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BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 | 2021



Unable to repay loan, farmer ends life

Jaleswar: A farmer committed suicide by consuming poison after he allegedly failed to repay his farm loan in Shalikotha village under this block in Balasore district. The deceased farmer has been identified as Laxmi Narayan Jena. According to reports, he had taken a loan to grow paddy on two acres of land. However, his crop was heavily damaged owing to pest attack and Jena incurred huge losses. Apparently under acute depression, Jena consumed poison in a bid to end his life. He was rushed to Jaleswar Hospital. He succumbed on the way while he was being shifted to the SCB Hospital in Cuttack after his condition worsened. In August, a farmer had killed himself allegedly over distress sell of paddy.



Police arrest 3,488 fugitives in 10 days

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Police in a special drive has arrested 3,488 fugitives in 10-days, official sources said Tuesday. The police launched a special warrant drive between November 5 and November 14, during which the nonbailable warrants were executed. This includes 2,392 warrants/arrests in GR cases, 400 warrants/arrests in sessions trial cases and 696 warrants/arrests in other cases. Maximum 592 warrants were executed by arrests in Balasore district followed by 551 in Ganjam district and 516 in Khurda district. During this warrant drive, 2,648 non-bailable warrants (NBWs) were otherwise disposed of.



12 PAGES | ₹5.00



He has brought non-veg food today!

Polls to be held for 6,794 GPs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 16: As many as 6,794 Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the state will go for polls during the forthcoming Panchayat polls that will be held early next year. In 2017, elections were held in 6,801 GPs.

State Election Commission (SEC) Secretary Rabindra Nath Sahu Tuesday said the ensuing panchayat polls will not be held in seven panchayats as they have been included in three NACs. The seven GPs include four from Remuna in Balasore, two from Odanga in Nayagarh and one from Bijepur in Bargarh district, he said. Similarly, the number of wards has also been reduced by elimination of 111 wards due to the merger. Sahu said.

The three-tier panchayat polls this time will be held in 91,916 wards, excluding 111 wards. In 2017, the elections were held in 92.027 wards, the secretary said. Further, he said a total of 49,469 ward member seats have been reserved for women, 12,031 have been reserved for candidates belonging to Socially & Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC). Similarly, 3,500 sarpanch seats have been reserved for women while 778 seats are reserved for OBC from a total 6,794 seats. Out of 6,793 Panchayat Samiti member seats. 3.538 seats will be reserved for women and 913 seats for OBCs Out of 853 ZP seats, 64 will be reserved for SC candidates and 84 for SC (women) candidates; 218 for ST candidates including 118 women; 49 for OBC along with 55 OBC (women). 207 seats have been kept unreserved and 176 seats are unreserved for women. Earlier, the SEC has enhanced the election expenditure of candidates. Candidates contesting for ZP members can spend up to ₹5 lakh, the limit for Samiti candidates and Sarpanch has been increased to ₹2 lakh.

State eyes 100 pc vaccination by Dec

This will be at least a single dose coverage of all beneficiaries aged above 18 and, not all double jabs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: In a bid to protect every individual from the coronavirus, the state government is eying to cover all people above 18 years in the Covid-19 vaccination programme by December.

Holding a high-level meeting with all Collectors, in presence of senior officials of the health department, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra directed officials to achieve the target by administering at least first jab to all eligible population of the state.

Taking a district wise review of the progress, Mahapatra said, "We are now in a transitional phase of the pandemic.

There has been a substantial reduction in the number of infected cases. At this point of time, we have to intensify the vaccination drive before a possible third wave of the pandemic hits us.

He asked the Collectors to prepare a village and GP-level micro plan for vaccination. He directed to ensure cent percent implementation of the micro plans on a campaign mode through door to door surveys

Kumar Sharma said the total vac-cination in Odisha crossed 4.03 crore by November 13. Out of this, 2,68,04,755 persons received the first dose, and 1,34,96,059 received the second jab.

About 82.4 per cent of the above 18 years population have received their first dose in the state against the national average of 79.8 per cent. Similarly, 41.5 per cent of the population have got second dose against the national average of 38.4 per cent, Sharma said.

A target was set to accomplish 90 per cent administration of the first dose by November 30. The Chief Secretary directed to step it up to cent per cent by the end of December.

Presenting the updates, director, National Health Mission, (NHM) Shalini Pandit appraised that because of the proper care in storing, transportation and administration of the vaccine, the wastage of the doses was least in Odisha. The vaccine wastage dipped to -5.3% in the state thereby saving around 20 lakh of doses, Pandit said. She also said that there was suf-

ficient supply of the vaccine and syringes. Districts would be supplied more as per their demand.

The director sought to ensure that the second dose of the vaccine should always be of the same brand of the first dose without fail. There should not be inter-

She also directed to ensure ad-

ministration of the second dose

within the specified time limit

of the first dose. The collectors





A basket vendor pedals his cycle on way to work during a foggy morning in Nadia district Tuesday

Dhenkanal: CBI team beaten



UGANDA TWIN BLASTS PARA-SHUTTLER PRAMOD BHAGAT AND TEAM SAFE AGENCIES

MARKET WATCH						
INDEX VARIATION						
BOURSES	SENSEX	60322.37	₽	396.34		
	NIFTY	17999.20	₽	110.30		
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	74.49		₹0.12		
CURR	EURO	84.51	₽	₹0.02		
ION	GOLD	₹49,348		₹50		
BULLION	SILVER	₹66,760		₹197		



The districts were further asked to intensify the campaign and open more vaccination centers at village and GP level. The vaccination rate in Odisha has gone above the national rate with least procedural

wastage of vaccine doses. of all districts appraised their field level preparation for scal-Attending the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) ing up the vaccination and cov-Health and Family Welfare, Raj



sexual abuse of children mixing of the type of vaccines between the first and the second dose.

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Dhenkanal, Nov 16: A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team was attacked by slum dwellers in Dhenkanal during its raids as part of a nationwide crackdown on an alleged racket of online child sexual abuse Tuesday. The searches were conducted at 76 places in 14 states.

■ Locals attacked a CBI

team during its raids on a

house as part of a nation-

wide crackdown on online

The CBI team was attacked by locals while it was conducting searches in the house of Surendra Nayak at Colony Sahi of Dhenkanal town. The CBI reached Nayak's house in the morning and as they were trying to take him with them, the locals attacked the sleuths.

The mob dragged them out of Nayak's house. Several women surrounded the team and beat them up. Later, Town police staff rescued the CBI officers.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BHUBANESWAR: Child pornography has been a menace for Odisha as it topped the list among states in the country on registration of cases related to the use and storing of child pornography materials in 2018 and 2019. As per the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau, 333 cases under Sections 14 and 15 of POCSO Act were registered in the state in 2018. In 2019, the state police registered 542 cases for child pornography. Though it came down to 33 in 2020. Odisha still remains among the top ten states in the country in child pornography.

Senior officials at Town police station said the CBI officials had not intimated about their visit. Sources said Nayak was part of a social

media group and used to share links containing adult content.

"I had joined a group named Desi MMS. I had joined the group through a link on the internet and was sharing the links of adult contents from one website to other and groups. I had received 21 USD. The CBI officials asked me about the number of members in the group and when I had joined. They took away my mobile phone," said Navak. The CBI also conducted searches in Bhadrak district on the house of an auto driver. The auto driver is facing charges of circulating pictures of minor girls on internet. The sleuths also carried raids in Jajpur too.

Kampala, Nov 16: Two explosions occurred in the centre of Uganda's capital, where the Indian para-badminton team has gone to take part in an international tournament, but the shuttlers are safe.

The blasts, which are reported to have occurred just 100 meters from the hotel the Indian team is staying in, have killed at least two people and set several cars on fire.

However, Para-Badminton India took to social media and said that players are safe.

"Indian Team is Safe! There is multiple bomb blast 100 mtr away from the official Hotel," it said in a tweet.



Coach Vikash Khanna also mentioned that the team is safe and there is nothing to panic.

'Nothing to panic. We all are safe here and the organisers and respective agencies are taking utmost care. Nothing to worry," tweeted Khanna

The Indian para-badminton team featuring Tokyo Paralympics medallists Pramod Bhagat, Manoj Sarkar and others had travelled to Uganda and reached Kampala a couple of days ago to compete at the Uganda Para-Badminton International 2021.

As per BBC report, one blast took place near Parliament, with the other close to the city's policeheadquarters. The cause of the blasts was not immediately clear.

China overtakes US as richest country in world

China has accounted for almost one-third of gains in global net worth over the past two decades. Its wealth skyrocketed to \$120 tn from a mere \$7 trillion in 2000

AGENCIES

Beijing, Nov 16: Now, China is the richest country in the world, surpassing the US. While global wealth tripled over the last two decades, China led the way and overtook the US for the top spot worldwide, Bloomberg reported.

A report by McKinsey & Co. that examines the national balance sheets of ten countries representing more than 60 per cent of the world's income. China accounted for almost one-third of gains in global net worth over the past two decades, the report said. "We are now wealthier than we have ever been," Jan

Mischke, a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute in Zurich, said in an interview. Net worth worldwide rose to \$514 trillion in 2020, from \$156 trillion in 2000, according to the study. China accounted for almost one-third of the increase.

Its wealth skyrocketed to \$120 trillion from a mere \$7 trillion in 2000, the year before it joined the World Trade Organization, speeding its economic ascent, the report said. The US, held back by more muted increases in property prices, saw its net worth more than double over the period, to \$90 trillion. In both countries -- the world's

biggest economies - more than twothirds of the wealth is held by the richest 10 per cent of households, and their share has been increasing, the report said. As computed by McKinsey, 68 per cent of global net worth is stored in real estate. The balance is held in such things as infrastructure, machinery and equip-



ment and, to a much lesser extent, so-called intangibles like intellectual property and patents, it added.

The report, however, also highlighted the massive inequality in wealth in the world's top two richest countries. In both China and the US, more than 67 percent of wealth is owned by the richest 10 percent of households. Additionally, that proportion of wealth ownership is showing an upward trend.

The report also warns that, despite what the numbers are showing, China's economy risks being overwhelmed by property debt. One way to avoid this crisis, not just in China but worldwide, would be to ensure productive investments that contribute to global GDP.

Xi warns of 'playing with fire' over Taiwan

BEIJING/WASHINGTON: Striking a tough posture at the much-awaited virtual summit with his US counterpart Joe Biden Tuesday, President Xi Jinping said that China will "certainly defend" its sovereignty and security interests as he warned that whoever plays with fire over Taiwan will "get burnt". Xi pointed Beijing's "red lines' on a host of issues, including Taiwan, and said China's rise is an "inevitable trend of history" and cannot be stopped. On Taiwan, where China has pressed over 200 military jets into the estranged islands air defence zone ratcheting tensions, Xi ascribed the tensions to the repeated attempts by the Taiwan authorities to look for US support for their independence agenda. "Such moves are extremely dangerous, just like playing with fire. Whoever plays with fire will get burnt.









leisure



GIBSON TO DIRECT LETHAL WEAPON 5

Actor Mel Gibson will be starring in and directing the fifth installment of Lethal Weapon. Gibson, who appears as Martin Riggs in the franchise, announced his involvement in the project at an event in London, reports aceshowbiz.com.

HALLE BERRY: HELMING BRUISED WAS MY TOUGHEST CHALLENGE

Oscar-winning star Halle Berry, who has gone behind the camera for the first time with Bruised, has revealed that directing the upcoming film was her toughest challenge. Berry also plays a disgraced MMA fighter who decides to return for an unsanctioned bout in the movie, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 5518 ARIES

Today, you will show everyone what you're capable of You are likely to come up with great ideas and work strategies, which will prove productive. However, if appreciation doesn't come your way, Ganesha says you must learn to take disappointment in your stride.

TAURUS

You will be feeling listless lazy and out of sorts today, and will tend to ignore and neglect important tasks scheduled for the day. Ganesha urges you to guard against this tendency as you could miss out on opportunities

hat others could then benefit from.

GEMINI

A crucial social event at home is on the anvil, and it will demand most of your attention. Intense business negotiations, which were going on for a long time, will come to a logical conclusion. The results are likely to be stacked in your favour. This, coupled with after-office parties will ease out the stress.

You will make new friends. You will have a jolly time with them, but some worry or tension will nag you. But Ganesha says that all worries will go away by evening, when you relax with friends

LEO

You will be seized by a desire to do something new for a change today. Your mood will be bright throughout the day. You will be able to achieve success owing to your energy and enthusiasm. The plan ets are in your favour, hence you car accept the challenges coming your way and prevail over them, says Ganesha

VIRGO

Ganesha predicts that you will be rewarded today for all the good work done earlier. You will prefer to manage things in your own way, rather than taking orders from others. However, Ganesha advises you not to throw your weight around, but to stay calm and composed.



spend the evening with your beloved Today you will be mentally very energetic

BAFTA picks 3 new Indian experts for mentorship

how things have evolved in the Mumbai: British Academy of Film and Television Arts recent time." (BAFTA) announced three new She added: "I think there is

industry experts

Oscar-winning film

producer Guneet

Monga, veteran ac-

tress Ratna Pathak

Shah and gaming en-

trepreneur Vishal

Gondal - who will

share their knowledge

with the talents who

take part in the men-

torship programme BAFTA Breakthrough

The programme

aims at increasing

India.

a power of great Ratna Pathak Shah

Gangs

BAFTA

BAFTA to apply.



Lunchbox, Masaan, Wasseypur, Pagglait and What Will People Say. The last date for applications for

Breakthrough India is November 30. The participants

can visit the official website of

IFFI to pay special tribute to Sean Connery

The five films of the legend, who passed late last year, to be screened at the event are - 'From Russia with Love', 'Goldfinger,' 'You Only Live Twice,' 'The Hunt For Red October,' and 'The Untouchables'

> he 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will pay special tribute to Hollywood legend Sean Connery, the

first actor to portray iconic British spy James Bond, by screening five of his most loved films.

The five films that are to be screened as part of the special tribute to the legend are - From Russia with Love(1963), Goldfinger (1964), You Only Live Twice (1967), The Hunt For Red October (1990), and The Untouchables (1987) which won him an Oscar in 1988

The Scottish actor who was known for his portrayal of 007, passed away in his sleep late last year. Connery, who is remembered as the original James Bond, was the first to utter one of the classic movie catchphrases of all

time - the name's Bond...James Bond. His acting career spanned seven decades during which he appeared in seven of the Bond films. His definitive performance as Agent 007 in Ian Fleming's Bond movies cemented his position as one of the most confident actors in Hollywood.

Connery is also known for his performances in Diamonds are Forever (1971), Murder on the Orient Express (1974), The Man Who Would Be King (1975), Outland (1981), Never Say Never Again (1983), Rising Sun (1993)Dragonheart (1996) and The Rock (1996). In 1999, Connery starred in and produced Entrapment. IANS

Nora shares her 'worst' experience on set

Mumbai: Actress Nora Fatehi almost choked because of her costume for the number Kusu Kusu, which features in the upcoming film Satyamev Javate 2. She called it her worst experience on set. The second look of the song, which features Nora in a veil cape attached to her bodysuit. The cape was tied to her necklace. However, due to the weight of the heavy veil, the necklace choked Nora and even left bruise marks.

Talking about the experience, Nora said: "On sets we often have minor incidents like scraping of knees, bleeding of feet, or something like that, but this definitely has been my worst experience on set.' She added: "It almost felt like someone has tied a rope around my neck and dragged me across the loor, but because we had limited time for the shoot, I continued to film the song and only took a break after we completed the sequence.

Satyamev Jayate 2 directed by Milan Milap Zaveri is a sequel to the 2018 vigilante action film Satyamev Jayate and stars John Abraham in his fight against systematic corruption. The

FUN

film is all set

'Couldn't have asked for a bigger debut'

Mumbai: The freshly released teaser of Yash Raj Films' first historical epic action drama Prithviraj has grabbed eveballs

The film, based on the life and valour of the fearless and mighty Rajput king Prithviraj Chauhan, stars Akshay Kumar in the titular role alongside Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar as Princess Sanyogita. The actress is over the moon as she gears up for her debut with one of India's premier

studios The debutante expressed her gratitude as she said. 'I'm eternally grateful to YRF and my director Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi for not only believing in me but also for making me be lieve that I could play the role of the legendary princess

Sanyogita. I couldn't have asked for a bigger debut and I'm deeply honoured that I could play her on screen. The actress

Prithviraj set for January release

added, "I am extremely positive about Prithviraj and I know that it will entertain audiences worldwide with a story of iconic love, legendary valour and unflinching courage.'

The film directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi also stars Sanjay Dutt and Sonu Sood and will be re-

IANS



too. Make the most of the day.

SCORPIO

Yet another mundane day in your life, as nothing exciting is on the cards. However, be cheerful and keep trying hard to bring in some spice in life. You never know when the planets change their mood and make an exciting future Keep the hope alive, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Your leadership qualities are likely to bag compliments today. As you follow law and order and also make others follow it. You leave no stone unturned to get the work done, and that too systematically. However, make sure you also give them space and freedom to express themselves. It would earn you brownie points, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

If at first you don't succeed, try again. Many people underestimate the power of

perseverance and patience. But, these qualities will lead you success. Rather than exploding with anger and anxiety, keep your faith in your plans intact, especially when the results are not as per your plans, advises Ganesha.

You are in for a challenging day today. But, luck is by your side and you will be able to come out of the storm hale and hearty, assures Ganesha. If you are a businessman, you may enter into some major business venture, sign important contracts and take up new projects.

.

PISCES

Your patience and capabilities will be on trial today and will be put to test with every work you undertake. Even simple tasks and common goals will seem hard to achieve and will require a considerable amount of effort to complete. Due do the unfavourable position of the planets. Ganesha suggests that it is best to steer clear of trouble unless you wish to step on already sore toes.





THE WHOLE

THING IS

CRAZY!

LAP



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

9			4				2	
8	2		6					4
		4				9		
3				1		Ĩ		7
		7	3		2			
					4			9
			5		8	3		
		8	2					6
6		3		9	1			

SOLUTIONS CRUMBS CROSSWOR BIRDS FPREY SI X |P| 111 R GILIT 2 5 9 8 1 7 4 6 8 3 2 5 1 7 3



SUDOKU



MIS

L OW

3



downtown



STIR OVER USER FEE

Puri municipality Tuesday postponed its decision to collect user fees after facing stiff protests from locals and social outfits



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	25,47,82,713	23,03,39,242	51,26,012
dia	3,44,56,401	3,38,61,756	4,63,852
disha	10,45,862	10,34,995	8,381

State tops in child porn in '18, '19 **Onerous conditions**

POST NEWS NETWORK

denial of bail: SC

tantamount to

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Supreme Court has set aside a bail order of the Orissa High Court wherein the latter had asked the appellant to deposit ₹20 lakh in cash and security of immovable property to the tune of ₹20 lakh as conditions for bail.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai observed that imposition of onerous conditions for bail is tantamount to denial of bail. The bench quashed the HC order in this regard.

'We set aside the order of the High Court directing the petitioner to provide cash security of ₹20 lakh and to furnish security of immovable property for ₹20 lakh for bail," the bench ordered.

Significantly, petitioner Mithun Chatterjee was arrested for committing crime under Sections 467, 468, 471, 420 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act.

He had filed a bail application in the High Court which allowed the bail application subject to the petitioner depositing ₹20 lakh in cash and providing security of immovable property to the tune of ₹20 lakh.

Aggrieved by the conditions imposed by the HC, the petitioner filed a special leave petition in the SC.

HC seeks info on safety of turtles

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 16: Hearing a petition on safety of Olive Ridley turtles, the Orissa High Court Tuesday directed the Centre and the state government to submit information on installation of transponders in fishing boats and trawlers.

A bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice AK Mahapatra posted the hearing to December 23.

Earlier, the state government had informed the HC that transponders would be installed in 1,740 fishing boats and trawlers.

It had told the court that the process has been initiated after detailed discussions with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) In another development, the HC Fuesday directed the Puri Collector

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Child pornography has turned out to be a menace for Odisha as the state topped the relevant category in the country in connection with registration of cases related to use Covid-induced lockdown of children in pornography and storage of such materials during 2018 and 2019.

As per data revealed by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), as many as 333 cases under Sections 14 and 15 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act were registered in the state for using child for pornography or storing child pornographic material during 2018. While Bihar was in second spot with 177, Rajasthan was in third position with 54 such

cases in 2018. In 2019, the state police regis-

Demand for child porn on various pornographic sites was highest in **Bhubaneswar during** the first phase of

tered 542 cases for child pornography related POCSO sections. Bihar was in second position in 2019 by registering 164 cases, while Rajasthan, with 157 cases, was in third spot. Though the cases declined dramatically to 33 in 2020, Odisha still remains among the top 10 states in the country under this category, as revealed by the annual crime data of NCRB for 2020.

However, Odisha held the second spot among the states in connection with the registration of the cases related to publishing or transmitting of sexually explicit images and videos of girls in 2020. As many as 292 such cases were registered by state police in 2020. Only Uttar Pradesh had witnessed more cases (325) than Odisha under this category.

Similarly, Odisha topped the list regarding cybercrime against women with 526 cases last year.

Meanwhile, a study, published last year by a Delhi-based NGO, revealed that the demand for child porn on various pornographic sites was the highest in Bhubaneswar among all cities across the country during the first phase of the Covidinduced lockdown.

"The demand for generic child pornography content on pornographic platforms like Pornhub was the highest in Bhubaneswar and Chennai," concluded the NGO.



Come Jan, vehicle papers download at your ease

The move would reduce both time and cost, and give the convenience of generating a copy of the document instantaneously

without the need for visiting RTO office

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: As part of its 5T initiative, the Odisha government has decided to issue vehicle documents including driving licences (DLs) and registration certificates (RCs) digitally from January 1, 2022. The state Commerce and Transport department has recently issued a notification in this regard.

Exercising the powers conferred



In July 2006, the Transport department had signed an agreement with New Delhi-based Smart Chip Limited for issue of smart card-based DLs and RCs along with paper-based documents for LL, DL and RC among other services. Concession period was granted upto July 28 this year. The department is going to terminate the pact with effect from December 31, 2021

under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, the state government has decided to issue paper-based RCs, DLs and other vehicle related doc-

uments through digitally signed certificates or through e-signatures as specified under the provisions of Information Technology Act. 2000

FOR LORD'S BLESSINGS

he state govt has decided to issue paper-based RCs, DLs and other vehicle related documents through digitally signed certificates or through e-signatures as specified

in receipt of DL, RC and other vehicle related documents, the department has decided to develop a portal from where PDF copy of a vehicle's documents can be downloaded by a citizen at his/her convenience

To ensure better service de-

livery to public and to eliminate

the delay in receipt of DL, RC and

other vehicle related documents,

the department has decided to de-

at his/her convenience.

both time and cost and give the convenience of generating a copy of the document instantaneously without the need of visiting the RTO office or waiting to receive the same by post, the notification said.

permits among other services.

Concession period was granted

upto July 28 this year. The department is going to terminate the Top police officials of both states agreement with the company with attended the meeting. effect from December 31, 2021.

State to reward students with extra-curricular skills

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: In order to encourage extra-curricular activities among students, the Higher Education (HE) department Tuesday decided to introduce annual state-level inter-university





under the provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000 To ensure better service delivery to public and to eliminate the delay

velop a portal from where PDF copy of a vehicle's documents can be downloaded by a citizen

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Odisha This system is aimed at reducing and Chhattisgarh Police have decided to chalk out strategies jointly with more synergy to counter Left Wing Extremism (LWE) and drug trafficking.

The Transport department had signed an agreement with New Delhi-based Smart Chip Limited in July 2006 for issue of smart card based DLs and RCs along with paper-based documents for Learner's Licence, DL, RC, trade certificates, fitness certificates and

and IG (Operation) Odisha would be the nodal officers on LWE matters. the DIGP STF, Odisha and DIGP CID-CB, Chhattisgarh would be nodal officers to deal with NDPS matters. Other modalities for joint op-

erations and further cooperation were finalised in the meeting and a decision was taken to meet again.

Odisha, Ch'garh to

counter extremism

This was revealed at a meeting

held through videoconferencing be-

tween the police of the two states.

ADGP (Operation), Chhattisgarh

chalk out plan to

AGENCIES

and SP to depose before it virtually Wednesday on a case pertaining to conservation of wetlands.

Earlier, the court had directed the Collectors of Kendrapara, Khurda, Ganjam and Puri to submit affidavits on the removal of prawn enclosures from near Bhitarkanika National Park and Chilika lake.

SATH-E boost to learning outcomes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Implementation of 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital-Education' (SATH-E) in Odisha has improved the learning outcomes as far as school education is concerned.

This was revealed at a webinar on SATH-E organised by Niti Aayog in association with Odisha, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh governments, Tuesday.

Project SATH-E was launched in 2017 to identify and build three 'role model' states for school education sector. Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh were chosen after an elaborate selection process.

The webinar was chaired by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant in the august presence of the education ministers of the three states.

A report on 'Systematic Transformation of School Education - The SATH-E Experience' was released on the occasion.

Addressing the webinar, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said, "Quality education to children is top priority of the state government and with the help of SATH-E project in the first phase we have strengthened the state education system.

The minister said that there is an average improvement of 10-15 per cent in learning outcomes due to the 'Ujjwal-Utthan' learning enhancement programs in the first phase of SATH-E implementation in Odisha.

competitions in extra-curricular activities from 2021-22 academic year. In a letter to the vice-chancellors

of all public universities and principals of degree colleges, HE department secretary Saswat Mishra said the state government would bear all the expenses of the competitions, including the cash prizes.

Berhampur University, Utkal University and Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University (MSCB) University would conduct the competitions for the current academic year.

Berhampur University will host inter-university athletic events from January 10 to 12 next year while MSCB University will host games and sports from January 21 to 24. On the other hand, Utkal University will host literary and cultural events from February 4 to 6.

University will host inter-university athletic events from January 10 to 12 next year while MSCB University will host games and sports from January 21 to 24

Utkal University will host literary and cultural events from February 4 to 6 All universities should complete the intra-university competitions by December 31 so that their teams can participate in inter-university competitions

versities as well as central universities in the state are allowed to participate in the competitions. All universities should complete the intra-university competitions by December 31 so that their teams can participate in inter-university competitions, said the letter.

Hundreds of devotees queuing up on the Grand Road in Puri to visit Srimandir on the second day of Panchaka ritual of the holy month of Kartika, Tuesday

Students from all public uni-

Decoded: How salt affects blood flow in brain, causes Alzheimer's

he team dubbed the

henomenon Inverse

Neurovascular Coupling, a

decrease in blood flow that

oxvaen

produces Hypoxia meaning lack of

n the cortex, vascular responses

to stimuli are much localised and

the dilation occurs rapidly, while in

diffuse and took place slowly, over

Between 50 and 60 per cent of hypertension is believed to be

salt-dependent - triggered by

Hypothalamus, the response was

a long period of time

esearchers from the United States have, in a first-of-itskind study, explored the relationship between neuron activity and blood flow deep in the brain, as well as how the brain is affected by salt consumption, resulting in cognitive decline such as Alzheimer's.

The team from the Georgia State University focused on the Hypothalamus - a deep brain region involved in critical body functions including drinking, eating, body temperature regulation and reproduction.

The study, published in the journal Cell Reports, examined how blood flow to the hypothalamus changes in response to salt intake.

When people ingest salty food, the brain senses it and activates neurons that trigger the release of vasopressin - an anti-diuretic hormone that plays a key role in maintaining proper concentration



excess salt consumption The findings took us by surprise because we saw vasoconstriction, which is the opposite of what most people described in the cortex in response to a sensory stimulus

JAVIER STERN | PROFESSOR OF NEUROSCIENCE, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, USA

of salt in human body, according to Javier Stern, professor of neuroscience at the varsity.

But, in contrast to previous studies that have observed a positive link between neuron activity

and increased blood flow, the new study showed a decrease in blood flow as the neurons became activated in the hypothalamus.

The findings took us by surprise because we saw vasoconstriction, which is the opposite of what most people described in the cortex in response to a sensory stimulus," said Stern.

"Reduced blood flow is normally observed in the cortex in case of diseases like Alzheimer's or after a stroke or Ischemia,' the professor added

The team dubbed the phenomenon Inverse Neurovascular Coupling, a decrease in blood flow that produces Hypoxia meaning lack of oxygen. They observed other differences too. In the cortex, vascular responses to stimuli are much localised and the dilation occurs rapidly. But, in Hypothalamus, the response was diffuse and took place slowly, over a long period of time.

"When we eat a lot of salt, our sodium levels stay elevated for a long time. We believe Hypoxia is a mechanism that strengthens the neurons' ability to respond to the sustained salt stimulation, allowing them to remain active for a prolonged period," said Stern.

The findings raise interesting questions about how hypertension may affect the brain. Between 50 and 60 per cent of hypertension is believed to be salt-dependent - triggered by excess salt consumption.

"If you chronically ingest a lot of salt, you will have hyper-activation of Vasopressin neurons. This mechanism can then induce excessive Hypoxia, which could lead to tissue damage in the brain," said Stern.

"If we can understand this process better, we can devise novel targets to stop this Hypoxia-dependent activation and perhaps improve the outcomes for people with salt-dependent high blood pressure," he noted.

downtown

3 HISTORY-SHEETERS HELD WITH 5 PISTOLS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 16: Lalbagh police have arrested three persons after recovering five pistols from their possession on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Setu here late Monday night, an official said Tuesday.

The accused were identified as Sujit Kumar Swain, 42, a resident under Biridi police limits, Soubhagya Jena, 33, of Totapada and Dibya Swaroop Sahu, 32, of Baijanga in Jagatsinghpur, he said.

Addressing the media, Cuttack deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Prateek Singh said the three are history-sheeters. While 15 cases related to arms smuggling were pending against Sujit at different police stations in the state, Soubhagya has around six gunrunning cases registered against him. There are two arms smuggling cases against Dibya

About the crackdown, the DCP said they were tipped off about the trio's plan to visit Cuttack to dispose of pistols Monday night.

"The three were travelling to Cuttack from Bhubaneswar via Trisulia in a car. A team of Lalbagh police managed to intercept them on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Setu. Upon searching, the officials found five sophisticated pistols and bullets from the car," Singh pointed out.

6-hour daily PRS shutdown for 7 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: As part of Railways' efforts to normalise passenger services, the Railways Passenger Reservation System (PRS) will remain shut for six hours during the lean business hours of the night for the next 7 days, an East Coast Railway (ECoR) official said. This is to enable upgradation of system data and updating of new train numbers. Since huge amount of past and current passenger booking data are to be updated in all Mail/Express trains, this is being planned in a series of carefully calibrated steps and is being implemented during night hours

in order to minimise the impact on ticketing services.

The activity has begun from the intervening night of November 14 and 15 and will continue to the night of November 20 and 21 starting at 23:30hrs and ending at 05:30hrs. During these six hours, no PRS Services will be available.

Railway personnel will ensure the advance charting for the trains to start during the affected timings. Except for the PRS services, all other enquiry services including 139 services will continue.

Meanwhile, the train numbers now will not start with zero, as was in case of Special Trains. The process of conversion of Special Train Numbers to Regular Train Numbers has already been started by Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) and is expected to be completed within the next seven days.

₹250 crore earmarked for Musa River facelift



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Puri, Nov 16: The Puri district administration will spend ₹250 crore under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities & Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme for beautification of Musa River, over which the Atharnala Bridge serves as the entry point to the Pilgrim city of Puri.

The administration has already been notified to acquire over 46 acres of land from private land owners. Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has been conducted by the Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre

for Development Studies. This project is part of the developmental plans chalked out to transform the abode of Lord Jagannath into an international place of heritage.

The notified public hearing began Monday at the Jagannath Ballav Mutt premises and it will continue for four days in several villages. The district administration released the blueprint of the first phase development of Musa River.

PURI BEAUTIFICATION THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED TO ACQUIRE OVER 46 ACRES OF LAND FROM PRIVATE

LAND OWNERS APART FROM BEAUTIFICATION, THE PROJECT WILL HAVE BOATING FACILITIES AND ILLUMINATION,

INTENDED TO ATTRACT TOURISM THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE

PROJECT BEGAN MONDAY AT THE JAGANNATH BALLAV MUTT PREMISES AND WILL CONTINUE FOR FOUR DAYS IN SEVERAL VILLAGES

Apart from beautification, the project, after completion, will have boating facilities and illumination, intended to attract tourism.

The expansion and widening of Musa River will help mitigate rainwater drainage from the town. The entire project has been designed on the line of heritage,

Odishan art and sculpture. The Roads and Buildings department has been entrusted with the execution of the project, official sources said.

Auto driver's body fished out from Kuakhai in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Fire Services personnel Tuesday recovered the body of an auto-rickshaw driver floating in Kuakhai River on the outskirts of the city. The deceased was identified as Suresh Adak, 28, of Basta area in Balasore district. He was staying at Naharkanta under Mancheswar police limits for the past few years.

According to police, some locals had spotted Adak taking bath in Kuakhai at Palasuni during heavy rain Sunday. The locals even tried to prevent him from going into the river but in vain.

Police registered a case (74/21) on the basis of the missing report lodged by the deceased's family. Fire officials could not recover the body of Adak despite intensive search operations Sunday and Monday. Some locals spotted the body float ing in the river Tuesday morning.

State logs 206 nCoV cases, 2 fatalities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 10,45,862 Tuesday as 206 more people tested positive for the infection, 21 more than the previous day, while two fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 8.381, a Health department official said.

the highest number of new cases at 120, followed by Cuttack (15) and Jajpur (12). The fresh fatalities were recorded in Cuttack and Khurda districts. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far. As many as 32 children are among the new patients. The rate



also hurled tomatoes at the cops

In the age group of 45 years and above, 4.76 lakh people have taken the first dose, while 4.22 lakh have been fully vaccinated

of infection among the 0-18 age $% \left({{\left({{{{\bf{n}}_{{\rm{s}}}}} \right)}_{{\rm{s}}}}} \right)$ group dipped to 15.53 per cent from 18.91 per cent the previous day.

The state had reported 185 fresh infections Monday, 262 Sunday, 247 Saturday, 263 Friday, 271 Thursday

As many as 26.48 lakh vaccine Adoses have been administered to people in Bhubaneswar till November 14

Out of that, 14 lakh people have received the first dose, while 12 lakh have been fully vaccinated under the iurisdiction of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC)

NSUI activists try to scale the police barricades during their attempt to gherao the Chief Minister's house in Bhubaneswar,

Tuesday, seeking arrest of minister Dibya Shankar Mishra in connection with the Mamita Meher murder case. They

n the 18-44 years age group, 8.26 lakh people have received the first dose, while 7.35 lakh have been fully vaccinated

and 387 Wednesday. With this, the daily test positivity rate increased slightly to 0.41 per cent from 0.32 per cent Monday. The coastal state currently has 2.669 active cases, while 10,34,759 people have recovered

from the disease so far, including 254 in the last 24 hours. Odisha has thus far tested over 2.29

crore samples for Covid-19, including 49,975 Monday, the Health official said, adding that the cumulative positivity rate stood at 4.55 per cent. Meanwhile, 26.48 lakh vaccine doses have been administered to people in Bhubaneswar till November 14. Out of that, 14 lakh people have received the first dose, while 12 lakh have been fully vaccinated under the jurisdiction of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

In the 18-44 years age group, 8.26 lakh people have received the first dose, while 7.35 lakh have been fully vaccinated. In the age group of 45 years and above, 4.76 lakh people have taken the first dose, while 4.22 lakh have been fully vaccinated.

CureBay to offer healthcare in rural areas -

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: With an aim to provide better healthcare to the people of rural areas in the state, healthcare startup CureBay Tuesday launched two e-Clinics in Kakatpur and Nimapara areas of Puri district.

CureBay's healthcare fulfilment model brings holistic patient care and convenience to the doorstep of the underserved rural population through process innovation and healthcare ecosystem aggregation.

CureBay's founder-CEO Privadarshi Mohapatra said. "The e-Clinics will offer health services at the doorstep through assisted telemedicine consultations at low cost. All CureBay satellite centres

will be fully equipped with medical

devices for measurement of vital

signs. The initiative will help peo-

ple avoid arduous and expensive

trips to test centres. Apart from

all basic health check-ups, CureBay

will facilitate early detection of

non communicable diseases through health-tech partner solutions using AI and ML." The startup will set up such clinics in areas having no healthcare facility within 5-10km distance, he added.

"Providing access to high quality and affordable primary healthcare to patients in remote locations is our top priority. The pandemic has clearly shown us that technology can play a big role is augmenting the efforts of the doctors on the ground. Through a combination of the CureBay tech Platform, our network of satellite e-Clinics, and the partnership of renowned doctors and medical institutions, we are looking at bridging the gap that exists in primary healthcare in remote locations." Mohapatra said. In Odisha alone, CureBay plans to open 50 satellite centres at places including Bamanala, Kunmdhei, Jahangirabad, Gop, Rajghat and Sahejpal in next six months. Sixseven such clinics are expected to come up in next two weeks, he added.



Odisha government's media adviser Manas Mangaraj inaugurates the state-level observance of National Press Day in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

The new cases were registered in 15 of the 30 districts of the state. Khurda, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, registered



AGITATION OVER MAMITA CASE

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

 Walkathon by Income Tax department, Aayakar Bhawan, 6:30am

CUTTACK

Event by Utkal Sahitya Samaj to commemorate poet Raghunath Das, Sriramachandra Bhawan, 6pm

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.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Kanisk Gupta S/o Seema Gupta, At Plot-1334 Mahanadi Vihar, Cuttack, Odisha-753004, have changed my name to Kanishk Gupta for all purposes.

ROVING THE RED PLANET

How Curiosity is making Mars safer for humans

OP PHOTO

BASED ON DATA FROM CURIOSITY'S RADIATION ASSESSMENT DETECTOR (RAD), RESEARCHERS ARE FINDING THAT USING NATURAL MATERIALS SUCH AS THE ROCK AND SEDIMENT ON MARS COULD OFFER SOME PROTECTION FROM THIS EVER-PRESENT SPACE RADIATION

radiation sensor aboard NASA's Curiosity Mars rover is providing new data on the health risks humans could face on the surface of the Red Planet.

Unlike Earth, Mars does not have a magnetic field to shield it from the high-energy particles whizzing around in space. That radiation can wreak havoc on human health, and it can seriously compromise the life support systems that Mars astronauts will depend on, as well.

Based on data from Curiosity's Radiation Assessment Detector (RAD), researchers are finding that using natural materials such as the rock and sediment on Mars could offer some protection from

this ever-present space radiation. Most of the radiation measured by RAD comes from galactic cosmic rays which are basically par-

ticles cast out by exploding stars and sent pinballing throughout the universe. This forms a carpet of "background radiation" that can pose health risks for humans.

Far more intense radiation sporadically comes from the Sun in the form of solar storms that throw massive arcs of ionised gas into interplanetary space. "Cosmic rays, solar radiation, and solar storms - they are all components of space weather. And RAD is effectively a space weather outpost on the surface of Mars," said Don Hassler of the Southwest Research Institute who is the principal investigator of the RAD instrument.

"The observations from RAD are instrumental in developing the ability to predict and measure space weather, the Sun's influence on Earth and other bodies of the solar system," added Jim Spann,



RAD has measured the impact of more than a dozen solar storms to date (five while travelling to Mars in olar flares, the largest o 2012), although these past nine years have marked an which can lead to powe especially weak period of solar activities utages and communica

In fact, RAD observed evidence of the first X-class flare of the new solar cycle October 28, 2021

space weather lead for NASA's Heliophysics Division. "As NASA plans for eventual

human journeys to Mars, RAD serves as an outpost and part of the Heliophysics System

tions blackouts on

Earth

As NASA plans for eventual human journeys to Mars, RAD serves as an outpost and part of the Heliophysics System Observatory - a fleet of 27 missions that investigates the Sun and its influence on space - whose research supports our understanding of and exploration of space

JIM SPANN SPACE WEATHER LEAD FOR NASA'S HELIOPHYSICS DIVISION

Observatory - a fleet of 27 missions that investigates the Sun and its influence on space - whose research supports our understanding of and exploration of space," Spann said. RAD has measured the impact of more than a dozen solar storms to

date (five while travelling to Mars in 2012), although these past nine years have marked an especially weak period of solar activity.

Scientists are just now starting to see activities pick up as the Sun comes out of its slumber and becomes more active. In fact, RAD observed evidence of the first Xclass flare of the new solar cycle October 28, 2021. X-class flares are the most intense of solar flares, the largest of which can lead to power outages and communications blackouts on Earth.

RAD's findings will feed into a much larger body of data being compiled for future crewed missions. In fact, NASA even equipped Curiosity's counterpart, the Perseverance rover, with samples of spacesuit materials to assess how they hold up to radiation over time. IANS

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state

SHORT TAKES

Eggs hurled at **Union Min Tudu**

Jagatsinghpur: Activists of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the students' front of Congress party. Tuesday waved black flags and hurled eggs at Bishweswar Tudu, Union Minister of State (MoS) Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti, in Jagatsinghpur. The Union minister had to face the ire of NSUI activists near Alanahat on his way to attend a function at Angeswarpada School in Naugaon, Led by NSUI state unit vice-president Sunil Kumar Matia. the activist were protesting against skyrocketing prices of essential commodities, Union MoS Home Affairs Aiav Mishra's son Ashish Mishra mowing down farmers under his SUV in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri and demanded revocation of Padma Shri awarded to Kangana Ranaut over her controversial statements.

📕 7 hurt as jumbo brings down house

.....

Sundargarh: Seven members of a family, including a child, sustained injuries as they were trapped under debris after an elephant herd demolished their house at OMC slum in Kadadiha village under the Koida forest range in Sundargarh district, Tuesday. Reportedly, a herd of 18 elephants arrived at the village Tuesday morning and demolished their house in search of food. As a result, the family members were trapped under the debris. All of them were pulled out to safety by neighbours. The child has been admitted to **Rourkela Government** Hospital in critical condition.

Two electrocuted

.....

Umerkote: In a tragic incident, a woman and her granddaughter were electrocuted at Deobharandi (Nuapara) village under Raighar police limits in Nabarangpur district late Monday night. The deceased have been identified as Pacho Gond and her granddaughter Tilika. After having their dinner. Somnath, his wife and three children went to the farm house to sleep, while his mother and daughter slept in their house in the village. In the morning, Somanth found the door was still closed and when he tried to open the door he felt electric shock.

On being

HAPPINESS IN THE AIR



Jubilant students of a government school transformed under the 5T initiative of Odisha government in Beguniapada in Ganjam district wave placards

CM dedicates 130 more transformed schools

TILL NOW 531 SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED IN THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday continued the process of dedicating schools transformed under the 5T initiative of the state government by dedicating 130 high schools in Nuapada, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Rayagada and Nayagarh districts in a virtual mode.

As per plan, in the first phase of the 5T School Transformation programme, a total of 1,075 transformed schools will be inaugurated in 30 districts of the state by November 24.

Of the 130 schools dedicated Tuesday, seven are from Nuapada and Rayagada each, eight from Nayagarh, 83 from Ganjam and 25 from Sambalpur.

Earlier, on the occasion of Children's Day, the Chief Minister dedicated 138 transformed high schools in Boudh, Bhadrak, Sonepur and Keonjhar districts. Till now 531 schools have been transformed for providing better education facilities to children. Students from the five districts

also interacted with the Chief Minister on the occasion Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the

Chief Minister said, "Although children make up a third of the population, they are the country's future. And, school is the most important time in a child's life".

Ministers Bikram Keshari Arukha and Jagannath Saraka along with MLAs Rajendra Dholakia also joined the event and applauded the school transformation programme. They praised the Chief Minister's efforts, saving it would bring about a revolution in the education sector in Odisha.

The event also featured a video clip on the 5T School Transformation programme and its achievvements.

State registers 87% unorganised sector workers on e-Shram portal

Odisha leads with 87% coverage of its target, followed by West Bengal (65%), Chhattisgarh (33%), Jharkhand (31%) and Bihar (25%)

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Odisha along with West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Bihar are the top states that have registered the maximum number of targeted employees in the unorganised sector on the e-Shram portal. Having registered a fifth of the targeted 38.37 crore unorganised workers on the database, Odisha leads with an 87 per cent coverage of its target, followed by West Bengal (65 per cent), Chhattisgarh (33 per cent), Jharkhand (31 per cent) and Bihar (25 per cent).

So far, over 7.7 crore registrations have been made on the e-Shram portal – the country's first centralised database of unorganised workers seeded with Aadhaar.

However, this trend is being assumed to be an indication of the distress witnessed among unorganised and migrant workers originating from these states in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the national lockdown last year.

As far as the total numbers are concerned, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have a higher target for registrations compared to Odisha, but the registrations in these states are yet to pick up pace. The target achievement rate in these states stands at 10 per cent or below.

For the first time, the e-Shram portal will provide insight into an Aadhaar-seeded database for unorganised sector workers including



migrant workers, gig workers, agricultural workers, Anganwadi workers, street vendors and domestic workers among others across the country. Till date, this was mainly available for organised workers registered under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

After registering on the e-Shram portal, the unorganised workers will have a Universal Account Number on the e-Shram card that will be valid across the country. The Universal Account Number can be used to link with various social security schemes.

The government has already announced linking accidental insurance with registration on the e-Shram portal. If a registered worker meets with an accident, he/she will be eligible for ₹2 lakh on death or permanent disability and ₹1 lakh on partial disability. The Labour Ministry is also undertaking work on linking this data-

somewhere.

Cuttack

base with the Unnati portal, which is proposed to be a labour matching platform for workers to find employment.

As of now, state-wise registrations (irrespective of the targets) show the highest number of registrations have taken place in West Bengal (1.88 crore), Uttar Pradesh (1.42 crore), Odisha (1.15 crore), Bihar (89.17 lakh) and Jharkhand (36.34 lakh). Occupation-wise, agriculture (53.8 per cent) and construction (12.2 per cent) sectors have shown the highest registrations, followed by domestic and household workers (8.7 per cent) and apparel workers (6.2 per cent).

SALE

Land available near Bhubaneswar, Chandaka, Chhatabar for large projects. Interested buyers may contact for purchasing land. Mobile No 9937441023, 9776661023.

Man's blood-soaked body found in truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 16: Police recovered a blood-soaked body of a person from a ten-wheeler truck parked near Thakuradihi Square under Sadar police limits in Keonihar district Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Ranjit Mahakud, a native of Tangarpada area under Pandapada police limits in the district. According to the family members. Raniit had slept in truck cabin Monday night. When he did not receive phone calls Tuesday, the driver of the truck went to see what had happened to him. Finding his body in the cabin, he informed Raniit's father Chandrabhanu Mahakud.

informed,

Widow denied ration for want of Aadhaar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 16: Despite the National Food Security Mission of the Centre to provide food grains at subsidised rates to the below poverty line (BPL) families across the country many are still deprived of the benefits.

The thumb of 75-year-old widow lost its sharpness for which she could not make an Aadhaar card

Sani Jena, a 75-year-old widow residing in Basudevpur block of Bhadrak, is a case in point. The poor lady has been unable to obtain subsidised food grains under the Central scheme for the past two years as she was unable to make her Aadhaar card and link it with her ration card. In fact, the thumb of this widow has lost its sharpness for which she was denied an Aadhaar card As she failed to obtain food grains from her retailer despite several at-



tempts, Sani was forced to travel on a trollev rickshaw for about 14 km from her home to knock the doors of the Supply Inspector and narthe Supply Inspector assured Sani and her son that she can obtain the subsidised grains by producing her voter ID card



will be presumed that the property is free from all encumbrances and any claim over the said property shall be void and ineffective affter the lapse of 15 days of ublication of this notice Uma Kanta Mishra Dt.15.11.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of my client LICHL Area Office, Cuttack, a notice is hereby given to general public / all concerned that my client is going to advance loan agains

Mortgage of Property owned by Shri Bijaya Kumar Sahoo situated at Plot No.268, Khata No. 491/167 corresponding to Sabak Khata No. 491/161, Mouza-Pasulunda, PS/SRO/Tehsil- Nahanga. While calling for the original property

documents i.e., sale deed No. 10442000477 dated 07.08.2020 corresponding

Panel Advocate LIC Housing Finance Limited Area Office, Llnk Road, Cuttack Mob: +91-9348588426

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my Client, Smt. Kiranbala Mohanty, LICHFL, Chandrasekharpur at Bhubaneswar for advancing housing loan on the property at Plot No. 70/1658, Area: Ac.0.045 decimals, Khata No. 190/1085 at Mouza:

department and after snapping the power supply, they opened the door only to find two dead bodies lying on the ground. On being informed, police reached the spot and recovered the bodies for post-mortem.

reached the spot and recovered the body and sent it for postmortem. Family members suspect Raniit was murdered over a dispute between two families. On the basis of Chandrabhanu's allegation, the police have registered a case.

rate her plight.

Sani said the local dealers refused to give food grains to her as she had no Aadhaar card. "Not finding any other option, I carried her on my trolley to the Supply Inspector's office to narrate our problem," Sani's son said. On hearing her miseries,

Sensor-based flow meters soon

to check groundwater pilferage

MANY INDUSTRIES IN JAJPUR ARE ALLEGEDLY USING

GROUNDWATER IN EXCESS OF THEIR PERMITTED LIMITS

Alumina Ltd

are

When contacted, Supply Inspector Ajay Das said, "We cannot provide food grains at subsidised rates to anyone who has not linked his/her Aadhaar card with the ration card. However, considering her situation, we will link the Voter ID card and she will be able to obtain the grains".

Baliapal (Balasore),

Garadapur (Kendrapara),

Bhubaneswar and

Bolagarh (Khurda), Korei

(Jajpur) and Nuapada

block is in semi-critical

category. It means,

groundwater extraction

rate in these areas is

Apart from extracting

excess water, some in-

dustries are habitually

not depositing water cess.

70%-90%

Pokhariput, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.- Khordha

But it was found that, the owner of the Plot has lost/ misplaced the original link deed bearing No. 952 Dt.02.02.2007 on Dt.13.11.2021 and for which she has filed FIR on 16.11.2021 before Airport PS. Therefore notice is hereby given to General Public that if anybody has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing document, they have to claim before the LICHFL, IPICOL HOUSE, within 15 days from the date of publication. And after that the documents will lose its legal force and LICHFL will not be responsible for any claim. What-so-ever on the property after 15 days.

Address for Communication Branch: LICHFL, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar N.C. Pattnaik, Advocate





Sd./- Collector & Managing Trustee, OIPR-24163/11/0026/2122 **DMF Trust, Jajpur**

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Tel. No.06752222092, e-mail id-eerwpuri@gmail.com TCN NO. TENDER ONLINE- 11 OF 2021-22

No:- 8451 /Date.10.11.2021.

No. O-939:- The Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invited rcentage rate tenders through e-procurement for 2 Nos. of work for the year 2021-22 in the district of Puri. Total No. of works: 2 Nos

- Tender cost of packages: Amount varies from Rs.21.90 lakhs to 31.20 lakhs.
- Class of contractor: As per DTCN.
- Period of completion: 2 (Two) Calendar months
- Period of availability of tenders on-line/ Date & time of bidding on-line/ last date of seeking clarification Date of opening of tender papers.

Procurement Officer	Bid	Availability of tender on-line for bidding			Date, time & venue of	
	identification No.	From	To	of seeking tender clarification	opening of tender	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri.	Online- 11	17.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	29.11.2021 up to 3.00 P.M	26.11.2021 up to 1.00 P.M	30.11.2021 at 11.30 A.M. Office of the S.E., R.W. Division, Puri.	
 Other details https://tendersodi 			bidding documer	2010 (2003-200) 200	available in website	
OIPR-25065/11/002	5/2122	S	d./- Superintend	ding Engineer	, R.W. Division, Puri	

BeMC residents fear Berhampur may plunge into darkness

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 16: Residents of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) area fear they may witness a complete black-out on the streets from Wednesday owing to non-payment of electric ity bill amounting to ₹7.65 crore by the municipality.

According to reports, the TP Central Odisha Distribution



Limited (TPCODL) had issued a notice to the civic body in this regard. November 2. BeMC was granted 15 days time for paying the pending electricity bill.

With November 17 being the deadline, people of the town dear that TPCODL may cut the power supply to the street lights from Wednesday.

According to reports, ₹16 crore was pending on BeMC in the form of electricity dues before March, 2021

On its part, the civic body expressed its inability to pay the entire bill amount and urged the TP-CODL for a 'one-time' settlement. On August 22, the discom wrote to the civic body relaxing an amount of ₹8.55 crore and asked the latter to make a payment of ₹7.66 crore.

However, the BeMC even failed to pay the rebate amount. Following this the discom served a fresh notice to the civic body granting it 15 days' time to pay the due amount.

In fact, TPCODL has warned the BeMC of discontinuing electricity supply to the street lights in the town if the latter failed to pay the rebated dues by the deadline. TPCODL has also sent the copies of the notice to the Chief Secretary and the state Energy department.

POST NEWS NETWORK Power project, ITPC, NTPC Jaipur. Nov 16: At a time (Darlipali), Sesa Sterlite when depleting groundwater level is a matter of

grave concern many industries in the district are allegedly using

excess ground water by tampering the flow meters. Considering the

seriousness of the situation, the Water Resources department has decided to introduce sensor-based flow meters, which will help it to check pilferage of groundwater.

Till March 31, 2020, the department has been supplying water to 108 towns and 217 industries from different sources like rivers, rivulets and groundwater with the approval of Water Allocation Committee (WAC).

According to reports, of the 217 industries in the district, 60 are using groundwater.

As per a report of the Water Resources department, Odisha Integrated are 66.16 and 74.32 cusecs of water respectively from Samal barrage and Ltd and Vedant Kharasrota river.

> On the other hand. Sukrungi Chromite mines and South Kaliapani Chromite Mines of OMC, Santuka Foods Private Ltd, Rungta Mines, Ramco

> Cement, OMC (Daitari), Kaliapani Chromite Mines, Balasore Alloys Ltd, and FACOR Charge Chrome plant are draw

drawing 140, 52.98, 55, 72 ing groundwater. and 40.9 cusecs of water As of now, there is no daily respectively from Similarly, JSW is using 117.71 cusec water from the Mahanadi a day. The daily water consumption

of IOCL, Paradip, Mahanadi barrage is 38.75 cusec. From Brahmani river, Odisha Thermal Power, Rungta Mines and

NTPC (Talcher) are drawing 80, 28.94 and 55.49 cusecs Odisha State Level Committee

Steel Ltd (Kalinganagar)

mechanism to keep a tab on the amount of groundwater drawn by a particular industry daily. Cashing in on it, few industrial houses are allegedly drawing water more than their permitted limits. As a result, the groundwater level is depleting alarmingly. A report submitted by

for Assessment of Ground Water Resource-2020 recently states that the groundwater level in



Hirakud reservoir.



FOCUS GLOBAL INEQUITY

What is the use of only knowing? I say to thee, act and be, for therefore God sent thee into this human body. SRI AUROBINDO



Ashamed Progenies

66 What's in a name?" said the Bard to underline the importance of the intrinsic qualities of a man rather than his family position or social rank. But, when it comes to the name of a place

or a railway station or a street, it becomes an altogether different proposition and acquires new connotations. History, politics and local sentiments step in and the place or the object of the name is relegated to the background. When names are changed and new names fastened, matters become even more complicated and history is sought to be rewritten to whitewash an uncomfortable or unpleasant past. This is happening now in India, with heightened vigor, because efforts are being made to change history with political-communal bias so as to reap not only electoral dividend but also obliterate some ugly facts. If the remarks made by a film actor named Kangana Ranaut, falsifying the history of India's freedom struggle and unabashedly praising the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears obnoxious, the zeal being shown by BJP governments in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in renaming railway stations and places seems to be part of a set pattern and a political design.

There cannot be much objection when existing names of streets or railway stations are changed. There are well defined procedures for it. But while doing so, the authorities must keep in mind that such names conjure up history which needs to be preserved, even if it evokes memories of pain and shame. For example, there are many places in the country which bear the names of British colonial masters. They may hark back to days of domination and insult to the country's people, but experts opine that the names are important as they bear witness to history that should not be erased. The experts further say that the best that can be done while renaming them is to retain the old names alongside the new names. This has been done in many cases. It did not generate much heat as those clamouring for renaming were propelled by local sentiments that had no political axe to grind.

When Bhopal's Habibganj railway station was renamed Rani Kamlapati railway station November 15 by the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh, forget the whole of India or even Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal's average townsfolk would have been taken aback as to who this historical person was. Everyone knows Bhopal was initially settled by Moslem Nabobs and the story of a Gond king is unrecorded. Likewise, Mughalsarai Junction was

Piate Tathagata Satpathy

changed into Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction and Allahabad into Prayagraj by the BJP's UP government. All such decisions create a reason to believe that history is being tweaked with. The change of spelling in English from Ahmedabad to Amdavad is another interesting point. In all these cases, the targets were Moslem names evoking a past when they were rulers and reigned supreme. One may or may not like a particular religious faith or its practitioners, but that does not give anyone the licence to tamper with history that is part of the country's heritage and legacy, even if it refers to dark chapters.

The interesting point that no one seems to raise is that these Moslem names are not widespread across this subcontinent. For instance, it would be very difficult to find a Moslem name given to any major place or rail station or facility in a state like Orissa. The prime reason could be that this land mass was never ruled by or dominated by any Moslem. The Moguls or their friends never dared to enter even the North Eastern states. It may seem funny but the truth is that even the Moslem dominated East Bengal, now Bangladesh, mostly has neutral names like Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and such. The Moslem sounding names that we currently see in that country, one is told, have all appeared after 1947 Partition. This may lead one to believe that people living in places like Allahabad or Ahmedabad were keen supporters of the regimes of the times. The locals must have had all tried to endear themselves to the Moslem rulers for petty benefits. A similarity we observe with most sycophants of today's MLAs and MPs. The present day politicians in the BJP seem to be desperately trying to erase their own ancestral betrayals. They are guilty deep down and also ashamed of their own past, their own forefathers. That could be making life difficult for the present day leaders as their ancestors are haunting them every moment in the present. They very well realize they are progenies of 'collaborators' and that, understandably, makes them feel terrible.

When a BJP state government singles out Moslem names of places and

TAXATION DOUBLE STANDARDS

The last two years have thrown into sharp relief the structural injustices that underpin the global economy. As the COVID-19 pandemic drove an estimated 88-115 million people into extreme poverty, the world's billionaires saw their wealth increase by more than 25 per cent. And while countries in the Global North are now administering vaccine boosters, those in the Global South continue to struggle to secure even first doses for their populations.



José Antonio Ocampo

THIS APPALLING LEVEL OF INEQUALITY IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO RAMPANT CROSS-BORDER TAX ABUSE, WHICH IS BEING PERPETRATED BY BOTH

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND WEALTHY INDIVIDUALS This appalling level of inequality is inextricably linked to rampant cross-border tax abuse, which is being perpetrated by both multinational corporations and wealthy individuals. By refusing to pay their fair share of taxes, the world's wealthiest actors rob poorer countries of the revenue they desperately need to confront the pandemic, such as by securing vaccine doses and sup-

porting vulnerable citizens. G20 leaders claim – with much self-satisfaction – that they are addressing the problem: they recently agreed to establish a global minimum corporate tax rate, thereby ending the "race to the bottom" fueled by global competition for foreign investment. But the agreed rate is just 15 per cent, and targets only a sliver of the profits of 100 multinationals. This will do about as much to help poor countries as a glass of water would do to put out a wildfire.

The new State of Tax Justice report – published jointly by the Tax Justice Network, Public Services International, and the Global Alliance for Tax Justice – illustrates the scale of the conflagration: \$483 billion in public revenue is lost to cross-border tax abuse each year. That is enough to vaccinate every man, woman, and child on the planet three times over.

Of the total losses, corporate-tax abuse by multinational companies accounts for \$312 billion, with offshore tax evasion by wealthy individuals accounting for the rest. While wealthier countries technically bear a larger share of those losses, it is poorer countries that suffer the most.

In fact, while high- and uppermiddle-income countries lose some \$443 billion to abusive international tax practices annually, that amounts to just 10 per cent of their public-health budgets. Low- and



A staggering \$483 billion in public revenue is lost to cross-border tax abuse each year. That is enough to vaccinate every man, woman, and child on the planet three times over. Of the total losses, corporate-tax abuse by multinational companies accounts for \$312 billion, with offshore tax evasion by wealthy individuals accounting for the rest

lower-middle-income countries lose about \$40 billion – the equivalent of a staggering 48 per cent of their public-health budgets.

Moreover, it is wealthy countries that are to blame for this state of affairs. Not only have they refused to tackle the problem in a meaningful way; they provide the financial services that enable international tax abuse.

The United Kingdom, together with its network of overseas territories and Crown Dependencies, is responsible for 39 per cent of the overall losses. The Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Switzerland account for another 16 per cent. Taken together, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries are responsible for 78 per cent of revenue losses to international tax abuse each year.

The double standards are astounding. After all, it was under the OECD's inclusive framework on tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) that the muchtouted G20 tax deal was designed. Some of the same countries that are enabling all this tax abuse – most notably, the UK and Switzerland – are also blocking a waiver on intellectual-property rights that would enable a massive vaccine rollout in the Global South.

This raises serious questions about whether the OECD is the right institution to coordinate global tax negotiations. True, the OECD opened the way for over 100 non-OECD members to have a voice in the negotiations. But several developing-country proposals were left out of the final agreement. Not surprisingly, poor coun-

Not surprisingly, poor countries were far from satisfied. As the G20 was meeting in Rome late last month to endorse the deal, the G77, representing 134 developing economies, reiterated its longstanding call to establish a global tax body at the United Nations, which would take responsibility for reforming global tax regulations and cracking down on offshore tax havens.

The proposal – under which the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters would be transformed into an intergovernmental forum – was first advanced in 2004 by then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and me, as Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. The G77 echoed our call in 2015, at the UN Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa.

A global UN tax body is also a key recommendation of the UN

High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency, and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda, and of the Independent Commission for Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT). (I proudly served on both.) And it aligns with the demands of global civil society.

If the G20 had finalised a deal that was fair to developing economies, the G77 would not have reiterated its call for a UN tax body. That is why the ICRICT has demanded that negotiations to deliver a new global tax deal continue during the G20 presidencies of Indonesia in 2022 and India in 2023.

But real progress will require changing the format of negotiations, to ensure that developing countries' voices are heard. If the G20 is serious about rectifying the injustice of cross-border tax abuse, it should support the call for a genuinely inclusive process at the UN.

The writer, a former United Nations under-secretary-general, is a professor at Columbia University and an ambassador of the Food and Land Use Coalition. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

railway stations and changes them with the names of its party founders, it must realize that there may come, in the future, other parties to power which would work with equal vengeance to change history again. The proposal of the MP government to rename Habibganj railway station was cleared by the Union Home Ministry with alacrity. The same speed may be demonstrated by another government equally hell bent in this kind of an immature name changing game.

Therefore, "What's in a name?" may hold great relevance for some tormented souls living in present day India but the whole exercise is futile and does no good to the people at large of this country.

WISDOM CORNER

66	Everything in excess is opposed to nature.	
44	It's kind of fun to do the impossible.	HIPPOCRATES
		WALT DISNEY
66	Hindsight is always twenty-twenty.	BILLY WILDER

WORDS WORTH

Porphyrogeniture

f we had this inheritance principle in Britain, Prince Charles would lose his pre-eminent right to succeed to the throne to his younger brother Andrew. That's because porphyrogeniture refers to a child who has been born to a reigning monarch and specifically to a right of succession to the throne based on having been so born. Queen Elizabeth's two eldest children, Charles and Anne, were born before she became queen in 1952, but Andrew was born in 1960. The prefix here, porphyro-, derives from classical Greek porphura for the colour purple. The second part is from Latin genitura, a person's birth, which is from the root of gignere, to beget. So the word means "born to the purple", an English idiom dating from the seventeenth century for being born to a reigning monarch. Porphyrogeniture was created around 1860 as a high-flown Latin version of the idiom. In ancient times, to wear clothing coloured purple was the prerogative of royal or imperial families, because the dye, Tyrian purple, was rare and costly. (It was a variable shade often much nearer red than we would now consider purple: it was also called Tyrian red.) This was probably where the idea of being born to the purple came from, though it was reinforced by Byzantine empresses who gave birth in a room in the Constantinople palace that was lined with a purple stone called porphyry. Porphyrogeniture isn't as rare a word as you might think. Historians find it useful when discussing some cases of disputed royal succession, where having been born to a reigning monarch potentially trumped the rights of an older son who had been born before his parent became sovereign. It's a member of a set of words of which the best known is primogeniture, which is strictly speaking the state of being the first-born child, but which is more often used for the practice of making the first-born male child the automatic heir. Others are secundogeniture, the right of succession of a second son, the rare tertiogeniture for the third son and ultimogeniture for inheritance by the youngest son, which was once the custom in some counties in southern England.



Melvin Durai

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS EITHER ILLEGAL OR DISCOURAGED IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, WHILE IN OTHERS, IT IS BOTH LEGAL AND HIGHLY

iven a classroom assignment of putting various household objects into categories, many students around the world would have no trouble putting the common slipper or chappal into a single category: footwear. But others, including those in

Asia, Africa and South America, would earn extra credit by putting the slipper into a second category: "How mama spanks me."

Corporal punishment (spanking kids) is either illegal or discouraged in many parts of the world, while in others, it is both legal and highly encouraged. "Spare the rod, spoil the child" is an adage that is widely shared, but millions of people have grown up fearing not the rod, but the slipper.

No one knows for sure when the slipper was invented, but some historians trace its roots to Vietnam in the 12th century, when a man named Lee Pham wrote about his fondness for slippers: "I love these flat things with straps. They are so easy to use on the children. Keeps them well-behaved. And now and then, I even wear them on my feet."

Human or crocodile: Beware of the slipper

In a typical household, the father uses a belt or stick to discipline the children, while the mother uses a slipper. My mother, like many others, was quite adept at using a slipper. She would chase me around the house waving the slipper, and I would scream like she was carrying some kind of loaded weapon. I knew nothing about the gun control movement in those days, but I would have gladly marched for more slipper control.

As it turns out, humans are not the only species that suffer from fear of the slipper (slipperaphobia). You can scare not just dogs and cats with slippers but also crocodiles. If you don't believe me, just check out the online video that shows an Australian woman threatening a crocodile with her slipper.

The video went viral recently but was actually shot in 2016 when the woman visited Cahills Crossing, a dangerous path across the croc-

odile-infested East Alligator River in Kakadu National Park. The woman was standing beside the river with her small dog when a large crocodile began to swim toward her. With no sign of fear, the woman casually took off her right slipper and waved it at the crocodile. When the animal didn't move, she slapped the slipper against her left hand, as if to say. "This is what you're going to get if you come an inch closer." The crocodile recoiled and took off in another direction, slipping away from slipper lady.

Crocodiles have good memories and this crocodile probably remembered its childhood days, when Mama Crocodile took out the slipper.

Baby crocodile: "Mama, please! Not the slipper! My hide can't take another hiding."

Mama: "Do you promise to show more respect to your elders?" Baby: "Yes, Mama, I promise not

to say 'later alligator' to Papa. I promise not to make fun of his round snout." Mama: "You need to appreciate differences in your fellow crocodiles or else I'll make you extra-different!"

While slippers cause fear in children, they're preferable to most other implements, including belts and canes. Slippers do not cause any long-term damage to your bottom. There is usually no risk of being hit in the face with a slipper. That would be a violation of the Moral Code of Chappal Justice.

But spanking children is frowned upon in many parts of the world, including America, where it's illegal in most states. For younger children, giving them time-outs is recommended, and for older children, taking away their cellphones is quite effective, even if it eliminates communication between parent and child.

e to show If none of those alternative punishments work, you may decide to threaten them with a slipper. If they're smart, like the crocodile,

they're smart, like the crocodile, they'll obey you right away and you won't have to use it.

etters

ENCOURAGED

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

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

COP26's blame games

Sir, This is in reference to the article 'Rich World's Hypocrisy', Orissa Post, November 16. Overall, COP26 has failed to live up to its billing as the 'last, best hope' to limit this century's global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The blame games being played against this backdrop are poor in climate finance and rich in hypocrisies. As their lion's share of cumulative emissions indicates, rich countries grew rich on fossil fuels and now they are also more comfortably placed to transition to renewables at scale. In the US, stagnant electricity demand plus lower prices of natural gas and renewables have been shutting down coal plants, and yet it hasn't presented any details to end use of coal, as if leaving the transition timeline all to the market. Contrast its situation to India, where International Energy Agency forecasts the largest increase in energy demand of any country over the next 20 years, where coal is plentiful, its mining employs over two million people, and sensitivity to the cost of capital for energy transitions is very high. Developed nations themselves do not believe they are doing enough. Their interest, and therefore focus, has been on 'mitigation', which are measures for preventing further global warming, rather than on adaptation or loss and damage, which are more in the interests of developing countries. Nor are they forthcoming in terms of providing technology.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Well done, Nepal!

Sir, It is interesting to know that Nepal has been able to complete the reconstruction of the historical monument of Dharahara. It may be recalled that the ancient tower was completely damaged in an earthquake April 25, 2015. A historic site recognised by the UNESCO, this beautiful structure of the Nepali architecture has been a tourist attraction for a long time now. Tourism has been thriving across the world. Any sincere step to revive the sector must be encouraged. This is all the more important in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such beautiful architectural monuments as the Dharahara tower have been the mirrors of the ancient times. Asia has been home to great cultures and is the hub of beautiful tourist locations. Now that Nepal has taken a bold step to open the Dharahara monument, it is clear that this beautiful Himalayan nation has always been ready to emerge stronger amid nature's fury. Well done and keep it up, Kathmandu!

P. Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI





national



When there's punishment for speaking the truth, it's clear that falsehood is in power RAHUL GANDHI FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

HUMANITY TRUMPS RELIGION

Stories of humanity and brotherhood continue to strengthen society. One such report was received from Gurugram, where a Hindu man offered the roof of his house for Friday namaz



Govt allows meals,

magazines on all

domestic flights

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Civil

Aviation Ministry Tuesday said it

has allowed airlines to serve meals

lowed to serve meals in flights,

which have duration of less than

two hours, since April 15 due to

the COVID-19 pandemic. "The air-

lines, operating flights on domes-

tic sectors may provide meal serv-

ices on board, without restriction

on duration of the flight," the min-

The carriers had not been al-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

on all domestic flights.

POLLUTION CHOKES

The cabinet reshuffle in the state will take place soon. Despite economic challenges. every effort has been

made to fulfil genuine demands of employees and in future also their interests will be fully taken care of

ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

Winn ability will be the only criteria for the selection of candidates for the Punjab Assembly polls and being an

MLA does not guarantee candidature

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF

When a minister can get 3.000 units of electricity free of cost every month, why can not I give 300 units

to the common man ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

FFK to be held from Feb 4-11

Thiruvananthapuram: The signature event of Kerala · the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK)'s 26th edition will be held in the state capital from February 4 to 11. This was announced by Kerala Minister Saji Cherian here Tuesday. The event will be held at 12 movie halls in the capital city. The state-run Kerala State Chalachitra Academy is the organiser of the event, which by now has won huge praise not just in the state but across the world on account of the quality of the films that are being screened.

Maoist encounter toll climbs to 27

Gadchiroli (Maharashtra): The death toll in the Gadchiroli encounter of November 13 climbed to 27 with the recovery of the body of a slain Maoist from the forests, a top official said. "The body of a



New Delhi. Nov 16: The air quality in the national capital deteriorated to the severe category Tuesday and the Delhi government suggested implementing work from home policy in Delhi-NCR and closing down industries as part of measures to deal with the pollution crisis during a meeting with other northern states.

The air quality index in neighbouring cities was also in the 'very poor category -- Ghaziabad (356), Greater Noida (361), Gurugram

(369) and Noida (397) -- at 4 PM. According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor SAFAR, the AQI will likely remain at the lower end of 'severe' on Wednesday.

"Surface winds are likely to be very calm with a low ventilation index pushing AQI to severe by tomorrow and fluctuate between severe to an upper end of very poor thereafter until November 18. "Intrusion of stubble burning related pollutants into Delhi is not likely for the next two days due to unfavorable (winds coming from east direction)," it said.

he Supreme Court, which had instructed the Commission For Air Quality

NATIONAL CAPITAL

Management to hold the joint meeting regarding the pollution levels in Delhi, will hear the matter Wednesdav

Delhi's air quality was again in the severe category with the 24-hour average AQI recorded at 403 after remaining in the 'very poor' category till Tuesday morning, when the AQI was recorded at 396

The effective farm fire count has reduced to 1,820 and its contribution to Delhi's PM2.5 Tuesday was eight percent.

The peak in fire count appears to have reached last week and fire counts are now starting to show a declining trend which is delayed by about one week from the previous year due to late withdrawal of the monsoon, it said. A visible improvement in Delhi's air quality was recorded on Sunday although it was in the 'very poor' category.

The national capital had recorded a 24-hour average AQI of 330 on Sunday as against 473 the previous

day as emissions from farm fires in Haryana and Punjab had dropped significantly.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The Delhi government had or dered the closure of physical classes in schools, colleges and other educational institutions for a week from Monday. All government offices, agencies and autonomous bodies, except those involved in essential services, have been asked to work from home.

After the Supreme Court's direction, officers from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi held a meeting Tuesday to discuss ways to check pollution.

"In this meeting, on behalf of the people of Delhi, we proposed that work-from-home be implemented, all construction work and industries in the Delhi-NCR region be shut for the meantime.

"The other states presented their proposals too, we're awaiting the minutes of the meeting at the moment. We will proceed further after receiving the Commission's decision," Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai said in a briefing.

He hoped that the meeting will result in a joint action plan for reducing pollution levels. The minister urged the Union Environment minister to clarify on the issue of the contribution of stubble burning to the pollution levels in the national capital, claiming that the Centre's affidavit on the issue has created confusion.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN SCHEME SC unhappy over Centre's reply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Asserting that a welfare state's first responsibility is to provide food to people "dying due to hunger", the Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed strong displeasure over the Centre's response on framing a pan-India policy to implement the Community Kitchen Scheme and granted it three weeks to hold a meeting with states.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli was also irked with the Centre's affidavit as it was filed by an official of the level of an Under Secretary and did not divulge details about the proposed scheme and its roll out as sought, and gave a "final warning" to the government.

The top court was hearing a PIL seeking directions to the Centre, states and Union Territories (UTs) to formulate a scheme for community kitchens to combat hunger and malnutrition.

"See if you want to take care of hunger, no Constitution or law will say no... This is the first principle: Every welfare state's first responsibility is to provide food to people dying due to hunger." The court said the Centre's affidavit does not indicate anywhere that it was considering framing a scheme.

'You are extracting information. It does not say what fund you have collected and what you are doing etc. We wanted a uniform model from the Centre. You have to ask the states ... Not to collect in-



first responsibility is to provide food to people dying due to hunger

NV RAMANA CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

formation like police," the bench said at the outset. "You cannot ask for information which is already available. Do you conclude your affidavit saying you will consider the scheme now. There is not a whisper in your 17-page affidavit," it added. This is the last warning I am

going to give to the Government of India. Your Under Secretary files this affidavit. Why cannot a secretary level officer file the affidavit? You have to respect the institutions. We say something and you write something. This has been told several times earlier,' the CJI said.

Initially, the matter was being argued by Additional Solicitor General Madhvi Divan and later Attornev General K K Venugopal stepped in and assured the bench that a meeting would be held by the Centre and a decision taken on the issue and sought four weeks time from the bench.



The ministry has also permitted resumption of magazine and reading materials for passengers on domestic flights, the order noted.

The decision to resume meals and magazines has been taken as "Covid caseload" has reduced due to "proper implementation of appropriate Covid behaviour protocol", it mentioned. When the scheduled domestic flight services were resumed on May 25 last year after the lockdown imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus, the ministry had allowed the airlines to serve in-flight meals under certain conditions.

DELHI RIOTS FB India to appear before Assembly panel tomorrow

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 16: After seeking extension from the Delhi Assembly over a summon issued by the Committee of Peace and Harmony in connection with last year's riots in North East Delhi, Facebook India Tuesday finally agreed to send its two senior representatives before the committee November 18.

and social groups." Shivnath Thukral and GB Anand

Bhushan will appear before the committee on behalf of Facebook India Thursday. The Committee on Peace and

Harmony had summoned the senior representatives of the social media giant to depose over the North East Delhi riots before the panel on November 2. To which.





Maoist killed in the encounter has been recovered . The deceased has been identified as Sukhlal Parchaki (33)," Gadchiroli Superintendent confirmed.

Time to solve border disputes

Guwahati: Assam and Meghalaya Tuesday announced that necessary measures would be taken to settle interstate border disputes in at least six areas by the end of this year.

Facebook India said in a letter, "We again thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee of Peace and Harmony to provide our views to assist the committee in its aims to recommend preventative and remedial measures concerning issues of governance, social cohesion, unity, brotherhood and peace and to strengthen overall social-economic development through communal harmony. Facebook shares the committee's aim to improve harmony among religious commu-

nities, linguistic communities

Facebook India had sought an extension of 14 days to prepare. The team had also requested the committee to share the questions it intended to ask, "or at least the topics of inquiry in advance" so that Facebook's representatives are "equipped with the relevant information".

The committee was constituted after the riots that broke out in North East Delhi in February 2020 after clashes between anti-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) and pro-CAA protesters took a violent turn.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya arrives on a cycle to inaugurate the Health Pavilion at India International Trade Fair 2021, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi

GRAVE CHINESE THREAT

Scientists find 18 more viruses from China's wet markets

THE ORIGIN OF THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC. WHICH HAS SO FAR RESULTED IN 253.6 MILLION CASES OF INFECTIONS AND 5.11 MILLION DEATHS. HAVE BEEN LINKED WITH A SEAFOOD MARKET IN WUHAN

"From this we identified 71 mam-

malian viruses, with 45 described for

the first time. Eighteen viruses were

considered as potentially high risk

to humans and domestic animals."

said corresponding author Shuo Su

from the College of Veterinary

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Beijing, Nov 16: An international team of scientists has identified 18 mammalian viruses, which pose high risk to humans and domestic animals, from China's infamous wet markets.

The origins of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, which has so far resulted in 253.6 million cases of infections and 5.11 million deaths, has been linked with a seafood market in Wuhan. China has maintained that the first cases of SARS-CoV-2 likely emerged from animal to human transmission at a wet market in Wuhan.

In the study, researchers from China, the US, Belgium and Australia claimed to have unearthed game animals that are commonly hunted or consumed as exotic food in China, and have been potential reservoirs for SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2.

The team also examined many species for the first time, some of which have been banned by the



Chinese government for trading or artificial breeding since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

They performed an analysis of 1,725 game animals, representing 16 species and five mammalian orders, sampled across China.

Eighteen viruses were considered as potentially high risk to humans and domestic animals

Medicine at Nanjing Agricultural University in China.

Notably, the team did not identify any SARS-CoV-2-like or SARS-CoV-like sequences, including the Malavan pangolins from which SARS-CoV-2-like viruses have previously been identified, Su said in the study posted on preprint server biorxiv, meaning not yet peer-reviewed.

According to researchers, one reason for the lack of pangolin SARSlike viruses could be that previous virus-positive samples were all confiscated by the custom authorities in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces, both of which were characterised by an intensive network of animal smuggling. In contrast, the new samples were obtained from Zhejiang province in eastern China which does not have an international border that would facilitate smuggling, they said.

Further, the team found that Civets (Paguma larvata) carried the highest number of potentially high risk viruses. The cat-like carnivores have been known as potential reservoirs for coronavirus.

They also identified the transmission of bat coronavirus HKU8 from a bat to a civet, as well as crossspecies jumps of coronavirus from bats to hedgehogs and from birds to porcupines.

Similarly avian influenza virus H9N2 was also identified in civets and Asian badgers, with the latter displaying respiratory symptoms, as well as cases of likely human-towildlife virus transmission.

"These data highlight the importance of game animals as potential drivers of disease emergence," the researchers said.

'Navy's plan to become 170-ship force on track'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Nov 16: The Indian Navy's plan to become a 170ship force is on track but some changes in the timelines for it are being made in view of certain delays, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Satish Namdeo Ghormade said Tuesday.

The naval commander said guided-missile destroyer Visakhapatnam' and Kalvariclass submarine 'Vela' will be inducted into the Indian Navy by next week in a boost to its combat capability in the face of China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean region. Announcing the new inductions, he also said that 39 naval ships and submarines are currently being constructed in various Indian shipyards which will significantly boost India's maritime prowess

The Navy had set a target to become a 170-ship force by 2027 but it is set to miss the deadline. At present, the Navy has around 130 ships. The Vice Chief of the Naval Staff said that the maritime environment around



A view of Visakhapatnam, the first stealth guided missile destroyer ship of the Project 15B.

Indian around is a complex one and the region of most rapid change is undoubtedly the Indian Ocean. On new inductions, the Vice Chief said destroyer 'Visakhapatnam' will be commissioned November 21 while Vela will be inducted into the force November 25.

'Visakhapatnam' is equipped with an array of weapons and sensors, including supersonic surface-to-surface and surfaceto-air missiles, medium and short-range guns, anti-submarine rockets and advanced elec-tronic warfare and communication suits, said another official.









Ahead of polls, politics of statues begins in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 16: As the countdown to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections begins, the politics of statues get going in right earnest.

Various political parties are using statues to attract and consolidate various caste vote banks in their favour. Lord Parshuram, the icon of Brahmins, has emerged as a top favourite with political parties who see the Parshuram factor as an effective tool to woo Brahmins, who are believed to be upset with the ruling BJP for having sidelined them.

BJP leader Shyam Prakash Dwiwedi in Prayagraj has got a 16 feet statue of Parshuram ready for installation.

The statue was taken around the city in a procession on Saturday. Dwiwedi, who is also the national

MAMATA

SCHEME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LAUNCHES

Kolkata. Nov 16: West Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

on Tuesday inaugurated the 'Duare

Ration' (Ration at doorstep) scheme,

saying it will benefit around 10

has decided to enhance the com-

mission for ration dealers from ₹75

help 10 crore people of the state. I

will request all the ration dealers

to make it a success.... Many states

are trying to emulate schemes of

West Bengal," she said while flag-

ging off the programme at the

Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata

Mamata Banerjee said her government has

decided to enhance the commission for ration

dealers from ₹75 to ₹150

per guintal of foodgrain

"This Duare Ration scheme will

to ₹150 per quintal of foodgrain.

crore of people of the state. Banerjee said her government



president of Brahmin Samaj Utthan Sewa Santhan, said, "We plan to install statues of Lord Parshuram in all 75 districts of the state. We will invite saints and seers and also our (read BJP) leaders to the functions. It is because of the blessings of Lord Parshuram that the

BJP is in power at the Centre and in the state. We will also inform the guests about the achievements of the Modi and Yogi governments at these functions." The Samajwadi Party (SP) has

also announced that it will install a 108 feet tall statue of Parshuram

Various political parties are using statues to attract and consolidate various caste vote banks in their favour

'he Samajwadi Party has also announced that it will install a 108 feet tall statue of Parshuram at the Janeshwar Mishra Park in Lucknow

at the Janeshwar Mishra Park in Lucknow. Former SP minister Abhishek Mishra, who is supervising the project, said that the statue is being prepared in Jaipur.

Though the date for the installation of the statue has not yet been announced, sources said if could be 'sometime before the 2022 Assembly polls.' This is the first time that the Samajwadi Party has shown its inclination towards Parshuram and it is obviously

COVID PRECAUTION

aimed at wooing Brahmin votes. The statue politics, meanwhile, is on in full swing among the Nishad centric parties. These parties have propped up former bandit queenturned-politician Phoolan Devi as their icon.

The Nishad Party, led by Sanjay Nishad, has been demanding installation of Phoolan Devi's statue in Gorakhpur. The Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) of Bihar which is making its electoral debut in Uttar Pradesh, has announced that it will distribute Phoolan statues in every Nishad home so that her presence is felt by each member of the community.

"We are going to take Phoolan to every Nishad home. She championed the cause of the poor and downtrodden and we will make sure she is adequately revered,' said a VIP leader.

BSF JURISDICTION WB Assembly passes resolution



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 16: The West Bengal Assembly Tuesday passed a resolution against the Centre's decision to extend BSF's jurisdiction, amid opposition by BJP legislators.

Bengal became the second state after Punjab where such a resolution has been tabled and passed. The resolution was moved by state parliamentary affairs minister Partha Chatterjee under Rule 169 of the Procedures of Conduct of Business

of the House. 'We demand that this decision be withdrawn immediately as enhancing the area of jurisdiction of the BSF is a direct attack on the country's federal structure," he said. Unruly scenes were witnessed in the House during the day after TMC MLA Udayan Guha made a remark that raised evebrows.

"A child living in a border area can never be patriotic if he witnesses his mother being inappropriately touched under the garb of body search by the BSF," Guha said. BJP MLAs opposed the remark

and demanded that it be expunged. Speaker Biman Banerjee, however, refrained from expunging Guha's comment.

Schools to have vaccination centres in rural UP

Over 26 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's population eligible for Covid vaccination has

and Assam.

Leader of the Opposition PTI PHOTO

such a resolution has been tabled and passed he resolution was moved by state parliamentary affairs

Bengal became the second State after Punjab where

minister Partha Chatterjee under Rule 169 of the Procedures of Conduct of Business of the House

Suvendu Adhikari said the kind of language used against a force like the BSF is completely unacceptable."When the Union government tries to withdraw central forces from Junglemahal, it is the state government that opposes the move. And now, the same government is opposing BSF activities. Under this new rule (jurisdiction extension), there is no question of conflict between the state police and the BSF," Adhikari stated.

The resolution was passed with 112 voting in favour of it and 63 opposing it. The BJP-led central government had amended the BSF Act to authorise the force to undertake search, seizure and arrest within a larger 50 km stretch, instead of 15 km, from the international border in Punjab, West Bengal

Students sanitise their hands at the entrance of their school in Nadia, Tuesday

THE INDIAN MUSEUM OF EARTH TO COME UP IN UP

Baneriee had announced the INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The museum will be

Innovation Advisory Council

PPP mode with participation of

private sector, philanthropists, and

The museum will come up in

A rich collection of legendary

palaeobotanist late Prof Birbal

Sahni and others that includes mil-

lion years old insect in fossil, ear-

liest record of fossil banana from

Maastrichtian Danian of Madhya

Pradesh, earliest record of sweet

potato from the country and others

will also be a part of the museum.

(PMSTIAC).'

state government.

BSIP will share its rarest of the INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

already taken both doses of the vaccine, the government spokesman said

scheme, under which dealers would deliver ration at the doorstep of the beneficiaries, before the assembly elections held in March-April this year. She said the government would provide around 21,000 ration dealers with financial assistance of ₹1 lakh each to purchase vehicles for delivering ration to people in this way. She requested the ration dealers not go move court objecting to the plan.

A section of dealers had moved the Calcutta High Court against the scheme but their plea was junked. At the programme, Banerjee also inaugurated a WhatsApp chatbot for the Food and Supplies Department of the state government and a mobile application, 'Khadya Sathi: Amar Ration Mobile App' to help people apply for ration cards and get information about how to do it.

Lucknow, Nov 16: Uttar Pradesh will now have the country's first museum dedicated to earth, named, The Indian Museum of Earth (TIME)

The museum will have exhibits from the world of palaeosciences, geology, tectonics and earth processes

It will be a geo treasure of the country, will become a reality with the joint efforts of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), ministry of earth sciences, ministry of mines, ministry of environment, forest and climate change, ministry of science and technology and the ministry of culture, said official sources.

BSIP director Vandana Prasad is spearheading the preparation of the detailed project report (DPR) for the museum, while BSIP senior

built in PPP mode with participation of private sector, philanthropists, and state government

scientist Mukund Sharma is also among the 11 scientists, academicians, journalists, and experts selected as members of the team as-

signed the task of DPR preparation. Besides, BSIP will also be giving its rich paleontological collection for the one of its kind museums. BSIP director Vandana Prasad said: "The museum will showcase India's unique geological history and heritage and will promote cutting-edge research in palaeontology. It will also provide a national repository for precious rocks, meteorites, and fossil collections.

rare, oldest and unique fossil col-

Lucknow, Nov 16: Uttar Pradesh lections with the TIME museum. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath "Before giving the DPR responsibility to the team, several has instructed the health departbrainstorming sessions were held ment officials to convert schools and and thereafter a presentation on colleges into vaccination centres for the establishment of TIME was wider coverage of the inoculation made before the Prime Minister's process in the remote areas. He laid the stress on increasing Science and Technology

the number of vaccinations in rural areas to cover a large number of the unvaccinated population.

"The chief minister has asked officials to undertake shift-wise vaccination in rural areas to push forward the process with strength and speed. It is important to speed up the process of vaccination in rural areas. For this, inter-departmental coordination should be done

"In villages, the health department should conduct shift wise vaccination and do it with swiftness.



Schools and colleges should be doubled as vaccination centres for wider coverage in remote areas," he said. The state is now close to vaccinating 14 crore of its eligible adult population, with as many as 13.97 crore people vaccinated so far. Over 26 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's population eligible for Covid vaccination has already

taken both doses of the vaccine, the government spokesman said.

Around 69 per cent of the eligible adult population has received its first dose of the Covid vaccine until now. The number of fresh Covid cases has been under the 50-mark for three consecutive months in the state, the government claimed.

TMC spent more money than BJP in polls Mamata may visit Delhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 16: Although there have been widespread allegations that the BJP had spent a huge amount of money to de-throne the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, data has however revealed that the ruling party had coughed up more in the Assembly polls held earlier this year in the state.

According to an expenditure report submitted by the political parties to the Election Commission, the BJP had spent ₹151.18 crore in the Assembly polls, while the ruling Trinamool Congress spent ₹154.28 crore marginally surpassing its national rival.

The expenditure report submitted by the BJP shows that it has spent ₹252.02 crore for the elections in the five states of Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal, of which nearly 60 per cent (151.18 crore) of the money was for West Bengal only.

While the party spent ₹43.81 crore for Assam, ₹29.24 crore for Kerala, ₹22.97 crore for Tamil Nadu and ₹4.79 crore for Puducherry, it was only for West Bengal that the BJP had coughed up more than 151 crore making it obvious that the saffron brigade was keen to win in the state.

The spending of money by the BJP was at the centre of controversy after there were widespread allegations that the saffron brigade was trying to influence the voters with money. Even a few days before, former governor of Meghalaya and Tripura and party veteran Tathagata Roy wrote: "The party must be pulled out of the money and women's circle. In this way, the party will go backward and not forward.

A person even lodged an FIR against Roy asking the police to interrogate him because he knew a lot of things regarding the in-



volvement of money and women in politics. Not only the Trinamool Congress leaders but the Chief Minister herself had alleged that the BJP was using money and muscle power to influence the voters. Speaking at a rally, Banerjee

had said that BJP leaders were distributing large sums of money running into crores of rupees to influence electoral outcomes be-

sides bringing in "hired goons' and asked for action by the Election Commission. On the other hand. the Trinamool Congress that has occasionally alleged that the saffron brigade was using money and agency to grab power in the state, has spent more than ₹154 crore to stay in power.

Of this, the total expenditure on general party propaganda was ₹79.66 crore and the total expenditure on candidates ₹74.61 crore "As the Trinamool Congress didn't have any representation in the other states so it is obvious that the entire money has been spent in West Bengal," a senior official of the Election Commission said.

When asked about it, a senior BJP leader said: "Now one can easily understand who was distributing money and how they came to power. They have used the people's money for the purpose of winning elections. Living in a glass house one should not throw stones at others. The chief minister should come out with an open statement. The people have the right to know the truth.

On the other hand, the expenditure of two other major political parties, the CPI(M) and Congress was meagre. When the CPI(M) had an election expense of ₹32.64 crore. Congress had only ₹26.45 crore. Interestingly enough, the Congress only spent ₹4.6 crore in West Bengal.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 16: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to visit New Delhi next week and meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues such as dues to the state and increased BSF jurisdiction, a highlyplaced source said Tuesday.

Banerjee is likely to visit the national capital on November 22 and return to Kolkata on November 25, he said."During her three-day stav in New Delhi, she may meet the PM. Banerjee is also likely to hold meetings with leaders of other political parties," the source said. Asked about the agenda of her

proposed meeting with Modi, he said, "The CM will press for her longstanding demand to clear dues of the state. She will also raise her objection to the Centre's decision to increase the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) from 15 km to 50 km from the international border.



The Trinamool Congress chief had earlier said that the Centre's move was only meant to "torture common people" and written a letter to Prime Minister Modi raising objections over the issue.





A natural disaster fund of ₹2.000 crore and a price stabilisation fund of ₹3,000 crore were set up to ensure that farmers don't face problems YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

NO POWER IN PUNE'S 800 GOVT SCHOOLS

Power supply to at least 800 Zilla Parishad schools has been snapped over non-payment of dues in Maharashtra's Pune district, an official said. The cumulative outstanding bill amount is over ₹2 crore and the primary cause of the disconnections was non-payment of power bills by schools, which were closed amid the Covid-19 pandemic





It was unfortunate that both in Delhi and in Lucknow, there was a dominance of the dynasts. For years this partnership of the dynasts

continued to crush the aspirations of UP NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

Rice farmers of Jammu and those arowina apple and dry fruits in Kashmir have suffered losses in

recent rain, hail and snow. They are major contributors in the economy, but it seems that the administration, instead of assessing the damage on the ground, decided the compensation within four walls of their offices

MEHBOOBA MUFTI FORMER CM OF J&K



PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

IREO MD Lalit Goyal held by ED

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday arrested Lalit Goyal, the vice chairman and managing director of real estate group IREO, in connection with a money laundering probe linked to alleged diversion of home buyers' funds to the tune of ₹2,600 crore. The agency claimed the businessmar was "non-cooperative and did not divulge any relevant information" during questioning and hence, was taken into custody under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Chandigarh.

HC refuses bail to Indrani

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court Tuesday rejected the bail plea of Indrani Mukerjea,

India set to seal \$3 billion Kartarpur Corridor **Predator drone deal with US** IN 2019. THE US APPROVED THE SALE OF ARMED DRONES TO INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: India is set to finalise a long-conceived proposal to procure 30 multi-mission armed Predator drones from the US for the three services at an estimated cost of over \$3 billion (around ₹22.000 crore), official sources said Tuesday. The proposal to acquire the MQ-

9B long-endurance drones, armed with air-to-ground missiles, is likely to be cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in the next few weeks following which it will be placed before the PM-led Cabinet Committee on Security, they said. The sources said various key aspects of the procurement including the cost component and weapons package have already been finalised and the mega-deal is set to be sealed with the US by the current fiscal. Vice Chief of India Navy Vice Admiral said the proposal will be placed before the DAC in a "short while". "The whole

is that we take a very balanced de-



cision and therefore inputs of all stakeholders are taken. The process is on and we have progressed quite a bit on this process. This will move to DAC in a short while," he hours and can be deployed on a range of missions including surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering and destroying enemy targets. The medium-altitude effort of the procurement process long-endurance (MALE) Predator-B drone is the first hunter-killer UAV

US 'concerned' over delivery of S-400 to India

Washington: The US has expressed its "concern" over the delivery of S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems from Russia to India but it remains undecided on how to deal with the transaction, a senior Pentagon official said. The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system. Though there is no official comment by the Indian Air Force on the deliveries, Russia's Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC) Dmitry Shugaev told Sputnik news agency last week that the deliveries of the missiles are going on as planned

CONTROVERSY OVER HYDERPORA ENCOUNTER Police claim deceased civilians were terror aides; families deny

AGENCIES

Srinagar/Jammu, Nov 16: A police's claim that his son was a milcontroversy erupted over the enitant and was with the Pakistani tercounter held Monday in Srinagar rorist when he was killed in following conflicting claims about Hyderpora encounter. the two deceased civilians as their "We are nationalists and I myfamily members contested the poself killed a militant with bare lice's charge that they were "terhands in 2005. My sister and I escaped death with multiple bulror associates", prompting demands by parties like the PDP let injuries when terrorists atand the NC for an According to the impartial probe. Inspector-General police, a Pakistani of Police (Kashmir terrorist and his local range) Vijay Kumar maintained that Gul associate Mohammad was an active asso-Amir. along with two ciate of militants and civilians - Altaf Bhat was running the call family?" centre on the premand Mudassir ises owned by Altaf. He said that Bhat Gul - were killed in the was killed in crossappealed to Lt encounter in firing with the ter-Governor Manoj rorists and though Hvderpora locality Sinha to provide he expressed regret "justice to his famover the death, he ilv" and also return the body of his son for proper bursaid Bhat would be counted among the "harbourers" of militants. "Let ial. PDP president and former chief the post-mortem report come and minister Mehbooba Mufti demanded a judicial probe into the enwe will come to know who fired the bullet that killed him." Kumar told counter. "Using innocent civilians reporters here Tuesday. as human shields, getting them killed in cross firing & then con-However, Bhat's teenage niece, who was an eyewitness, disputed veniently labelling them as OGWs the claims made by authorities (Over Ground Workers) is part of GOIs (Government of India's) ruleand alleged that he was used as a "human shield" by the security book now," Mehbooba alleged on forces and later killed. Twitter, responding to a video of Gul's family also claimed that Bhat's kin shared by a user. he was innocent and requested the People's Conference leader Sajad authorities to hand over his body Lone also demanded a probe into to them for final rites. Mohammad the incident

Amir's father Latief Magray also refuted the Jammu and Kashmir

tacked our house to take revenge and forced us to migrate to Udhampur district." he said and lamented, "Is this the reward for the sacrifice of my Magray, a resident of Gool tehsil in Ramban district,

designed for long-endurance and high-altitude surveillance.

Indian armed forces have been focusing on procuring unmanned platforms including armed drones following the eastern Ladakh standoff with China and a drone strike on the Jammu airbase. Explosivesladen drones were used to carry out the attack on the Jammu Air Force station in June in the first such instance of suspected Pakistanbased terrorists deploying unmanned aerial vehicles to strike at vital military installations in India

In 2019, the US approved the sale of armed drones to India and even offered integrated air and missile defence systems. The Indian Navy has been strongly pushing for the procurement to boost its overall surveillance over the Indian Ocean, a region that has witnessed increasing forays by Chinese ships and submarines in the last few years. Last year, the Indian Navy received two Predator drones on lease from the US, primarily for surveillance over the Indian Ocean. The two non-weaponised MQ-9B drones were leased for one year with the option of extending the period by another year.

In February last year, India sealed a \$2.6 billion deal with the US for procurement of 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from American aerospace major Lockheed Martin for the Indian Navy. The delivery of the helicopters has already begun.



to reopen from today

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Kartarpur Corridor with Pakistan will reopen from November 17 (Wednesday), just two days ahead of Gurupurab, the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Union Home Minister Amit Shah posted on Twitter.

The government's move came after a Sikh delegation on Sunday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged him to reopen the corridor

The Sikh pilgrimage corridor, connecting the Darbar Singh Sahib Gurudwara in Pakistan from Dera Baba Nanak Sahib in Gurdaspur in Punjab, was closed since March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shah said that the decision taken by the Prime Minister shows the Union government's reverence towards Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the Sikh community.

"In a major decision, that will benefit large numbers of Sikh pilgrims, PM @Narendramodi govt has decided to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor from tomorrow, Nov 17. This decision reflects the immense reverence of Modi govt

towards Guru Nanak Dev Ji and Sikh our community, Shah tweeted

The Home Minister said: "The nation is all set to celebrate the Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji November 19, and I am sure that Modi government's decision to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib corridor will further boost the joy and happiness across the country.'

After the Union Government's announcement, former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh thanked the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister for reopening the Kartarpur Corridor.

Amarinder Singh said the reopening of the corridor was a longpending demand of the millions and millions of followers.

"There could not have been a better occasion than now for opening of the corridor as thousands of devotees will get the chance to pay their obeisance at the holy shrine on the Guruparab day itself," Amarinder Singh said in a statement here. The Kartarpur corridor gives access to the Sikh pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan without a visa.



New Delhi, Nov 16: The Delhi High Court Tuesday allowed for the time being the use of herbal hookah in restaurants and pubs in the national capital, saying that Covid-19 restrictions cannot be permitted to continue at the cost of livelihood.

Justice Rekha Palli, who was hearing a batch of pleas by several restaurants and bars against the prohibition on the sale or service of herbal flavoured hookahs, said that prohibitions imposed on account of the pandemic "cannot go on forever" and noted that the authorities have already permitted cinema halls and swimming pools to function at full capacity.

The court clarified that it was granting permission as an interim relief and the same is subject to the petitioners giving an undertaking to it that they would strictly follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour while serving herbal hookah.

"Subject to the petitioners filing an undertaking, till the next date of hearing, the respondent (Delhi government) will stand restrained from interfering with the service of herbal hookah,' the judge ordered.

"In case of any change in Covid-19 situation, the respondent will be at liberty to move court," she added. The court directed the Delhi

government to file its response to the petitions and asked it to "take a call" if other restaurants and bars approach it for permission to serve herbal hookah in compliance with Covid-19 protocol.

Raj cuts petrol rate by ₹4/L, diesel by ₹5/L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 16: Amid pressure to reduce VAT after reduction in excise duty by the Centre on petrol and diesel, the Congress government in Rajasthan Tuesday night announced to slash VAT to make petrol and diesel cheaper by ₹4 per litre and ₹5 per litre. Respectively, from midnight.



told reporters at an event. The procurement proposal has been moved by the Indian Navy and all three services are likely to get 10 drones each. The remotely piloted drones, manufactured by US defence major General Atomics, are capable of remaining airborne for around 35

who is the prime accused in the Sheena Bora murder case. Mukerjea's lawyer Sana Khan said they will now move the Supreme Court for bail. Mukerjea is currently lodged at the Byculla women's prison in Mumbai following her arrest in August 2015. This was her first attempt to seek bail from the high court on merits of the case

Three of family commit suicide

Erode: A 60-year-old widow. her elder daughter (30) and granddaughter, aged nine, allegedly committed suicide at Vettupalayam village in the district Tuesday, police said. They took the extreme step as they were reportedly frustrated that the 28-year-old younger daughter had left home a couple of days back without informing them and did not return, police said.

5 relatives of SSR killed in road mishap

Patna: Six persons, including five distant relatives of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, were killed when their SUV collided with a truck in Bihar's Lakhisarai district Tuesday morning, police said. Four others were injured in the incident.

Elephant electrocuted

Guwahati: A wild elephant was electrocuted in Assam's Hojai district Tuesday, taking the toll of electrocution deaths of jumbos in the state to three in a month, forest officials said. According to the officials, a male elephant aged around 45-46 years, died on the spot after coming in contact with a live wire



A woman crosses a waterlogged stretch following heavy rain in Bangalore

PM inaugurates Purvanchal Expressway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sultanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Tuesday, inaugurated the 341-kilometre long Purvanchal Expressway and termed it as the 'pathway to development of new UP'.

He also slammed previous governments for lack of development and lauded the development push given by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that anyone who has any doubts about the capabilities of Uttar Pradesh and its people should come to Sultanpur today to witness their capability. "Three years ago, when I laid the foundation stone of this expressway, there was just plain land here and today, we have this modern expressway where I have



IAF fighter jet Mirage 2000 during an air show at the inauguration of the Purvanchal Expressway

landed in an aircraft," he said He said that the expressway, besides adding a new chapter to connectivity would give an impetus to industrial development and strengthen the economic backbone of the state. The Prime Minister said

that the country's security was as important as its prosperity.

'The Purvanchal Expressway has now become one more power for the Indian Air Force in cases of emergency. Our fighter planes can land on the expressway," he said.

PTI PHOTO

This will result in annual revenue loss of ₹3.500 crore to the state. "In the cabinet meeting today, it was unanimously decided to reduce the rate of VAT on petrol/diesel. After this, the rates will be reduced by ₹4 per litre in petrol and ₹5 per litre in diesel from 12 o'clock tonight," Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot tweeted.

A day before Diwali, the government of India had slashed excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹5 and ₹10 per litre. Interestingly, following the excise duty cut. BJP-ruled states Punjab and Odisha had reduced VAT on fuel to further reduce the prices. Some Congress-ruled states. however, had not cut VAT and had demanded further reduction in central excise duty. After the cabinet meeting, transport minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas said that the decision was taken to give relief to the public. He targeted the Modi government over the expensive petrol and diesel and alleged that the government was working to weaken states.

Android phone malware 'SharkBot' attacks banking apps

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 16: Cybersecurity researchers have discovered a new Android Trojan that can circumvent multi-factor authentication on banking apps on smartphones, putting users' financial data and monev at risk.

Called 'SharkBot', the Android malware has been found in attacks across Europe and the US, focused on stealing funds from mobile phones running the Google Android operating system

"The main goal of SharkBot is

to initiate money transfers from the compromised devices via Automatic Transfer Systems (ATS) technique bypassing multi-factor authentication mechanisms," the researchers from cyber security firm Cleafy said in a statement.

"These mechanisms are used to enforce users' identity verification and authentication, and are usually combined with behavioural detection techniques to identify suspicious money transfers," the team added. 'SharkBot' appears to have a very low detection rate by antivirus solutions since multiple



anti-analysis techniques have been implemented. SharkBot' belongs to a 'new' generation of mobile malware, as it is able to perform ATS

attacks inside the infected device. This technique has already been seen recently from other banking trojans, such as Gustuff.

FRESH THREAT 'SHARKBOT' BELONGS TO A 'NEW' GENERATION OF MOBILE MALWARE, AS IT IS ABLE TO PERFORM ATS ATTACKS INSIDE THE INFECTED DEVICE

'SHARKBOT' APPEARS TO HAVE A VERY LOW DETECTION RATE BY ANTIVIRUS SOLUTIONS SINCE MULTIPLE ANTI-ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED

"Once SharkBot is successfully installed in the victim's device, attackers can obtain sensitive banking information through the abuse

of Accessibility Services, such as credentials, personal information, current balance, etc., but also to perform gestures on the infected device," the researchers informed.

ATS (Automatic Transfer System) is an advanced attack technique (fairly new on Android) which enables attackers to auto-fill fields in legitimate mobile banking apps and initiate money transfers from the compromised devices.

The malicious app is installed on the users' devices using both the sideloading technique and social engineering schemes, the report said.



international



We have no consensus agreement in NATO now on inviting Ukraine into becoming a full member JENS STOLTENBERG NATO SECRETARY GENERAL

COVID SHOTS MUST FOR BELGIUM HEALTH WORKERS

Health workers in Belgium who don't want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 will face losing their jobs



presidential and parliamentary elections face a major problem of laws that are designed to obstruct the electoral process

The upcoming

ABDUL-HAMID DBEIBAH LIBYAN PM

Foreign Ministers of the European Union have agreed on new sanctions against Belarus over the ongoing migrant crisis

JOSEP BORRELL HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY

We need to utilise more and more hydropower within the country to speed up development activities

SHER BAHADUR DEUBA NEPAL PM

SHORT TAKES

Explosion kills 5

Lagos: A gas explosion in Lagos, Nigeria's biggest city, on Tuesday killed at least five people, including a child, an emergency services official said. "There are four adults dead - three males and one female - and a 10-year-old boy died in the incident," Ibrahim Farinloye of the National Emergency Management Agency said, adding that rescue operation is still ongoing. The fire broke out after a cylinder exploded at a gas shop in the densely populated Mushin area of Lagos.

Dosti bus service to resume soon

Islamabad: Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to resume the Dosti bus service between the two countries, a step being seen as a first positive move towards resumption of frequent movement of locals on both sides of the border. The decision to resume the Dosti bus service was materialised during the visit of Afghanistan's interim Foreign Minister Ameer Khan Muttagi, who came to Islamabad to participate in the Troika plus meeting on the current situation in Afghanistan.

Xi talks tough at summit with Biden



Beijing/Washington, Nov 16: Striking a tough posture at the much-awaited virtual summit with his US counterpart Joe Biden on Tuesday, President Xi Jinping said that China will "certainly defend" its sovereignty and security interests as he warned that whoever plays with fire over Taiwan will "get burnt".

In a lengthy speech touching a host of issues at the over threehour-long summit, Xi, fresh from last week's ruling Communist Party of China Plenum meet endorsing an unprecedented third term for him from next year and perhaps for life, pointed Beijing's "red lines" on a host of issues, including Taiwan, and said China's rise is an "inevitable trend of history" and cannot be stopped.

On Taiwan, where China has pressed over 200 military jets into the estranged islands air defence zone ratcheting tensions, 68-yearold Xi ascribed the tensions to the repeated attempts by the Taiwan authorities to look for US support for their independence agenda as well as the in-

tention of some Americans to



President Joe Biden meets virtually with Chinese President Xi Jinping from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington AP/ PTI PHOTO

use Taiwan to contain China. "Such moves are extremely dan-

gerous, just like playing with fire. Whoever plays with fire will get burnt. The one-China principle and the three China-US Joint Communiques are the political foundation of China-US relations,' Xi told Biden.

Previous US administrations have all made clear commitments on this question. "The true status quo of the Taiwan question and what lies at the heart of one-China

are as follows: there is but one China in the world and Taiwan is part of China, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing China." he said.

"Achieving China's complete reunification is an aspiration shared by all sons and daughters of the Chinese nation. We have patience and will strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification with utmost sincerity and efforts. That said, should the separatist forces for Taiwan independence provoke us. force our hands or even cross the red line, we will be compelled to take resolute measures," he said.

Significantly, Xi in his talks with Biden has referred to the just-concluded meeting of the CPC Plenum, which has reinforced his powers hailing him as "helmsman", an honorific title reserved for party founder Mao Zedong. The Plenum took stock of the major achievements and historical experience of the CPC in the past 100 years. Xi said.

"Over the past century, the CPC has kept to its founding aspiration and mission of striving for the happiness of the Chinese people and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," he said. "A lot has been accomplished in this direction, but that is far from enough. More needs to be done." Xi said since he took over power in 2012 he had stated "publicly that the Chinese people's aspiration for a better life is the goal to strive for...

"Any attempt to stop this historical trend will be rejected by the Chinese people, and will by no means succeed," he said in an apparent reference to the US attempts to contain China's rise

Poland uses water cannons at border



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warsaw, Nov 16: Polish border forces said they were attacked with stones by migrants Tuesday at the border with Belarus and responded by using water cannons against them. Police said the migrants were given gas grenades and other weapons by Belarusian forces, who directed the entire violent operation with a drone.

The situation marked an escalation in a tense migration and political crisis at the eastern border of the European Union and NATO in which the lives of thousands of migrants who are being used as proxies by Belarus are at stake.

The Poland Border Guard agency posted video on Twitter showing a water cannon being directed across the border at a group of migrants in a makeshift camp in freezing weather.

Polish police said one officer was seriously injured when the migrants threw objects and he was taken by ambulance to a hospital for a likely skull fracture. The Border Guard spokeswoman, Anna Michalska, said an estimated 2,000 migrants were at the border crossing but only about 100 were believed to be involved in attacking

the Polish forces. Police spokesman Mariusz Ciarka later said the migrants at the border crossing in Kuznica had been "pacified." He added that the attackers were equipped with gas and gas grenades by the Belarusian services, threw stones at the Polish police, and the entire operation was controlled by the Belarusian services using a drone.

In reaction, Belarus' State Border Guard Committee said it was launching an investigation into Poland's use of force."These are

considered violent actions against

individuals who are on the territory

was quoted by Belarus' state news agency Belta as saying. The EU accuses the authoritar-

ian regime of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of orchestrating a migration crisis at the borders of three of its members – Poland, Lithuania and Latvia — to try to destabilize the entire 27-nation bloc.

Some of the migrants are at the Poland-Belarus border with children. Most are fleeing conflict, poverty or hopelessness in Syria and Iraq and hope to reach Western Europe. To date there have been reports of 11 deaths.

The Defense Ministry said Belarusian forces tried to destroy fencing along the countries' common border and the Interior Ministry posted video apparently showing migrants trying to tear down a fence. It said the migrants are using stun grenades or similar weapons given to them by Belarusian officers who are no longer trying to conceal their engagement in stirring violent incidents

Poland has taken a tough stand, reinforcing the border with riot police and troops, rolling out coils of razor wire and making plans to build a tall steel fence. The Polish approach has largely met with approval from other EU nations who are keen to stop the arrival of another migration wave.

Yet Polish authorities have also been criticized by human rights groups and others for pushing migrants back across the border and not allowing them to apply for asylum.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday called the actions of Polish forces "absolutely unacceptable." Lavrov charged that Polish forces "violate all conceivable norms of international humanitarian law and other agreements of the international community.

Suu Kyi charged with poll fraud Taxi blast terror suspect identified

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London. Nov 16: The suspected terrorist who was killed in a taxi explosion outside a women's hospital in Liverpool on Sunday has been named as Emad al Swealmeen, of Syrian and Iraqi heritage.

The 32-year-old is believed to have been an asylum seeker from the Middle East who reportedly converted to Christianity a few vears ago. The UK's Counter-Terrorism Police said on Monday that he was associated with two addresses in the city of Liverpool in north-west England.

"Counter Terrorism Detectives leading the investigation into the explosion outside the Women's Hospital in Liverpool on Sunday 14th November have now confirmed the name of the person they believe to be the deceased from the terrorist incident." the UK's Counter Terrorism Police said in a statement.

Senior investigating officer for

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Nov 16: Myanmar's state election commission announced it is prosecuting the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and 15 other senior political figures for alleged fraud in last November's general election.

The announcement was published Tuesday in the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper and other official media. Allegations of widespread electoral fraud were the main reason cited by the military for its February 1 seizure of power that toppled Suu Kyi's government. Her National League for Democracy party was about to begin a second five-vear term in office after its landslide

victory in the polls. The armybacked Union Solidarity and Development Party suffered unexpectedly heavy losses. Independent observers, such as

the Asian Network for Free Elections, found no evidence of substantive irregularities in the



Election Commission could potentially result in Suu Kyi's party being dissolved and unable to participate in a new election the military has promised will take place within two years of its takeover. However, the commission's notice. dated Monday, did not specify which laws would be used to prosecute

mission said his agency would consider dissolving Suu Kyi's former governing party for alleged involvement in electoral fraud and have its leaders charged with treason. Commission Chairman Thein Soe said an investigation had determined that the party had worked illegally with the government to give itself an advantage at the polls.

After taking power, the military dismissed the members of the election commission that had certified the results of last year's poll and appointed new ones. It also detained members of the old commission, and, according to reports in independent Myanmar media. pressured them to state there had been election fraud. The new commission declared last year's election's results invalid.

The new notice from the commission said Suu Kyi, former President Win Mvint, other leading figures in her party and the commission's former chairman were "involved in electoral

Shombi to head **UN ops in India**

United Nations: Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed international development expert Shombi Sharp of the US to head UN operations in India. On Monday, Guterres' Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq announced Sharp's appointment as the UN's resident coordinator succeeding Renata Lok-Dessallien. "Resident Coordinators lead the work of our UN teams on the ground, including our continuing support to national Covid-19 response plans to recover better for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," and personally represent the Secretary-General, the spokesman added.

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Six injured in

the counter-terror operation, Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Meeks, said enquiries are very much ongoing.

"But at this stage we strongly believe that the deceased is 32 year old Emad Al Swealmeen. Al Swealmeen is connected to both the Rutland Avenue and Sutcliffe Street addresses where searches are still ongoing," he said.

"We believe he lived at the Sutcliffe Street address for some time and had recently rented the Rutland Avenue address. Our focus is the Rutland Avenue address where we have continued to recover significant items," he said, appealing for further information from the public.

Meanwhile, four men arrested in relation to the explosion have now been released from custody following interviews, Greater Manchester Police said.

Three men, aged 29, 26 and 21, had been arrested under terrorism laws at the Sutcliffe Street address and a fourth man, aged 20, was detained in the Kensington area of Liverpool over the course of the weekend and on Monday.

polls, though they criticised some aspects. The action by the Union

In May, the military-appointed new head of the election com-

the accused

UK to open specialist clinics to fight childhood obesity



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London. Nov 16: Severely obese children and young people will receive intensive support in the coming months under a new pilot scheme of 15 new specialist clinics, the National Health Service (NHS)

in England announced on Tuesday. The scheme is targeted at around 1,000 children a year, aged between two and 18 and experiencing health complications related to severe obesity, to be supported to lose weight through the new services.

Children will also receive spe-

cialist treatment and tailored care packages developed with their family, which could include diet plans. mental health treatment and coaching. "The pandemic has shone a harsh light on obesity – with many vulnerable young people struggling with weight gain during the pandemic," said Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive of the NHS in England.

"Left unchecked, obesity can have other very serious consequences, ranging from diabetes to cancer," she said.

The health chief said the "landmark" new pilot falls within the "NHS Long Term Plan", which committed to take more action to help children and young people with their physical and mental health to help them lead longer, healthier and happier lives.

processes, election fraud and lawless actions" related to the polls.

of another country," the Committee spokesman Anton Bychkovsky

How to reduce carbon footprint of your home

AGENCIES

Cientists say we must halve Oglobal emissions by 2030, and reach net-zero by 2050, in order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change. In order to slow climate change, the global community needs to reduce 42 billion tons of emissions to net zero, a situation where any remaining emissions are balanced by uptake elsewhere. Climate change is a pressing issue and it means we're paying more attention than ever to our individual carbon footprint. One of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gases is our homes. However there are many things we can do to lower our homes' greenhouse gas emissions.

A home emits an average of 2.7 tonnes of CO2 a year solely from heating. That's a lot of greenhouse gas. New build homes will be required to fit a non-gas boiler from 2023 as part of the gas boiler ban. There's currently no ban on gas boilers in existing homes. We may see this implemented in the future on the roadmap to net-zero emissions. Electric boilers are more eco-friendly because they don't burn fossil fuels in order to create heat. This is hugely beneficial.

A report from Nottingham Trent University and the IET found that insulating homes in the UK is critical if we're to meet our target of net-zero emissions. Insulation will

prevent greenhouse gases from leaking out into the environment. Similarly if we use our washing machine more efficiently and fill it effectively instead of running multiple small loads, we will use significantly less energy and water.

Again, turning off appliances rather than leaving them on standby helps save energy. By switching off appliances when not in use, we are not only making a positive impact on the environment, but also saving money. Moreover, it is good to choose plants with the best oxygen-boosting benefits. Spider plants are common in the UK. Not only do they produce plenty of clean oxygen, but they can also help remove harmful gases.

Russia rejects accusations of endangering ISS astronauts

US OFFICIALS MONDAY ACCUSED RUSSIA OF DESTROYING AN OLD SATELLITE WHAT THEY CALLED A RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE STRIKE **Colorado shooting**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington: Six teenagers were injured during a shooting incident at a park in Aurora in the US state of Colorado, police said. The shooting occurred at noon on Monday at Nome Park, which is near Aurora Central High School, Xinhua news agency quoted the Aurora Police Department as saying. A total of five people, aged 14 to 17, were transported to the hospital after the shooting, said the Aurora Police Department initially in a tweet

Moscow, Nov 16: Russian officials Tuesday rejected accusations that they endangered astronauts aboard the International Space Station by conducting a weapons test that created more than 1,500 pieces of space junk. US officials Monday accused

Russia of destroying an old satel-

lite with a missile in what they

called a reckless and irresponsible

strike. The debris could do major

damage to the space station as it is

orbiting at 17,500 mph (28,000 kph).

Astronauts now face four times

The test clearly demonstrates that Russia, "despite its claims of opposing the weaponisation of outer space, is willing to ... Imperil the exploration and use of outer space by all nations through its reckless and irresponsible behaviour," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. The Russian space agency

greater risk than normal, NASA

Administrator Bill Nelson said.

Roscosmos wouldn't confirm or deny that the strike took place, saying only that "unconditional safety of the crew has been and remains our main priority" in a



vague online statement released Tuesday

Russia's Defense Ministry on Tuesday confirmed carrying out a test and destroying a defunct satellite that has been in orbit since 1982, but insisted that "the U.S. Knows for certain that the result ing fragments, in terms of test time and orbital parameters, did not

and will not pose a threat to orbital stations, spacecraft and space activities" and called remarks by U.S. Officials "hypocritical.'

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also charged that it is "hypocrisy" to say that Russia creates risks for peaceful activities in space. Once the situation became clear early Monday morning, the four Americans, one German and two Russians on board the International Space Station were ordered to immediately seek shelter in their docked capsules.

They spent two hours in the two

capsules, finally emerging only to have to close and reopen hatches to the station's individuals' labs on every orbit, or 11/2 hours, as they passed near or through the debris.

NASA Mission Control said the heightened threat could continue to interrupt the astronauts' science research and other work. Four of the seven crew members only arrived at the orbiting outpost Thursday night.

A similar weapons test by China in 2007 also resulted in countless pieces of debris. One of those threatened to come dangerously close to the space station last week.









business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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09:15

M&M

L&T

Bajaj Fin

GRAPHICS

TOP GAINERS

Maruti Suz 7.31

Tech Mahi 1.56

Akasa Air has ordered 72 '737 Max'

at Dubai Air Show 2021 Tuesday,

business plan and leadership team,'

BSE Sensex



We're ushering in the era of **New Mobility** and continue to attract the best talent from around the world to build it out at scale BHAVISH AGGARWAL OLA FOUNDER AND CEO

GEM, JEWELLERY EXPORTS UP 45.2 PC

The gem and jewellery exports witnessed a growth of 45.2 per cent during October at ₹31,241.09 crore (USD 4,170.59 million) compared to the same month last year due to strong demand from key markets, led by the US, GJEPC said Tuesday. The overall exports during October 2020 stood at ₹21.515.97 crore (USD 2,928.26 million) during October 2020, according to data by Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).





It is (Hero) the oldest EV manufacturer in the country with a vision to drive positive and greener change. We are

collectively building an extensive network of charging stations at kirana stores, apartments, offices and malls for easy accessibility SOHINDER GILL HERO ELECTRIC CEO

We seem to be all gearing up towards fantastic months ahead. There is a huge amount of content lined up for

December, January, February, and March and we are very, very confident that we will have the biggest quarter starting January to March, which is technically our fourth quarter

GAUTAM DUTTA CEO. PVR LTD

Companies were forced to experiment during COVID, so we are definitely seeing a lot more business

coming to the enlarging IT companies and that reflects all their numbers, their business is up, the profits are up, their hiring is at an all-time high

ABHINAV REDDY MD, GAR CORP

SHORT **TAKES**

Galaxy chocolate brand now in India

New Delhi: In a significant milestone in its journey in India, Mars Wrigley, the world's leading manufacturer of chocolates, chewing gums, mints, announced the 'made in India, for India' journey for one of its most loved global iconic brands, Galaxy. The new Galaxy made in India portfolio twill deliver elevated smooth chocolate experience starting at ₹10. With this, India becomes the first market for Mars Wrigley to offer Galaxy at the opening price point as well as the smallest portion size.

Amazon Fresh to offer groceries

.....

Bhubaneswar: Amazon today



Dube, who is now the CEO of Akasa Air, was quoted as saying in the statement

He said the new 737 Max airplane will support the carrier's aim of running not just a cost-efficient, reliable and affordable airline, but also an environmentally friendly company with the youngest and greenest fleet in the Indian skies.

India's aviation regulator DGCA had August 26 lifted the ban on Boeing 737 Max planes' commercial flight operations after almost twoand-half years.

16

16:00

% -2.58

-2.31

-2.08

All 737 Max planes were grounded in India by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) March 13, 2019, three days after the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines

737 Max plane near Addis Ababa, which had left 157 people, including four Indians, dead.



Maruti Suz 7.28

Tata Motors 2.47 Hindalco

Hero Motor 1.92 SBI Life

M&M





Moreover: the association said the delays in construction caused by lockdowns, curfews and the shortage of labour resulted in a direct increase in construction cost anywhere between 10 per cent and 15 per cent in the past 18 months.

"If the prices of a higher raw materials do not start decreasing in the immediate future, there is a high probability that the prices of residential properties will go up by 10-15 per cent to offset the increased cost of construction," CREDAI said in a statement.

Harsh Vardhan Patodia, president, CREDAI National, said: "We have been consistently witnessing sharp increase in the raw material prices over the last one year and stabilising in the near future.'

Housing prices may Online gaming operators hopeful to enter Odisha



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Leading online gaming companies are looking for opportunities to enter the Odisha market, but they seek a clear exemption for games of skill in the Odisha Gambling Act.

The companies like Dream11, Games24x7, Paytm Games and MPL are hopeful that the state will frame polices to attract the online skill gaming sector.

"Right now there is no clear exemption in the Odisha Gambling Act for games of skill. If this exemption can be clearly provided, then it will help in getting a lot of investments in the state not only in the gaming sector, but also in several other sectors such as semiconductor, graphics, imaging, fintech all of which directly benefit from gaming," said Dinker Vashisht, Vice-President, Games24x7, one of India's largest online skill gaming companies which includes RummyCircle, My11Circle and UGames, in its

portfolio. The sector has immense employment opportunities and is fast emerging as a major revenue resource for the government.

'The Odisha government seems to be missing out on this trend, because of a lacuna in the state law. Most state governments, while banning gambling, have made an exception for skill games. For example, states such West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Rajasthan, Jharkhand ban gambling, while making a clear exemption for games of skill.

Right now there is no clear exemption in the Odisha **Gambling Act for games of** skill. If this exemption can be clearly provided, then it will help in getting a lot of investments in the state not

only in the gaming sector, but also in several other sectors such as

semiconductor, graphics, imaging, fintech all of which directly benefit from gaming

DINKER VASHISHT VICE-PRESIDENT, GAMES24x7

Unfortunately, in the Odisha Gambling Act, there is no clear exemption made for games of skill. This has stopped several top online skill gaming companies including Dream11, Games24x7, Paytm Games, MPL from offering their services in the state," Vashisht added.

The judicial clarity has coincided with rapid growth in the sector which is projected to grow at a CAGR of 40 per cent to \$2.8 billion by 2022. The online skill gaming industry presently employs 45,000 people in the country and has received more than \$1.2 billion investment, in the last seven years, from some of the biggest names in international finance such as Tiger Global, Sequoia, Raine Capital, Chryscapital, TPG, Kalaari, Matrix.

SBI holds mega – SHG Mela in Jajpur



0.31 IndusInd B -1.84 Tech Mahi 1.32 Tata Consumer2.31 they don't seem to be decreasing or Gasoil demand dips HC orders CCI to rule on Amazon, in first half of Nov Future dispute within 2 weeks

Shree Cem

2.87 Reliance

-3.19

-3.12

-2.54

-2.43





NOV 2021

-396.34

SBI

0.42 NTPC

3.44

60,322.37

TOP LOSERS

UltraTech C -2.20

Reliance



European aircraft manufacturer Airbus dominates the Indian aviation market currently. As on October 15, there were 666 aircraft registered in India, 65 per cent of which were of Airbus, 21 per cent were of Boeing and the remaining were of other companies.

Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air rise if material rates not controlled: CREDAI orders 72 Boeing 737 Max jets PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

> New Delhi, Nov 16: Realtors' apex body CREDAI Tuesday expressed concern over an increase in the rates of cement and steel during the past one year and said housing prices could rise 10-15 per cent if the prices of construction raw materials do not fall.

The industry body demanded that the government should take measures to control the prices and suggested reduction in GST for

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI), which has over 13,000 member developers, pointed out that the prices of construction raw materials have been increasing consistently since January 2020.

completed the integration of its grocery stores Fresh and Pantry into a single unified store called Amazon Fresh. The new store, available across over 300 cities in India, continues to offer customers unbeatable savings, a wide selection of products, and fast and convenient delivery options in one single online destination. Siddharth Nambiar, Director, Category Management, Amazon India, said that with Amazon Fresh, customers will continue to enjoy super value savings, a wide selection of products, and convenient delivery options.

GATE offering re-launched

Bhubaneswar: Byju's relaunched one of its renowned Exam Prep for GATE offering. The re-launched product features a GATE learning tablet, high-guality recorded content. weekly and subject tests. printed workbooks, previous vear question books, subjectwise formula notes. live classroom and doubt resolution sessions under the quidance of expert faculty. Students will now receive customised, integrated. and comprehensive exam preparation with the new Online Classroom Program.

PhD degree to Poornata Jena

Bhubaneswar: Poornata Jena, daughter of Pramod Jena and Pramila Jena from Satyanagar (Balasore) has been awarded the degree of Doctor in Philosophy (PhD) in Agril Science (Nematology). Her husband Rajesh Mohapatra is working as Agril Officer in Govt of Odisha. She is the niece of Ramakanta Pradhan, FGM Bhubaneswar, Union Bank of India.



REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 16: India's gasoil demand declined by almost 20 per cent from the pre-Covid levels during the first 15 days of November, after a festive season led brief recovery last month, showed preliminary sales data of

state-run refiners. India's gasoil consumption accounts for about two-fifths of the country's fuel demand. It typically

rises during a month-long festival season that ended earlier this month with the celebration of Diwali as diesel-guzzling trucks hit the road and industrial activity gathers pace.

Gasoil consumption totalled 2.43 million tonnes between November 1 and 15, a decline of about 15.3 per cent from the year-ago period and down 19.35 per cent from the same period in 2019, Reuters reported quoting refiners' data.

In contrast, gasoline sales continued to stay above pre-Covid levels, rising to 1.04 million tonnes, as people continued to prefer using personal vehicles over public transport to protect themselves from the virus. Gasoline sales in the first half of November were up 1.2 period from the same period in 2019 and rose by 0.5 per cent from last year, the data showed.

State retailers - Indian Oil Corp. Bharat Petroleum Corp and Hindustan Petroleum Corp - control about 90 per cent of the fuel stations in the country.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Delhi High Court Tuesday directed the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to expeditiously decide within two weeks on its show cause notice to Amazon on the issue of revocation of approval given to the US company for investment transaction with FCPL which has been challenged by Future Group.

A bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said the decision be taken in accordance with rules, law and government policy applicable to the facts of the case and adequate opportunity be given to the parties to be heard.

cover ₹10,000 crore from Future Group of companies to prevent and to put an end to the alleged anti-competitive activities of Amazon.Com NV Investment Holdings LLC and its group companies operating in India which already have had a disastrous effect on crores of small traders.

Additional Solicitor General N Venkatraman and lawyer Manu Chaturvedi, representing CCI, informed the court that the CCI is contemplating to call Amazon January 4 for a hearing after which the matter will be decided.

The court refused the arguments and said that the matter should be disposed of within two weeks. The CAIT has prayed that be-

tween the fights of corporate giants, Amazon and Future Group, traders should not be made a scapegoat or suffer any financial loss.

It said it had given a representation to the CCI seeking annulment of its approval granted to Amazon on the basis of their alleged misrepresentation about actual transaction

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Nov 16: Vidva Krishnan, Chief General Manager of SBI Bhubaneswar Circle, visited the RBO, Jajpur Road and inaugurated a new branch at Jindal Campus.

To mark the day, a mega SHG Mela was also organised there. In the Mela, the bank disbursed a loan of ₹3.30 crore to 163 new SHGs. Also, 165 renewal proposals amounting to ₹1.80 crore were disbursed to group members.

SBI Bhubaneswar Circle sanctioned a total of ₹5.10cr to SHGs and also donated a 3.75 KW solar panel lighting system to Natural Institute for **Social Welfare**

Pfizer agrees to let other firms make its Covid pill Jajpur District Collector Chakravati Singh Rathore, who was present on the occasion, emphasised to hold more such melas n't please everyone. sults. Pfizer said it would ask the U.S. to make the rural women self-reliant. Besides CGM Krishnan, Abhaya

The court was hearing a peti-

tion by the Confederation of All

India Traders (CAIT) seeking to

protect around 6,000 traders who

had supplied goods to the Future

Group amounting to ₹10,000 crore

and to recover the money from

clined to decide this issue and dis-

posed of the CAIT petition.

false representation.

The court said it was not in-

The plea said Amazon has ob-

tained the approval of CCI for its

investment in FCPL in 2019 by de-

ceit. fraud, misrepresentation and

CAIT, represented through sen-

ior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, said

it was interested in the matter to

help over 6,000 small traders re-

the group.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 16: Drugmaker Pfizer Inc. has signed a deal with a UN-backed group to allow other manufacturers to make its experimental VOID-19 pill, a move that could make the treatment available to more than half of the world's population.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Pfizer said it would grant a license for the antiviral pill to the Genevabased Medicines Patent Pool, which would let generic drug companies produce the pill for use in 95 countries, making up about 53% of the

world's population. The deal excludes some large countries that have suffered devastating coronavirus outbreaks. For example, while a Brazilian



drug company could get a license to make the pill for export to other countries, the medicine could not be made generically for use in Brazil. Still, health officials said the

fact that the deal was struck even before Pfizer's pill has been authorized anywhere, could help to end the pandemic quicker. "It's quite significant that we

will be able to provide access to a drug that appears to be effective and has just been developed, to more than 4 billion people," Esteban Burrone, head of policy at the

Medicines Patent Pool, said. He estimated that other drugmakers would be able to start producing the pill within months, but acknowledged the agreement would-

We try to strike a very delicate balance between the interests of the (company), the sustainability required by generic producers and most importantly, the public health needs in lower and middle-income countries," Burrone said.

Under the terms of the agreement, Pfizer will not receive royalties on sales in low-income countries and will waive royalties on sales in all countries covered by the agreement while COVID-19 remains a public health emergency.

Earlier this month, Pfizer said its pill cut the risk of hospitalisation and death by nearly 90% in people with mild to moderate coronavirus infections. Independent experts recommended halting the company's study based on its promising re-

Food and Drug Administration and other regulators to authorise the pill as soon as possible since the pandemic erupted last year, researchers worldwide have raced to develop a pill to treat COVID-19 that can be taken at home easily to ease symptoms, speed recovery and keep people out of the hospital.

At the moment, most COVID-19 treatments must be delivered intravenously or by injection.

Britain authorised the Merck's COVID-19 pill earlier this month, and it is pending approval elsewhere. In a similar deal with the Medicines Patent Pool announced in October, Merck agreed to let other drugmakers make its COVID-19 pill, molnupiravir, available in 105 poorer countries.

panel lighting system to the Natural Institute for Social Welfare (NISW) The NISW, an NGO, runs a Child Care Home for orphaned children and a Swadhar Greh for distressed women at Kusunpur, Jajpur Road. CGM handed over the solar panel to the office bearers of the NISW and praised their activities. She

Kishore Pandey, GM-I, Kundan

Jyoti, DGM (B&O) and other SBI of-

ficials were present on the occa-

sion. Similarly, SBI, Bhubaneswar

Circle, also donated a 3.75 KW solar

also said that SBI encourages such noble initiatives and will continue to do so in future. Pabitra Mohan Sahoo, Director of NISW thanked-SBI and its employees for the generous gesture.





STARTING FROM SCRATCH

Kiwis rest Kane for T20 India matches



JAIPUR: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson will miss the up coming three T20 Internationals against India starting here Wednesday as he wants to fully focus on the two-Test series. The new cycle of the World Test Championship kicks off with the series against India beginning November 25 in Kanpur. Senior speedster Tim Southee will lead the Black Caps in the white ball series, the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) stated in its release.

BOULT OPTS OUT OF TEST SERIES

Jaipur: Top New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult has informed that he will not be a part of the Test series against India as he needs to refresh and rejuvenate after 12 weeks of continuous cricket. He will head back home after the third T20I against India in Kolkata. "It has been 12 or so weeks away from home already, so just looking forward to refresh a little bit." Boult was quoted as saying in a video released by New Zealand Cricket.

Stand-in captain Southee while talking to reporters Tuesday said that bubble life does take a toll on the cricketers' physical and mental health. He hoped that they don't have to play in protected environments for far too long.

"With what's happened in the world in the last couple of years, (Covid-19) it has made things a lot tougher with bubbles and quarantine. It does take its toll after a while," said Southee.

"We don't know what's going to happen in the future. Whether we're gonna have to continue to play in bubbles and I guess you are put under more pressure with the quarantine time thrown as well," he informed while adding that touring India was always a challenge.

Venues finalised for Oz edition of T20 WC

DUBAI: Seven Australian cities, including Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide, will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup from October 16 to November 13 next year. The other two cities which will in all likelihood host the Round 1 matches include Geelong and Hobart with the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) hosting the final. "The event will see a total of 45 matches hosted across Adelaide, Brisbane, Geelong, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney," an ICC press release stated. The semifinals will be held at the Sydney Cricket Ground and Adelaide Ova November 9 and 10, respectively. Among the countries that have directly qualified for the Super 12 are defending champions Australia and runner-up New Zealand. Along with the finalists, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, England, India, Pakistan and South Africa, who are the next highest ranked teams, will gain direct entry into the Super 12 stage. However, two-time champions West Indies will have to qualify.



Indian players in a relaxed mood ahead of the training session in Jaipur, Tuesday

AGENCIES

Jaipur, Nov 16: India would like to put the T20 World Cup debacle behind as they will begin their campaign against runners-up New Zealand here Wednesday. The threematch series will be crucial for India as the next edition of the T20 World Cup in Australia is less than 12 months away. Under new head coach Rahul Dravid and new captain Rohit Sharma. the Indians will certainly try and develop a template keeping the next edition of the T20 World Cup in mind.

The focus will be on a few new players in the upcoming series. And the first among them is Venkatesh Iyer. For the last couple of days, both Rohit and Dravid, have spent a considerable amount of time with him. India have been

One match no result		
Most runs scored	Rohit Sharma: 352	Tim Seifert: 280
Most wickets taken	Yuzvendra Chahal: 7	Ish Sodhi: 19

India won: 8

India won: 2

forced to look beyond Hardik Pandya and many think Iyer can groomed into the perfect replacement. The three games will give an indication if he can be groomed for the much needed fast bowling allrounder's slot. The other IPL performers who

Total matches played: 18

Matches in India: 6

have been picked in the squad are Ruturaj Gaikwad, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan and Yuzvendra Chahal. In the absence of Jasprit Bumrah, the pace of Avesh will certainly

come in handy, but then the lack of experience is a factor.

New Zealand: 9

New Zealand: 3

The think tank comprising Rohit and Rahul will also assess a player's utility keeping the Australian conditions in the mind. There are five shortest format

openers in the side and slotting them in various middle-order positions will be a challenge. Rohit and vice-captain KL Rahul are expected to open Wednesday but India might be tempted to experiment in the presence of more options like Ishan Kishan and Gaikwad. In fact. even Venkatesh got all his runs opening for KKR. but he is set to bat in the middle-order.

Suryakumar Yadav could not find his rhythm during the World Cup but he is one player India would be looking to groom at No.4, especially for the true pitches in Australia.

New Zealand reached here Monday on a chartered flight from Dubai and they have little time to reflect on their loss to Australia in the title clash. Skipper Kane Williamson has been rested for the T20s so that he is fresh for the Test series. Seasoned pacer Tim Southee will lead the team in his absence. However, the likes of Daryl Mitchell, Ish Sodhi and Martin Guptill can pose problems for the Indians.

India, under new skipper Sharma and head coach Dravid, look to start afresh after WC debacle Robit Rabul's mind Rohit, Rahul's mind

JAIPUR: India's new T20I captain Rohit Sharma said that the team need to get the template right in the format. He added that India should form their template rather than following formula of other teams. His comments came as he and head coach Rahul Dravid addressed the pre-match press conference here Wednesdav.

suits us best," informed Rohit.

Dravid asserted that New Zealand can't be called underdogs all the time. "New Zealand are a very good side, make no mistake about it. You don't need me to say that. It's almost become fashionable to call them underdogs but that narrative has changed. They have beaten us in big games so here's an opportunity for us to fight back,'



NEWS IN BRIEF

Mithali, Mandhana 🥂 maintain rankings

Dubai: Indian duo of Mithali Raj and Smriti Mandhana were static at the third and sixth spots respectively in

DRAW PREVENTS ITALY FROM OUALIFYING DIRECTLY FOR 2022 OATAR WC

ENGLAND CRUISE AS ITALY STUMBLE

AGENCIES

Belfast, Nov 16: Italy are facing an-

PHOTO: BCCI

Dravid like others also empha-

Rohit was asked what would be

simple. Whatever he has been doing

till now, his role in this team re-

mains the same," the Indian cap-

tain said. "He is a very important

player for the team and whenever

he plays, he creates an impact.

From the team's perspective, he is an important player and when you

play each game, the roles are dif-

orities will be to instil a sense of se-

curity among the players and back

them even if they fail in a few

games. "I think it is important that

a player is assured of his place

even if he fails in a few games.

You need to back them for the

chances they take," Rohit stated.

of experience he has will

only strengthen the team

ROHIT SHARMA

I am sure when

Virat comes

back into the

team. the kind

Rohit also said that one of his pri-

ferent," added Rohit.

sised on workload management. "Workload management is an important aspect of cricket. The mental and physical well-being of players will be a priority. You have to remember players aren't machines,' Dravid informed. Virat Kohli's role in the team since relinquishing captaincy. "It's very

'We just need to set the template right, and we have got some time to do that. India have been brilliant in T20Is but it's just that we haven't won an ICC tournament. We will be looking to fill some holes in the team. I'm not saying we should follow certain team's template. We should set our own template, which

The new skipper insisted Kane Williamson's absence from the series won't affect their planning against other New Zealand players. 'We have to focus on every New Zealand player. Williamson will be missed by them but they have other match-winning players also," Rohit added.

Belgians arrive with positive attitude



Belgian players pose for shutterbugs after their arrival Tuesday in Bhubaneswar for the Junior World Cup hockey tournament PHOTO: HOCKEY INDIA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The Belgium squad that will take part in the FIH Junior Men's hockey championships arrived here Tuesday. The tournament begins at the Kalinga Stadium here November 24

Belgium, who finished runnersup in the last edition of the tournament in Lucknow losing to India are in Pool A which has teams like Chile, Malaysia, and South Africa. Certainly Belgium are one of the favourites to qualify for the semifinals.

"We have had an intense period with lots of training together combined with a very busy club competition. Finding a good balance between training together and playing for your club was vital for us to prepare well. We had a good warm-up tournament in July 2021 in Spain and we hope to make the next steps here in Bhubaneswar," asserted Jeroen Baart, the head coach of Belgium.

The skipper of the side Dylan Englebert stated that they are excited to be in the Odisha capital. "We are very excited. I know a lot of players have had pictures of the stadium as the lock screen of their phones. It has been a dream to come here and play at the biggest stadium of hockey. It will be the first time we will be playing in such a

Argentina match big stadium, so we are very ex-ASSOCIATED PRESS cited," Englebert said.

Belgium will open their campaign November 24 against South Africa. The Belgian coach was asked about the top contenders for the marquee event. "India will be, of course, a force to watch playing at home with the qualities they pain in the thighs. have." Baart said.

'We know Germany and Spain well and know that these are the teams to watch. Also never underestimate the Dutch team! Maybe the last one to mention is Argentina that can always be a dangerous opponent in a tournament like this," Baart concluded.

other detour to get to a World Cup final. Not so their rivals England who they beat in the Euro 2020 final.

The playoffs beckon for the Azzurri - just like four years ago - after they stumbled Monday to a 0-0 draw at Northern Ireland. The result plunged the recently-crowned European champions to a secondplace finish behind Switzerland in their qualifying group. Switzerland won their game 4-0 against Bulgaria. Italy's soccer-mad fans might be

starting to fear the worst. After all, their country also failed to secure automatic qualification for the 2018 World Cup and wound up losing to Sweden in a two-leg playoff, one of the darkest moments in Italy's soccer history.

England however, are heading straight to Qatar. On the next-to-last night of group play in Europe, England romped to their biggest competitive win - 10-0 over the part-timers of San Marino. They topped the group with more goals (39) than any other side in the qualifiers.

Harry Kane enjoyed himself, in particular, with four goals – all in the first half - to move to 48 for

who will not travel with the squad,

the statement said.



Harry Kane of England slots the ball home for his third goal during the game against San Marino, Monday

England, five off Wayne Rooney's national record.

Harry Maguire, Emile Smith Rowe, Tyrone Mings, Tammy Abraham and Bukayo Saka joined Kane in scoring for England, while there was also an own-goal by San Marino

Scotland will be seeded, like Italy, in the playoffs after a 2-0 victory over Group F winner Denmark.

whose perfect record in qualifying came to an end.

Poland finished second in England's group and closed with a 1-2 loss at home to Hungary, and will likely be away in their first match in the playoffs.

Italy and Switzerland went into their final qualifiers on 15 points each in Group C but with the Azzurri having a superior goal dif-

ference, the first tie-breaker if they ended tied on points.

That didn't come into play because Switzerland swept to an easy win over already-eliminated Bulgaria thanks to goals by Noah Okafor, Ruben Vargas, Cedric Itten and Remo Freuler. Italy thus became the latest big team to struggle in an intense atmosphere at Windsor Park. the latest update to the ICC women's ODI player rankings released Tuesday. Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami was at the second place among ODI bowlers, while Deepti Sharma stayed at the fifth position in the ODI all-rounder rankings. West Indies captain Stafanie Taylor moved up in the list of batters after a match-winning century against Pakistan that helped complete a 3-0 series win.

Hardik clarifies

Mumbai: Hardik Pandya dismissed Tuesday reports of custom officials at Mumbai airport seizing his luxury watches. He said that only one watch worth ₹1.5 crore had been taken for 'proper valuation' after he 'voluntarily declared' the items brought by him while returning from Dubai. Some of the prices of the watches he bought, as per bills submitted, didn't match the actual value. As per rules, he will have to pay the correct duty fee before he gets back his purchased watches. "The cost of the watch taken is approximately ₹1.5 crore and not ₹5 crore as per rumours floating around the social media." Pandva tweeted Tuesday. "I voluntarily went to the Mumbai airport customs counter to declare the items brought by me and pay the requisite customs duty," he added.

Neymar rested for Medvedev overcomes Zverev

AGENCIES

Turin, Nov 16: World No. 2 Daniil Buenos Aires, Nov 16: Lionel Medvedev overcame World No. 3 Messi will play for Argentina when Alexander Zverev in a group encounter of the year-ending ATP they face Brazil Tuesday in a World Cup qualifier. However, he will Finals here Tuesday. In a match miss his friend Neymar, who has that can best be described as a been ruled out of the game due to slugfest between the two most powerful hitters of the tennis ball in the The Brazilian Football circuit, Medvedev prevailed 6-3, 6-Confederation said in a statement

7 (3-7), 7-6 (8-6) in 159 minutes. that Neymar 'reported being in-It was an encounter which never seemed like ending as both players secure' about the possible injury. "Because there's not enough time engaged in long rallies and chased to perform more exams, the coachdown impossible balls. Mevedev ing staff decided to spare the player, however, displayed better nerves and that helped to win the match. With



Medvedev has all but sealed a spot in the semifinals

Earlier in a match late Monday evening Russia's World No. 5 Andrey Rublev stormed back to his winning ways, defeating Greece's World No. 4 Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in the 'Green Group'.

Rubley, who arrived for the yearend tournament here struggling to regain his form in recent weeks, was at his heavy-hitting best as he didn't face a break point on way to defeating Tsitsipas in 90 minutes.

Rublev dominated the contest with his strong serves, winning 90 per cent of points behind his first delivery. Thanks to his booming first serves, the Russian rarely allowed the Greek opponent a look at his vulnerable second serve.

"I think these are the moments that we are practicing for, that we are living for: to be here and to enjoy this atmosphere, to play great tennis and for the spectators to enjoy," Rublev said after the match.

Sindhu, Lakshya win

Bali: PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen made impressive starts at the Indonesia Masters Super 750 badminton tournament, reaching the second round with contrasting wins here Tuesday. Reigning World Champion Sindhu, seeded third, record a 21-15, 21-19 win over Thailand's Supanida Katethong in a 43-minute women's singles match to set up a second-round clash with Spain's Clara Azurmendi. In the men's segment Lakshya stunned World No.10 Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama 21-17, 18-21, 21-17 in 68 minutes. He will now face two-time World Champion Kento Momota of Japan. AGENCIES

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two wins from as many matches,





