents.

Prez presents Padma awards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: President Ram Nath Kovind presented four Padma Vibhushans, including to archaeologist B.B. Lal, five Padma Bhushans and 44 Padma Shri Tuesday.

The awards were presented by the President at the Civil Investiture Ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Vice President N. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Apart from Lal, Padma Vibhushan awards were presented to cardiologist Belle Monappa Hegde (medicine), Narinder Singh Kapany (posthumous, for science and engineering) and sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo (arts).

The second important award, the Padma Bhushan, was presented to former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan (public affairs), top bureaucrat Nripendra Mishra (civil service), and posthumously to former Assam Chief Minister



Migratory birds fly over the Yamuna river in Mathura

PTI PHOTO

RAFALE DEAL

Cong demands JPC probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: The Congress Tuesday accused the Modi government of trying to "cover-up" corruption in the Rafale fighter jet deal and demanded a JPC probe into it, asking why it did not investigate the role of a middleman despite recovering incriminating documents from him.

The remarks came after French investigative portal Mediapart in fresh revelations alleged bogus invoices were used that enabled French aircraft maker Dassault Aviation to pay at least 7.5 million euros in secret commissions to a middleman to help it secure the Rafale deal with India. The report claimed that commissions were paid between 2007 and 2012 for securing the Rafale deal with India.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told party leaders to not stop or be afraid of fighting against the "corrupt" central government as the truth was with them at every step.



"When the truth is with you in every step, then what is there to worry about? My Congress colleagues - keep fighting like this against the corrupt central government. Don't stop, don't get tired, don't be afraid," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi, using the hashtag "#RafaleScam".

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera also alleged that the BJP government has sacrificed national security, jeopardised the interests of the Indian Air Force and caused loss worth thousands of crores of rupees to the state exchequer. French investigative journal

Mediapart in fresh revelations in a report has exposed how middleman Sushen Gupta got hold of confidential documents belonging to the Indian Negotiating Team (INT) in 2015 from the ministry of defence and bribe was paid in lieu, he said. The documents detailed the stance of Indian negotiators during the final lap of negotiation and in particular how they calculated the price of the aircraft. This gave clear advantage to Dassault Aviation (Rafale), Khera claimed, citing the Mediapart report. "The operation cover-up by the Modi government to bury the melting pot of corruption, kickbacks and collusion in the Rafale deal is once again exposed," he said. Citing the French media report, the BJP Tuesday said the INC (Indian National Congress) should be renamed as "I Need Commission" and alleged that the Congress' dissatisfaction with the cut that was offered was behind the failed negotiations when it was in power.

LAKHIMPUR VIOLENCE

FSL REPORT CONFIRMS BULLETS FIRED FROM ASHISH MISRA'S GUN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 9: Trouble for Union Minister Ajay Misra Teni's son, Ashish Misra, are bound to increase with the Forensic Science Laboratory confirming that shots had been fired from the licensed guns of accused Ankit Das and Ashish Misra during the Lakhimpur Kheri violence October 3.

The Lakhimpur police had seized weapons licensed to Ashish Misra and Ankit Das. All the firearms were sent for forensic testing October 15, the report of which came in Tuesday. Farmers had alleged that Ashish and Ankit had fired several rounds during the violence. However, the two had denied this. Four farmers and a journalist were knocked down by a car carrying the BJP workers. Union Minister Ajay Misra Teni's son Ashish Misra is among the 13 people arrested in connection with the death of the farmers.

Four kids killed in Bhopal hosp blaze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 9: Three children admitted in government-run Kamla Nehru Children's Hospital here died in a fire that broke out Monday night, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. The blaze started in a ward on the third-floor of the hospital, which houses the ICU, an official said.

"We are unable to save three children who were already seriously ill in the fire incident, which is very painful. The rescue operation was swift and the blaze is under control now but unfortunately the lives of three children could not be saved," Chouhan tweeted. "A high-level probe into the incident is ordered. The probe will be conducted by additional chief secretary (ACS) health and medical education, Mohammad Suleiman," he added. The fire

broke out at the hospital Monday night. People were seen running outside the hospital in search of their children. The fire broke out around 9 pm and eight to 10 fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames, said Fatehgarh Fire Station-in-charge Juber Khan.

Smoke filled a room of the children's hospital, he said. Khan said a short-circuit may have caused the blaze. After receiving information, Minister for Medical Education Vishwas Sarang also rushed to the spot. He was still inside the hospital. Amid the chaos, angry family members of the children alleged that instead of saving the children, the staffers fled from the spot. After the devastating fire, what has come as a shocker is the fact that the city's biggest hospital did not have any fire NOC for the last 15 years.

SHORT TAKES

Raj to reduce VAT on fuel

Jodhpur/Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Tuesday said his government will reduce VAT on fuel like other states, hours after he urged the Centre to further slash excise duty and cited fund crunch caused by the Covid pandemic. The Centre November 3 slashed excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and on diesel by Rs 10 a litre to give reprieve to consumers battered by record-high retail fuel prices. The state government has been under pressure from the opposition over the issue after several states, including Congress-ruled Punjab, cut down the price of petrol and diesel.

Spurious liquor kills 4 more in Bihar

Patna: A new liquor tragedy was reported from Bihar's Muzaffarpur, where four people in a village died Tuesday after consuming allegedly poisonous liquor. Earlier, it was reported that two persons died in mysterious circumstances Tuesday morning. Now, the family members of one of the deceased said that they had have consumed liquor Monday evening.

Speeding Audi hits over 10 people

Jaipur: A video has gone viral on social media since Tuesday morning, which shows a speeding Audi hitting over 10 people one after the other on the busy AIIMS Road in Jodhpur. A 16-year-old boy reportedly lost his life in the incident, which left over 10 others injured. The video clearly shows the driver of the car losing control and ramming into some roadside shanties, hitting people all around. After the incident, the car driver himself went to the police station where his interrogation is underway.

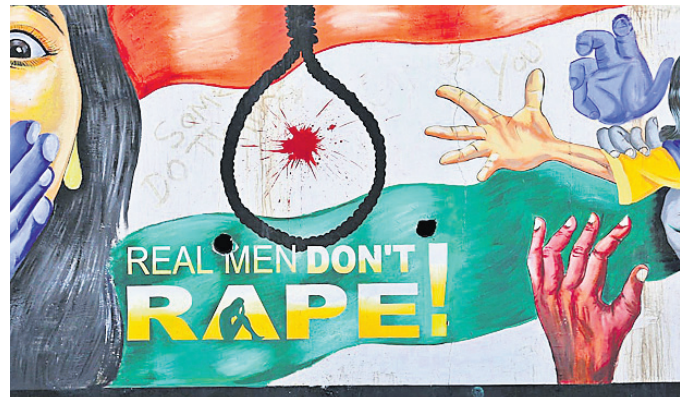
Nishad apologises

Fatehpur/Prayagraj (UP): Nishad Parry chief Sanjay Nishad Tuesday apologised for a remark on Lord Ram that had triggered a row and also put ally BJP in a spot. In a statement Sunday in Prayagraj, he said Shringi Rishi Nishad and not King Dashrath was the father of Lord Ram, prompting the opposition to demand a reaction from the ruling BJP. He said Lord Ram is a revered by the Nishad community. "If any wrong words have been spoken about him, I apologize to God Shri Ram for it," Nishad told reporters in Fatehpur.

Rape, murder victims' age not sole ground for death penalty: SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 9: The Supreme Court said that the young age of victims in rape and murder cases cannot be a sole ground to impose death penalty on the convict and commuted the death sentence of a man, convicted for rape and murder of a 5-year-old girl, to life imprisonment. A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao, Sanjiv Khanna, and B. R. Gavi, in a verdict which analysed 67 similar cases dealt by it in the last 40 years, said: "It appears from the above data that low age of the victim has not been considered as the only or sufficient factor by this court for imposing a death sentence. If it were the case, then all



or almost all, 67 cases would have culminated in imposition of sentence of death on the accused."

Out of 67 cases, in at least in 51 cases the victims were below

12 years, and in 12 out of those 51 cases, the death sentence was initially awarded. But, in review, in three cases, the death penalty was commuted to life

sentences. The top court said there is no doubt that the appellant has committed an abhorrent crime, and for this incarceration for life will serve as sufficient punishment and penitence for his actions.

It further noted: "In the absence of any material to believe that if allowed to live he poses a grave and serious threat to the society, and the imprisonment for life in our opinion would also ward off any such threat. We believe that there is hope for reformation, rehabilitation, and thus the option of imprisonment for life is certainly not foreclosed and therefore acceptable."

The bench noted that it has been rightly pointed out by the convict's

counsel that the trial court noticed he was of young age (23/25 years) hailing from a very poor family, but did not consider it as mitigating factors.

"The high court has noted that there are no mitigating circumstances at all. We find this observation incorrect," observed the bench.

The top court judgment came on an appeal of Irappa Siddappa, convicted and sentenced to death by a trial court. In March 2017, the Karnataka High Court confirmed the trial court's decision. Siddappa moved the top court challenging the high court order.

He was convicted for kidnapping, rape and murder of a five-year old-girl in the village of Khanapur

in Karnataka in 2010. Later, he had thrown the body of the victim in a bag into a stream, named Bennihalla.

Commuting accused life imprisonment for a period of 30 years, the top court said: "We find sufficient mitigating factors to commute the sentence of death imposed by the Sessions Court and confirmed by the High Court into imprisonment for life, with the direction that the appellant shall not be entitled to premature release/remission for the offence under Section 302 (murder) of the Code until he has undergone actual imprisonment for at least 30 years."

The top court directed that the sentences shall run concurrently and not consecutively.

international



The administration will do everything possible for a complete return to normal life from the Covid-19 pandemic and an economic recovery
MOON JAE-IN | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

INDIANS TOP LIST OF TOURISTS TO LANKA

Indians topped the list of holiday makers in Sri Lanka in October, officials said Tuesday, as the island nation is showing a gradual revitalisation of leisure tourism after being impacted by the pandemic



of the day quote

China could take hold of Bagram air base
DONALD TRUMP | FORMER US PRESIDENT

The pandemic widened deep-rooted inequities in our economy. Along racial, gender, and socioeconomic lines, those least able to bear it, unfortunately, were those who were most affected
JEROME POWELL | US FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIRMAN

Our country is keen to establish the "best ties" with Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states
MICHEL AOUN | LEBANESE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

20 killed in Niger fire

Niamey (Niger): More than 20 children were killed and dozens more injured when a fire swept through a school in Niger's second-largest city, Maradi. Three classrooms made of straw were consumed by the fire at the pre-school and primary school called AFN, taking the lives of the children aged between 3 and 8, the government said late Monday. An investigation has been launched to determine the cause of the fire and where it started, the Regional Direction of National Education confirmed. Straw huts are often used as temporary classrooms in overcrowded schools in Niger in West Africa.

Sinha sentenced to 11 yrs in graft case

Dhaka: A Bangladeshi court Tuesday sentenced in absentia former top judge Surendra Kumar Sinha, the country's first chief justice from the minority Hindu community, to 11 years in jail on two counts of graft in a case over money laundering and breach of trust. Dhaka Special Judge 4 Shaikh Nazmul Alam sentenced the former chief justice, who currently lives in the United States, to seven years in prison for money laundering and another four years for criminal breach of trust.

Kamala Harris arrives in Paris

Paris: US Vice President Kamala Harris landed in Paris Tuesday at the start of a four-day visit and charm offensive aimed at shoring up the US relationship with France, America's oldest ally. Washington's relations with Paris hit a historic low this year after a US-British submarine deal with Australia scuttled a French deal to sell subs to the Australian navy. Late last month, President Joe Biden told French President Emmanuel Macron the U.S. Had been "clumsy" in its handling of the US-British submarine deal with Australia. Harris is scheduled to tour the renowned Institut Pasteur on Tuesday to meet with American and French scientists working on COVID-19 preparedness worldwide.

Man shot dead

Copenhagen: A man reportedly armed with a knife threatened passers-by on the streets of the Norwegian capital, Oslo, on Tuesday, before being shot dead by police, officials said. Norwegian media published footage of the alleged attacker, naked from the waist up and wielding a knife. Police initially suggested that passers-by had been wounded, but later said that only one police officer was slightly hurt.

China delivers largest warship to Pak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 9: China has delivered to Pakistan the largest and most advanced warship that Beijing has ever exported, in a move that highlights the friendship between the two countries, The Global Times reported.

Designed and built by China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC), the frigate was delivered to the Pakistan Navy in a commissioning ceremony in Shanghai, CSSC announced in a statement on Monday.

The Type 054A/P frigate was named the PNS Tughril, The Global Times quoted a statement issued by the Pakistan Navy as saying. The PNS Tughril is the first hull of four Type 054 frigates being constructed for the Pakistan Navy, it said, noting that the ship is a technologically advanced and highly capable platform with enormous surface-to-surface, surface-to-air and underwater firepower, besides extensive surveillance potentials.

Being equipped with state-of-the-art combat management and an electronic warfare system along with modern self-defence capabilities, the Type 054A/P frigate can simultaneously execute a number of naval warfare missions in a highly intense multi-threat environment,



Designed and built by China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC), the frigate was delivered to the Pakistan Navy in a commissioning ceremony in Shanghai

the Pakistani statement said. The frigate is the largest and most advanced warship China has ever exported, the CSSC said. "The completion and the delivery of the vessel is another major achievement of China-Pakistan friendship, and will further enhance the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries," the Chinese shipbuilding company said in the statement. Pakistani Ambassador to China

challenges to ensure seaward defence, maintain peace, stability and balance of power in the Indian Ocean region, the ambassador said, who also praised the concerted efforts made by China for the landmark achievement by the timely delivery of the well-equipped and potent frigate despite the global pandemic. The Vice Party Secretary and Director of the Board at CSSC Du Gang also applauded the timely construction of PNS Tughril while emphasizing that the commissioning of the ship is a major milestone and a testimony of the China-Pakistan long-lived friendship, as both countries are bound by the affinity of trust, compassion and commonality, the report said. The head of the Pakistan Navy Mission overseeing construction of the 054A/P frigate, Commodore Rashid Mehmood Sheikh, said that the PNS Tughril, being a multi-mission capable frigate, will form the mainstay of the Pakistan Navy fleet while bolstering the Pakistan Navy's maritime defense capabilities, according to the Pakistani statement. The delivery of the frigate also serves as a milestone in expanding the influence of Chinese vessels as products and boosting their competitiveness in the international market, CSSC said.

Moin ul Haque said that the commissioning of the PNS Tughril ushers in a new chapter in Pakistan-China friendship that has matured through the test of time and remained steadfast in all domains, according to the statement from the Pakistan Navy, the report said. In the context of the overall security paradigm of the region, Tughril-class frigates will strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities to respond to maritime

China not to attend meet on Afghanistan



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin

"Due to scheduling reasons, it is inconvenient for China to attend the meeting," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing. India will host the security czars from Russia, Iran and five Central Asian countries for a security dialogue on Afghanistan Wednesday that will explore firming up a common approach for practical cooperation in confronting increasing threats of terrorism, radicalisation and drug trafficking following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August

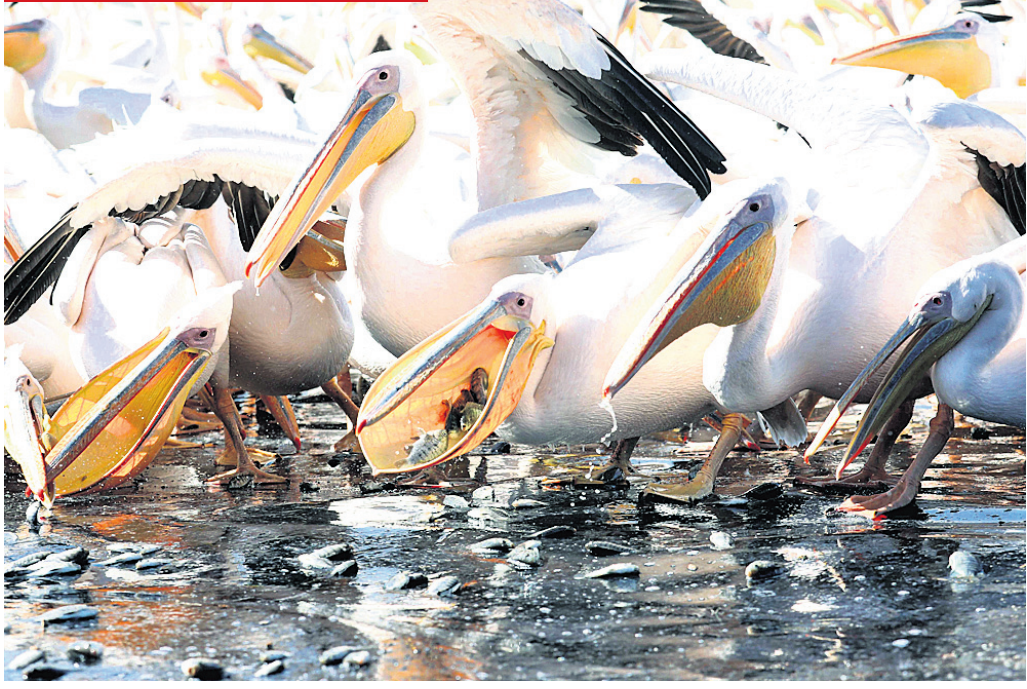
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 9: China said Tuesday that it is not attending the security dialogue on Afghanistan convened by India due to "scheduling reasons". India will host the security czars from Russia, Iran and five Central Asian countries for a security dialogue on Afghanistan Wednesday that will explore firming up a common approach for practical cooperation in confronting increasing threats of terrorism, radicalisation and drug trafficking following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August.

"Due to scheduling reasons, it is inconvenient for China to attend the meeting," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when asked about reasons why China is not attending the 'Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan' hosted by India. "We have already given our reply to the Indian side," Wang said. The security dialogue, to be chaired

by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, will also be attended by top security officials of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi that the dialogue will witness expanded participation of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and the countries will be represented by their respective NSAs or secretaries of the Security Councils. "The high-level dialogue will review the security situation in the region arising from recent developments in Afghanistan. It will deliberate upon measures to address the relevant security challenges and support the people of Afghanistan in promoting peace, security and stability," it said in a statement. China, in coordination with Pakistan and Russia, has been maintaining close contacts with the Afghan Taliban though it is yet to recognise its interim administration in Kabul.

SEASONAL SOJOURN



Great white pelicans are seen in the Emek Hefer valley near central Israeli city of Netanya during their annual migration to Africa

Riot police sent in amid standoff at border

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warsaw (Poland), Nov 9: Polish riot police reinforced Poland's eastern border Tuesday, a day after hundreds of migrants tried to storm across the razor-wire border fence from Belarus. Thousands of migrants still remained on the Belarussian side and Polish authorities feared the tense standoff could escalate. Polish authorities reported that the situation on the border — which is also the eastern border for the 27-nation European

Union and NATO — was calm overnight and Tuesday morning, but after Monday's border scrum they said they were bracing for any possibility. Poland's Defence Ministry said Tuesday that a large group of Belarussian forces was moving toward the migrants, who were camping out on the border. Major Katarzyna Zdanowicz, from the region's border guards, estimated 3,000-4,000 migrants were along the border, including about 800 in the vicinity of the large makeshift migrant camp. She also said there was a greater

concentration of Belarussian services on the border to "control, steer and direct these people." She said the Polish assessment comes from aerial observations, and alleged that Belarussian authorities were taking journalists to the border area to present the situation to the people of Belarus as propaganda. There was no way to independently verify what was happening because journalists have limited ability to operate in Belarus and a state of emergency in Poland kept reporters and others out of the border area.

Emotions run high as families reunite after US allows travel

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAD PROMPTED THE US TO CLOSE ITS BORDERS TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS FROM MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING INDIA, LAST YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Newark (New Jersey), Nov 9: Emotions ran high as the anxious wait of many Indians to reunite with their loved ones ended in joy at the Newark International Airport here after the US lifted COVID-19 restrictions and opened its borders for international travellers.

Parents who hadn't seen their children in over two years, grandparents eager to hold their grandkids in their arms, fiancés waiting to reunite with their loved ones were overjoyed to see their family members emerging out from the exit gate of the airport, travelling on the first flight from India after the restrictions were lifted on Monday. The coronavirus pandemic had prompted the US to close its borders to international travellers from many countries, including India, last year. Later, only passengers holding visas belonging to certain categories were permitted to travel. The US opened its borders for fully vaccinated tourists from November 8, gradually moving ahead to a sense of normalcy and bringing families the joy of reuniting with their loved ones.

"I booked the first flight on the first day," Vipul Shah said as he



Indian travellers arrive at Newark Liberty International Airport via an Air India flight after the US re-opened travel for fully vaccinated tourists, in New Jersey, Monday

arrived with his wife. His two daughters waiting anxiously for their parents ran up to them as

they saw them emerging from the airport doors. "I had booked the flight on November 1 itself when

I heard that the US is opening up travel for tourists again. But I re-booked them for November 8. I could not wait for November 7 midnight when my wife and I will be able to sit on the flight," he said as tears rolled down his cheeks on seeing his daughters, one of whom is getting married in Indianapolis. "We have waited too long for this day," the family said as they hugged and took pictures, cataloguing their reunion. It was a similar scene for many families as they were reunited following more than two years of having been separated from one another due to the pandemic. As the Air India flight from Delhi landed, Rupal Patel waited eagerly as she watched passengers gradually come out of the airport doors after completing the immigration formalities. "I'm waiting for my father. He is 86 years old and I have not seen him in over two years," she said.

"He has been staying alone in Nadiad, Gujarat and has been managing everything on his own throughout the pandemic," she said, adding that she and her siblings all live abroad and they also could not travel to India during the pandemic due to the travel restrictions. As Shah was speaking, her father came out. She ran towards him, touched his feet and hugged him, both teary eyed. "It was a good flight. I'm just very happy to be here," he said as he hugged his daughter. Nirmal Shelaj was anxiously sipping water, watching others meet their families and friends as he waited for his girlfriend whom he had not seen in over 9 months. He said his girlfriend, Jolly Dave, a telehealth physical therapist, "used to say this all the time that she wants to break this Apple wall, the FaceTime thing. That technology cannot replace real human interactions."

England face Kiwis Rohit to lead against NZ in T20Is

VENKATESH, HARSHAL, GAIKWAD GET IN WHILE KOHLI AND FEW OTHERS RESTED, HARDIK AXED



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



VENKATESH IYER



HARSHAL PATEL

Abu Dhabi, Nov 9: Title favourites but injury hit England will bank on their X-Factor players to upstage a remarkably consistent New Zealand in the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup here Wednesday. England were the pre-tournament favourites and played like one for the majority of the Super 12 stage. However, their loss in the final group game to South Africa showed that they were not an invincible outfit. The absence of Jason Roy, who suffered a calf injury against the Proteas, is a big blow to the team heading into the semifinals. Roy and Jos Buttler made arguably the most destructive opening pairing of the tournament. With Roy ruled out of World Cup, there is a strong possibility that Jonny Bairstow will be promoted to bat alongside Buttler, who will be expected to play another match-winning knock Wednesday. Sam Billings is likely to come into the team and bat in the middle order. A big positive is that most of the batters have spent valuable time in the middle going into the knockout game. However, concerns have emerged in the bowling department after Tymal Mills was ruled out of the

tournament with a thigh injury. Mills was doing a brilliant job in the death overs but now, it will be one area that the opponents would look to exploit. Mark Wood, who has the pace but not the variations of Mills, was the most expensive bowler against South Africa. England would be hoping it was just one bad day in the office for their pacers as all of them leaked runs. The role of spinners Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid will be massive as they will aim to provide the wickets in the powerplay and middle overs. Players will also have the 2019 ODI World Cup final at the back of their minds where both teams could only be separated by a boundary countback rule. Since then, New Zealand have displayed that they are not just a very consistent team in ICC events, they can also go all the way with their triumph in the World Test Championship final. The 'nice guys' of world cricket look good to finish first in this competition too. New Zealand have been arguably the best bowling unit in the tournament, restricting the likes of India to 110. Even a dangerous side like Afghanistan could only muster 125 against them. The seasoned new ball duo of Trent Boult and Tim Southee has

KEY PLAYERS

ENGLAND: Jos Buttler, Dawid Malan, Liam Livingstone, Moeen Ali & Adil Rashid;

NEW ZEALAND: Martin Guppitt, Kane Williamson, Trent Boult, Tim Southee & Ish Sodhi.

been very hard to put away as they both have been immaculate with their line and lengths. Lockie Ferguson's unavailability could have easily disturbed their plans but Adam Milne has proved to be an able replacement. Both the spinners, Ish Sodhi and Mitchell Santner, too have been impressive. Sodhi has provided wickets in the middle overs which has not allowed the opposition to break free. New Zealand's batters have also made impact during the course of the tournament. Opener Martin Guppitt has been their leading run getter with his partner Daryl Mitchell also in decent form. Skipper Kane Williamson got runs in the last game and will be itching to make another memorable contribution in the all important semifinal.

New Delhi, Nov 9: Rohit Sharma was Tuesday officially anointed India's new T20 captain replacing Virat Kohli, who, along with some other seniors like Jasprit Bumrah, has been rested from the three-match series against New Zealand starting November 17 in Jaipur. The new-look team also has IPL's highest run-getter Rituraj Gaikwad and top wicket-taker Harshal Patel in the squad of 16 along with Venkatesh Iyer, who is seen as a potential all-round replacement for the injury-ravaged Hardik Pandya. Pandya has been dropped from the squad after failing to make an impact during the T20 World Cup. Rituraj has already played for India in the Sri Lanka series. Senior leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal rightfully got his place in the squad back while Mohammed Siraj, who has played a few T20Is in the past, is also in the mix. Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel and Deepak Chahar, who were in the T20 World Cup reserves are now in the main squad. Rohit's appointment was a formality and KL Rahul will be his new deputy in shortest format. "I don't know who all spread this misinformation but when

THE SQUAD

Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Rituraj Gaikwad, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, R Ashwin, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Harshal Patel & Mohammed Siraj.

Umran Malik added to India A squad

NEW DELHI: Rookie Jammu and Kashmir pacer Umran Malik was Tuesday named in the India A squad, to be led by Gujarat top-order batter Priyank Panchal, for the tour of South Africa beginning from November 23. The BCCI's senior selection committee picked the 14-member squad for the tour which will have three four-day matches. All the three matches will be played in Bloemfontein. **THE SQUAD:** Priyank Panchal (C), Prithvi Shaw, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Devdutt Padikkal, Sarfaraz Khan, Baba Aparajith, Upendra Yadav (wk), K Gowtham, Rahul Chahar, Saurabh Kumar, Navdeep Saini, Umran Malik, Ishan Porel & Arzan Nagwaswalla. tually provide an honest picture of his fitness status, has been dropped from the squad. The selectors did a course correction by picking Yuzvendra Chahal, who was mysteriously dropped from the World Cup squad and then was fabulous during the UAE leg of the IPL. One player, who has probably got one last chance to redeem himself, is veteran seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar. However, Pandya, who didn't ac-

RAHI SHOOTS SILVER, MANU GOLD

WROCLAW (POLAND): Indian shooter Rahi Sarnobat claimed the silver medal after enduring a weapon malfunction in the women's 25m pistol event of the President's Cup here Tuesday. Young Manu Bhaker, after finishing sixth in the 25m individual event, came back to win the gold medal with Turkey's Ozgur Varlik in the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team contest by a margin of 9-7 over the Chinese/Estonian pair of Xiao and Peeter Olesk. Before that, seasoned Indian marksman Sarnobat fired 31 in the final, missing few crucial shots in the last two series after suffering a pistol malfunction. Before the problem occurred in her pistol, Sarnobat was going great guns, finding the target three times on the trot towards the end of the final. The other Indian in the final, Bhaker was eliminated in the sixth place. Germany's Vennekamp won the gold medal with a score of 33, while Mathilde Lamolle settled for the bronze medal with 27. Later in the day, the Indo-Turkish pair of Bhaker and Varlik opened up a healthy lead of 6-2 in the early stages but Xiao and Peeter fought back to level the match at 6-6. Bhaker and Varlik then went ahead 8-6 before tying the final at 5-5 to earn the crucial ninth point and seal the deal. In all, India won five medals in the season-ending tournament which was earlier called the ISSF World Cup Finals.

ARJUN IMPRESSES IN BLITZ TOURNAMENT

RIGA (LATVIA): Young Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi came up with an impressive performance to finish third in the Lindores Abbey Blitz tournament, organised to mark the 85th birth anniversary of legendary chess player Mikhail Tal. The 18-year old Erigaisi started in a brilliant manner and won all of his first nine games before slipping up. The Indian GM scored 9.5 points out of 10 games and in the process he beat American ace Fabiano Caruana in the first game of their match. However, towards the final rounds, it was Ukrainian GM Kirill Shevchenko who took the spotlight, delivering a 2-0 blow to the Indian in their direct duel. Erigaisi finished on 13.5 points, equal with Caruana but took third prize on the basis of the tie-break score. He earned USD 6,000 for his efforts. The teenager scored 13 wins from 18 games, apart from one draw and lost four. The 19-year old Shevchenko scored 14 points out of 18 games in a nine-double-round tournament to emerge champion. Another young GM, the 17-year old Nihal Sarin, was the next best Indian performer in the event, taking the 17th place with 11.5 points.

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