



SAMANTHA MISSES PETS
Actor Samantha's Instagram story reveals she has been missing her pets which she has left behind at Hyderabad
LEISURE P2



HARD TIMES
Europe has become the epicentre of the pandemic again, prompting governments to consider re-imposing lockdowns
INTERNATIONAL P10



TEAM ANNOUNCED
Ajinkya Rahane to lead first of two Tests against New Zealand, while Shreyas Iyer included in India squad
SPORTS P12

Covaxin safe, shows 77.8% efficacy: Lancet
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD: Two doses of Covaxin, India's indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, offer 77.8 per cent protection against symptomatic disease and present no serious safety concerns, according to an interim analysis of its phase 3 trial published in The Lancet Friday. Covaxin, an inactivated whole virus vaccine developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, recently received emergency use approval from the World Health Organisation (WHO) for people aged 18 and above. The phase 3 trial findings indicate that Covaxin induces a robust antibody response with no severe vaccine-related adverse events or deaths reported among the trial participants, the authors of the study said. The majority of the adverse events, including headache, fatigue, fever, and pain at the injection site, were mild and occurred within seven days of vaccination, they explained.



Now, individuals can buy govt bonds
MUMBAI: India opened its \$1 trillion government bond market to individual investors Friday as it seeks help from the public to fund its ambitious spending plans. Asia's third-largest economy plans to borrow ₹12.05 trillion via bonds this financial year, ending March 2022, as it embarks on huge investment plans to boost growth in the coronavirus-battered country. PM Narendra Modi said Friday the new scheme "allows the smallest investor to participate in the country's economic progress." "Small investors will be assured of good returns on a secure investment and the government will get the resources it needs for infrastructure development and building a new India." **More P11**



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Army okays PC to eligible women after SC warning

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, Nov 12: Threatened with contempt action against the Indian Army and its Chief Manoj Mukund Naravane by the Supreme Court over non-compliance of its earlier orders, the defence force agreed Friday to grant Permanent Commission (PC) to all of its eligible women officers.

"We are holding the Army guilty of contempt of court. We are putting you on guard. Since you have not complied with our orders you will have to face the consequences. The Army may be supreme in its own authority but this Constitution court is also supreme in its own jurisdiction," the apex court said. The Army had initially said that out of the 36 Women Short Service Commission Officers (WSSCO) in the force, who have filed the contempt petition, it has granted PC to 22 officers while 14 were not considered fit including three on medical ground.

After the top court's warning, the Army informed a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna that it will grant PC to all the eligible women officers. The bench asked Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain and advocate R Balasubramanian, appearing for the Army, whether the 11 officers who were left out (except for three on medical ground) had met the 60% marks criteria and whether they have disciplinary and vigilance clearance or not as per the courts criteria laid March 25, this year.



DAREDEVILRY: A Border Security Force jawan performs a stunt during a daredevil show organised under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Motilal Nehru Police Stadium in Bhopal, Friday

Abuse of girls at Gobinda's school: NCPCR notice to SP

■ The Commission noted that Gobinda Sahu, president of the school management committee of Sunshine Public School and the prime accused in Mamita Meher murder case, allegedly exploited minors sexually
POST NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi, Nov 12: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked the Kalahandi Superintendent of Police to conduct a probe into the allegations of sexual exploitation of girls in Sunshine Public School and submit a report in three days. Significantly, the Commission noted that Gobinda Sahu, president of school management committee of Sunshine Public School and the prime accused in the sensational Mamita Meher murder case, allegedly exploited minors sexually in the school. The NCPCR has asked the SP to submit a copy of the FIR, statements under Section 164 CrPc, ac-

tion taken against the accused and total number girls/boys studying in the school and their age group. The Commission has also asked the SP whether the case was registered under the POCSO Act. "These sexual activities were done inside a separate room by Gobinda Sahu. He used to tempt the girls for good marks in examination and Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra used to visit the school frequently. Girls as well as boys were targeted in the activity of exploitation," the Commission noted. Gobinda Sahu has been arrested for allegedly killing lady teacher Mamita Meher. The Opposition parties have been demanding action

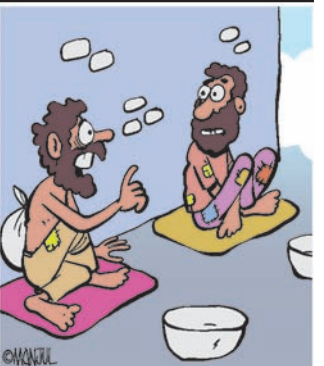
against the Minister of State for Home for his alleged links with the accused. The Odisha Youth Congress submitted a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind Friday demanding a fair probe into the murder of Mamita Meher. The Congress party held a six-hour 'hartal' in the state Friday demanding the sacking and arrest of the Minister of State for Home, who is in the eye of the storm for his alleged closeness with Gobinda Sahu. The 'hartal' began at 6 am amidst tight security and was by and large peaceful with no report of any untoward incident during the day, police said. All non-BJD parties supported the 'hartal'.

Lokayukta orders action against six

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: In a significant development, the Odisha Lokayukta Friday ordered criminal proceedings against six persons including four government officials for their negligence which led to the collapse of a portion of the bridge across River Suktel in Bolangir April 29, 2020. Two labourers died on the spot, while two others suffered serious injuries due to the collapse of the deflected span of the bridge. Taking suo motu cognisance of the issue, the Lokayukta sought explanations from the Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division Bolangir and the managing director of Ram Kumar Agarwal Engineers Pvt. Ltd. The Lokayukta also asked the Rural Development Minister to present his views on the issue. Subsequently, the Lokayukta after scrutinising the reports of authorities asked Vigilance sleuths

to conduct a probe into the alleged corruption behind the substandard construction of the bridge. "During investigation, the technical team of Vigilance found that non-branded cement and steel were used in the construction of the bridge and that too without following the operating procedure for execution of work. The technical team even discovered that plastering had been done at a number of places along the length of the junction between soffit slabs and webs on both sides of all the slabs in order to hide the poor and porous nature of the concrete," revealed the order. The Lokayukta asked its prosecution wing to initiate action against Sudhansu Sekhar Mohapatra, Executive Engineer, Tapan Kumar Behera, Asst. Executive Engineer, Ranjit Kumar Bag, JE, Braja Bhushan Kumar, Divisional Accounts Officer, Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, director of the firm and Ginesh Nair, the project manager.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I have this new phobia... someday somebody will drop azadi in my bowl!

8 CORRUPT BABUS GIVEN COMPULSORY RETIREMENT

■ Till now, 130 state government officials have been dismissed from service/sent on compulsory retirement on corruption charges and for inefficiency
POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Eight more officials, including three OAS officers, of the Odisha government have been given compulsory retirement on corruption charges, officials said Friday. In a statement, the Chief Minister's Office said that "with careful consideration of the policy of zero tolerance towards any act of immorality, inefficiency or lack of integrity, eight officers have been given compulsory retirement with immediate effect due to inefficiency and lack of integrity." The three OAS officers are Rama Chandra Jena, Gouranga Charan Mohanty and Alphonse Bilung. As per the statement, Rama Chandra Jena, former Tehsildar

and in-charge Sub-Registrar of Nimapara, is facing three corruption cases. Vigilance had recently seized several PAN cards and around ₹5 lakh from his possession. He had been placed under suspension since then. Gouranga Charan Mohanty, former Deputy Collector of Jagatsinghpur, is facing seven Vigilance cases relating to misappropriation of government funds and irregularities in the allotment in government schemes, it said. Similarly, Alphonse Bilung, ex-

Ex-Nimapara Tehsildar Rama Chandra Jena, ex-Jagatsinghpur Deputy Collector Gouranga Charan Mohanty and ex-Lathikata Tehsildar Alphonse Bilung are among the 8 officers Tehsildar of Lathikata in Sundargarh district and incumbent BDO of Ambabhona in Bargarh district, is accused of showing undue favour in terms of conversion of land and revenue collection. There are three Vigilance cases pending against him. Moreover, the state government has also given compulsory retirement to Bidhan Chandra Sahu, ex-Superintending Engineer, Meena Patra and Puspanjali Ratha, ex-Child Development Project Officers, Ajit Kumar Mohapatra, in-charge Superintendent of Excise and Prabhakar Pradhan, ex-cashier.

State administers 4 crore vax doses

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The state has achieved another milestone in the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination drive by administering over 4 crore doses till Friday. "Happy to share that Odisha has crossed a new milestone by completing 4 crore #COVID19 Vaccination. All thanks to the combined efforts of the Health team and the people of #Odisha," the Health and Family Welfare Department said in a tweet. The vaccination programme was started in the state January 16, 2021 and is now going on speedily in the state, especially in rural areas. The drive is going on at 2,088 vaccination centres across the state, of which 2,055 are government facilities and 33 private hospitals.



As per data available in the CoWIN portal, as many as 4,00,44,233 doses have been inoculated in Odisha till Friday evening. While 2,67,14,868 people in the state have received their first dose, 1,33,29,365 have been fully vaccinated. Moreover, 2,22,25,462 people in the age group of 18-44 years have received the jab till now while 1,08,77,902 in the 45-60 age group and 69,40,869 beneficiaries aged above 60 years have also got the vaccine. Bijay Panigrahi, Health and Family Welfare Director, said the state government has set a target to administer the first dose of vaccine to all by the end of December. "Earlier, the vaccination programme was carried out at 1,600 centres which was later increased to 2,400 centres across the state. The majority of such centres are in rural areas," said Panigrahi. He said that 40 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries in the state have received both doses, while 82 per cent have received the first dose.

Paytm's \$2.5bln IPO mints new millionaires

■ About 350 current and ex-employees will each have a net worth of at least ₹10 million after the fintech firm's public issue
REUTERS
New Delhi, Nov 12: Electronics engineer Siddharth Pandey will become a millionaire after the country's biggest ever public issue, but he says he had to overcome his father's opposition to join fintech firm Paytm when it was a fledgling start-up nine years ago. About 350 current and ex-employees will each have a net worth of at least ₹10 million after Paytm's \$2.5 billion IPO, a source in the company told Reuters. Many, like Pandey, will become dollar millionaires when the company lists next week. Those rewards are huge in a country where the per capita income is below \$2,000. Pandey, now 39, is no longer with the company and is working at another start-up that he declined to identify. But he says his seven-year stint at Paytm left him with tens of thousands of shares. He declined to give details, but the shares were priced at ₹2,150 apiece Friday. Pandey said he would be worth more than \$1 million. "My dad was very demotivating. He said, 'What is this Paytm?'" Pandey told Reuters, referring to the time he joined Paytm in 2013. "For once work in a company



people know about,' my father said." "Now he (my father) is obviously very happy. He has just asked me to stay grounded," said Pandey, who is from Uttar Pradesh. When Pandey joined Paytm, it was primarily a small payments company with fewer than 1,000 staff. Today the firm has more than 10,000 employees and offers a range of services from banking, shopping, movie and travel ticketing

to gaming. To celebrate, Pandey says he took his father on a five-day luxury trip to Udaipur, a popular tourist destination in Rajasthan in September, spending roughly ₹4 lakh. "Paytm has always been a generous paymaster. Vijay (Sharma, the Paytm founder) has always wanted that people make money, they move up in life," Pandey said. Married and with two children, he says that the windfall will allow him to work in start-ups where he is not entirely focused on his income or even help him get back into academics. "Part of the money goes into my retirement fund and I will use a large part of it for my kids' education," he said.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60686.69	↑ 767.00
NIFTY	18102.80	↑ 229.20
DOLLAR	74.44	↓ ₹0.11
EURO	85.19	↓ ₹0.27
GOLD	₹49,175	↓ ₹41
SILVER	₹66,915	↓ ₹50

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	27.4°C	27.6°C
MIN	22.7°C	21.8°C
Humidity	70%	75%
Rainfall	3.8mm	1mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

leisure



NICOLAS MAURY UVEILS DEBUT FEATURE FILM

Actor Nicolas Maury hadn't quite grasped the international success of the Paris-set show until he traveled to Los Angeles last week to present his feature directorial debut *Garçon Chiffon* at French film and series festival.

BLACKPINK MUSIC VIDEO CROSSES 1 BN VIEWS

K-pop girl group BLACKPINK saw the music video for its 2020 hit *How You Like That* break one billion views on YouTube in its latest feat on the video platform. The group passed the one-billion mark Friday morning, 505 days after it was released June 2020.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You probably have a big circle of friends, and though most of them may be casual friends, they may sometimes prove to be favourable. They may help you overcome some dejections. It will also help you figure out the importance of the role friends can play.

TAURUS
You have an easy carefree day ahead. There will be no woes or worries, says Ganesh. But to will be inclined to take up too many things at one time, more than you can handle. This may, in turn, get you stressed and uptight. You are advised to be practical and not to overdo things.

GEMINI
You will tend to be religiously inclined today, feels Ganesh. For this purpose, you may spend some time visiting a temple, mosque or church. You are also likely to go shopping, and chances are that this too is for a religious purpose.

CANCER
Ganesh predicts an excellent and exceptional day for you at work. You are likely to need all your business acumen while negotiating deals. Your leadership skills are likely to come to the fore during the final stage of a deadline, be it about completing an order or launching new products and marketing them, says Ganesh.

LEO
Today may not be the best time to mess with you, considering the aura of invincibility that you possess. Be it a game, a competition, or an argument, you will have the edge over others in every sphere, says Ganesh. Also, you may come across people with whom you will have personal differences, and those who will try to change your fortunes.

VIRGO
Ganesh feels that today may be an important turning point in your life. You will look to secure the money much required for your bright future. Relationship matters will top your priorities during the afternoon today. You may also feel the need for spirituality, so try your hand at meditation and yoga.

LIBRA
Today is an important day for you, and you will learn a lot from your life partner. Even on the work front, business partners will extend their best possible cooperation to you. Your chances of winning in cut-throat competitions are very bright today, predicts Ganesh.

SCORPIO
There is nothing more enchanting and alluring to you than some passionate time with your love interest. The only problem that Ganesh sees here is that there may be too many love interests. Your chosen partner, though, may get to see a different side of you in the evening.

SAGITTARIUS
According to Ganesh, money is likely to slip-off your hand easily today. Try to wave off unnecessary expenditure. The entire day is spent managing funds, while the evening brings a lot of positive energy with it. You prefer to sit back and relax.

CAPRICORN
Your grand orchestration may not come to fruition, and even your best-laid plans may go awry, says Ganesh. Squabbles with people over petty issues will add to your growing vexation; keep calm and you'll handle all of it just fine.

AQUARIUS
Finally, you've decided to clean up the mess! And you will do a fine job, whether it's your workspace, your bills, your finances, or even your closet. And now that you're inspired, you might as well sort out your mental clutter too, chuckles Ganesh.

PISCES
Financially, you have bright prospects awaiting you today. You will be able to deal with the mind-numbing financial juggling required to take stock of your monetary matters with precision. You might be dealing with people who secretly have an axe to grind against you, cautions Ganesh.

Katrina, Vicky to tie the knot at Six Senses Fort

Jaipur: Actors Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are all set to tie the knot at the Six Senses Fort Hotel in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district.

The wedding celebrations will be held from December 7-12 and the booking has been done in the hotel for the wedding.

However, its formal announcement is yet to be made.

Many event companies will work together to organise the VIP wedding. Different companies are being hired for different events, confirmed officials.

Representatives of these event companies are searching rooms in different hotels in Sawai Madhopur.

On the other hand, the team of Katrina and Vicky Kaushal has also started preparing for the wedding. A 10-member team reached Six Senses Barwara Fort to take stock of the situation.

According to the information received from the hotel management, the team monitored all arrangements related

to the wedding.

They did a recce from which place the groom will come sitting on the horse, where will the mehendi be organised and so on.

However, the wedding programs have not been announced yet.

IANS



Shilpa celebrates 28 years of Baazigar

Shilpa Shetty, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol's film *Baazigar* completed 28 years Friday. On this special day, Shilpa took to her Instagram handle to share a special post.

The actress posted a video and penned a heartfelt note for the fans. The post was captioned as, "Thank you! THANK YOU! THANKKKK YOU!! For all your love, support, encouragement, concern, prayers, and blessings over the past 28 YEARS! (Still can't believe it!) Love you all! Congratulations, #TeamBaazigar! What a wonderful journey it has been. Looking forward to the next 28. Heartfelt Gratitude to all my well wishers, fans... I am cause YOU are #AbbasMustan @jainrtn #VenusMovies @iamsrk @kajol @dalipthil @iam_johnylever #RakheeGulzar #SiddharthRay @anumalikmusic." AGENCIES

SAMANTHA FEELS BAD FOR HER PETS

Hyderabad: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has been busy travelling and enjoying the leisure before she starts working on her upcoming projects. The actress who was spotted trekking with her friend Shilpa Reddy during their sacred 'Yatra', also travelled to Dubai later.

Samantha's Instagram story reveals that she has been to Chennai. A picture she posted depicts the flooded streets of Chennai. One of Samantha's Instagram stories hints that Samantha has been missing her pets, whom she has left behind at Hyderabad.

It is a known fact that Samantha is in love with her two pets Hash and Sasha.

The pet guardian-Samantha fills her social media with cute updates related to her pets every now and then.

The recent post features her pet dog-Hash, which is being dominated by the younger dog-Sasha.



Sharing the cute picture in which Sasha is sitting over Hash, Samantha wrote: "I leave for one day... My poor firstborn".

Samantha has always been a caring guardian, who says has separation anxiety related to her pets.

Earlier when the actress had to travel to Mumbai as a part of *The Family Man's* promotions, her dog was limping, which made the actress anxious, as she conveyed in an interview.

On the work front, Samantha has been busy prepping for her upcoming movies, which are to get on the floors soon.

Samantha has two bilingual projects, one of which is to be directed by debutante Shantaruban Gnanasekharan. Her upcoming mythological drama *Shaakunthalam* is under post-production and the makers have kept the release date uninformed yet.

AGENCIES

Grammy nomination for Kashmiri singer-musician Qaisar Nizami



Srinagar: Noted Kashmiri singer and musician Qaisar Nizami has been nominated for the prestigious Grammy award for his collaborative song *Nazninay* (O Beauty), which forms a part of US-based music composer and santoor player Ehsaan Matoori's multinational *The Voice and Bridges* project.

The nominations for the 2022 Grammys (or the 64th Grammy Awards) will be formally announced at a livestreamed event November 23.

Nizami's nomination statement reads: "It is a matter of joy that the famous composer Ehsaan Matoori in collaboration with the greatest musicians of the world brought out an album in which many countries

Never before has any singer from the Valley had the privilege of having had any of his/her songs chosen for the Grammy Awards

QAISAR NIZAMI | KASHMIRI SINGER AND MUSICIAN

lend their voices and the voice of Qaisar Nizami, the legendary singer of the Valley, also is included in the album titled *The Voices and Bridges*, which speaks in itself about the music and poetry."

It is for the first time in Grammy history

that a Kashmiri singer has found a place in the list of nominations. The first-round voting for the nominations ended November 5. The next round will take place between December 6, 2021, and January 5, 2022, in time for the event slated for January 31, 2022.

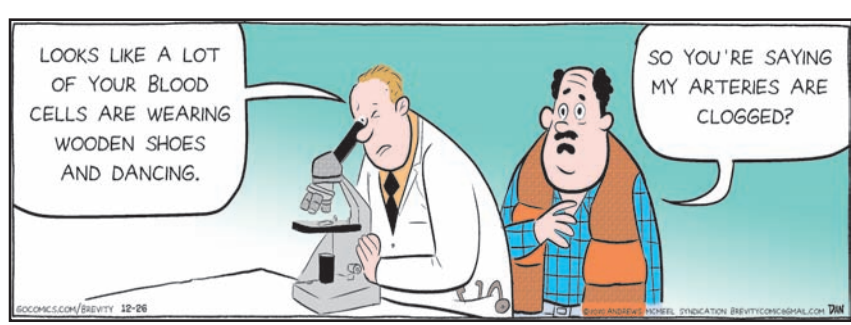
"Never before has any singer from the Valley had the privilege of having had any of his/her songs chosen for the Grammy Awards," Nizami said, urging all Kashmiri music lovers to participate in the online voting process.

Nizami was connected with Matoori when he found himself stranded in the US, as a result of the first Covid-19 lockdown in India.

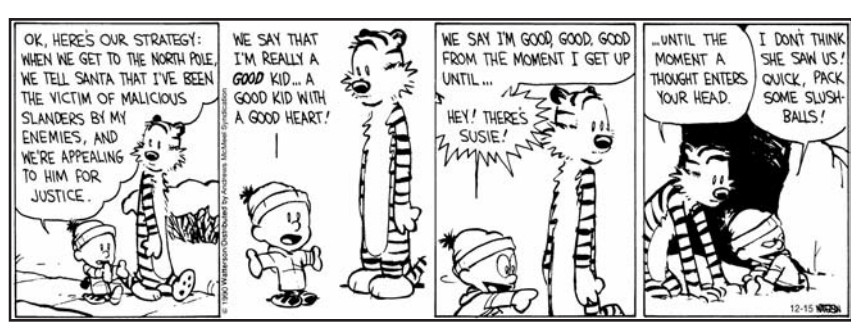
IANS

FUN post

PEANUTS



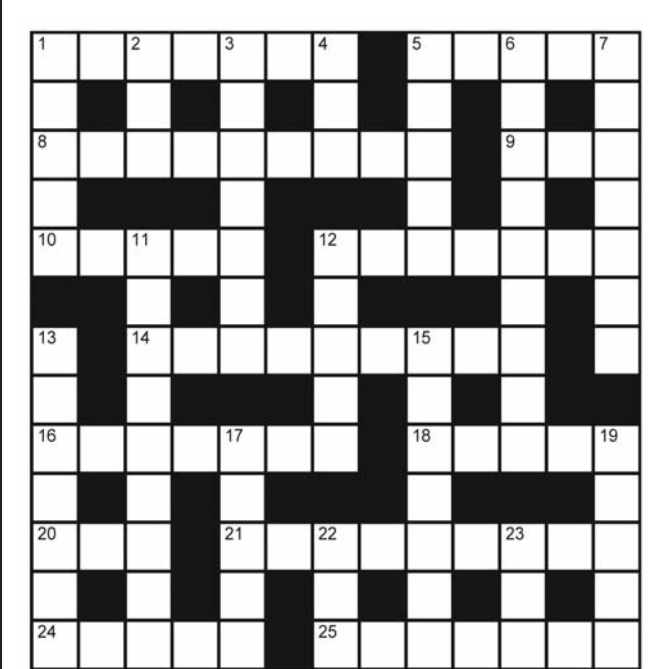
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Israeli city (3,4)
 - 5 Stirs up
 - 8 Balls of fire (2-7)
 - 9 Test site
 - 10 Rome's river
 - 12 Make allowances for
 - 14 Skin softener (4,5)
 - 16 Give it a try (4,1,2)
 - 18 Medicinal plant
 - 20 Freudian topic
 - 21 Olympics prize (4,5)
 - 24 Miscue
 - 25 Domestic beasts of burden
- Down**
- 1 Like uncomfortable shoes
 - 2 Captain's journal
 - 3 Old hand
 - 4 Compete
 - 5 Pine exudation
 - 6 Irish Sea island (4,2,3)
 - 7 Monarchy citizen
 - 11 Department
 - 12 Chocolate source
 - 13 Deliver the goods
 - 15 Photography pioneer
 - 17 Cholera
 - 19 Trip planner's aid
 - 22 Directed
 - 23 Game piece

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

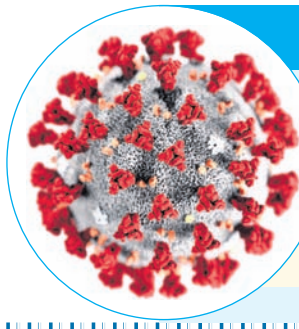
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



READY TO SAIL

A vendor sells paper boats ahead of Kartika Purnima ritual in Purighat area of Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	25,28,70,684	22,87,52,610	50,99,327
India	3,44,14,186	3,38,14,080	4,62,690
Odisha	10,44,962	10,33,991	8,373

ORGANIC FAIR POSTPONED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The 'Organic Fair' organised by The Press Club of Odisha has been postponed due to bad weather.

The fair, which is organised every second Saturday, would now be held December second Saturday. The fair was scheduled to be organised November 13 (10am-10pm) and November 14 (8am-11am).

Organic produce by genuine producers will be for display and sale at the fair.

Weatherman warns of another depression

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Odisha received light to moderate rainfall Friday under the influence of a low-pressure area (Lopar) over Tamil Nadu, the Meteorological Centre here said, further warning of heavy showers till Sunday morning.

Another depression is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal next week as a cyclonic circulation that lies over the Gulf of Thailand may result in the formation of a fresh Lopar over the south Andaman Sea by Friday, it said. It is likely to move northwards and concentrate into a depression over east-central and southeast Bay of Bengal Monday, the weather office said.

Samal invested ₹1cr in stocks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Vigilance department Friday unearthed documents revealing investments of over Rs 1 crore in shares and debentures by suspended deputy manager of Odisha State Police Housing & Welfare Corporation Prapat Kumar Samal.

Samal was Thursday placed under suspension following his arrest on charges of amassing disproportionate assets more than 1,000 per cent of his known sources of income. Documents relating to investments in share market have been seized. "The invested amount (not current value) in shares and debentures by Samal stood at Rs 1,07,37,831.74," said Vigilance sources Friday.

KL varsity announces ₹100cr for scholarships

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: KL Deemed to be University of Vijayawada has announced the dates for KL Engineering Entrance Examination 2022 (KLEEE-2022) for the students of Odisha and other states who are keen on pursuing careers in engineering and technology.

The entrance exam will be held online January 27, 28 and 29 next year as per the safety protocols prescribed by the authorities concerned. The brochure of KLEEE-2022 was launched by Odisha Legislative Assembly Speaker SN Patro, Friday. Last year, the entrance examinations for other streams at KL Deemed to be University evoked immense interest from the students with more than 40,000 applicants from across the country and abroad, sources said.

The institute has been giving priority to meritorious students. It has announced scholarships worth Rs 100 crore for students of poor financial backgrounds for 2022 session, sources added. Announcing the details of the entrance exam and scholarships at a press meet here Friday, Director of Admissions at KL Deemed to be University, J Srinivasa Rao, said, "We've launched the scholarships not only to recognise the meritorious students but also to enable them to secure quality education with no financial burden. Last year, several deserving candidates were awarded scholarships." Rao said the institute would provide scholarships worth Rs 35 crore for meritorious students of KLEEE, Rs 30 crore for students securing 96 percentile and above in JEE, Rs 15 crore for intermediate students and Rs 20 crore for bright students in management, science and humanities. "Our motive is to deliver the finest education with no financial impediments for the most deserving students," Rao said.

The students of 2022 graduating batches of the institute have received over 3,200 placement offers from various renowned companies, sources said.

4 robbers nabbed; firearms seized



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 12: Jagatpur police here Friday claimed to have arrested four members of a notorious robbers' gang in connection with Rs 1.29 lakh heist from SBI's customer service centre at Purusottampur near Paga in the district here October this year.

The accused were identified as Chakradhar Sethy alias Dipu, Khirod Chandra Sethy alias Lipu and Khageswar Jena alias Chiku, all from Gobindapur under Tangi police limits, and Pratap Das alias Babu of Erasama area in Jagatsinghpur.

Two motorcycles, a pistol and Rs 1 lakh in cash have been recovered from them, DCP Prateek Singh said at a press conference here.

About the case, the DCP said the incident took place around 12noon October 4 this year.

"With helmets and masks on, two of the accused had entered the bustling customer service centre and snatched away Rs 1.29 lakh from the manager at gunpoint. Before anyone could realise the situation, the miscreants fled the spot on a black motorcycle," Singh said.

The DCP said they managed to track the accused down after examining the footages of a few CCTV cameras near the centre.

"We initially nabbed Babu, the prime accused. He gave further leads that helped crack the case. A case was registered under Sections 419, 394, 395, 307 and 471 of IPC and relevant Sections of Arms Act," the Cuttack DCP said adding that multiple cases have been pending against the four with police stations in many districts.

Cong holds 6-hr hartal, BJD calls it joke

In Cuttack, some hartal supporters were seen offering chocolates to people to solicit their support

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Opposition Congress Friday held a six-hour 'hartal' in the state demanding the sacking and arrest of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra, who is in the eye of the storm for his alleged closeness with the prime accused in the Kalahandi teacher's kidnap and murder, Gobinda Sahu.

The 'hartal' began at 6am amidst tight security and was peaceful with no report of any untoward incident, police said. All non-BJD parties were supporting the hartal though many did not publicly speak in support of the Congress.

While the Congress thanked people of Odisha for their "overwhelming" support to the hartal, the ruling BJD termed it a "joke".

The BJD, which has been accused of sponsoring the Congress-led hartal, was too cautious over its reaction.

"The Kalahandi woman teacher's killing has already become a mass movement in the state. Many parties and organisations are holding agitations, and the Friday's event was one among them," BJD spokesperson Golak Mohapatra said.

The opposition parties comprising Congress and BJD have been demanding the sacking of Mishra since the body of the 24-year-old woman teacher was exhumed from the compound of the school where she taught October 19.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) had called a six-hour bandh across the state but the Orissa High Court Thursday ruled that only a hartal can be held and not a general strike.

Following the ruling, Congress activists were seen picketing at several places. But none prevented plying of vehicles or forced shops and business establishments to down shutters as security personnel stood guard at major points.

Many party activists were seen

MAMITA MURDER CASE



Congress activists during a protest over Mamita Meher murder case in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Markets and owners of big shops were closed fearing violence. Small shops were open and some vehicles operated across the state

Buses were seen plying in Bhubaneswar but there were a few passengers. Many people preferred to stay indoors due to the inclement weather



NSUI activists offering toffees to commuters at Master Canteen Square in Capital

requesting people to observe the hartal for the sake of security of women in state. In Cuttack, some hartal supporters were seen offering chocolates to people to solicit their support.

Markets and owners of big shops were, however, closed fearing violence. Small shops were open and some vehicles operated across the state. Buses were seen plying in Bhubaneswar but there were a few passengers. Many people preferred to stay indoors due to the inclement weather.

Government and private offices witnessed normal attendance as there was no road blockade or rail roko anywhere.



Celebrations at Dharitri office in Bhubaneswar, Friday, as DharitriLive channel received the 'Golden Play Button' from YouTube for its popularity

YOUTUBE CREATOR AWARD

Bureaucratic inertia dogs tourism sector; big push needed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The tourism sector in Odisha, despite its immense potential, is languishing because of bureaucratic lethargy and inefficiency.

Several ambitious projects of the Tourism department, intended to attract huge tourist footfall, are yet to see the light of the day.

Though the state government is allocating more funds to the Tourism department in every budget, execution of many projects has been delayed due to inefficiency and callousness of the officials concerned, sources said.

Shamuka Beach Project in Puri is a classic example of bureaucratic inefficiency. The state government had launched Shamuka Project at Sipsarabali in Puri in 2015 to attract tourists from across the country and abroad to the Holy City.

The government had planned to set up luxury hotels, golf courts and many other recreational facilities on 972 acre land as part of the mega project. In the initial phase, ₹120 crore was sanctioned to develop basic infrastructure at the project site. However, the project has been hanging fire for last six years.

Similarly, the ropeway projects at Kapilash in Dhenkanal and Dhauli in Bhubaneswar are yet to be completed. "There was no significant development in tourism sector in last three decades. Callousness and inefficiency among the officials can be blamed for the poor state of affairs in tourism sector," said a retired official of Tourism department.

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic has also thrown spanner on the development of tourism sector in Odisha. Tourist inflow to the state has gone down by 70 per cent since March 2020. The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the livelihood of people associated with the sector, sources said.

PROJECTS HANGING FIRE

ALTHOUGH THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS ALLOCATING MORE FUNDS TO THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT IN EVERY BUDGET, EXECUTION OF MANY PROJECTS HAS BEEN DELAYED DUE TO INEFFICIENCY AND CALLOUSNESS OF THE OFFICIALS CONCERNED

LAUNCHED IN 2015, SHAMUKA BEACH PROJECT IN PURI IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY

As per the Tourism department data, the state had witnessed 1.21 crore tourist footfall from across the country and abroad in 2015-16 fiscal while the figure was 1.31 crore in FY 2016-17, 1.43 crore in FY 2017-18 and 1.56 crore in FY 2018-19.

The state had hosted 1.51 crore tourists till March 2020 during FY 2019-20, said the data. Around 46 lakh tourists have visited the state after the relaxation in Covid-19 norms, sources said.

To revive the tourism sector, the state government has planned to hold seven/eight eco-retreats at various places apart from organising Konark Festival, music and classical dance programmes. Moreover, the government is all set to hold Parab festival in Koraput and Chhau at Baripada to give fillip to the sector.

This apart, the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation has set up Nimantrana restaurant in Bhubaneswar to serve Odia cuisines to the people. "With the arrival of winter, places like Puri, Gopalpur, Konark, Chilika, Paradip, Daringibadi and Koraput have seen a rise in tourist footfall. Online booking for eco-retreats is getting good response. The tourism sector will bounce back if the pandemic situation remains under control," said an official of the Tourism department.

ILS did genome sequencing of 9,000 samples: Parida

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN MARINE BIO-TECHNOLOGY IN THE STATE MOOTED

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar has developed virus cultures for Covid-19, established an Animal Biosafety Level 3 platform, a drug discovery platform, and an immunogenicity platform to assist research on coronavirus.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the institute held at Delhi Friday, ILS Director Ajay Parida said it has also carried out more than 3 lakh RT-PCR tests and 9,000 genome sequencing of the samples collected from Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Maharashtra and immune-profiling of symptomatic and asymptomatic Covid patients during the pandemic.

Union Minister of Science and

Technology Jitendra Singh, who presided over the meeting, appreciated the work of ILS in the field of high quality sciences translation, and societal programs.

He suggested use of these platforms by academic institutions, private industries, and startups.

The ILS, the Union Minister said, should promote 75 startups with an aim of creating skilled human resources and developing products as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The ILS, Parida said, has also established a Biotech incubator for promoting entrepreneurship in biotechnology and now hosts 20 startups in the area of agriculture, nutrition, health, and devices.

ILS has been working with the



Union Minister of Science & Technology Jitendra Singh and his Odisha counterpart Ashok Panda among other dignitaries at the event

tribal communities of the Aspirational District of Nabarangpur in promoting and

enhancing income generation and creating awareness on nutrition.

UNION MINISTER OF SC&TECH JITENDRA SINGH SAID THE ILS SHOULD PROMOTE 75 STARTUPS WITH AN AIM OF CREATING SKILLED HUMAN RESOURCES AND DEVELOPING PRODUCTS AS PART OF ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

ILS DIRECTOR AJAY PARIDA SAID THE INSTITUTE HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A BIOTECH INCUBATOR FOR PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND NOW HOSTS 20 STARTUPS IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, HEALTH, AND DEVICES

It has undertaken several initiatives for enhancing incomes of women farmers through training and skill development.

Odisha Minister of Science and Technology, Ashok Panda while

appreciating the contributions of ILS, suggested for inclusion of more Aspirational Districts particularly Kandhamal in the ILS future activities.

Parida said that a comprehensive proposal on the establishment of Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Marine Bio-technology for Eastern Ghat has been submitted to the Department of Biotechnology at the Centre.

The proposal aims at bio-prospecting for novel compounds and drug candidates, generating genomic resources and contributing to the ecological restoration and enhanced livelihood of the coastal communities.

The minister lauded ILS for its significant contribution during Covid pandemic through extensive testing and research activities on delta variants of the virus.

SUM Hospital installs premier CBC analyser

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM (IMS & SUM) hospital here has taken a major leap in the field of laboratory haematology by becoming the first hospital in eastern region to install state-of-the-art fully automated CBC analyser with complete systemisation.

The new acquisition is the fourth such installation in the country, said Rajesh Kumar Bhola, Associate Professor in Department of Pathology and in-charge of Laboratory Haematology in the hospital. The Sysmex XN 3111a analyser, the latest equipment in the field, has the technology to help systemisation in blood counts which includes running CBC, making slides and staining them using the reflex rule, viewing them under an automated digital microscope and classifying the abnormality, he added.

"The major addition to systemization of CBC in IMS and SUM hospital is the digital pathology CellaVision. When implemented, it speeds up and simplifies the microscopy slide review process while delivering more standardised results," the doctor said.

The analyser can do stem cell count too which can help in bone marrow transplantation process.

The equipment was unveiled Friday in the presence of SOA Vice-Chancellor Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, Dean of IMS and SUM Hospital Gangadhar Sahoo, Medical Superintendent Puspapaj Samantashahar, Deputy Medical Superintendent Rajesh Lenka, Head of Pathology Debahuti Mohapatra, and Director of SUM Central Lab Rajashree Panigrahy.

Odisha logs 263 new Covid cases, 3 deaths



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

At least 308 more patients recuperated from the highly infectious disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 10,33,652

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Odisha Friday reported 263 fresh Covid-19 cases, eight less than the previous day with the tally rising to 10,44,962, a Health department official said.

The death toll rose to 8,373 as three more persons - two from Khurda and one from Mayurbhanj - succumbed to the disease in the last 24 hours, he said.

So far, 53 other Covid patients have died due to comorbidities, the Health department official added.

Khurda district, which comprises the state Capital

Bhubaneswar, registered 129 fresh cases followed by Cuttack (21), he said, adding that 44 among the new patients are below 18 years of age.

The coastal state currently has 2,884 active cases. At least 308 more patients recuperated from the highly infectious disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 10,33,652, according to the Health official.

Over 2.26 crore sample tests have been conducted for Covid-19 so far. More than 2.65 crore people have been inoculated in the state with around 1.30 crore of them having received both doses of the vaccines.

POINT OF ATTRACTION



Girls clicking photos at the selfie point at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PHOTO: MANORANJAN MISHRA

2 held for duping 38 CPSE aspirants of ₹1.47 cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch Friday arrested two persons on charges of duping at least 38 Combined Police Service Examination (CPSE)-2013 aspirants of ₹1.47 crore, an official said.

Baikunthanath Naik of Jaipatna in Kalahandi and Bhimsen Moharana of Bhubaneswar have been taken into custody on the basis of an EOW case (15/21) registered against them and two others following a complaint lodged by Badal Kumar Raul of Brahmagiri in Puri, one of the victims, said the official.

According to the case details, Badal and 37 others had appeared for the CPSE-2013, conducted by the Odisha Staff Selection Commission for the posts of Sub-



Between May and November 2020, the accused had collected ₹1.47 crore from 38 job seekers through bank account and in cash as well

Inspectors of Police, Sergeant and Deputy Subedar. The final merit list of the selected candidates was published in December 2016.

The victims were, however, under the impression that the authorities would publish a supplementary section list. The victims had faced the viva-voce test and were hopeful of getting the job in case of publication of any supplementary

list. The fraudsters exploited this situation, said an official.

"Baikunthanath and Bhimsen impersonated an assistant section officer and a senior Home department officer respectively and collected ₹56 lakh from each of the victims on the assurance of getting their names enlisted in the supplementary list," said the official. In a bid to gain their confidence,

the accused had even shown forged government identity cards to the job aspirants. Between May and November 2020, the accused had collected ₹1.47 crore from 38 job seekers through bank account and in cash as well, added the official.

It was found that Bhimsen has retired as the Senior Grade Recorder from Higher Education department. During house search of Baikunthanath, many incriminating documents, including 12 ATM Cards and fake identity card of ASO have been seized.

"All bank accounts of the accused have been frozen. Investigation of the case is on to identify and nab if any other person is involved in the fraud," said the official, requesting people, who might have been cheated by the accused, to come up with a complaint.

14 more MRF centres for waste mgmt in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will add 14 more material recovery facility (MRF) centres to facilitate segregated waste management in a scientific manner.

The march of the civic body in the direction of segregated waste management is supported by micro composting centres (MCCs) and MRFs, said the civic body sources. Initially, 41 MCCs and 10 MRFs were planned but 14 more MRFs have been added to the new plan recently.

Based on the load of dry waste on a daily basis, Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh has instructed to construct more number of MRFs. Till now, four MRFs are completely functional, civil construction of eight are over and that of the remaining is in process.

In MRF, recyclable materials like cardboard, glass, plastic materials, clothes, leather, shoes and other materials are segregated for processing. The materials are pressed in the belling machine to be handed over to certified recyclers of State Pollution Control Board. Besides, there are weighing

Till now, four MRFs are completely functional, civil construction of eight are over and that of the remaining is in process

machine and napkin incinerators in each unit.

Five Swachha Karmis from rag pickers' group are engaged in each MRF. They support in segregation of recyclable materials and get a monthly incentive of Rs 7,000.

Out of 24 MRFs planned to cater to the needs of 67 wards, 10 will be in North Zone and seven each in South East and South West Zone respectively. The capacity of each would be 10 tonne per day.

It is worth mentioning that awareness drive is continuing for door-to-door segregated waste collection. Swachha sathis, sanitary inspectors, sanitation experts and Swachha Bhubaneswar Abhiyan Cell experts are facilitating the drive to promote circular economy. Active community participation in the drive will contribute to achievement of Sustainable Development Goal, appeals the BMC.

WASSUP TODAY

- BHUBANESWAR**
- Child Rights Week-2021 by Centre for Voluntary Service, Buddha Mandir, Unit-IX, 11:30am
- Odisha Research Conclave by Utkal University and Education dept, varsity premises, 9am
- Handicraft expo by Utkalika, Ekamra Haat, 10am

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.

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AFFIDAVIT

I Pramila Tandi, W/o Late Gopal Nag of village Kumerpata under M.Rampur P.S. Swear an affidavit on date 11.11.2021 before Executive Magistrate, M.Rampur and declared on oath that Pramila Tandi and Pramila Nag is one and the same person. This is for the information of the general public at large Pramila Tandi.

LOST

I Rajesh Ranjan Nag, S/o Late Gopal Nag of Kumerpata, P.S.-M.Rampur, Dist.-Kalahandi, I was going to at 1 P.M. M.Rampur town from my some official works on date 28.07.2021. On the way one of the R.S.D. Executed in Favour of my mother Pramila Nag, Vide Document No. 1977/2003, Dtd.- 05.12.2003 Executed out of Khata No. 154/30, Plot No.- 766, for an area of Ac. 0.14 Dec. only of MOUZA Kumerpata, P.S.- M.Rampur is misplaced some where. I searched for the same but could not find. This is for the information of the General Public.

NEWS SNIPPETS

Man gets 14-yr jail for raping minor

Cuttack: A POCSO court in Cuttack Friday sentenced a 60-year-old man to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a girl seven years ago. The Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) also slapped a penalty of Rs 10,000 on convict Ajay Samal and directed the District Legal Services Authority to pay a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the rape survivor, who is an orphan. The District Childline received information November 23, 2014, that a girl was raped. It rescued the minor and lodged an FIR with the Mahila Police, Special Public Prosecutor Ramesh Chandra Mohanty said.

OHRC seeks ATR on Nathapur violence from Puri Collector, SP

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Friday directed the Puri Collector and SP to submit action-taken report (ATR) by November 18 in connection with the bombing and burning of houses of 48 Dalit families of Nathapur in Brahmagiri area of Puri.

The commission sought the ATR while hearing a plea filed by Samyak Samanata Sanghathan and Dalit rights activist Bimal Puhana. Similarly, it directed the district administration to arrange temporary accommodation, food and other amenities for the families rendered homeless in the incident. The SP has been directed to ensure that no such action is taken against the Dalit families in future. Notably, several houses were gutted in a group clash that saw two factions hurling bombs at each other over encroachment of a patch of land at Nathapur November 7.

Ensure smooth disbursement of scholarship: HE dept

Bhubaneswar: The Higher Education department Friday asked the Director of Treasuries Inspection to develop a mechanism for smooth disbursement of scholarship to the eligible students' bank accounts. Department Joint Secretary Pratiba Sahu said, in a letter, various scholarships such as e-Medhabruti, Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Bhasabruti and Gopabandhu Sikhya Sahayata Yojana are being provided through state scholarship portal. The portal will have direct interface with state treasury

portal Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) for disbursement of scholarship to the students' bank account. "You are requested to kindly advise the technical team of IFMS to develop the mechanism for system to system integration of state scholarship portal and IFMS portal in coordination with customer service management technologies which have been contracted by Odisha Computer Application Centre for developing state scholarship portal," the letter read.

Dateline issued for PG spot admissions

Bhubaneswar: The Higher Education department Friday released guidelines and dateline for PG spot admission under project SAMS for the academic year 2021-22. As per the directions, candidates need to report to the allotted institute for admission from November 26 to 29. In case the candidates didn't turn up on the issued date, new candidate from the waiting list can be selected who can take admission December 6 and 7. Those who were previously selected and had not taken admission in first and second selections, and those who have appeared for CPET-2021, but have not been selected in first and second selections are eligible for this spot admission.

Recent global warming unprecedented in 24k yrs: Study

The speed of human-caused global warming over the last 150 years is faster than anything observed since the last ice age which was about 24,000 years ago, a recent study revealed.

A team led by researchers at the University of Arizona, US, also verified that the main drivers of climate change since the last ice age are increasing greenhouse gas concentrations and the retreat of the ice sheets.

The study, published recently in the journal 'Nature', suggested that a general warming trend over the last 10,000 years, settling a decade-long debate in the paleoclimatology community as to whether this period trended warmer or cooler.

The researchers found that the magnitude and rate of warming over the last 150 years far have surpassed the magnitude and rate of changes over the last 24,000 years. "This reconstruction suggests

that the current temperatures are unprecedented in 24,000 years, and also suggests that the speed of human-caused global warming is faster than anything we've seen in that same time," said Jessica Tierney, an associate professor at the University of Arizona, and co-author of the study.

"The fact that we're today so far out of bounds of what we might consider normal is a cause for alarm and should be surprising to everybody," said lead study author Matthew Osman, a Geosciences post-doctoral researcher at the university. The team created maps of global temperature changes for every 200-



The fact that we're today so far out of bounds of what we might consider normal is a cause for alarm and should be surprising to everybody

MATTHEW OSMAN | LEAD STUDY AUTHOR AND GEOSCIENCES POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

year interval going back 24,000 years. The researchers combined two independent datasets - temperature data from marine sediments and computer simulations of climate - to create a more complete picture of the past.

They looked at the chemical signatures of marine sediments to get information about past temperatures. Since temperature changes over time can affect the chemistry of a long-dead animal's shell, paleoclimatologists can use those measurements to estimate temperature in an area. The researchers noted that the

The team created maps of global temperature changes for every 200-year interval going back 24,000 years

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method is not a perfect thermometer, but it's a starting point. Computer-simulated climate models, on the other hand, provide

temperature information based on scientists' best understanding of the physics of the climate system, which also is not perfect, they said. The team combined both the methods to harness the strengths of each.

"To forecast the weather, meteorologists start with a model that reflects current weather, and then add in observations such as temperature, pressure, humidity, wind direction, and so on to create an updated forecast," Tierney said. The team applied this same idea to past climate.

"With this method, we are able to leverage the relative merits of each of these unique datasets to generate observationally constrained, dynamically consistent and spatially complete reconstructions of past climate change," Osman added.

The team is now working on using the method to investigate climate changes even farther in the past. PTI

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SHORT TAKES

Water tanker overturns, 2 killed

Barbil: Two labourers died after a water tanker overturned inside the IDC mine at Roida in Keonjhar district Friday. The deceased were identified as Samara Karua and Damayanti Oram, residents of Roida area. According to reports, a tanker was carrying water inside the mine. Two workers were sitting atop the tanker. Unfortunately, the tanker lost balance and overturned. The two workers sitting atop came



under the tanker and died instantly. The incident triggered tension in the mine. Labourers working in the mine staged protests, demanding Rs 30 lakh compensation to each of the bereaved families and a job to one of their family members. Police rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the people. However, the mining company has not cleared its stand on the accident in the mine. Labourers demanded a probe into the mishap and sought to know why water tanker was inside the mine.

Chilling hub closed, farmers suffer



Chhendipada: About 2,500 dairy farmers of Chhendipada block in Angul district are facing hardship as the lone milk chilling centre here is lying nonfunctional. The Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (OMFED) has set up the chilling centre with a capacity of 1,000 litre at the block headquarters. Farmers tagged to 16 cooperative societies sell over 1,200 litres of milk. The money thereof was credited to their respective accounts within 10 days. However, for some reasons, the payment was stopped and the outstanding money ran up to over Rs2 lakh. While farmers are yet to receive their payments, the chilling centre is also lying closed for a year now even though its renovated building was inaugurated three months ago. In this regard, the affected farmers had met Sambalpur MP Nitesh Gangdeb. When contacted, quoting the District Collector, Gangdeb said the centre would soon be made functional. One and a half months have since passed but the renovated centre is yet to see the light of the day. All attempts to contact OMFED GM, Dhenkanal, Ajit Xess over his mobile phone failed.

Student unrest at MSCBD varsity



Baripada: Students of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University started a sit-in in front of the varsity gate Friday over their 10 demands. The agitating students alleged they have been facing a lot of difficulties due to the pandemic while their demands have not been fulfilled. They have demanded a 50 per cent waiver of hostel fees, formation of students' union, formation of a literary club, smart classrooms, a special building for the students pursuing BE and Med courses, Wi-Fi connectivity in the campus, filling up of vacancies and regular updating of the university website. The agitating students accused the university authorities of paying no heed to their basic issues at the time of pandemic. Some officials of the university talked to the students, but the latter refused to budge. They pressed for 50 per cent reduction in their hostel fees.

Wrong blood transfusion kills woman at RG hospital



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 12: A 25-year-old woman died after she was administered a wrong blood type at Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) in Sundargarh district. The incident that occurred November 11 speaks volume of medical negligence. The deceased patient's family members have lodged a complaint at Raghunathpalli police station. According to a source, Sarojini Kak, a resident of Budakata village under Kutra block, was a sickle cell patient. Her family members had to rush her to Rourkela Government Hospital after she fell

ill November 10. She was receiving treatment at bed no-158 of the medicine ward. She was administered a B+ blood at 11:30 am November 11. Her sister Anjana Kak alleged that Sarojini was given a wrong blood type. "After coming to know that a B+ blood had been administered, I went through my sister's previous records and found that her blood type was O+." Though I brought the attention of doctors and staff to this negligence, they took it casually. The negligence claimed my sister's life," she alleged.

Meanwhile, the police have already initiated a probe into the incident. At the same time, the RGH authorities have formed a five-member team to probe the allegation. RGH director Dr Santosh Kumar Swain said a five-member team will find out the veracity of the allegation. If it is proved true, action will be taken, he added.



With fog enveloping parts of Kandhamal district, people doing exercise to ward off chill at a park in Raikia area Friday morning, OP PHOTO

399 PMGSY roads nowhere near completion

CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE PMGSY HAS ORDERED FRESH TENDERS FOR INCOMPLETE PROJECTS

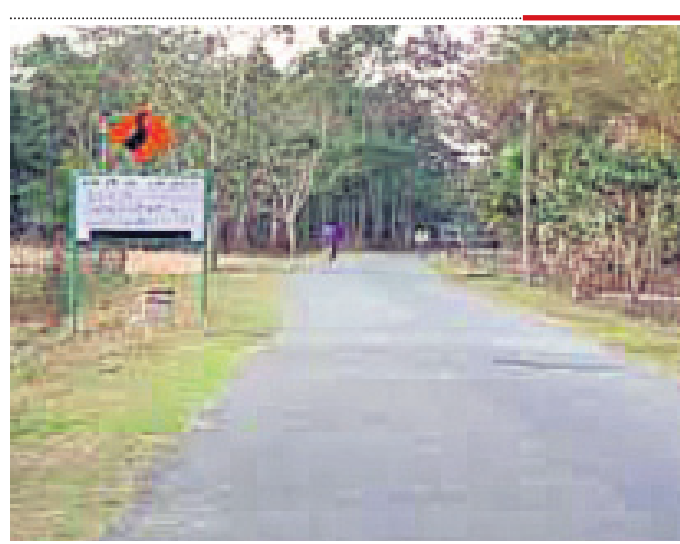
POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 12: The state and the central governments have emphasised on rural connectivity under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), but nearly 400 road projects under this scheme have remained incomplete even 15 years after commencement of their construction, a report said. This miserable progress of the rural road connectivity has been reported from 13 rural development circles in the state. According to reports, 399 PMGSY roads are to be completed.

Of them, 308 projects had been taken up in the first phase while 91 others were in the second phase.

In Angul RD circle, two projects sanctioned in 2006-7 have not been completed. As many as 124 PMGSY road projects have been stuck midway in Sunabeda RD circle comprising Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Koraput districts. It was stated that negligence on part of contractors and officials of the RD department is responsible for inordinate delay in the projects.

Crores of rupees are being pumped into these projects to boost rural connectivity in inaccessible areas, but the scheme seems to have failed to achieve its objective in the pockets where road projects



are hanging fire, it was alleged. In some cases, it was seen that due to substandard work, many road projects are in bad shape in just two or three years after their completion. Expressing concern on the inordinate delay of these projects, the chief engineer of the RD department (PMGSY) has directed the officials of these RD circles to complete the projects by November 31. The PMGSY projects are meant to provide good and motorable roads to villages with a population of 1000 each. The PMGSY is being executed by the rural de-

velopment department of the state government. It was alleged that unholy nexus between engineers of the department and contractors has scuttled in-time completion of these projects. For example, the 2.01-km road from Aman to Ambatata and another 6-km road from Khaliberna to Nuagaon in Angul RD circle have been left halfway by the contractors even though their work was started 15 years ago.

Four projects in Angul circle, eight in Balasore circle, 41 in Baripada circle, 30 in Berhampur

circle, 21 in Cuttack circle, 42 in Bhawanipatna circle, 31 in Bhubaneswar circle, six in Bolangir circle, 46 in Kendrapara circle, 18 in Keonjhar circle, 13 in Sambalpur circle, 124 in Sunabeda circle and 13 in Sundargarh circle are incomplete. November 10, the chief engineer of the PMGSY has directed all superintending and executive engineers of the RD circles to scrap agreements of the contractors where PMGSY road projects are caught in tardy pace. The chief engineer has also ordered fresh tenders for some incomplete projects.

Dokra crafts village falters due to admin apathy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 12: A crafts village constructed in August 2019 at a cost of about Rs 5 crore at Nabajibanpur area under Saptasajya panchayat in Dhenkanal district has eluded local craftsmen.

The crafts village was built under the rural tourism scheme for dokra artisans in the district to promote art and to support their livelihoods as Saptasajya panchayat is well-known for it. Although the construction work was completed more than two years ago, it has not been commissioned yet, many artisans alleged.

Dhenkanal tourism department and ORMAS have been blaming each other for which the ambitious project has eluded the artisans.

According to a source, Nabajibanpur of Sadeibereni has earned fame for its exquisite designs of dokra work. Nearly 120 craftsmen are involved in the art form, which faces now extinction.

The crafts village consists of a large hall meant for sale, display and production of dokra works by the local artisans. In addition, it has a conference hall and a lounge for tourists. After completion, the crafts village was handed over to Saptasajya panchayat authorities.

When the panchayat body disagreed for annual maintenance, the charge was subsequently given to ORMAS. Due to lack of adequate fund, ORMAS is not able to maintain the crafts village properly, a source said.

180 samples from BNP sent for testing



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, Nov 12: With a large number of migratory birds thriving Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) and its nearby areas, Kendrapara district administration has collected 180 samples and sent them for testing to ascertain the presence of avian influenza in the area.

According to a source, arrival of the migratory birds has enhanced the risk of bird flu outbreak in the locality. The district administration took a proactive drive in this regard. The samples were collected

from the park and villages located in its close vicinity. A team of veterinary officials has collected 40 bird faecal samples from Mathaadia and Ranabhanjadia areas of the

national park. Similarly, 14 water samples were collected from water bodies where the birds usually drink. Likewise, 42 faecal, rectal swab and throat swab samples of chickens were collected from Trilochanpur, Baradia, Dangamala, Khamarasahi and Ragadapatia villages.

The 180 collected samples were sent to Animal Diseases Research Institute, Phulnakhara. Subsequently, the samples will be sent to Forensic Laboratory in Bhopal for further testing. "We expect a detailed report maximum within the next seven days, after which it can be ascertained as to whether the migratory avian guests carried bird flu or not," a veterinary official said.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, PURUSHOTTAMPUR (GM)
Letter No.2313 Dated 11.11.2021
"e" Procurement Notice
Tender Ref. No. PUR-NAC-01/2021-22
No.C-1261:- Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website, i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in

1 Name of the work	: Works as mentioned in DTCN
2 No. of works	: 9 (Nine) Nos.
3 Estimated cost	: Rs.3,00,000.00 to Rs.19,98,144.00
4 Period of completion	: 90 days
5 Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of dtd. 16.11.2021 to dtd. 30.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
6 Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 30.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
7 Bids received online shall be opened on	: 01.12.2021 at 1.00 P.M.
8 Tender document in original should drop in tender box at NAC, Purushottampur Office	: At 10.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon on dt.01.12.2021
9 Name & address of the officer: inviting bid	: Executive Officer, NAC, Purushottampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>
Sd./- Executive Officer, N.A.C., Purushottampur (Gm)
OIPR-13187/11/0003/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar
Phone No.: 06821-291004, e-mail ID:- bnjirrigation2010@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. e-BNID-09/2021-22
No.A-609:- Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

- Name of the work: Road Work & Flood Bank work.
- No. of works: 06 (Six) Nos. of work.
- Class of contractor: Varies from 'D' Class or 'C' Class.
- Bid Identification No.: BNID-139/2021-22 to 144/2021-22.
- Estimated cost put to tender : Rs.4.93 lakh to Rs.17.18 lakh
- Period of completion: 03 (Three) months.
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal: 15.11.2021 to 24.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal: 24.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of bid: 25.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar.
- Date of lottery: 01.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar (If situation arises).
- Submission of affidavit: The bidder should mention his full Present Postal Address, e-Mail ID, Valid Mobile Number in his Original Affidavit for each work during uploading of tender.
- Submission of Original Licence (for Engineering Contractor) at the time of verification of documents.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division
OIPR-32010/11/0001/2122

GOVT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NAYAGARH
At/P.O.- Nabaghanpur, Dist.- Nayagarh, Ph.- 06753-252049, E-mail-nayagarhrw2006@yahoo.in
No.Tender-Online-Nayagarh Divn.-05/2021-22 Date: 08.11.2021

e-Procurement Notice
No.O-920:- 1. Name of the work: Repair of road & building works. 2. Total No. of projects: 10 (Ten) Nos. of projects. 3. Class of contractor: (a) Estimated cost more than Rs.40.00 lakhs & upto Rs.300.00 lakhs: 'B' & 'A' Class (of Orissa PWD) or relevant class of other licencing authorities. (b) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakhs & upto Rs.40.00 lakhs: 'C' & 'B' class (of Orissa PWD) or relevant class of other licencing authorities. (c) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 lakh & upto Rs.20.00 lakh: 'D' & 'C' Class (of Orissa PWD) or relevant class of other licencing authorities. 4. Estimated cost: Rs.1.78 lakh to Rs.17.86 lakh. 5. Time for completion: 01 (One) calendar month. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Date & time of opening of tender
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nayagarh	No.: Tender-Online - Divn. NAYAGARH-05/2021-22	16.11.2021 AT 10.00 A.M.	23.11.2021 upto 1.00 P.M.	24.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Divn., Nayagarh
OIPR-25106/11/0009/2122

Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
Advt. No. 15-04/2021-Regst.
Dated: 09th November, 2021

VACANCY

Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, New Delhi invites applications from Indian Nationals for one post of Member in the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) is an Appellate authority established under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to hear various appeals under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. The Tribunal exercises jurisdiction over Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, Airport tariff matters and the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 under the TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended), the Information Technology Act, 2008, the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 and the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019. Headquarter of TDSAT is situated at New Delhi. Detailed Application Form and Qualification for the post and other details are available on <http://www.dot.gov.in> or <http://www.persmin.nic.in> or <http://www.tdsat.gov.in>. Last date of receipt of applications is **15.12.2021 till 05.30 P.M.** Sd./- (Naveen Kumar) Director

davp 06201/11/0008/2122

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
Corrigendum
Advt. No. Estab.IV/291/2021 Dated: 01.11.2021
Online applications were invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor, in the Academic Pay Level 10 of 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in various Departments of the University. The University updated the eligibility and shortlisting criteria in this respect. The last date for receipt of applications will be two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For details, please visit the University website www.du.ac.in and click "Jobs and Opportunities" under the Head "Work with DU". Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the University website.
davp 21231/11/0005/2122 REGISTRAR

e-Procurement Notice for Road & Building
Works Identification No. 08/ SERW/
JLS/2021-22
No.O-911:-

1 Procurement Officer	: Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jaleswar
2 Name of the work	: Road & Buildings
3 Total No. of works	: 7 Nos.
4 Estimated cost	: Approx. estimated cost Rs.6.11 lakh to Rs.64.98 lakh
5 Class of contractor	: 'D' & 'C' and 'B' & 'A' class
6 Time of completion	: Two, three & nine months (As per annexure)
7 Availability of tender online for bidding	: From 16.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M. to 22.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
8 Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	: 20.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
9 Date & time of opening of tender in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Jaleswar	: Date & time opening of technical bid- 23.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M. Date & time of opening of financial bid: 26.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website- www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Jaleswar
OIPR-25051/11/0008/2122

There is nothing mind can do that cannot be better done in the mind's immobility and thought-free stillness. When mind is still, then truth gets her chance to be heard in the purity of the silence.

SRI AUROBINDO



Babus may soon run medical colleges in MP

During the height of the COVID-19 wave last year, the Gujarat government deployed top IAS and IPS officers who held a degree in medicine to tackle the pandemic in the worst-affected areas. The move to use officers with administrative as well as medical skills worked well for the state given the emergency-like situation.

However, a proposal by the Madhya Pradesh government to appoint IAS officers to run 13 medical colleges in the state has not been welcomed by the doctors. While senior babus of the Health Department have dismissed such reports, the state Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang has been cautious while saying that the proposal is being studied and a decision will be taken only after careful consideration.

The death of four infants in a fire at a Bhopal hospital recently has focused attention on the state hospital administration. Chief Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan has been pressed into ordering a fire safety audit of all government and private hospitals in the state. Additional Chief Secretary for Health and Education Mohammad Suleiman is conducting a high-level probe and the report will be submitted to Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains soon.

However, the medical community fears that such appointments will not improve the conditions of medical colleges in the state but rather make matters worse.

Sanjiv Chaturvedi wins his day in court

Embattled Uttarakhand whistleblower Sanjiv Chaturvedi, who is a 2002-batch Indian Forest Service (IfoS) officer, currently posted as the Chief Conservator of Forests in Haldwani, has won a skirmish in his larger battle with the Centre after the Uttarakhand High Court overruled the order of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in December last year.

Last year Chaturvedi, who is a Magsaysay Award recipient and crusader against corruption, had filed a petition in the Nainital bench of CAT alleging that the lateral recruitment of joint secretary-level posts through the contract system was "arbitrarily irrational and ridden with irregularities" and needed to be probed. He also challenged the 360-degree system for the appraisal of babus. The tribunal however transferred the hearing of the petition from the Nainital Bench to the principal bench in Delhi. The High Court has said it saw no reason for the case to be transferred since all benches are equal and it cannot be suggested that the principal bench in Delhi is a superior bench.

Much of Chaturvedi's career has been spent in courts or battles with various state governments and the Centre. He was a whistleblower in the forestry case in Haryana and later in the capital when he was the Chief Vigilance Officer of AIIMS where he exposed several financial scams. Currently, he is probing the alleged role of forest officers in illegal construction and felling of trees in the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve. He has now won his day in court, but his battles will continue.

MEA gets busy with new postings

Foreign policy wonks see in the recent major reshuffle of diplomatic postings as a precursor to the retirement of Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla early next year. At this early stage, it is not clear whether Shringla who has worked long and fruitfully with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will retire or be given an extension. Such decisions are usually known only close to the D-Day. In terms of seniority though, the current High Commissioner to the UK, Gaitri Issar Kumar is in line to step up. But, these days nothing can be taken for granted, as Jaishankar himself knows too well. The current round of postings is focused on the Middle East region. Pavan Kapoor who is ambassador to the UAE will now be our ambassador to Russia. Kapoor has been replaced by Sanjay Sudhir, who was the High Commissioner in the Maldives. Our man in Oman Munnun Mahawar replaces him. Meanwhile, Dinesh Patnaik, who was director-general of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is the new ambassador to Spain and Secretary Consular Passports and Visas Sanjay Bhattacharya is likely to become our envoy to Switzerland. There will likely be more churning at the MEA in the weeks and months ahead, so watch this space for updates.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@diliptheherian](https://twitter.com/diliptheherian). Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion!'

MUHAMMAD ALI

Keep your feet on the ground, but let your heart soar as high as it will. Refuse to be average or to surrender to the chill of your spiritual environment.

ARTHUR HELPS

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.

MAYA ANGELOU

WORDSWORTH

Carnage

Carnage derives from Latin caro, meaning flesh or meat, which was the source of the medieval Latin carnicium for the slaughter of animals and for the meat that resulted. In particular it referred to the ration of flesh that tenants had to provide to their feudal lords. This word moved through Italian and French to appear in English as the figurative term carnage. It was introduced by Philemon Holland early in the seventeenth century, to evoke an image of the bloody butcher's shop transferred to the hand-to-hand hack and slash of the battlefield. He employed it in translations of various Latin and Greek authors, but it was only taken up by other writers many years later. Some other words derived from caro are obvious enough, like carnivore for a meat-eating animal; carrion for the dead flesh of animals; and charnel house, a place in which dead bodies were placed. But would you put that attractive flower the carnation in the same group? One theory is that it was named in the sixteenth century because its flowers were a pink that reminded people of the colour of flesh. But it might just be linguistic confusion, as it had earlier had the name coronation, perhaps because it had been used in chaplets or because its flowers looked like little crowns.

LOL REMARRIAGE

A husband and wife were golfing when suddenly the wife asked, "Honey, if I died would you get married again?" The husband said, "No sweetie." The woman said, "I'm sure you would."

So the man said, "Okay, I would!" Then the woman asked, "Would you let her sleep in our bed?" And the man replied, "Ya, I guess so." Then the wife asked, "Would you let her use my golf clubs?" And the husband replied, "No, she's left handed."



FOCUS CLIMATE CHANGE

MEASURING ACCOUNTABILITY

This year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow has brought a marked shift in focus from the responsibilities of governments to the power of the private sector. If national governments cannot find a way to reconcile their interests and commit to collective action, can the private sector pick up the slack?

This is not merely a question of how much difference individual or coordinated emissions reductions by firms would make, though the answer is probably significant. Rather, it is a question about the potential of the market. Can it be harnessed to deliver the crucial public good of rapid and large-scale emissions reductions?

Lack of financial capital is unlikely to be a problem. Mark Carney, the UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, made a splash at the meeting by announcing a commitment of \$130 trillion toward the goal of reaching net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions. This eye-watering sum is to be made available by the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), a coalition led by Carney that includes some 450 financial institutions accounting for 40% of the world's assets.

But this financial commitment raises its own set of questions. Most obvious, how will the money be spent? Will efforts adequately and fairly reflect the interests of the global population – consumers, workers, savers, and investors alike?

In considering these questions, we should take note of another, possibly even more significant development at COP26. Erkki Liikane, Chair of the Trustees of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation, announced the formation of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), which will focus, first and foremost, on climate-related disclosure. This is a big step forward because, as Peter Drucker famously said, "What gets measured gets managed."

The IFRS Foundation issues financial accounting standards that more than 140 countries require. These form the basis for countries' domestic reporting rules; have over the years become the lingua franca of global capital markets.



Whether the market system can be harnessed to deliver the crucial public good of rapid and large-scale emissions reduction remains to be seen. But the creation of a new accounting-standards board focused on climate-related disclosure certainly improves the odds

The reason is simple: clear standards ensure that information is transparent, comparable, and thus useful for analysts, auditors, investors, lenders, regulators, and company managers.

In this sense, the evolution of common reporting standards has been vital to the globalisation of capital markets – a trend that has left a growing share of the world's commercial enterprises subject to the discipline imposed by freely moving private capital. And yet, that discipline currently does not extend to climate-related factors.

Companies are both perpetrators and victims of environmental degradation. They will be affected by the consequences of climate change, such as increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather events, and by government action to reduce emissions and protect or restore the environment.

Yet, as it stands, we do not know exactly how high those costs would be – or how much a given company's activities are affecting the environment – because there is no common system for reporting on the relevant variables. Even from a purely financial point of view, this is a serious problem. These climate and climate-policy-related variables represent major risks, but without consistent, comprehensive reporting, those risks cannot be measured, much less mitigated. That is where the ISSB

comes in. Admittedly, the body's remit is ambitious. It will be global from the start and provide standards covering an immensely complex set of indicators. Of course, there is no alternative: measuring climate-related risks is not a straightforward task, and the challenge seems especially daunting in view of the fact that current financial-reporting standards evolved over many years.

Nonetheless, there is reason to hope the ISSB can deliver.

The ISSB will establish a global "baseline" of minimum standards that companies must meet in reporting on climate-related risks. This baseline will enable investors to compare such risks across companies globally. The ISSB standards will not establish metrics that are related to prescriptive public policies, which most likely will be country-specific. If a country has a particular target or policy in place, it can be added as an additional requirement. The key here is to ensure that local requirements will not lead to an entirely different reporting structure, but instead be additive.

Governance will also be integral to the ISSB's success. Experience has shown that too much top-down direction can stunt the evolution of standards. That is why the IFRS Foundation has established a three-tiered system of governance, comprising a moni-

toring board made up of representatives of capital-markets authorities from around the world, a board of independent trustees, and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), an independent standard-setting body. National standard-setters, multilateral organizations, and private companies contribute to the standard-setting process via several advisory committees.

The creation of the ISSB reflects a novel mix of bottom-up and top-down initiatives and the convergence of a diverse range of organisations and individuals. It could not have happened without the path-breaking work of the many actors that understood that capital markets needed sustainability standards. These organisations – the Value Reporting Foundation and the Climate Disclosure Standards Board in particular – defined the first reporting concepts and partly succeeded in securing their adoption by companies. The Task Force of Climate-Related Financial Disclosures and the World Economic Forum also contributed important work.

But while these efforts got the ball rolling, they led to a patchwork of standards and metrics that were confusing to companies and may have enabled greenwashing. Combining these initiatives into a single shared framework required a top-down approach led by a credible authority. Regulators, international organisations, and governments encouraged the IFRS Foundation to take on this role, owing to its strong track record as a standard-setter for financial reporting.

The creation of the ISSB is exactly what the emergence of climate-related financial standards needed. And the pragmatic mix of top-down and bottom-up initiatives, together with action by a "coalition of the willing," that made it possible may have lasting significance for the world's broader efforts to deliver public goods.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the London Business School and a trustee of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM TAXATION

Newer ways to check methane emission



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

THE METHANE TAX SHOULD BE USED TO MAKE CASH TRANSFERS TO THE PEOPLE AND NOT USED FOR PAYING YET HIGHER SALARIES TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

Methane traps 28 to 80 times more heat and causes more warming of the Earth. Large amounts of methane are emitted from agriculture and animal husbandry. The fields of paddy are flooded with water and the oxygen in the water is soon depleted. Subsequently, the leaves etcetera below the water begin to ferment and emit methane. Methane is also emitted by livestock during digestion as well as during fermentation of the dung. The leaves, twigs and carcasses flowing into the reservoirs of large hydropower projects settle at the bottom and ferment and emit methane.

It is, however, possible for India to reduce methane emissions while promoting economic growth. For example, paddy fields can be intermittently flooded with water instead of flooding them continuously. The short dry period will reduce fermentation and the fresh water will bring in oxygen. The yield will not be affected, while water will be saved and methane emissions will be reduced. The second example is from animal

husbandry. We can reduce methane emissions by promoting breeds that emit less methane.

We had a large number of gobar gas plants. The methane emitted during fermentation of the dung got trapped, was burnt in stoves and got converted into less harmful carbon dioxide. The supply of cheap LPG has led to the end of gobar gas plants. We must also promote vegetarian diet. More methane is produced in the conversion of feedstock into meat.

The government is making large hydropower projects like Polavaram in Andhra Pradesh and Lakhwar Vyasi in Uttarakhand. These projects will produce electricity at a cost of ₹8 per unit or more. Methane emissions from these projects can be avoided and electricity can be produced at ₹4 per unit if the same money is invested in solar and wind power generation. The government can promote these alternatives and attain both higher economic growth and lower methane emissions.

The price at which water is supplied to the farmers must be increased and sold to them accord-

ing to volume to encourage them to move from continuous to intermittent flooding. The price of LPG must be increased so that it becomes profitable for the farmers to produce gobar gas. Tax must be imposed on all meats so that vegetarian diet is promoted. Large hydropower projects must be abandoned or subjected to high tax to promote solar power. These taxes will surely lead to increase in the price of rice, LPG, meat and hydro-electricity. However, the revenue earned from these taxes can be distributed to the citizens of the country through direct cash transfer. The additional payments made by the consumers in the form of these "methane" taxes will be returned to them. Let us say the government collects ₹1,000 crore as methane tax on LPG. They would pay ₹25 per person. Then the government makes cash transfer of ₹7.40 per person to all the 135 crore citizens. The result will be that those who consume LPG will pay more, while those who use gobar gas will get ₹7.40. In this way we can move towards a low-methane economy without affecting the welfare of the people and also promote economic growth. The caveat, of course, is that these methane taxes should be used to make cash transfers to the people and not used for paying yet higher salaries to the government servants or other government consumption.

consume rice will not pay any amount and get a bonanza of ₹7.40. This will encourage people to move from methane-emitting rice to other crops.

Similarly, let us say the government collects ₹1,000 crore as methane tax on LPG. This tax will be paid by the 40 crore citizens who use LPG. They would pay ₹25 per person. Then the government makes cash transfer of ₹7.40 per person to all the 135 crore citizens. The result will be that those who consume LPG will pay more, while those who use gobar gas will get ₹7.40. In this way we can move towards a low-methane economy without affecting the welfare of the people and also promote economic growth. The caveat, of course, is that these methane taxes should be used to make cash transfers to the people and not used for paying yet higher salaries to the government servants or other government consumption.

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

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

Orissa POST

B-15, Russagar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Poshan scheme

Sir, "PM Poshan scheme" is good news to lakhs of underprivileged children who are struggling to overcome anaemia and malnutrition. India is one of the very few countries that provide its school-going children one nutritious meal a day. Nearly 12 crore children belonging to government and government-aided schools will benefit from the massive scheme that proposes to run till 2026. The earlier mid-day meal scheme was a reasonable success but suffered due to hiccups in effective implementation owing to corruption. Children's health is at stake when substandard food materials are used to prepare food. An incident in an Uttar Pradesh school, in 2019, where roti was served with salt as a "meal" had made headlines compelling the Centre to totally overhaul the mid-day scheme. The direct beneficiary Scheme (DBT) hopes to take care of this; money will directly be transferred to the school account. Also, the complaints of cooks and helpers, about delayed remuneration, may be taken care by the DBT. Since Poshan is ambitious about taking care of the nutritional aspect of children, the Centre's decision to appoint a nutritional expert to each school is just. Weight, height and body mass index (BMI) can provide an overall health picture of a school kid so that any lag in milestone can be taken care of. Despite all precautions, dishonesty and lethargy may push the Poshan back; making audits mandatory at every school is a step in the right direction. Enhanced enrolment, decreased dropouts, increased well-being – children stand to gain from the Centre's Poshan, but execution of the scheme is the key for its success.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Rewriting air safety

Sir, Recently a United Airlines aircraft had made emergency landing after suffering engine failure midair. As a result, the aircraft engine debris had started raining down on certain areas on the ground. Fortunately, no casualties had been reported from there. The entire incident had caught everyone unawares. The proper investigation and other related activities are going on now in a collaborative manner involving the airlines, the manufacturer and other agencies. In fact, flight services have always been a matter of fantasy attracting great attention. But, this bizarre United Airlines aircraft incident had made many on-lookers down under look skywards. Furthermore, more serious efforts are needed to improve the overall functioning of aircraft and stringent safety measures to travel in the sky as safely as possible.

P Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI

national



The farmers' protests will continue till the contentious farm laws are not repealed by the Centre
RAKESH TIKAIT | BHARATIYA KISAN UNION LEADER

ARYAN APPEARS BEFORE NCB

Actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, who is out on bail in an alleged drugs seizure case, appeared before the Narcotics Control Bureau Friday as instructed by the court



of the day quote

Haryana has emerged as a hub of quality education, health, sports and infrastructural facilities
BANDARU DATTATREYA | HARYANA GOVERNOR

Despite the difficult geographical conditions, Himachal Pradesh became the first state in the country to administer first dose of Covid vaccine to 100 per cent of the adult population
RAJENDRA ARLEKAR | HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVERNOR

Public-private partnerships will be vital for financing, low-cost technologies, new business models and innovative monitoring mechanism to meet the growing demand for solid and liquid waste management
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

NATURE'S BOUNTY



Students take photographs during the Krishi Mela 2021 at the University of Agricultural Sciences campus in Bangalore

PTI PHOTO

CHINA'S 'ILLEGAL OCCUPATION'

Cong denounces Centre's stand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: The Congress Friday denounced the Centre's stand on reports of China building villages in Arunachal Pradesh as the party alleged that the MEA and CDS have different views on it.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Friday, "Our national security is unpardonably compromised because GOI has no strategy and Mr 56 is scared. My thoughts are with the soldiers risking their lives to guard our borders while GOI churns out lies."

A statement of former Home Minister P Chidambaram said, "MEA said that China is in 'illegal occupation' of Indian territory and India will not accept 'unjustified Chinese claims.'"

"Within hours, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) said that the Chinese 'have not transgressed anywhere on our perception of the LAC' and they are 'well within their side of the LAC.' The Chinese are



"It is time for the Defence Minister to draw a LAC in the Defence Ministry and ask the CDS to remain well within his side of the LAC," Chidambaram said

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "Our national security is unpardonably compromised because GOI has no strategy and Mr 56 is scared. My thoughts are with the soldiers risking their lives to guard our borders while GOI churns out lies"

laughing all the way from their Plenum to the 20th Congress of the Communist party," he added.

It is time for the Defence Minister to draw a LAC in the Defence Ministry and ask the CDS to remain well within his side of the

LAC, Chidambaram said. On Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said that India has taken note of the US Department of Defense report to the US Congress, which inter-alia, makes

a reference to the construction activities carried out by the Chinese side along the India-China borders, particularly in the eastern sector. "India has neither accepted such illegal occupation of our territory nor has it accepted the unjustified Chinese claims," the spokesperson said. Bagchi also stressed on the fact that the government has always conveyed its strong protest to such activities through diplomatic channels and will continue to do so in the future.

"Further, as conveyed earlier, the government has also stepped up border infrastructure, including the construction of roads, bridges etc., which has provided much-needed connectivity to the local population along the borders," he said.

The government remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along the border areas for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens, including in Arunachal Pradesh, Bagchi said.

SHORT TAKES

Prajapati gets life term for rape

Lucknow: Former Uttar Pradesh minister Gayatri Prajapati from the previous Akhilesh Yadav-led government, and his two accomplices have been sentenced to life on charges of gangrape. Prajapati, Ashok Tiwari and Ashish Shukla, have also been fined Rs 2 lakh each. The special MP/MLA court in Lucknow had, two days ago, pronounced Prajapati guilty in the gang-rape case, and had also convicted his two associates. Judge Pawan Kumar Rai of the special MP/MLA court pronounced the judgement under Sections 482/378/407 of the Indian Penal Code.

Deshmukh's ED custody extended

Mumbai: A Special PMLA Court here Friday extended by 3 days the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody of former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh, nabbed 10 days ago in an alleged money-laundering case. Strongly contesting the ED plea, Deshmukh's lawyers Vikram Chaudhri and Aniket Nikam said that the former minister appeared before the ED voluntarily and even agreed to be in ED's extended custody though he had been granted judicial custody last week. Arguing before Special Judge H.S. Sathbhai, they questioned why the chargesheet was filed without arresting dismissed cop Sachin Vaze, the prime accused, who played a key role but remains 'accused' only on paper.

Drugs-on-cruise: Court grants bail

Mumbai: A special court here Friday granted bail to Mohak Jaiswal, who was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the drugs-on-cruise case in which Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan is one of the accused. V V Patil, special judge for cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act cases, allowed Jaiswal's plea after hearing extensive arguments. Jaiswal was one of the seven persons including Aryan Khan whom the NCB had apprehended on October 2 before boarding the cruise ship.

Leopard dies

Bagdogra (WB): A leopard was killed after being hit by a vehicle in West Bengal's Darjeeling district, forest officials said Friday. Morning walkers found the leopard dead on the main road at Muniban-Tajpur near Bagdogra, they said.

Top Maoist leader arrested

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: Top Maoist leader Prashant Bose, 75, who was carrying a reward of Rs 1 crore, has been arrested in Jharkhand along with his wife, officials said Friday, terming the arrest a "big achievement" for the security forces.

"He was the number two in the politburo of CPI (Maoist) and was heading the eastern regional division of the extremist outfit, also in-charge of the Naxal activities in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal. Following his arrest, the backbone of the Maoist has been broken," a senior official in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) said.

He also said that this was a joint operation of CRPF, Jharkhand Police and Intelligence Bureau officials, and a huge success for all stakeholders. Bose, alias 'Krishan Da', 75, was caught along with his wife Sheela Marandi, another senior Maoist leader, in Jharkhand on November 11 (Thursday).

The officials also said that he used to change his locations fre-

quently and never used any mobile phone to avoid detection. "He was spotted by the intelligence officials but he never stayed in an area for a long time. Recently, he was operating from the Saranda forest in Jharkhand," an official said, adding that the police of Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh were tracking his movements for a long time.

A number two in the extremist outfit, he also used to head the Maoist Communist Centre of India which he merged with CPI-ML (People's War) to form the CPI (Maoist) in 2004. His wife Sheela Marandi was reportedly the only woman member of the decision-making body central committee of the CPI (Maoist).

Bose was known as the intellectual guru of the cadre belonging to Jadavpur in Kolkata and he was caught because the forces had his details... his arrest was made possible because of the hard work of the state intelligence units of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, a CRPF official said.

BJP leader sneers at Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Claiming that the Congress leadership nurses a "pathological hatred" for Hinduism, the BJP Friday said it is at Rahul Gandhi's behest that leaders such as Salman Khurshid, Shashi Tharoor and P Chidambaram have targeted the religion.

Hitting out at the former Congress president for his criticism of Hindutva, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra alleged that Rahul Gandhi has a history of making critical comments about Hinduism and its culture.

It is in the character of the Congress and the Gandhi family to attack Hinduism at every opportunity, he said. Patra's attack on Rahul Gandhi came after the Congress leader sought to draw a distinction between Hinduism and Hindutva, a term widely used by the RSS, and alleged that the RSS-BJP ideology was about spreading hate.

Citing terms like Hindu Pakistan, Hindu Taliban and saffron terror used by Congress leaders Tharoor and Chidambaram, the BJP leader

HINDUTVA ROW



said they make these remarks at Rahul Gandhi's behest. He also referred to Digvijaya Singh and Mani Shankar Aiyar in this context.

"What they say is not a coincidence but an experiment. And the headmaster of this experimental lab is Rahul Gandhi... There is a pathological hatred for Hinduism among Congress leaders, and they get traction for this from the Gandhi family," he alleged.

Patra also referred to a comment of Rahul Gandhi, which had found a mention in the WikiLeaks in 2010, that Hindu extremist groups could pose a bigger danger to India

Suicide bomber among three militants killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 12: Three militants, including a 'fidayeen' (suicide bomber), were killed in two separate encounters in Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Friday, taking the number of ultras killed so far this year to 133.

A 'Mujahideen Gazwatul Hind' militant who was assigned to carry out a 'fidayeen' (suicide) attack in Srinagar was killed, while a Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) district commander was among the two ultras slain in an encounter in Kulgam, the police said.

As many as 133 militants, including several top commanders, have been killed this year so far, they said. The 'fidayeen' militant was a relative of one of the accused in the February 2019 Pulwama suicide attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed, police said.

A police spokesman said acting on a specific input about a possible terrorist attack and the movement of terrorists in the Bemina area of Srinagar, a checkpoint was established on Thursday to thwart such evil designs. "In the meantime, terrorists attacked a checkpoint established near Bund Bemina which was retaliated leading to an encounter," he said.

In the ensuing gunfight, one terrorist of proscribed terror outfit Mujahideen Gazwatul Hind was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of the encounter, the

'Mujahideen Gazwatul Hind' militant who was assigned to carry out a 'fidayeen' (suicide) attack in Srinagar was killed, while a Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) district commander was among the two ultras slain in an encounter in Kulgam, the police said

The 'fidayeen' militant was a relative of one of the accused in the February 2019 Pulwama suicide attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed, police said

spokesman said.

He identified the slain ultra as Amir Riyaz, a resident of Khrew Pampore and a relative of one of the accused in the February 2019 suicide attack in Pulwama's Lethpora in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed. "The preliminary investigation indicated that he (Riyaz) was assigned to carry out similar kind of fidayeen attack. Digital evidences recovered from his mobile show that he was prepared by terror outfit for fidayeen attack," the spokesman said.

In another overnight encounter in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, two militants, including a district commander of the HM outfit, were killed.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Chancer village in the Chawalgam area of Kulgam on Thursday following inputs about the presence of militants there.



Why Ghaziabad continues to be India's most polluted city?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: Ghaziabad's Air Quality Index (AQI), which has been reeling under 'severe' category since Diwali, continued to remain at the same level, i.e., at 488 on Friday as well, data from Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL) showed. Ghaziabad recently topped the list of the most polluted cities in India. However, this has not happened for the first time. In 2020 and 2019 too, the city stood at a similar position, not just nationwide, but on a global scale.

But what is the reason behind it and what are the simplest of the measures that could be taken to ensure an improved air quality?

"Cities like Delhi, Noida and Ghaziabad are most polluted be-

cause they are located in the Indo-Gangetic plain and as the winter season approaches, emissions from various activities such as biomass burning etc. gets trapped as the inversion layer comes down and the wind becomes very calm.

"Moreover, the impact of fire counts further deteriorates the overall air quality of this particular region, as it falls in the way of the winds that transport stubble emissions," said Gufran Beig, Founder and Project Director of the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

"The additional contribution of pollution from local sources like transport, bio-fuel and industries further worsens the already stagnant atmosphere," Beig added.

In March this year, the World



PTI PHOTO

Health Organization (WHO) had released a report on the world's most polluted cities, wherein 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities were reported to be in India with Ghaziabad as the second most pol-

luted city in the world behind Hotan in China.

In 2017, the city reeled under the 'severe' category for eight consecutive days from November 9 to 16. Since then, it has become one

of the worst affected cities by air pollution in India at this time of the year. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, the monitoring stations in Ghaziabad are running high on PM2.5 -- a primary pollutant.

At 3 p.m. on Friday, the AQICN of World Quality Index project, a non-profit body, recorded an AQI of 259 at Sanjay and 330 at Vasundhara.

Meanwhile, the air quality in Noida, which had shown some improvement on Thursday after reeling under the 'severe' category since Diwali, again turned 'severe' on Friday morning.

Not only that. Ever since the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) measures came into effect on October 16, Ghaziabad has been the most polluted city in the coun-

try on seven days -- October 16, 29, November 1, 2, 6, 10 and 11.

Pollution from over 27,000 factories from the industrial area of Shahibabad and work on the 82.15 km long Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) on the median of the Delhi-Meerut road that results in vehicular congestion in the area are two major contributors of PM2.5 in the air. Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director (research and advocacy) at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said, "To understand what is contributing to the pollution belt even more accurately, local pollution inventory and source apportionment needs to be done along with the enforcement of multi-sector action plan to target all the key sources of pollution in these areas.

Delhi riots a 'calculated attack', says court

A DELHI COURT HAS FRAMED CHARGES OF MURDER, RIOTING, AND CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST 4 ACCUSED FOR ALLEGEDLY KILLING A MAN DURING THE RIOTS LAST YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Calling it a calculated attack, a Delhi court has framed charges of murder, rioting, and criminal conspiracy against four accused for allegedly killing a man during the riots last year.

Anwar Hussain, Kasim, Shahrukh, and Khalid Ansari are accused of allegedly murdering a man named Deepak by beating him mercilessly near Ambedkar College February 25, 2020. He died due to hemorrhagic shock, as per the post mortem report.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat framed charges under requisite sections against the accused persons and explained it to them in vernacular in the presence of their lawyers, to which they pleaded not guilty and claimed trial in the case.

The judge said, "By the manner of their mobilization and intent as construed from their conduct, the said unlawful assembly can be said to have conducted itself for riots and other offences like the murder of deceased Deepak, in the prosecution of their common object."

"The conspiracy is also writ large by the calculated attack on the victim by the unlawful assembly," he said in an order dated



FILE PHOTO

November 9. The judge said that the most important witness in the case was one Sunil Kumar, who was an eyewitness to the entire incident and gave a complete picture as to how the deceased Deepak was killed by the "armed Muslim mob consisting of accused persons."

As per the court order, Sunil had stated, "On February 25, one Muslim unlawful assembly coming from Kardampuri Pulia and shouting Allah Ho Akbar was trying to cross the Pulia Gokulpur. The said armed unlawful assembly caught hold of Deepak who was mercilessly beaten."

The eyewitness stated that he hid behind a wall behind the drain and saw the entire murder through

the gap in the wall.

He also identified all the four accused persons by their names.

"Thus, for the purpose of the charge, the prosecution has been able to satisfy the Court that an unlawful assembly including accused persons in the prosecution of their common object had committed riots and hit the deceased Deepak with a deadly weapon causing his death," the court noted.

The court said that there are grounds for presuming that the four accused committed offences under sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), and 302 (murder) read with section Section 149 (member of unlawful assembly guilty of the

offence committed in prosecution of common object) of IPC.

Charges have also been framed under sections 302 (murder) read with 120B (criminal conspiracy).

Under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), an accused should be informed of the offence under which he is charged. The basic purpose of the charge is to let them know of the offence that they are charged with so that they can prepare a defence.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi in February 2020, after violence between the Citizenship (Amendment) Act supporters and its protesters spiraled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

Vehicles account for 50% Delhi pollution in early winter: Report

Vehicles' contribution in Delhi pollution is followed by household pollution, industry and construction, the report said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Vehicles accounted for more than 50 per cent of Delhi's pollution during the early phase of this year's winter, from October 24 to November 8, according to an analysis by the green think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

The CSE study released here today is based on real-time data on source contribution from the Decision Support System for Air Quality Management of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune.

"The analysis clearly shows vehicles' contribution is half or more. This is followed by household pollution (12.5-13.5 per cent), industry (9.9-13.7 per cent), construction (6.7-7.9 per cent), waste burning and road dust (each varied between 4.6-4.9 per cent and 3.6-4.1 per cent, respectively)," it said.

The Decision Support System of IITM is part of the Air Quality Early Warning System and provides information on the potential emission sources in Delhi. It



also tracks data from sources outside Delhi - 19 districts in the national capital region - as well as biomass burning in the neighbouring states. During November 2-6, the contribution of pollution sources in NCR dominated the initial phase - going up to 70-80 per cent. Its share declined during the smog episode post-Diwali when the relative contribution of Delhi's own sources increased.

Similarly, the contribution of biomass burning from other states remained low in the initial pre-Diwali phase but peaked post-Diwali.

Clearly, the calm conditions during the smog episode post-Diwali have reduced intrusion of cross-boundary movement from NCR and enhanced the share of local pollution in Delhi, the CSE said.

On the other hand, the long-range transport wind brought

more pollution from biomass burning from neighbouring states, it said.

During the day, it has been noticed that the overall contribution of Delhi's own sources increases normally during evening hours and lasts until early morning hours (7:30 pm to 9:30 am).

"Clearly, after the closure of all coal-based power plants, expansion of natural gas usage in industry and controls on dirty fuels, vehicles have emerged as the biggest real-time contributor among the local sources of winter pollution in Delhi this year."

"Action on transportation has to gather strong momentum. At the same time, action on waste management, clean energy access in households, and dust control must be speeded up," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE.

ISRO SPY CASE

Nambi influenced CBI probe: Kerala HC told

Vijayan, along with 17 other former Kerala police and IB officials, is facing a CBI probe for allegedly falsely implicating Narayanan and some others in the 1994 spying case



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 12: Former Kerala police officer S Vijayan has alleged before the Kerala High Court that ex-ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan influenced the CBI investigation in the 1994 espionage case against him by entering into land deals worth crores with the then investigating officials of the agency.

Vijayan, along with 17 other former Kerala police and IB officials, is facing a CBI probe for allegedly falsely implicating Narayanan and some others in the 1994 spying case.

On Wednesday, his lawyer told Justice R Narayana Pisharadi that he had placed before the trial court encumbrance certificates of several acres of land in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu which show Narayanan or his son as power of attorney holders.

These lands were sold to the CBI officials; Vijayan has alleged in the high court and contended that this material was sufficient for the trial court to order an investigation under the Prevention of Corruption Act against the scientist and the agency officials.

The high court, however, said that encumbrance certificates do not prove sale of land and asked Vijayan to show the actual sale deeds.

The high court also said that sanction to prosecute would also be required for the trial court to order an investigation.

It further said that the trial court had only rejected Vijayan's complaint and did not dismiss it and therefore, he can move a fresh complaint there along with all the relevant documents.

plea and will issue notice to all the parties, including Narayanan, as all of them have to be heard.

Vijayan's lawyer told the high court that preparations were underway to obtain records of the sale deeds in relation to the encumbrance certificates.

Vijayan and three others were granted anticipatory bail by the high court in August in the CBI's conspiracy case against them.

Besides the four, 14 others are named as accused in the case for various offences, including criminal conspiracy, kidnapping and fabrication of evidence in connection with the arrest and detention of Narayanan in the espionage case.

Besides Narayanan, two Maldivian women - Mariyam Rasheeda and Fouziyya Hassan - were also arrested and detained in the case. The two women were jailed for over three years before being released.

The two Maldivians recently moved the CBI requesting it to place before the Supreme Court their claim for damages of ₹2 crore from each of the 18 officers who are arrayed as accused in the conspiracy case being probed by the agency.

The women have urged the agency to place their claim for damages before the apex court when it hears CBI's appeal against the Kerala High Court order granting anticipatory bail to the four accused - a former DGP of Gujarat, two former police officers of Kerala, and a retired intelligence official - in the conspiracy case being probed by the agency.

The agency, in its appeal, has sought cancellation of the anticipatory bail granted to the four accused by the high court August 13.

CAG flays Kerala govt's flood management

The CAG has picked holes in the flood management of the Kerala government, saying the flood plains in the state are yet to be demarcated and the flood plain zoning law is yet to be enacted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 12: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has picked holes in the flood management of the Kerala government, saying the flood plains in the state are yet to be demarcated and the flood plain zoning law is yet to be enacted.

The authorities had failed to issue precautionary alerts or warning when the deluge had wreaked havoc in the southern state in 2018, it said in a latest report. "The Kerala State Water Policy 2008 was not updated in accordance with the National Water Policy and

lacked provisions for flood control and flood management in the state," the CAG said in the report titled "Preparedness and Response to floods in Kerala" which was tabled in the state Assembly Thursday. Pointing to lack of large scale flood hazard map in the southern state, the agency said the state's Disaster Management Plan includes flood susceptibility map not conforming to Central Water Commission (CWC) criteria for flood prone areas. Only six rain gauges against the requirement of 32 were available for rainfall estimation in Periyar basin by IMA, it detailed. The CAG also found that project for



FILE PHOTO

obtaining real time data on rainfall; stream-flow etc did not deliver reliable data on real time basis even after a lapse of five years. "Communication infrastructure was non-functional in some areas including dam sites and government offices during or subsequent to the 2018 floods," it said. Though 7,112 works of immediate repair and restoration of damages in 2018

floods were approved for execution under the State Disaster Response Fund, 18 per cent of the works were yet to be completed even after a lapse of two years and eight months, the report added. Meanwhile, the CAG's Finance audit report, also tabled in the Assembly, said that the state did not achieve any of the targets fixed in the Medium Term Fiscal Plan.

Indian WWII veteran, 97, wins pension battle

Sepoy Balwant Singh was one of more than 2.5 million soldiers from British India who took part in the six-year war

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New Delhi, Nov 12: A 97-year-old Indian veteran whose leg was blown off in Italy in World War II has won a battle for a bigger pension that was previously denied to soldiers injured before independence in 1947.

Sepoy Balwant Singh was one of more than 2.5 million soldiers from British India who took part in the six-year war, fighting for the Allied forces across Europe, Africa and Asia.



Nearly 90,000 were killed - among them Singh's older brother Jaswant who died in Italy - and around 35,000 others were injured. Singh, from the northern state

of Rajasthan, was drafted into the British Indian Army's Punjab Regiment in 1943 and nearly killed by a landmine in Italy the following year. After two months in a military hospital he was sent back to India.

He was discharged from military service in 1946 on a general disability pension of 20 rupees that gradually increased to 7,000 rupees (\$94) over the subsequent seven decades.

The Indian government in 1972 decided to grant an additional war

injury pension to soldiers hurt or disabled during battles since 1947 when India gained independence, but not before.

Singh filed a plea with the Armed Forces Tribunal in 2010 under the Indian Army's War Injury Pension scheme to increase his annuity and have his services in World War II recognised.

The tribunal in New Delhi this week ruled in his favour, more than doubling his monthly payout and awarding him back payments, although only back to 2008.

Why rising Covid cases in Europe is a worry for Kerala

EUROPE SAW A SIX PER CENT INCREASE IN NEW INFECTIONS LAST WEEK COMPARED WITH THE WEEK BEFORE, AND A CORRESPONDING 12 PER CENT RISE IN DEATHS

AGENCIES

Kochi, Nov 12: The rising curve of Covid-19 infections in European countries, especially among fully vaccinated people there, can be worrying for a state like Kerala, where breakthrough infections are spiking each day, said a member of the state's expert panel.

Germany, whose 67.2 per cent population is fully inoculated, reported over 50,000 cases Thursday, the highest since the beginning of the pandemic. UK, one of the worst-affected countries in Europe in terms of Covid fatalities, has also been reporting in excess of 35,000 cases this week.

Europe saw a six per cent increase in new infections last week compared with the week before, and a corresponding 12 per cent rise in deaths. The WHO said Europe was at a 'critical point' and could be seeing a spurt in cases due to 'un-

even vaccine coverage' and premature relaxation of restrictions.

Dr Anish TS, a member of the expert committee advising the Kerala government on Covid-19, said, "It is worrying for us because Kerala is more epidemiologically similar to the European countries than other Indian states. What's happening there could have similar results here. Why (cases are rising) in Europe is an important question. Is it because the effects of the vaccines are waning? Or since it's winter there right now, there will be more closed interactions. It could be because of such social factors, we still don't know it yet. So it's certainly alarming for us."

But the last seroprevalence survey conducted in Kerala, which pointed to antibodies among 82 per cent of the population, offers hope, he said. "It's clear that we cannot drop our guard right now. But



we hope to tide over (any possible) wave," he said.

In Kerala, 95.3 per cent of the eligible population has got the first dose and 56.1 per cent both doses of the Covid vaccine. In terms of vaccination per million populations in the country, Kerala occupies the top spot, claimed health minister Veena George.

But the trend of increasing breakthrough infections each week in the

state holds on. On Thursday, a whopping 47 per cent of the new cases were found among those who had taken both doses of the vaccine. Another 20 per cent had taken the first dose and 31 per cent were reported to be unvaccinated. However, declining hospitalisation and demand for oxygen and ICU beds in the state suggests that vaccines are proving to protect those infected from serious repercussions.

The health department said that of the 74,976 cases reported between Nov 3 and Nov 9, only 1.7 per cent of them needed oxygen beds and 1.4 per cent ICU beds.

"Almost all the breakthrough infections are not very severe. Comparatively, death rates are low. Such data is very consistent with that from European countries. In other Indian states, breakthrough infections are perhaps not being captured, it may be very mild so that the (health) system doesn't capture it. That may be one reason. The second reason is natural infections are quite high in other states. So it will be a sterilising kind of immunity where there will be no infections at all. Those who have been infected with the Delta variant of the virus once may not get infected again at all," said Dr Anish.

"If you look at the pattern of sterilising immunity, the prevalence of it is quite low in Kerala. The sero-prevalence study has data on that. In Kerala, more people have immunity via the vaccine, so they are more prone to breakthrough infections."

national



The government is ready to talk to protesting farmers over three new farm laws. But resolving the farmer agitation is not related to the upcoming assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh
PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

UDDHAV'S HEALTH STABLE

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray -- who underwent a successful surgery at Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital Friday morning -- is stable and convalescing well, officials said



of the day quote

Anguished by the loss of lives due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu. My condolences to the bereaved families. With relief and rescue operations underway by state and central agencies, I urge people to stay safe and follow the instructions issued by the local authorities

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

The Congress high-command will decide on the reshuffle. The party wants good governance to continue in the state

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

The Telangana government is responsible for the delay in resolving the inter-state river water dispute with Andhra Pradesh

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Train derail

Chennai: The Kannur-Yeshwanthapur Express train (Train no. 07390) derailed at Dharmapuri near Salem in Tamil Nadu in the early hours of Friday when boulders fell on it. South western Railway in a statement said that there were no casualties in the incident. There were 2,350 passengers in the train and five coaches derailed between Thoppur and Sivadi (Ghat section) around 3.50 a.m. on Friday, the statement read.

33 drown in Bihar

Patna: As many as 33 persons drowned in different parts of Bihar during Chhath celebrations, a disaster management official said Friday. Rohtas, Saran, Gaya and Siwan district recorded two deaths each on Thursday, while Biharsharif and Buxar districts registered one each. Three people met their watery grave in Begusarai district. While four persons drowned in Samastipur, one died in Bettiah. Four fatalities each were registered in Saharsa and Khagaria, while two deaths each took place in Supaul and Lakhisarai. Madhepura, Purnea and Bhagalpur district recorded one death each.

Eight peacocks found dead

Agra (Uttar Pradesh): Eight peacocks have been found dead near a field in the Lala village in Agra district. Preliminary investigations indicate that pesticides, sprayed by farmers in the field, could be the cause of peacock deaths. Officials said consumption of such pesticide-laden grain by animals continuously for a few days could be a cause of the death.

Elephant kills teen

Lakhimpur Kheri: A 17-year-old teenager was trampled to death by an elephant in the buffer forests of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district while he was taking photographs of a herd of the tuskers. The incident took place on Thursday afternoon when Mangat Singh, son of a farmer, moved closer to the herd while taking their pictures. A tusker attacked him, killing him on the spot.

3 killed in accident

Patna: Three people died and as many critically injured in a road accident in Bihar's Supaul district on Friday, the police said. The victims, who were travelling on two bikes, stopped at a petrol pump near Majhari village, and then headed towards Harihar on National Highway 57.

SC to hear plea seeking steps against hate speech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: The Supreme Court Friday said it would hear November 22 a plea which has sought a direction to the Centre to examine various international laws and take appropriate "effective and stringent" steps to control hate speech and rumour-mongering in the country.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and C T Ravikumar asked senior advocate Vikas Singh, who was appearing for the petitioner, to serve the copy of the plea to the ministries of home affairs, law and justice and the Law Commission -- which have been arrayed as respondents in the petition.

The apex court was hearing the petition, filed by lawyer and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay in his personal capacity through advocate Ashwani Dubey, which has also sought a direction to the Centre to take legislative steps to implement recommendations of the Law Commission to deal with the menace of hate speech and rumour-mongering.

The top court said the matter would be heard on November 22, when a separate plea, which also came up for hearing during the day, related to the issue would also be taken up. "The petitioner is fil-



THE TOP COURT SAID THE MATTER WOULD BE HEARD NOVEMBER 22, WHEN A SEPARATE PLEA, WHICH ALSO CAME UP FOR HEARING DURING THE DAY, RELATED TO THE ISSUE WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN UP

ing this writ petition as a PIL... Seeking writ/order/direction to the Centre to examine the international laws relating to 'hate speech' and 'rumour mongering' and take appropriate effective stringent steps to control 'hate speech' and 'rumour-mongering' in order to secure rule of law, freedom of speech and expression and Right to Life, Liberty and Dignity of citizens," Upadhyay has said in his plea.

The petition further sought a direction that the courts, while awarding punishment for the offences against "public tranquility, offences relating to elections etc", shall pronounce sentences running consecutively and not concurrently.

It urged that the government be asked to take appropriate steps to implement recommendations of Law Commission Report-267 on hate speech.

PC Mody takes over as new Rajya Sabha secretary-general

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Former chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) PC Mody took over as the secretary-general of the Rajya Sabha Friday, replacing P P K Ramacharyulu, who was appointed to the post less than three months ago.

Mody was appointed as the secretary general by Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu earlier in the day. Chairman Rajya Sabha has been pleased to appoint Shri Pramod Chandra Mody, IRS (Retd) and former Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), as Secretary-General Rajya Sabha, in the rank and status of Cabinet Secretary, an official communication issued by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said.

Mody's appointment is on a contractual basis with effect from the forenoon of November 12, 2021 till August 10, 2022 or until further orders, the order said. His appointment comes ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament, which is expected to commence from November 29.

In another notification, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said Ramacharyulu has been relieved of his charge from the forenoon of November 12. He now been appointed as an advisor in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, sources said.

Ramacharyulu was appointed as the secretary-general of the Rajya Sabha on September 1. No reason has been given for his replacement, the sources said. Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh took a swipe at the government over the development on Twitter, saying, "Not surprised at all Dr PPK Ramacharyulu is a thorough professional, non-partisan and perfectly qualified for the post - three deadly sins in the Modi regime."

Railways to drop 'special train' tag, revert to pre-Covid fares

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Under pressure from passengers over hike in fares, the Railways Friday issued an order to discontinue the special tag for mail and express trains and revert to pre-pandemic ticket prices with immediate effect.

Since the coronavirus-triggered lockdown was eased, the Railways has been running only special trains. It started with long-distance trains and now, even short-distance passenger services are being run as special trains with "slightly higher fares" to "discourage people from avoidable travels".

In a letter to the zonal railways on Friday, the Railway Board said trains will now be operated with their regular numbers and fares will revert to normal pre-Covid prices. Ticket prices of special trains and holiday special trains are marginally higher.

"In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, all regular mail/express trains were being operated as MSPC (mail/express special) and HSP (holiday special). It has now been decided that the MSPC and HSP train services, included in the Working Time Table, 2021, shall be operated with regular numbers and with fares as applicable for the concerned classes of travel and type of train, as per the extant guidelines.

"This issues with the concurrence of Passenger Marketing Directorate of Railway Board," the order dated November 12 said.

The order, however, did not specify when the zonal railways are required to revert to their pre-Covid regular services.

"The zonal railways have been instructed. While the order is with immediate effect, the process will take a day or two," a senior official said.

PILOT MEETS SONIA ON CABINET RESHUFFLE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: Former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot met Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi Friday and sources say that the Congress leadership has agreed to his suggestion for a cabinet reshuffle in the state.

Sources said that 9 new ministers will be inducted in which four ministers will be from the Gehlot camp while the remaining five will be distributed zone wise. The final list is almost ready.

After the meeting Pilot said that it is good that the leadership is taking feedback and "I have shared my view." He said in his view all

Sources said that 9 new ministers will be inducted in which four ministers will be from the Gehlot camp while the remaining five will be distributed zone wise. The final list is almost ready

those workers who have fought the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) should get their due and respect in the government and in the party. Friday's meeting comes a day after Rajasthan Chief



Minister Ashok Gehlot met Sonia Gandhi over a possible cabinet reshuffle and, according to the sources, Pilot has been called to resolve issues related to the state. On Thursday, Pilot met senior



Congress leader K.C. Venugopal ahead of the Gehlot-Sonia Gandhi meeting. After his meeting with Sonia Gandhi, Gehlot maintained that he will abide by the decision taken by the leadership and

that he has conveyed everything to the Congress interim president.

The much-awaited cabinet rejig and appointments have been pending ever since the Covid pandemic broke out. The Assembly by-polls had also been delayed.

Meanwhile, Congress sources have confirmed that Rajasthan Health Minister Raghu Sharma and Revenue Minister Harish Choudhary might be relieved of their cabinet portfolios as they have been made party in-charges of Gujarat and Punjab.

Long pending appointments, especially related to the state unit, will be announced following the cabinet expansion.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, Nov 12: The firestorm that Kangana Ranaut kicked with her comment that the Independence India won in 1947 was "bheek" intensified Friday with leaders from BJP and other parties demanding action against the actor even as a complaint was filed against her while some people took to the streets to burn her effigies.

There were also demands that the Padma Shri awarded to her should be taken back. Ranaut, who is often in headlines for her combative statements on issues political or otherwise, kicked off a row Thursday by declaring that India attained "real freedom" in 2014, when the Narendra Modi-led government came to power, and describing the country's Independence in 1947 as "bheek", or alms.

The actor made the controversial statement just a day after being awarded the Padma Shri. In Jodhpur, the Mahila Congress lodged a police



complaint against Ranaut. Jodhpur Mahila Congress Committee president Manisha Panwar in the complaint said Ranaut insulted freedom fighters and people of the country through her statement, which falls under the "category of sedition".

Police said the complaint has been taken up for inquiry. Delhi BJP leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor was among those who slammed the actor, saying that Ranaut's remarks are an "insult to the sacrifice of freedom fighters".

Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said the actor's

negative remarks on India's fight for independence were wrong. "Kangana Ranaut's comment on the country's fight for Independence is completely wrong. Nobody has a right to pass a negative remark on the freedom movement," Patil told reporters, though he added he did not know the "emotions" that made the actor utter such a statement.

Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik said Kangana insulted freedom fighters and the Centre must take back her Padma Shri and arrest her. "Looks like Kangana Ranaut took a heavy dose of Malana cream (a variety of hashish grown in Himachal Pradesh) before making such a statement," Malik said.

In Indore, a group comprising the kin of freedom fighters set afire an effigy of the actor on fire. The protest was held on MG Road here and one of the participants, Asha Govind Khadiwala, said Ranaut must apologise to the nation for hurting the valour and sacrifice of freedom fighters.

CRPF to add more forward operation bases in LWE areas

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: In a bid to fill the security vacuums in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas of the country, the officials in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has said that the more forward operation bases (FOBs) will be set up to increase its operational dominance in the so-called 'Red Corridor' region.

According to CRPF officials, the force has 34 operative FOBs in the LWE region and 25 more will be added by the next year.

Out of the proposed 25 new bases, 10 will be set up in

Chhattisgarh, six in Jharkhand, one each in Odisha and Telangana, seven in Maharashtra, including the Garhchiroli area, and one in Telangana.

The lands for constructing the FOBs have been identified where work will begin soon, the officials said, adding that this will further help the force penetrate deep into the hardcore areas of Maoist dominance.

The FOBs will be better fortified while the security forces will be equipped with the latest weapons, bullet and land mine proof vehicles and better medical facilities.

A source in the operational



team said that most of the casualties take place because late med-

ical treatment causes deaths in many cases. So better treatment has

been planned at these forward bases. As of now, only minor operations are being performed by the paramedics in most of the base camps, and in case of multiple bullet injuries or landmine blasts, the injured troopers are airlifted to the nearby bigger hospitals. The new FOBs will have better medical treatment facilities.

Amid the decreasing footprints of Maoists in the 'Red Corridor', the central forces will carry out well-coordinated offensive operations against them in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha soon,

the sources indicated.

There has been a substantial decline in Maoist attacks in the past decade. In 2009, a total of 2,258 incidents were reported, which dropped to 665 in 2020, a substantial decrease of about 70 per cent. Similarly, deaths in these incidents have also decreased as about 1,005 deaths were reported in 2010, which came down to 183 in 2020.

The officials also said that 13 Maoists have been killed this year, 603 have been apprehended, while 486 Maoists have surrendered so far in the Left Wing Extremism areas.

international

of the day quote

By securing a medical system based on the worst-case scenario and enhancing early treatment, we will be able to continue our economic and social activities even if infections spread

Thailand has adopted the Bio-Circular-Green Economic Model (BCG) as part of the national strategy for post-Covid economic recoveries. The BCG Economy Model will also be the driving force of the APEC 2022 priorities

We deliver heat to Europe, they still threaten us that they will close the border. And what if we cut off natural gas? Therefore, I would recommend that the Polish leadership, Lithuanians and other headless people think before speaking

SHORT TAKES

Assange to marry partner in prison

London: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been granted permission to marry his partner, Stella Moris, in prison. British authorities say, Assange has been held in London's high-security Belmarsh Prison since 2019 as he fights a US attempt to extradite him on espionage charges. The couple began their relationship during Assange's seven years living in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden on unrelated sex offenses allegations. Assange and Moris, a South Africa-born lawyer, have two young sons: Gabriel, 4, and Max, 2.

Biden, Xi to hold virtual meeting

Washington: US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping would hold a virtual summit Monday, the White House announced Friday. "In the evening of Monday November 15 in Washington, DC, President Joseph R Biden, Jr. Will meet virtually with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China (PRC)," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said. However, in a surprise move, China and the US this week announced that the two countries will boost climate co-operation.

Concert tragedy: PIO succumbs to injuries

Houston: A 22-year-old Indian-origin student has succumbed to her injuries sustained during the deadly crowd surge at rapper Travis Scott's Astroworld Festival here, taking the death toll in the tragedy to 9, her family has said. Bharati Shahani, who was about to graduate from Texas A&M University in the spring, died Wednesday night after suffering a severe brain injury in the tragedy November 5. She was on a ventilator, according to her family.

Indian held in Nepal

Kathmandu: An Indian national was arrested here Friday for allegedly cheating multiple people to the tune of Rs 50 lakh, using fake identities and documents, officials said. Shivam Virumuthu Chetiyar, who has family and a home in Kodambakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, was arrested from Baluwatar residential area in the capital here, the police said, adding that cash and numerous fake documents were found with Chetiyar.



Former State President FW de Klerk will be remembered as a courageous statesman who took a principled stance, lifting the ban on political organizations and releasing political prisoners, thus helping chart the path for a transition to a democratic South Africa

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY GENERAL

TOUGH SITUATION

Around 3.2 million kids are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in Afghanistan by the end of this year, with 1 million of them at risk of dying as temperatures drop, as per a WHO report



Climate talks enter last stretch

AGENCIES

Glasgow, Nov 12: A new draft agreement drawn up for the last scheduled day of the UN climate conference in Glasgow Friday presses countries to reach higher in their plans to tackle global warming but also tries to balance the demands of richer and poorer nations.

While retaining a central demand for countries to set tougher climate pledges next year, the draft uses weaker language than a previous one in asking them to phase out subsidies for the fossil fuels that are the prime mammade cause of global warming.

Leading philanthropies wish to support the signatories of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as they take responsibility for climate change impacts by providing quick-start finance for a prospective new facility to support vulnerable countries most hit by the losses and damages resulting from climate change.

The philanthropies are contributing an initial \$3 million in start-up assistance to support the objectives of the Glasgow Loss and Damage Facility.

The Facility, currently being discussed by negotiators in Glasgow at COP26, is intended to provide technical and financial assistance to alleviate climate impacts and prioritise the most vulnerable communities, particularly small is-



Oxfam campaigners dressed as Joe Biden, left, and Boris Johnson in the role of ineffective fire-fighting world leaders pose for a photo during a press opportunity near the COP26 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland

land developing states and least developed countries. Meanwhile, India Friday asked the world leaders assembled at the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 to deliver a strong message regarding their collective resolve for accelerated mitigation and adaptation actions to combat climate change in this decade. The outcomes of COP26 must reflect

The world needs to join hands to honour the commitments made under the 2015 Paris Agreement and take immediate steps towards adaptation, making climate finance available for the developing world

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

the urgency in scaling up finance and other means of implementation support to developing countries, he stressed at the stocktake plenary.

The developed countries must enhance their NDCs and reach net zero much before 2050. The meagre carbon budget is first and foremost the right and entitlement of developing countries. Hence rapid mitigation actions by developed countries in this

Deforestation in Amazon rises

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest rose in October for a year ago, satellite data showed Friday, undercutting vows by the government of President Jair Bolsonaro that it is curbing destruction of a crucial bulwark against climate change. The preliminary data from national space research agency INPE showed about 877 square kilometers (339 square miles) of forest were cleared last month, a 5% increase from October 2020. It was the worst October deforestation since the current monitoring system began in 2015.

decade, is vital to keep 1.5 degrees within reach. This is very sad that, climate change is already affecting every region across the globe and that without urgent action to limit warming, heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and loss of Arctic sea ice, snow cover and permafrost, will all increase while carbon sinks will become less effective at slowing the growth of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. So the Glasgow summit is a key moment for countries, cities, businesses and more to keep the Paris Agreement on climate change on track and put forward ambitious, equitable solutions for a zero-carbon future.

US journalist Danny Fenster jailed for 11 yrs in Myanmar

The court found him guilty of spreading false or inflammatory information, contacting illegal organisations and violating visa regulations



AGENCIES

Bangkok, Nov 12: A court in military-ruled Myanmar Friday sentenced US journalist Danny Fenster to 11 years in prison with hard labour; the maximum penalty under three charges, despite calls by the United States and rights groups for his release.

It was the harshest punishment yet among the seven journalists known to have been convicted since the military ousted the elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in February.

Fenster, the managing editor of the online magazine Frontier Myanmar, is still facing additional terrorism and treason charges under which he could receive up to life in prison. Fenster wept after hearing the

sentence and has not yet decided whether to appeal, the lawyer said.

The harsh penalty is the ruling military's latest rebuff of calls from around the world for a peaceful end to Myanmar's political crisis. The government is refusing to cooperate with an envoy appointed by Southeast Asian governments to mediate a solution, and has not bowed to sanctions imposed by the United States and several other Western countries.

"It's clear that Danny is being made an example of, and what it shows is that the junta do not care what the international community thinks. They would do as they want, and this is one example of how they are basically showing the international community that they cannot be held accountable," said Manny Maung, Myanmar researcher for the New York-based group Human Rights Watch.

The army's takeover was opposed by widespread peaceful protests that were put down with lethal force. Security forces killed more than 1,200 civilians and arrested about 10,000 others, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. Armed resistance has since spread, and UN experts and other observers fear the incipient insurgency could slide into civil war.

Fenster was detained at Yangon International Airport May 24 as he was about to board a flight to go to the Detroit area in the United States to see his family.

LOUD WARNING



Protesters set off a siren opposite the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) venue in Glasgow, Scotland

Pak played disruptive role in Afghan: CRS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 12: Pakistan has long played an active and, by many accounts, disruptive and destabilising role in Afghan affairs, including through the provision of support to the Taliban, a latest Congressional report on Afghanistan has said.

In the report, which has been prepared by independent subject area experts, the bipartisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) said that if other countries such as Pakistan, Russia, China, or US partners such as Qatar move towards greater acceptance of the Taliban, it could isolate the United States, weakening

The US froze over \$9 bn of assets of the Afghan central bank after Taliban insurgents seized power in the country

its leverage and giving the Taliban greater opportunities to evade or counter the US pressure.

Most immediately, a more punitive US approach could exacerbate the already dire humanitarian conditions in Afghanistan with uncertain implications for Taliban rule and regional dynamics.

Covid's epicentre again: Europe faces fresh reckoning

AGENCIES

London/Milan, Nov 12: Europe has become the epicentre of the pandemic again, prompting some governments to consider re-imposing unpopular lockdowns in the run-up to Christmas and stirring debate over whether vaccines alone are enough to tame Covid-19.

Europe accounts for more than half of the average 7-day infections globally and about half of latest deaths, according to a Reuters tally, the highest levels since April last year when the virus first swept into Italy.

The fresh tumult comes as successful inoculation campaigns have plateaued ahead of the winter months and flu season. About 65% of the population of the European Economic Area (EEA) - which includes the European Union, Iceland,

Liechtenstein and Norway - have received two doses, according to EU data, but the pace has slowed in recent months.

Take-up in southern European countries is around 80%, but hesitancy has hampered rollout in central and eastern Europe and Russia, leading to outbreaks that could overwhelm healthcare. Germany, France and the Netherlands are also experiencing a surge in infections, showing the challenge even for governments with high acceptance rates and dashing hopes vaccines would mean a return to close to normal.

To be sure, hospitalisations and deaths are much lower than a year ago and big variations by country in use of vaccines and boosters as well as measures like social distancing make it hard to draw conclusions for the whole region. 'DON'T TAKE EYE OFF THE BALL'



FILE AFP PHOTO

FRESH HEADACHE

The World Health Organization's latest report for the week to November 7 showed that Europe, including Russia, was the only region to record a rise in cases, up 7%, while other areas reported declines or stable trends

Similarly, it reported a 10% increase in deaths, while other regions reported declines

But a combination of low vaccine uptake in some parts, waning immunity among those inoculated early and complacency about masks

and distancing as governments relaxed curbs over the summer are likely to blame, virologists and public health experts told Reuters.

"If there's one thing to learn from this it's not to take your eye off the ball," said Lawrence Young, a virologist at the UK's Warwick Medical School.

The bleak outlook is sending shivers through companies and governments, anxious that the prolonged pandemic will derail a fragile economic recovery, particularly as transatlantic flights resumed this week and borders have started reopening.

In Germany, some cities are reported to have cancelled Christmas markets again, while the Netherlands could shut theatres and cinemas, scrap large events and close cafes and restaurants earlier. Most EU countries are deploying

extra shots to the elderly and those with weakened immune systems, but expanding it to more of the population and getting shots in teenagers' arms should be a priority to avoid steps like lockdown, scientists said.

"The real urgency is to widen the pool of vaccinated people as much as possible," said Carlo Federico Perno, head of microbiology and immunology diagnostics at Rome's Bambino Gesù Hospital.

PROTECTING KIDS TOO The EU's medicines regulator is evaluating the use of Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine in 5 to 11-year-olds.

The data justifies the steps. German figures for the week to October 31 show that while highest case loads are among relatively young people, those over the age of 60 account for the majority of hospitalisations.



India is back in action and the decade is shaping up to be a growth decade, with our exports surging and FDI in-flows and investments following a high growth trajectory
PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

ONGC Q2 NET PROFIT ZOOMS 565%

State-owned oil and gas explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Friday reported 565 per cent year-on-year growth in its standalone net profit to ₹18,348 crore for the second quarter period ending September 2021, a sharp jump over expected profit growth of just over ₹6,000 given by analysts



of the day quote

This quarter has seen a good all-round performance. With a new footprint in Bangladesh and a new vernacular application in Tamil called Jodii, we expect to further increase traction for our members

MURUGAVEL JANAKIRAMAN | CHAIRMAN AND MD, MATRIMONY.COM LTD

In top cities such as Bhubaneswar, Patna, and Lucknow, we've seen a lot of adoption for online grocery shopping post pandemic. We will continue to build on our presence and quality of service in these cities to further accelerate new customer adoption

SIDDHARTH NAMBIAR | DIRECTOR, CATEGORY MANAGEMENT, AMAZON INDIA

The October survey has revealed encouraging results. In order to understand the complete impact of the festive season on retail sales, it is essential to see the figures of October and November combined

KUMAR RAJAGOPALAN | CEO, RETAILERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

COP26 SUMMIT

Coal compromise as leaders near climate deal

The latest draft proposals from the meeting's chair released Friday call on countries to accelerate "the phaseout of unabated coal power and of inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glasgow, Nov 12: Negotiators at this year's UN climate talks in Glasgow appeared to be backing away from a call to end all use of coal and phase out fossil fuel subsidies completely, but gave poor countries hope for more financial support to cope with global warming.

A previous proposal Wednesday had been stronger, calling on countries to "accelerate the phasing out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuel." The changes, if agreed, could give countries loopholes to continue burning coal and subsidise fossil fuels.

While the chair's proposal is likely to undergo further negotiation at the talks, due to end Friday, the change in wording suggested a shift away from unconditional demands that some fossil fuel exporting nations have objected to. Another crunch issue is the ques-



tion of financial aid for poor countries to cope with climate change. Rich nations failed to provide them with \$100 billion annually by 2020, as agreed, causing considerable anger among developing countries

going into the talks. According to the proposed decision, countries plan to express "alarm and utmost concern" that human activities have already caused around 1.1C (2F) of global

THE LATEST DRAFT EXPRESSES "DEEP REGRET" THAT THE \$100 BILLION GOAL HASN'T BEEN MET AND URGING RICH COUNTRIES TO SCALE UP THEIR FUNDING

RICH NATIONS SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES, WHO HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN THE BIGGEST SOURCE OF HUMAN-CAUSED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, ARE OPPOSED TO ANY LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PAY FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE SUFFERED BY POOR COUNTRIES

EXPLICITLY INCLUDING A CALL TO CUT COAL IN THE OVERARCHING DECLARATION IS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE, INCLUDING FOR COUNTRIES LIKE SAUDI ARABIA THAT FEAR OIL AND GAS MAY BE TARGETED NEXT

warming "and that impacts are already being felt in every region."

ISA, UNFCCC INK PACT TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

New Delhi: International Solar Alliance and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Friday inked pact at COP26 conference in Glasgow to fight climate change. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today

at COP26 to collaborate and support the Parties in the implementation of ambitious national action in line with global efforts, an ISA statement said. According to the statement, the MoU was signed by Ajay Mathur, Director General, ISA and Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCCC. As part of the agreement, the two institutions will jointly organise a set of activities with the UN Climate Change secretariat to facilitate the implementation of mitigation action in the energy sector, facilitate the imple-

mentation of Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-term Low Emission Development Strategies. This will also lend support to developing country stakeholders, including SIDs and LDCs, in accelerating the adoption of policy options and approaches for decarbonisation technologies. The ISA is an inter-governmental treaty-based international organisation with a global mandate to catalyse global solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology for solar.

Retail inflation rises to 4.48% in Oct

According to the data by the National Statistical Office (NSO), 'oils and fats' prices zoomed 33.5 per cent while inflation in the fuel and light category rose to 13.63 per cent in October 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Retail inflation after remaining on downtrend for four months moved a tad up in October to 4.48 per cent due to an uptick in food prices and higher cost of motor fuel.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation was 4.35 per cent in September and 7.61 per cent in October 2020. The annual inflation had declined to 6.26 per cent in June from 6.3 per cent in May. Later it further eased to 5.59 per cent in July, 5.3 per cent in August and 4.35 per cent in September.

Inflation in food basket was 0.85 per cent in October, marginally up from 0.67 per cent in September. Fruit prices increased by 4.92 per cent while vegetables prices dropped by 19.43 per cent and that of eggs declined by 1.38 per cent.



Ratings firm ICRA said the uptick in the CPI inflation in October 2021 relative to the previous month, while mild, was pretty broad-based. Hardening in inflation for clothing and footwear, and miscellaneous items suggest that reviving demand is nudging producers in some sectors to pass through the input price pressures, resulting in a pickup in the core inflation to 5.8 per cent in that month, it said. Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist,

ICRA said, "The MPC is likely to change the monetary policy stance to neutral only after there is additional evidence that the domestic demand revival has become durable, which is likely in the February 2022 review. We expect this to be accompanied by a 15 bps hike in the reverse repo rate by the RBI."

"Despite base effect, still-high fuel costs, input cost pressures and seasonal turn in some food prices in coming months could even see inflation rising towards 6.2 per cent plus later in the fiscal year," Madhavi Arora, Lead Economist, Emkay Global Financial Services said.

The government has mandated the Reserve Bank to maintain retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side. The next monetary policy of the Reserve Bank is due next month.

Johnson & Johnson to split into two companies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Brunswick (US), Nov 12: Johnson & Johnson is splitting into two companies, separating the division that sells Band-Aids and Listerine, from its medical device and prescription drug business.

The company selling prescription drugs and medical devices will keep Johnson & Johnson as its name, the company said Friday. That company will include treatments such as Darzalex, Erelada, Imbruvica, Stelara and Tremfya as well as medical device solutions across interventional solutions,



orthopaedics, surgery and vision. The new consumer health company will house brands including Neutrogena, Aveeno, Tylenol, Listerine, Johnson's, and Band-

Aid. It is expected to generate revenue of approximately \$15 billion for the year. A name was not disclosed for the new company. "Following a comprehensive

TOSHIBA TO SPLIT INTO 3 BUSINESSES

New Delhi: Japanese conglomerate Toshiba has confirmed plans to split the company into three separate businesses, BBC reported. Toshiba said the three companies would be focused on infrastructure, semiconductors and devices. The company has come under increasing pressure from activist investors to make changes since an accounting scandal in 2015, the report said. Toshiba's plan will see it spin off two core businesses -- its energy and infrastructure unit as well as its device and storage operation.

review, the board and management team believe that the planned separation of the consumer health business is the best way to accelerate our efforts to serve patients, consumers, and healthcare pro-

professionals, create opportunities for our talented global team, drive profitable growth, and - most importantly - improve healthcare outcomes for people around the world," CEO Alex Gorsky said.

E-commerce firms clock \$9.2bln in gross fest sales

The Flipkart Group emerged as the leader during the festive sales with 62% market share

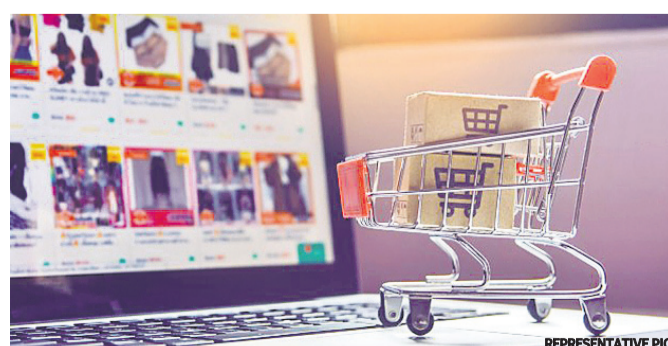
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Online platform logged sales worth \$9.2 billion (about ₹65,000 crore) during this year's festive sale, up about 23 per cent over last year, according to consulting firm RedSeer. RedSeer had predicted that on-

line platforms are expected to potentially clock \$9.6 billion gross GMV (Gross Merchandise Value) during the entire festive season this year, as against \$7.5 billion (about ₹52,000 crore) last year.

"A slew of new launches and easy financing options meant that Mobiles continued to remain the most widely-sold product category during this time, accounting for more than a third of the total GMV," RedSeer said in its report.

With hoards of people finally getting to leave their homes after months of lockdown, the Fashion



category witnessed a resurgence like never before.

Driven by consumers' desire to refresh their wardrobes and new in-

novative business models catering to shoppers in tier 2 cities, the sales of Fashion items via online channels doubled this year RedSeer said.

On the other hand, the categories that witnessed subdued growth this year included the likes of home furnishings, home décor and other electronics, it added.

The overall online shopper base grew by about 25 per cent compared to last year, with 57 per cent of the total shoppers coming from tier II cities and beyond, indicating that this year's festive sales were dictated by affordability schemes.

While the overall online GMV and absolute number of shoppers both increased, the GMV per user declined from ₹6,570 to ₹6,490 as relatively less expensive items such as fashion products saw an increase in their share of the overall GMV.

E-commerce companies see a large chunk of their annual business coming in during the festive sales and they make significant investments ahead of time to ramp up their capacity and add features to be able to handle the spike in orders, while ensuring a smooth experience for shoppers and sellers.

RBI opens govt bond market to retail investors

RBI's Retail Direct Scheme

The scheme allows retail investors to buy and sell government securities (G-Sec) online, both in the primary and secondary markets. According to details provided by RBI, these small investors can now invest in G-Secs by opening a gilt securities account with the RBI.



RBI's Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

This will help in improving the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against RBI's regulated entities. According to the PMO, the scheme is based on "One Nation-One Ombudsman" with one portal, one email, and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday launched two customer-centric schemes with a view to strengthen financial inclusion by ensuring participation of small retail investors in the government securities market as well as to improve grievance redressal mechanism.

The launch of these two schemes -- Reserve Bank's Retail Direct Scheme and Integrated Ombudsman Scheme -- will expand investment opportunities in the country and ensure easier access to capital markets with simple and secure mechanism, he said.

Retail direct scheme has given small investors in the country a simple and safe medium of investment in government securi-

ties. Similarly, One Nation, One Ombudsman System has taken shape in the banking sector with the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme today, he said.

Observing that one of the biggest touchstones of any democracy is the strength of its grievance redressal system, he said, the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme will go a long way in that direction.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank has been leveraging technology and innovation for enhancing the efficiency of its services.

"The Reserve Bank with its multifarious role touches the lives of people in varied ways. Be it through the currency system, the banking system, the financial markets, or the 24 into 7 seamless digital payments," he said.

Curbs put on Laxmi Coop Bank, Solapur; ₹1K cap on withdrawals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 12: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday imposed several restrictions on Laxmi Cooperative Bank Ltd, Solapur, including ₹1,000 cap on withdrawals for customers, due to deterioration in its financial position.

The restrictions imposed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, shall remain in force for six months from the close of business November 12, 2021, and are subject to review, the RBI said in a statement.

As per the directions, the bank shall not, without the prior approval of the RBI, grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur any liability, and disburse or agree to disburse any payment.

On Monday, the RBI had imposed similar restrictions on Babaji Date Mahila Sahakari Bank, Yavatmal, Maharashtra

"In particular, a sum not exceeding ₹1,000 of the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor, may be allowed to be withdrawn," the RBI said.

It further said the issue of the directions by the RBI should not be construed as cancellation of the banking licence.

"The bank will continue to undertake banking business with restrictions till its financial position improves," the Reserve Bank of India said.

RAHANE TO LEAD INDIA IN 1ST TEST; ALL-FORMAT STARS RESTED, VIHARI DROPPED AS SHREYAS BACK IN TEAM

Squad named for NZ Tests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane will lead India in the first Test against New Zealand before regular skipper Virat Kohli returns for the second match even as some all-format bigwigs got complete rest from the assignment in line with the BCCI's workload management of players.

Newly appointed T20I captain and regular opener Rohit Sharma, wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, and pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami have all been rested from the two matches in Kanpur (November 25 to 29), and Mumbai (December 3 to 7).

"Virat Kohli will join the squad for the second Test and will lead the team," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer made a comeback in the Test squad along with off-spinner Jayant Yadav. The Test series will be preceded by a three-match T20 series beginning November 17 in Jaipur. Kohli will not be a part of the T20 series after opting to take a break.

One of the notable absentees from the Test side was Hanuma Vihari, who has been dropped from the 16-member squad (will be 17 in next Test).

Vihari, it is learnt, is being added to the India A squad for the tour of South Africa where he will get three matches to stake a claim in the main squad which will start its series in the last week of December.

"We are sending Vihari to South Africa for the A series and his performance in the three 'A Test' matches will be monitored," a sen-



ior BCCI functionary confirmed the development to this agency.

According to sources close to the selection committee, Vihari's current form, and not past record, has been taken into account while selecting the Test squad.

It is understood that Vihari's defensive game is pretty similar to that of both stand-in vice-captain Cheteshwar Pujara and Rahane, who are going to bat at No.3 and 4 respectively.

The reason behind including a more flamboyant Iyer is that against the second new ball, he can play a counter-attacking knock.

Ditto for someone like Mayank Agarwal, in case he is not used in



his familiar opening position and dropped down the order.

Interestingly, all the three openers in the squad - KL Rahul, Agarwal and Shubman Gill - at some point in their careers, have batted in middle-order in Tests as well as first-class matches. There is a possibility that Agarwal and not Iyer will play in that middle-order slot.

Veteran Wriddhiman Saha, the oldest Indian Test player in this current set-up at 37, will get another crack at the traditional format during the two matches at Green Park and Wankhede.

Veteran spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are the first choice tweakers with Axar Patel, who had a great series against England at home, also in with a chance.

Jayant, an off-spinner and stable middle-order batter, is also back in the series having done reasonably well in the 2016-17 series at home against England. He is the back-up for Ashwin.

The pace attack will be led by Ishant Sharma with Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Siraj being the other options. Prasidh Krishna is the fourth pacer in the squad and wicket-keeper KS Bharath has been rewarded for being in the fringe with a call-up in the Test squad.

The squad: Ajinkya Rahane (C), KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara (vc), Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), KS Bharat (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Axar Patel, Jayant Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj & Prasidh Krishna.

Indian eyes to tour NZ before '22 World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wellington, Nov 12: The Indian women's cricket team will play five ODIs and one T20I in New Zealand next year as part of its preparations for the World Cup scheduled to be held there.

The six-match series will begin with the lone T20 on February 9 and

end February 24. The World Cup is to be held in March-April after being postponed for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The White Ferns will put the finishing touches on their preparations for the upcoming World Cup, to be hosted in New Zealand for the first time in 22 years, when they play India in a six-match series com-

prising a T20, and five ODIs," New Zealand Cricket announced Friday.

India's last international outing was a tour of Australia in September-October this year and it also included a pink-ball Test.

"The India series is a crucial part of the White Ferns' World Cup preparations," NZC chief executive David White said in a statement.

FIXTURES		
FEB 9	Only T20I	Napier
FEB 11	1st ODI	Napier
FEB 14	2nd ODI	Nelson
FEB 16	3rd ODI	Nelson
FEB 22	4th ODI	Queenstown
FEB 24	5th ODI	Queenstown

Brazil beat Colombia, qualify for World Cup



Lucas Paqueta (L) and Neymar rejoice after Brazil's goal against Colombia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, Nov 12: Brazil are celebrating as the first South American team to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar - with several matches in hand and more than a year before the tournament begins in Qatar.

South American football body CONMEBOL says Brazil is the first team of the region to qualify, with 11 wins in 12 matches. The latest came Thursday night here, with Lucas Paqueta scoring the only goal in the 72nd minute in a 1-0 win over Colombia.

The Selecao are 18 points ahead of fourth-place Chile, which can add only 15 points from its five remaining matches. The top four teams in South America earn direct entry to the World Cup.

Paqueta's goal came after Marquinhos found Neymar in the middle of the Colombia defense. Neymar quickly passed to Paqueta, who beat goalkeeper David Ospina with a low crossed shot that ended in the right corner of the Colombian goal. It was one of the few opportunities created by Brazil during

the match.

Brazil sealed their qualification by giving coach Tite his 50th win along with 12 draws and five defeats. Tite took over Brazil in the middle of qualifying for the World Cup in Russia in 2018.

Also Thursday, third-place Ecuador beat last-place Venezuela 1-0 with a goal by Piero Hincapié and Chile had a key 1-0 victory at Paraguay thanks to an own goal by Antony Silva after a corner kick.

Brazil have 11 wins in 12 matches - their match with second-place Argentina in September was bizarrely suspended after seven minutes of play because of concerns from authorities over breaches of COVID-19 protocols. FIFA has not yet decided whether it will be replayed.

Ecuador (20 points) follow their two major rivals in South American qualifiers, with Chile, Colombia and Uruguay tied with 16 points. The Chileans skip ahead for now on goal difference. The fifth-place team in South American qualifiers goes into an intercontinental playoff for a spot in Qatar.

Menon named TV umpire for World Cup final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 12: India's Nitin Menon has been appointed as the TV umpire (third umpire) for the T20 World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand, to be played Sunday. South Africa's Marais Erasmus and England's Richard Kettleborough will act as the on-field umpires.

MATCH OFFICIALS
Match Referee: **Ranjan Madugalle**
On-field umpires: **Marais Erasmus and Richard Kettleborough**
TV umpire: **Nitin Menon**
Fourth umpire: **Kumar Dharmasena.**

"Umpires Marais Erasmus and Richard Kettleborough will assume on-field duties in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 to be played between Australia and New Zealand at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday," the ICC said in a statement.

Former Sri Lanka spinner Kumar Dharmasena will be the fourth umpire. Considering he is officiating in his first men's World Cup, it is a significant feat for Menon. The final will be overseen by match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

India face Oz in T20 cricket event opener at CWG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, Nov 12: India will face Australia in the opening match when women's cricket makes its debut at the 2022 Commonwealth Games July 29 while the final will be played August 7, the event organisers announced Friday.

Women's cricket is making its debut at the Commonwealth Games with the T20 format. The last time cricket was played in the multi-sporting showpiece was in the 1998 edition in Kuala Lumpur.

"The women's cricket T20 competition will be held at the Edgbaston Stadium from July 29, with the bronze and gold medal matches taking place August 7,"

said the ECB in a statement.

The first match on the schedule will see Australia take on India in the early session July 29 followed by Pakistan playing Barbados, who were recently confirmed as the team from the West Indies that will take part in the competition.

Other highlights on the schedule include India against Pakistan July 31. Australia will also take on Pakistan August 3.

Hosts England will be in action for the first time July 30, when they will take on the winner of a qualifying tournament which is due to take place at the start of 2022. They will then play South Africa in the early session August 2, followed by a third match against

'Drop catch not turning point'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 12: Hasan Ali dropping Matthew Wade is being seen as the moment which turned the T20 World Cup semifinal decisively in Australia's favour against Pakistan but the man who benefitted from it rejected the suggestion, saying that his team would have won even if the catch was taken.

Wade, apart from opener David Warner (49), was the hero for the Australians with a hurricane 17-ball 41 which included three consecutive sixes in the 19th over after being dropped by Ali.

"...It's hard to say. The dropped catch, I'm not sure. I think we needed 12 or something, 14 maybe at that stage. I felt like the game was starting to swing in our direction at that stage anyway," Wade said at the post-match press conference.

"I get out there and we're not sure what's going to happen, obviously, but I would still be pretty confident with Pat (Cummins) coming in and Marcus (Stoinis) still at the crease, that we could have got the job done anyway. I wouldn't say that was the reason why we won the game," he added.

His view was in direct contrast to Pakistan captain Babar Azam, who in the post-match presentation, squarely blamed Ali's lapse for the loss. "The turning point was that dropped catch. Had we taken it, the scenario could have been different," Babar had stated.

The 33-year-old Wade thought otherwise and said his experience came in handy while handling the tense chase Thursday night.

"It certainly helps. Just to be in that situation. Experience is key in these games even though we lost a few early wickets and things weren't going our way early," he said.

"There was no real panic in the dressing room. We've got experience the whole way down. And the same with the ball. At times it felt like we were going for 12 and 13 and over.

"With this crowd, it felt like we were behind the game the whole time, but you look at the ball it was seven, eight, nine and over. It wasn't like we were getting put all over the park," he quipped referring to the huge crowd support that Pakistan got during the match.

Wade was asked repeatedly about the dropped catch but he was consistently dismissive of it being the moment which turned the match



Matthew Wade watches his match-winning scoop going for a maximum against Pakistan, Thursday

in Australia's favour.

"By the time the catch went down. I was pretty confident we were in a really good position to get the runs. If that had happened three or four overs before hand, that would dictate the outcome of the game a little bit more," he stated.

"You can focus in on the things that happen really late in the game, but there's plenty of things that go on without it - throughout a whole game that can dictate a little bit."

Pakistan also missed three run-out opportunities during the game but Wade once again sought to credit his team's positive approach rather than the opposition's lapses

for the result.

"I don't think any of them were the turning points of the match. I think the way Marcus Stoinis batted at the end, to be honest, was probably the turning point of the match," said Wade.

"I think the turning point of the game I thought was Marcus' over against Rauf. I thought that kind of, swung the momentum our way and gave us an opportunity to win the game.

"It's just an easy thing to do to focus in on missed chances. Yes, maybe it would have gone down late in the last over, but I'm still confident we could have gone home, he added.

SPAIN PROFIT FROM SWEDEN'S SLIP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Nov 12: Spain, Portugal and Croatia all put themselves one game away from securing World Cup qualification, while Sweden's hopes took a heavy blow with a surprising loss.

Spain beat Greece 1-0 thanks to Pablo Sarabia's penalty to overtake Sweden, who slipped to a 0-2 loss at already-eliminated Georgia. Spain host Sweden Sunday in one of three winner-takes-all matches to decide World Cup places.

Another decisive fixture pits Portugal against Serbia after a frustrating 0-0 away draw for Cristiano Ronaldo's team against Ireland. Croatia and Russia also face off for a spot in Qatar after each had a big win Thursday.

Only group winners qualify automatically, and second-place teams head to the playoffs along with two teams selected on their record in the Nations League. The 12 teams in the playoffs will be fighting for three places at next year's World Cup in Qatar in brackets of four teams.

Portugal's goalless draw in Dublin was less than impressive, but it was enough. The point Portugal earned against Ireland saw them ease ahead of group rival Serbia in the standings on goal difference. That means a draw will be enough for Portugal to qualify au-



TOUGH OUTING: Pablo Sarabia (No.22) celebrates after scoring the only goal from the spot during Spain's win over Greece, Thursday

tomatically when it hosts Serbia in Lisbon Sunday.

It was a bittersweet game for veteran defender Pepe, who became the oldest player to start a game for Portugal at 38 years old, but was sent off for two bookings and will be suspended for the crucial game against Serbia.

GROUP B

Sweden had their fate in their own hands in qualifying, and let it slip. Twenty-year-old winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia had a big impact with two second-half goals to surprise Sweden. That gave Spain the chance to overtake Sweden and take the advantage ahead of the decisive game

against the Swedes Sunday. Spain had to work hard in their 1-0 win over Greece, sealed with a penalty, but moved one point ahead of Sweden. Spain only have to avoid defeat against Sweden in Seville.

GROUP H

Russia and Croatia each won big against overmatched opponents in games. Croatia host Russia Sunday and the winner will qualify for the World Cup automatically, with Russia going through if it's a draw.

Russia laid down a marker with a 6-0 demolition of Cyprus and Croatia responded with a 7-1 hammering of Malta with two goals from Lovro Majer.

If Croatia are to qualify automatically for next year's tournament in Qatar, it will need to be the first team to beat Russia under new coach Valery Karpin. His team has conceded just once in six games under Karpin.

GROUP J

Germany have already qualified for the World Cup and cruised to a 9-0 win against Liechtenstein after early concerns for midfielder Leon Goretzka when he was struck in the head and neck by an opponent's boot.

Goretzka was an early red card for Liechtenstein, and a penalty to start the scoring. Leroy Sane and Thomas Müller finished with two goals each and there were two own-goals. Marco Reus had a goal and three assists to his name.