



NUSHRRATT'S CONFESSION

Nushratt Bharuccha didn't read the script of her upcoming movie 'Chhorii' to give an unprepared portrayal

LEISURE P2



COVID-19 STRIKES AGAIN

The World Health Organisation has said that coronavirus deaths in Europe rose by 5 per cent last week

INTERNATIONAL P10



WINNING START

Suryakumar Yadav's innings of 62 helps India beat New Zealand by 5 wickets in the 1st T20I

SPORTS P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I am very happy with all these new roads. Now people can migrate faster

SARANGI MADE ADG OF RLY, COASTAL SECURITY

Bhubaneswar: Ahead of the appointment of the new Director General of Police (DGP), the Odisha government Wednesday carried out minor reshuffle among IPS officers. According to a notification issued by the Home department, senior IPS officer Sudhanshu Sarangi has been appointed as ADG of Police, Railway & Coastal security. Binyanand Jha has been transferred and posted as OSD in the Home department while Pranabindu Acharya has been appointed as ADG, OHRC. Similarly, Shefeen Ahmed K has been made IGP, Fire Services and Home Guard and L Divya V as Dhenkanal SP.



ODISHA IPS OFFICER APPOINTED CBI JT DIRECTOR

New Delhi: Senior IPS officer Ghanshyam Upadhyay, a 1999-batch officer of the Odisha cadre, was among three who were appointed as joint directors in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said Wednesday. The two others are Vidya Jayant Kulkarni and Nawal Bajaj. While Kulkarni is a 1998-batch IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, Bajaj belongs to the 1995-batch of the Maharashtra cadre. Upadhyay's tenure will last till June 29, 2026 unless ordered otherwise. Kulkarni has been appointed on deputation for five years while Bajaj's tenure will also end in June 2026.



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CBI arrests Nayak

■ CBI had earlier registered 23 cases related to child pornography in various states of India and had conducted raids Tuesday at 76 locations spread across 14 states and UTs including Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The CBI arrested Wednesday Surendra Nayak belonging to Colony Sahi of Dhenkanal town. His house had been raided Tuesday by CBI officials as part of a nationwide crackdown in an alleged child pornography and sexual abuse case. The raids were conducted at 76 places in 14 states and UTs of India.

Nayak was nabbed for allegedly circulating, storing and viewing Child Sexual Exploitation Material (CSEM)



through various social media platforms/groups. He was produced in the Special CBI Court here and remanded to three days in custody. He was then taken to Delhi by CBI officials.

As per information available from various sources, it has been alleged that there are more than 50 groups with more than 5,000 individuals involved in child pornography and sharing of child sexual material.

Earlier Nayak had told reporters

OSCPCR TO LAUNCH AWARENESS DRIVE

Bhubaneswar: A day after the CBI carried out raids at three locations in the state Tuesday in the child sex abuse case, the Odisha State Commission For Protection Of Child Rights (OSCPCR) said Wednesday steps will be taken to stop child pornography in Odisha. OSCPCR chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan said that the Commission will seek a report from CBI and the Odisha Crime Branch regarding the findings. She also informed that OSCPCR will hold an awareness drive from November 20 to December 10 to sensitize people about child pornography.

Tuesday that he had joined a group named 'Desi MMS' two months ago and used to share video links in various social media groups. In return, he had received USD 20 (₹1,500).

4G connectivity for some Odisha villages

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 17: A number of villages in Odisha will get 4G connectivity after the Union Cabinet cleared Wednesday utilisation of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provision of mobile connectivity in 7,287 uncovered villages across five states at an estimated cost of ₹6,466 crore. The states where 4G-based mobile connectivity will be provided are Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, said I&B Minister Anurag Thakur.

"A total 7,287 uncovered villages will get telecom towers and services, and lakhs of people will get connectivity," Thakur stated.

The project would be funded by the USOF, and would be completed within 18 months of signing of the agreement, an official release from I&B Ministry said.

Furniture shops, godowns raided for GST evasion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The State CT & GST Enforcement Wings conducted Wednesday raids at more than 30 shops and godowns of 14 furniture manufacturers and whole sellers across Odisha. They have been accused of purchasing and selling furniture without proper invoices thereby depriving the State of legitimate taxes.

Officials informed that the raids were conducted based on extensive data analysis and intelligence collected from various sources. The raids were carried out at a number of locations including the state capital, Cuttack, Rourkela,

Sambalpur, Berhampur, Bhadrak and Balasore.

Sources said that most of the shop owners have allegedly evaded paying of taxes and have paid only minuscule amounts. They are also allegedly involved in manufacturing/purchasing and selling goods out of account.

The officials claimed that most of the owners have not been able to produce regular books of accounts such as purchase, sale and stock registers before the inspecting officials. They added that the total amount evaded can only be ascertained after all the account books and existing stocks are examined.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VIATION
SENSEX	60008.33	↓ 314.04
NIFTY	17898.70	↓ 100.50
DOLLAR	74.31	↓ ₹0.14
EURO	84.05	↓ ₹0.21
GOLD	₹49,254	↑ ₹216
SILVER	₹66,600	↑ ₹366

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	27.6°C	28.4°C
MAX	27.6°C	28.4°C
MIN	21.0°C	20.0°C
Humidity	88%	96%
Rainfall	Nil	5.6mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

Transformation of 158 HIGH SCHOOLS in 5 districts

1st Phase Dedication

Kalahandi District
29 High Schools

Malkangiri District
6 High Schools

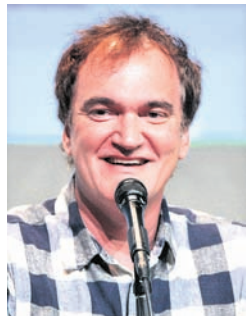
Jharsuguda District
25 High Schools

Khordha District
38 High Schools

Mayurbhanj District
60 High Schools

Dedication by
Sri Naveen Patnaik
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha
on
18th November 2021

Department of School & Mass Education



TARANTINO SUED OVER COPYRIGHT VIOLATION

Quentin Tarantino has been sued by television company Miramax who accused the filmmaker of copyright infringement by selling NFTs based on the screenplay for *Pulp Fiction*. Tarantino announced the sale at a recent crypto-art convention in New York, reports *variety.com*

HOW LADY GAGA PREPPED TO ENTER HOUSE OF GUCCI

Singer-actress Lady Gaga has talked about how she prepared for her role of Patrizia Reggiani in the upcoming film *House Of Gucci*. She revealed: "I spent a lot of time reading about (Patrizia Reggiani), and watching interviews that she gave. I have also watched interviews about her."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will find some decisions difficult to make, but be intent and resolute. Emotions may put you off rail, but once you have resolved, don't stray from it. Besides, Ganesh advises you to learn to endure setbacks in a mature manner.

TAURUS
Today Ganesh sees you overdoing your aggression, domination bit and urges you to keep your assertiveness in check. This day is not a favourable one for new ventures and undertakings. Don't therefore attempt anything new. Talk pleasantly.

GEMINI
Ganesh advises that while today will be a day filled with a lot of festivity, you still need to guard against getting carried away. You will spend the day socialising with friends and family. You might end up neglecting your household duties in organizing some function or picnic, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Dame Luck will patronise you today. You will gain from land, house or building trade. You will get total support and co-operation from bosses and colleagues in the office. Ganesh indicates it as a very profitable day for you.

LEO
You will be very emotional and sentimental today. Your ego prevents you from expressing your true feelings at times. You need to keep this in mind when attempting to communicate with your beloved. It is a good day for romance, and for those seeking love, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Financial affairs will face a major obstruction today. Ganesh advises you to allow your mind to prevail over your heart. Take extraordinary care of your precious personal possessions, apart from your legal duties and new projects keeping in view their long-term effect on your mind.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that that this is the right time to enhance your personality and prove your talents to the world. Today you will be able to buy new clothes too. It is essential that you pay attention to people close to you. Today is the day you will spend in your dream world.

SCORPIO
You may be bored with the same, old routine. In short, you feel like you are stuck in a rut and desperately need to do something exciting. Hanging out with friends of opposite sex may bring some respite to your restless soul.

SAGITTARIUS
It's time for you to sit back, relax and let your actions do the talking. After all, actions speak louder than words, they say. You will also wrap up with all the pending tasks today, says Ganesh. You play an important role in resolving troubles, either for yourself or for others.

CAPRICORN
Confidence is the key to unlock the doors of success. Today, with your positive attitude you will mark your presence and come one step closer to success, says Ganesh. You're not a carefree person. You value your achievements and make every decision wisely.

AQUARIUS
You are a workaholic. With a lot of hard work you have achieved your targets. You are not somebody who will fail to differentiate between a pit stop and the final destination. Your success will motivate you to plan for bigger and longstanding goals. But, don't take everything so seriously that you fail to enjoy and celebrate your success, advises Ganesh.

PISCES
Confusion and uncertainty will linger like dark clouds in today's sky which will rain on your decision making parade and make it hard for you to find tangible solutions to problems. Steer clear of controversy and try and delay any important decisions and stick to your daily routine, advises Ganesh.

When Nushratt gives script a miss



Mumbai: For many, it is a ground rule to watch the original material first before lead an adaptation. But Nushratt Bharuccha stayed away from *Lapachhapi*, the 2017 Marathi film that has inspired her upcoming movie, *Chhorii*.

Reason? She wanted to discover the twists in the story along with her character, thus offering an honest portrayal. "I haven't seen the original film. It was also a conscious decision to not read the full script of *Chhorii*," says Bharuccha, before

adding, "I didn't go to an acting school; I have learnt on the job. So, I decided to try a new way of approaching the film. By not knowing what's coming next, I was as vulnerable and unprepared as Sakshi (her character) was. I didn't want to preempt the (proceedings)."

Lapachhapi tells the story of a pregnant woman who moves into a new house, only to realise that it is haunted. While being a horror film, the story deftly tackled age-old societal beliefs and practices.

The Amazon Prime Video offering is a departure from the comedies that she is usually associated with. "My career started with the clutter-breaking *Love Sex Aur Dhokha* (2010), but then I got typecast. That said, my sensibilities haven't changed. I believe in content more than anything else. It took a while for content-driven films to come my way again." AGENCIES

Mike Tyson enjoys Indian food with Ananya, Vijay



Hyderabad: South actor Vijay Deverakonda and Hindi film actress Ananya Pandey have come together for their upcoming movie *Liger* which also features boxing legend Mike Tyson.

Helmed by popular filmmaker Puri Jagannadh, the team of *Liger* is currently in Las Vegas shooting for the film with Mike Tyson.

Going by the latest report, *Liger* team organised a special Indian lunch for Mike Tyson and his wife Kiki as they had known about his love for Indian food. The team conveys that former boxing champion Tyson binged on garlic naan, tandoori chicken, butter chicken, fish tikka masala, and goat biryani for lunch.

The *Liger* team was super excited to host the lunch, as Tyson enjoyed the meal, specially asked for aloo gobi, samosa, palak paneer, and kebabs. Post lunch, all of them posed for happy pictures. Mike Tyson too was delighted with the *Liger* team's love and hospitality. IANS



Boseman's Black Panther character won't be recast

Late Hollywood star Chadwick Boseman's King T'Challa/Black Panther will never be recast by Marvel following his tragic death, the studio's VP of Development Nate Moore has confirmed. Moore told The Ringer-verse

Podcast: "I'm being quite honest, you will not see T'Challa in the MCU."

Moore revealed that he had discussed potential casting decisions with Ryan Coogler, who is returning to direct *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, but the pair ultimately decided that they "couldn't do it" without Boseman, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He shared: "We have to figure out how to move this franchise on without that character. Because I think we all feel so much of T'Challa in the MCU on the screen... is tied to Chadwick's performance. The challenge for Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is telling a story without T'Challa."

Chadwick passed away at the age of 43 in August 2020 after a cancer battle and Coogler previously confirmed that he would have wanted his *Black Panther* co-stars to press ahead with the story following his tragic death. IANS

Playing a con artiste is like entering a new world: Zoya

Mumbai: Actress Zoya Afroz says playing a con artiste in a show like *Matsya Kaand* where the world of the story is driven by the male characters, was quite fascinating.

She said: "Even though it is the story of *Matsya* and Ravii (Dubey) is playing the title role, and appearing in 11 characters, every character in the narrative is playing an important part. Initially, when I heard the brief of the story I thought it is a male dominated world but eventually, I realised that my character is very well-edged out."

The actress added: "I am playing a con artiste and a magician here in the show. It is like I am entering a new world through this character, which is so multi-layered. Perhaps that is why despite the story centered around one man, every actor's contribution to the narrative is important."

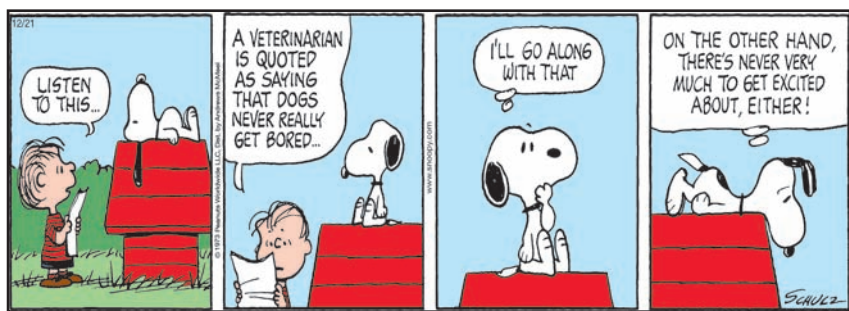
Matsya Kaand is directed by Ajay Bhuyan and it also features Madhur Mittal, Ravi Kishan, Piyush Mishra, and Rajesh Sharma in pivotal roles.

The show releases November 18 on MX Player. IANS



FUN post

PEANUTS



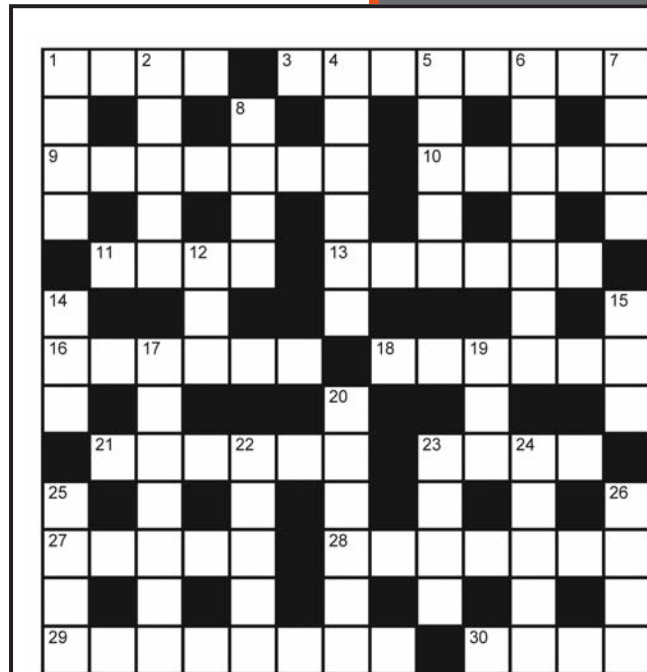
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



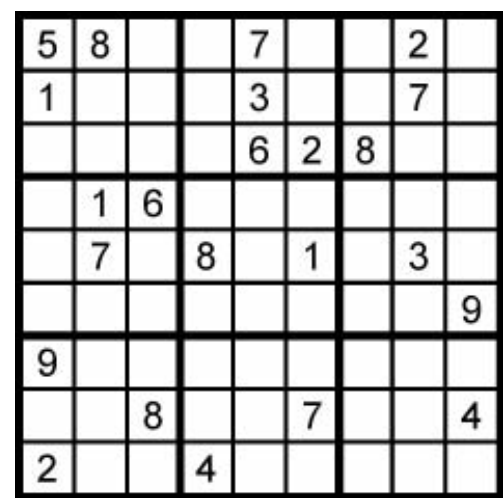
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Egg on
 - 3 Cone bearer (4,4)
 - 9 Repressed
 - 10 Office stations
 - 11 Capital on a fjord
 - 13 Mythical winged creature
 - 16 Enigma
 - 18 Gives way
 - 21 Old World lizards
 - 23 Hamburg's river
 - 27 Like helium
 - 28 Reykjavik's home
 - 29 Outmoded
 - 30 Nile reptiles
 - Down**
 - 1 Burst of wind
 - 2 Out of whack
 - 4 Deep blue
 - 5 Pond denizen
 - 6 Perfume ingredient (4,3)
 - 7 "Duck soup!"
 - 8 Bread spread
 - 12 Young fellow
 - 14 Smeltery input
 - 15 Fire residue
 - 17 Get sidetracked
 - 19 Jellied delicacy
 - 20 Help out
 - 22 Traveler's stop
 - 23 Fencing sword
 - 24 Big hogs
 - 25 Car with a bar
 - 26 Bookie's quote

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



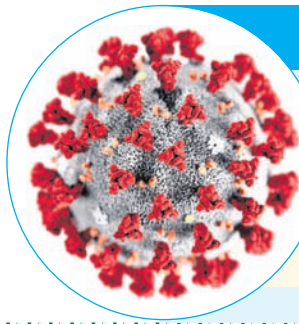
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



RITUAL SANS DEVOTEES

Lord Dhabaleswar adorned with *Bada Singhara Besa* on the occasion of *Bada Osa*, Wednesday. The Shaivite shrine in Cuttack remains out of bounds for devotees due to the Covid restrictions



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	25,53,56,599	23,08,10,446	51,34,319
India	3,44,66,598	3,38,73,890	4,64,153
Odisha	10,46,088	10,35,262	8,383

Ex-legislator Umesh Swain dies at 74

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Former MLA Umesh Chandra Swain died of cardiac arrest at his residence here Wednesday, family sources said. He was 74.

The last rites of the four-time legislator will be performed at his native Machhagaon village in Jagatsinghpur district, they said. He was elected to the Assembly from Balikuda constituency four times – in 1977 as a Janata Party candidate, in 1990 as a Janata Dal nominee, and in 2000 and 2004 on Congress ticket.



File photo of Umesh Chandra Swain

A close aide of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, Swain was a household name in the area due to his relief and restoration activities after floods and cyclones. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik condoled the demise of Swain.

"I am saddened to learn of the death of Umesh Chandra Swain, a former MLA from Balikuda constituency. As a people's representative, he will always be remembered for his selfless service and public welfare work. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family," Patnaik tweeted in Odia.

Electoral roll revision by month-end

Voters can verify their names in the electoral roll by contacting booth level officers or by downloading the details from ceoorissa.nic.in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha, Sushil Kumar Lohani Wednesday appealed to the voters to make necessary additions and deletions in the voter ID cards as the Electors Photo Identification Card (EPIC) does not guarantee the right to vote.

Speaking to reporters here, Lohani said, "The EPIC does not guarantee the right to vote. One needs to have his/her name in the electoral or voters roll. People need to verify their names and apply for necessary addition or deletion during the ongoing special electoral revision campaigning, which will continue till November 30."

He urged all the voters to verify their names in the electoral roll by contacting the booth level officers



The EPIC does not guarantee the right to vote. One needs to have his/her name in the electoral or voters roll. People need to verify their names and apply for necessary addition or deletion during the ongoing special electoral revision campaigning

SUSHIL KUMAR LOHANI | CEO, ODISHA

(BLOs) or by visiting the website ceoorissa.nic.in and downloading the electoral roll.

It can also be verified on the special campaign scheduled to be held November 21, 2021, when the BLOs will be present at the respective booths with the electoral roll, he said.

During the special drive, people can apply for addition and deletion of names, correction and other procedures. This time, people can avail such services including getting EPIC online and it will be delivered directly at the doorsteps of applicants via post.

Lohani said that the persons

who are completing 18 years by January 1, 2022, are eligible to enlist their names in the electoral roll. They can also submit their application during this revision campaign.

Voters can also submit applications in respective forms for any correction in their names or other details during this period. Form-6 is for inclusion of name, Form-7 for objecting inclusion of name, Form-8 for correction to particulars, Form-8A for transposition of entry from one part of the electoral roll to another part of the electoral roll of a constituency.

However, this revision of the electoral roll will not be reflected in the Panchayat elections because this update is meant for the Assembly and Parliament elections, he clarified.

BJD plans 3-day stir over cooking gas price

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Ahead of the Panchayat elections, the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has decided to stage protests at the offices of three RDCs and the blocks under them from November 22 to 24 over rising price of cooking gas cylinders.

Holding a presser here Wednesday, senior BJD leader Pramila Mallick said the price of the cooking gas cylinders has been hiked by 70 per cent during the last three and half years. "The 14 kg LPG cylinder which was available at ₹549 in 2016-17 has now touched ₹928, a hike of nearly 70 per cent," she said.

The BJD leader also alleged that the much hyped Ujjwala scheme of the Union government had miserably failed in the state and there has been drastic reduction in number of refilling of cylinders due to the sharp rise in prices. She said the BJD had urged the

Centre to reduce the prices of the petrol, diesel and cooking gas and announced that it would intensify the agitations if the latter failed to reduce the prices. The BJD leader said since the government did not consider the demand, the party has decided to protest against the callousness of the Centre.

She said, "Biju Mahila Janata Dal, Biju Yuva Janata Dal and the Biju Chhatra Janata Dal will also participate in the demonstrations." The party has decided to hold demonstrations before the offices of three revenue divisional commissioners (RDCs) from November 22 to 24.

Demonstrations would be held before the RDC office at Cuttack November 22 and on the same day the protests would be organised in all the blocks under Cuttack RDC, she added. Similarly, protests will be held before the Sambalpur RDC office and the blocks under it November 23, and Berhampur RDC office and blocks the next day.

Update e-Service books by Nov 30, depts told

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Inching a step forward in implementation of 5T principle in human resource management, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Wednesday directed all the departments and districts to update the e-Service books of all government employees by the end of this month.

Mahapatra gave this direction while chairing a review meeting on virtual mode. Apart from facilitating government-to-employee transactions, the e-Service books would help quick and transparent delivery of pensionary bene-

fits to the retired employees.

The departments and district administrations were asked to meet the deadline for updating the e-Service books, failing which salary of the concerned employees including the nodal officers might be withheld.

Many departments including Works, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Cooperation, SC&ST Development, Excise, Industries, Tourism, Home, Forest & Environment, Steel & Mines, Housing & Urban Development, Information & Public Relations, and Labour and ESI have completed updating of the e-Service books of around 95 per cent employees, sources said.

Submit data on health infra: HC to DLSAs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 17: The Orissa High Court has directed the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) to submit information on physical infrastructure as well as availability of manpower at government-run healthcare facilities in state.

A division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice AK Mahapatra pronounced the order while hearing a case pertaining to the vacancies in doctors' and other posts in government hospi-



tals. The bench posted the hearing on the case to December 15. The DLSAs have been directed to form four-member committees to visit all primary health centres

(PHCs), community health centres (CHCs) and district headquarters hospitals (DHHs) under their jurisdictions.

As per the HC direction, the committees, comprising two lawyers and equal number of paralegal volunteers, will observe the availability of doctors and health staff in government-run hospitals.

This apart, the committees would take stock of cleanliness, sanitation and the availability of necessary drugs and equipment at the healthcare centres. The committees would collect the information through

photos and videos and submit the same to the HC.

Petitioner Chittaranjan Mohanty had informed the court that many posts of doctors and health staff are lying vacant in government health-care centres. He had pointed out that many doctors of government hospitals are attending patients in private clinics in violation of their service norms.

The petitioner had informed the court that the staff crunch and truancy among doctors have affected healthcare in government hospitals.

IT dept holds walkathon in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The Income Tax department, Odisha Region, Wednesday

organised a walkathon in the Capital city here as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 75 years of India's independence.

Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Parneet Singh Sachdev, flagged off the walkathon, titled as Taxathon, at the Ayakar Bhawan.

The walkathon covered around 10 km and passed through Rasulgarh Square, Vani Vihar Square, Ram Mandir Square and Kalinga Stadium.

The walkathon was organised to create awareness about the timely payment of income tax and its contribution to the nation building. Employees of the department, students, senior citizens and taxpayers participated in the walkathon.



Rajarani Temple illuminated to eliminate cervical cancer

This unique celebration, held for the first time in Odisha, advocates awareness is the key to overcome the menace called cancer and encourage the survivors to lead and share their stories

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The Rajarani Temple here was Wednesday illumina-

nated with teal colour in a bid to observe the first year of Cervical Cancer Elimination Movement initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The WHO, November 17, 2020 had launched a global strategy to eradicate cervical cancer as a public health concern, after a resolution was passed by 194 nations. The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) in association with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and KRIIAA Foundation illuminated the 11th century monument with teal colour, which represents cervical cancer elimination.

"We are taking the concept of

'Lighting a Heritage' a step forward in Odisha in association with BSCL, Acharya Harihar Post-Graduate Institute of Cancer and Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Odisha. Through this we want to create awareness in society and boost the morale of those affected by cervical cancer. We also want to help them lead a normal life after the trauma of Covid-19 lockdown for which their treatment had come to a grinding halt," said Lily Jenamani of KRIIAA Foundation.

This unique celebration, held for the first time in Odisha, advocates awareness is the key to overcome the menace called cancer and encourage the survivors to lead and share their stories. They were joined by high-level speakers representing a broad coalition of partners dedicated to eliminate the disease and four-time Grammy Award-winning artist Angélique Kidjo at the global level. Communities across the globe illuminated over 100 landmark monuments in teal colour, said sources.

Meanwhile, as part of creating awareness on non-motorised transport (NMT) and having a clean, green and livable city, the Bhubaneswar Smart City has been organising weekly events with girls, women, youth, and transgender community. It is also planning to include more citizen groups so that the cause would include more and more people.



Rajarani Temple in Bhubaneswar

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MEDIA PARTNER **OrissaPOST**

OUTDOOR PARTNER **TEAM**

1,000 to get Pathani Samanta scholarship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17 : School and Mass Education department principal secretary Satyabrata Sahu Wednesday chaired a district education officers' (DEO) meeting virtually in which it was decided to disburse ₹10,000 each to 1,000 students by November end under Pathani Samanta Mathematics Scholarship.

This year, 1,065 applicants had applied for the scholarship. This apart, notification for junior scholarship for 10,000 students of higher secondary schools also declared. Sahu also stressed that parents-teachers meeting will be held second Saturday of every month.

He directed for expeditious posting of Hindi, PET and Sanskrit teachers as the examination for these teachers has been conducted recently.

He also asked officials of BSE and OSEPA and to take measures for successful conduct of several examinations including NRTS and FLN examinations.

Kandhamal haldi, Ganjam pickle big draw at IITF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: If you are in or around New Delhi and fond of items from Odisha like Kandhamal haldi or Berhampur pickle, then the ongoing India International Trade Fair (IITF) SARAS 2021 at Pragati Maidan in the national capital is a must visit place for you.



Five stalls— No 8, 9, 10, 90 and 91—of Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) under the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department have been offering a host of food, decorative and winter wear items for sale at the mega trade fair.

While tussar saree, stole, jacket and shawl are being sold at the Jajpur stall, decorative items and resin-made items at the Balasore stall are a big draw among the shoppers, said a source.

Mouth-watering Berhampur special pickle, papad and snacks among other food items are up for sale at Ganjam stall.

The Mayurbhanj stall offers decorative items made from sabai grass. The Kandhamal haldi, a variety of turmeric indigenous to southern Odisha which has earned the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, is available at the Kandhamal stall.

The stalls are being managed by members of self-help groups (SHGs) and producer groups from the respective districts, said an official adding that the fair that began November 14 will continue till 27. Shoppers can visit the fair anytime between 10am and 8pm.

WEBINAR ON BIRSA MUNDA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Odisha Model Tribal Education Society (OMTES) under ST/SC Development department in collaboration with NESTS under Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised a webinar on the occasion of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jayanti Celebrations as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" Wednesday. The theme of the webinar was "Contribution of the Tribal Freedom Fighters of Odisha to India's Independence".

The tribal freedom fighters of Odisha had fought valiantly during freedom struggle which started with Paika Mutiny at Khurda in the year 1817. The programme was chaired by ST/SC Development, Minority & Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka.

Enrolment in govt schools up due to distress: ASER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: There has been a clear shift from private schools to government schools in the last three years with Uttar Pradesh and Kerala reporting the maximum increase in government school enrolment, according to Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2021.

At least 62 per cent of the surveyed principals have attributed the shift to financial distress while 15 per cent of them cited migration due to the pandemic, as the reason behind move to government schools.

The report is based on a survey that was conducted in 25 states and three Union Territories. It covered a total of 76,706 households and 75,234 children in the



■ In govt schools, average enrolment in 2018 was 64.3 per cent which increased to 65.8 per cent last year and 70.3 per cent this year
■ For children in age group of six to 14, enrolment in private schools has decreased from 32.5 per cent in 2018 to 24.4 per cent in 2021

age group of five to 16 years.

"At an all-India level, there has been a clear shift from private to government schools. For children in the age group of six to 14, enrolment in private schools has decreased from 32.5 per cent in 2018 to 24.4 per cent in 2021," the 16th

ASER released Wednesday stated.

"This shift is seen in all grades and among both boys and girls. However, boys are still more likely to be enrolled in private schools than girls," it added.

In government schools, the average enrolment in 2018 was 64.3

per cent which increased to 65.8 per cent last year and 70.3 per cent this year.

From 2006 to 2014, there was a steady increase in private schooling. After plateauing at around 30 per cent for a few years, there has been a significant decline in the pandemic years.

Even before Covid-19, the proportion of girls enrolled in government schools was higher than that of boys for each grade and age. This continues to be the trend over time, it noted.

"With out-of-school numbers stabilising or falling between 2020 and 2021 private school enrolment continuing to decline and a majority of children being back in school, government school enrolment has jumped significantly,"

according to the 16th ASER.

"Many affordable smaller private schools have been shut down during the pandemic, this could also be driving the shift to government schools. Finally with many migrants moving back to their villages with their families, the demand for public education is likely to have gone up during this period," it said.

However, the report said, "Time will reveal if these patterns constitute a transitory phase, as schools reopen across states or whether they become a permanent feature of schooling in rural India."

The report pointed out that the maximum increase in government schools has been registered in Uttar Pradesh (13.2 per cent), followed by Kerala (11.9 per cent).

Mild drop in infection rate among children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: As many as 226 more people, including 33 children, tested positive for Covid-19 Wednesday, taking Odisha's case-load to 10,46,088, a Health official said.

Two fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,383, the official said.

As many as 128 new cases were recorded in quarantine centres, while 98 infections were detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district registered the highest number of new cases at 114, followed by 15 in Cuttack. Ten of the 30 districts did not report any new case.

A total of 206 new infections were detected Tuesday, while the state reported 185 cases Monday and 262 Sunday.

The rate of infection among the 0-18 age group stood at 14.60 per cent against 15.53 per cent on the previous day. The daily test positivity rate stood at 0.37 per cent against 0.41 per cent Tuesday and 0.32 per cent Monday.

Khurda and Mayurbhanj districts registered one fresh fatality each. Fifty-three patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Odisha recorded 6,498 Covid-19 deaths during the second wave of the pandemic this year, and 1,876 fatalities during the first wave in



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Khurda district registered the highest number of new cases at 114, followed by 15 in Cuttack

The daily test positivity rate stood at 0.37 per cent against 0.41 per cent Tuesday and 0.32 per cent Monday

As many as 1,38,21,736 people in Odisha have been fully vaccinated to date

2020, he said.

The state currently has 2,657 active cases, while 10,34,995 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 236 Tuesday.

Odisha has thus far tested over 2.30 crore samples for the virus, including 60,508 Tuesday. The state's positivity rate stood at 4.54 per cent.

As many as 1,38,21,736 people in Odisha have been fully vaccinated to date.

READY TO SAIL



An elderly man sells paper boats on the Grand Road in Puri ahead of the Kartika Purnima ritual, Wednesday OP PHOTO

1,04,712 SHGs earned ₹296 crore in 2020-21 fiscal

MISSION SHAKTI A COMMITMENT TOWARDS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, SAYS CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here Wednesday said the state government believes that engagement of Mission Shakti groups is part of its commitment to economic empowerment of women. Patnaik said this while reviewing performance of 20 departments in provisioning government business to Mission Shakti self-help groups (SHGs). The meeting revealed that 1,04,712 SHGs generated income of ₹296 crore during 2020-21.

"Let all our interventions be designed keeping this in mind. Let

every service provided by the government be seen from this angle and remuneration paid to the groups be reworked from this perspective," he said.

Mission Shakti has been a movement transforming the lives of 70 lakh women organised into 6 lakh SHGs across the state. The state government has formed the department of Mission Shakti in March 2021 to strengthen the SHG initiatives already undertaken by different departments and agencies and bring it all under one platform providing greater focus and synergy.

The Cabinet, in its 1st meeting



File photo of members of a SHG sewing facemasks OP PHOTO

held May 29, 2019, had approved the proposal on provisioning of government services & procure-

ments worth ₹5,000 crore in five years through Mission Shakti SHGs.

Shopkeepers to cough up penalty for littering

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 17: The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has prepared an action plan to ensure cleanliness in the Silver City.

As per the action plan, penalties would be imposed on shopkeepers and vendors who are dumping trash into public drains.

"Many shops in the city here do not have trash cans. The shopkeepers are dumping the garbage in the nearby drains. As a result, most of the drains get choked during rains. Several localities are witnessing extensive waterlogging due to these clogged drains," said an official of the CMC, adding that

the unhygienic atmosphere was the main reason behind the outbreak of vector-borne diseases in the Silver City.

Dumping of carry bags, leaf plates and any other garbage into the public drains by the vendors or shopkeepers would invite penalties, said the official.

"If carry bags, leaf plates and other garbage are spotted in a drain at any particular place, then penalties will be imposed on all shopkeepers within 500 metre radius," added the official.

It is learnt that the action plan has been prepared at a recent meeting of the CMC.

"The action plan has been sent to the state government for approval," said the official.

Portal for Ashirbad scheme launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Women and Child Development department Wednesday launched the management information system portal for the Ashirbad scheme on the occasion of observance of Child Rights Week.

Ashirbad scheme was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik this year to provide monthly financial assistance to children orphaned by Covid-19 or lost either of the parents.

The portal was developed in association with Odisha State Child Protection Society and Unicef Odisha for efficient transfer of money to the orphaned children who lost their parents due to Covid. Altogether 17,000 beneficiaries have got the relief money under this scheme.

BIPF discourse on malnutrition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), in association with FICCI-Aditya Birla CSR Centre for Excellence and Impact4Nutrition, Wednesday organised the 10th edition of Ideate, a panel discussion on "Nutrition Reimagined - Going the Local Way", on digital mode from New Delhi.

BIPF chief executive officer Shaifalika Panda hailed the Odisha government's efforts to alleviate malnutrition. "Malnutrition has been a long existing challenge and it has an adverse impact on inter-generational health, education and employment. Odisha is the first Indian state to draw up a nutrition budget in the country, Panda said. Odisha State Food Commission chairperson Pramod Kumar Merkap highlighted the commission's role in creating a conducive environment for balanced nutrition.

Madhya Pradesh's Women and Child Development department joint director Swarnima Shukla discussed about innovation approach of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMM) programme of Madhya Pradesh. "Malnutrition needs a multi-pronged and a multi-sectoral approach. All stakeholders should be involved," Shukla said, adding lack of awareness on part of the community is a concern, and developing community ownership is an area where private partners could step in.

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SHORT TAKES

Ganjam NAC gets ₹2.26-cr for dvpt

Ganjam: The state government has taken a number of initiatives for faster development of Ganjam NAC. The government has sanctioned ₹2.26 crore to carry forward 31 projects pertaining to infrastructure development and beautification. Reports said, 31 infrastructure development projects for the civic body have received approval of the government. This was announced by ST Secretary VK Pandian through videoconferencing held at the Collectorate here. For three mini parks, ₹25 lakh has been allocated while three public gymnasiums will be built at a cost of ₹25 lakh. Besides, ₹16 lakh will be spent for developing three children's sports parks and ₹43 lakh will be invested for upgradation of four roads in the NAC area. Five community toilets will be constructed at a cost of ₹16 lakh while ₹97 lakh will be pumped into construction of 10 drains and roads. As the civic body polls will be held in a few months, the administration has set a target to complete these projects ahead of the elections. Local leaders have thanked the CM for sanctioning funds for the development of the NAC.

Milk distributed to Bonda kids

Malkangiri: Over 200 children of primitive Bonda tribes were given milk to ward off malnutrition problem among them, a report said. Bondas, one of the primitive tribes, live in the forests of Bonda ghati in Malkangiri district. There has not been much progress in their lifestyle with malnutrition rampant among their children. Distribution of milk among their children has begun with the district administration directing various voluntary outfits working in the area to take necessary steps in this regard. Accordingly, Paribartan of Chitrakonda, a voluntary outfit, in association with the Didai Development Agency (DDA) visited Bonda ghati and Mudulipada panchayat.

HERITAGE RAIL MUSEUM



Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti Bisweshwar Tudu inaugurated the long-awaited Heritage Rail Museum at Baripada Wednesday. With efforts of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjdeo, railway service had been introduced in Mayurbhanj in 1904

UJJWALA SCHEME

Beneficiaries upset over extraction

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 17: Under Ujjwala Yojana, LPG cylinders are provided to the poor free of cost. However, many people have come out with allegations that money is collected from beneficiaries to provide gas connections in Kuliiana block of Mayurbhanj district. Locals have taken up the issue with the Kuliiana BDO. They alleged that Ujjwala Sathis collected ₹500 to ₹1000 from each beneficiary when they are supposed to get gas free of cost. The poor and uneducated people in rural areas are unaware of the guidelines of the central gas distribution scheme. In the complaint, they said a woman of Baiganabadia working as a Ujjwala Sathi has been indulging in such illegal activities. All such activities have been reported from villages like Palasbani, Baunsantia, Baiganabadia and Kucheil. It was learnt that Pana Soren, Sumi Soren and Gurubari



Hembram have got gas connections under the scheme after paying ₹600 each towards processing of booking applications and consumer books. Gas distributors have engaged Ujjwala Sathis to visit houses and provide gas stoves, pipes and cylinders to beneficiaries. "These Ujjwala Sathis have been warned against collecting money from beneficiaries, but they don't refrain from such illegal act," said Dillip Marandi, the owner of a gas agency. Locals have said illegal collection of money from the poor has defeated the purpose of the Yojana. They have demanded a high level inquiry into alleged commissions being taken for LPG connections.

115 doc posts vacant in VIMSAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 17: Healthcare services in VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) have been in tatters with 115 regular posts of doctors lying vacant in the hospital, a report said. It has been two years since the posts are lying vacant in the hospital which is a major hub of healthcare services in western Odisha. The hospital authorities instead of taking steps to fill up the posts have sought clarification from the state government on problems in appointment. Reports say VIMSAR is an autonomous body which is governed by special rules and power. The authorities can make purchases of any medical essentials and make appointments. However, despite being an autonomous body, the hospital authorities are behaving in a manner as they have no freedom to take any decision in making appointments. As per records, the authorities had made appointments on their own. Rules have it that the authorities can put forth demand before the state government and make temporary appointments whenever there is a staff crunch. As many as 115 doctor posts were vacant in the hospital by June 2021. The hospital has 35 posts of professors out of which 15 have been appointed. Similarly, against



71 posts of associate professors, 45 are working. The hospital has 143 assistant professor posts out of which 74 are working. Recently, the Odisha State Public Service Commission (OPSC) published a notification for filling up the vacant posts of 380 assistant professors in other medical colleges of the state. This has sparked fear and resentment in various quarters here. People fear that contractual doctors working in VIMSAR might



MAMITA MEHER MURDER
Political conspiracy against me will not succeed: Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 17: While opposition parties have been staging agitations demanding ouster of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra for his alleged links with prime accused in the Mamita Meher murder case, Mishra reiterated his claim to be innocent. During his visit to Nuapada district Wednesday, Mishra told reporters he is no way involved in the murder case. "I was a pilot in the Indian Air Force and fought for the country. I can't commit such a heinous act," he said. The incident has happened at a public school, but he has never visited there, he added. "I am the president of the governing body of the Mahaling College while the owner

of the private school is a member of the college governing body. It is very unfortunate to link me with the murder and the accused which is a political conspiracy," Mishra observed. He added that such conspiracy against him would not succeed.

Forest nod to RWSS with riders

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 17: Another mega drinking water project in Kendrapara has landed in a controversy after trees were felled on a forest land to pave way for the project. A case has been lodged at the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Its construction work was halted months ago.

Now, its work may resume soon. The rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) department, which is executing the drinking water project at Manikunda under Marsaghai block, had sought permission of the forest and environment department to generate forest at Badapal instead of changing the project site. The revenue department had also appealed for compensatory afforestation at the alternative site. Meanwhile, the forest and environment department has allowed the compensatory afforestation at Badapal on certain conditions. The mega drinking water project aims at providing safe water to people in 200 villages under Mahakalpara and Marsaghai blocks. As per conditions set by the forest and environment

MEGA DRINKING WATER PROJECT ON FOREST LAND



department, the RWSS department has to look after the forest at Badapal for ten years and pay a penalty 10 times the total cost of saplings to be planted on the land. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced the mega drinking water project in 2018. Thereafter, construction of the water treatment plant, part of the project, was started at Manikunda after scores of trees were felled. However, the project site was part of the forest land. Social activists Alay Samantray and Sampad Swain moved the NGT over tree felling. The NGT formed a three-member inquiry team as the RWSS had cut down trees without taking permission of the forest and environment

department. The project area is 1.809 hectares of forest land. Taking note of this development, the district administration had sought permission of the forest and environment department to regenerate forest on 1.862 hectares at Badapal to make up for the tree-felling at the project site. The RWSS department of Kendrapara has intimated the assistant engineer of the RWSS Cuttack circle to deposit ₹84,52,604 in the CAMPA fund of the forest department towards penalty and forest generation. ₹16,58,000 for sapling plantation and maintenance for 10 years and ₹11,32,434 towards tree felling and ₹56,62,170 as penalty. Notably, 40 per cent of the project work has been completed.

Centre okays rly link in Mayurbhanj

AGENCIES

Baripada, Nov 17: A new railway link between Bangriposhi and Gorumohisani in tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district has been approved by the Railway Ministry, Union Minister Bisweshwar Tudu said here Wednesday.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw would lay the foundation stone of the 42-km railway link in January next year, Tudu, the Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti said. He said this while inaugurating a new heritage rail museum at Baripada railway station. The minister further said that the new railway line would also connect the steel hub of Jamshehpur with Mayurbhanj district. Emphasising the central government's agenda for development, especially for backward and tribal districts, Tudu categorically mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is giving special attention to Mayurbhanj. Tudu, also the Mayurbhanj MP, said the district would witness a series of development works to remove its tag as a backward area and help the residents who had been neglected for a long period. He also added that the proposed Budhamora- Chakulia railway line project would be taken up very soon as the hindrance of land acquisition for this project has been resolved after his discussion with Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren. As this project would pass through a patch of forest land, Soren had been advised to submit the proposal before the central government to ease the bottleneck of the aforementioned project, Tudu said.

Jumbo found dead in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 17: The carcass of a four-year-old elephant was found in Ganjam district Wednesday, a forest officer said. Forest personnel spotted the carcass during patrolling in the paddy fields near Panada in Digapahandi forest

range in the morning. Forest officers suspect that the pachyderm might have died due to the fighting in the herd. They earlier thought that the elephant might have died due to electrocution. The exact cause will be known only after forensic analysis, Berhampur Divisional



Forest Officer Amlan Nayak said. A few days ago, a herd of 13 elephants had migrated

to Dhanarasia forest on Panada-Arendra Road from Barghar in search of food. Local people have demanded that the herd be pushed back into the forest as the elephants destroyed several standing crops in the area. "We are closely monitoring the movements of the herd," Nayak said.

Lost forest regained, livelihood restored

EFFORTS OF VILLAGE WOMEN HELPED TO DRIVE AWAY TIMBER MAFIA, ENABLING PEOPLE GET BACK THEIR LIVELIHOOD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 17: They take care of the forest surrounding their village for their own good. Now, the forest is taking care of them. Uparadikiri village of Kulurukumpa panchayat under Dasapalla block in Nayagarh district is surrounded by hills and forests - Chamaki hill, Othasara, Paimra, Gunjamba, Ghati Pahad, Kumbhi and Suakhai, to name a few. The village is inhabited by 22 families and all families except one are tribal families with a population of 125. For these villagers, the main source of livelihood is to collect forest produce and sell them in markets. But there was a time before 2019 when they found that the jungles were getting less dense and fruits, leaves, herbs and roots

were no longer available in abundance as before. As their financial condition deteriorated, some villagers even left the village. In those days, timber mafia was active in the jungles. However, it did not strike them that they were responsible for their financial problems. When they realised, the damage had already been done. Subsequently, the villagers united and called a meeting wherein they decided they will guard the jungles in turn. After finishing their daily chores, women folk camped in the jungles, keeping an eye on timber mafia. And it worked as the timber smugglers vanished gradually. The jungles got back their lost greenery and the villagers their smile. They are now collecting minor forest pro-



The jungles got back their lost greenery and the villagers their smile. They are now collecting minor forest produces like mushrooms, fruits, greens, sal leaves, roots and herbs round the year. In their leisure time, the female

members of these families stitch leaf plates and bowls and sell them in local markets, adding to their earning. The villagers are thankful to the women for their tireless efforts. "If we are happy now, it is because of the women of our village. It is their passion for jungle protection that has helped us to get back our lost sources of earning. Now, we are living happily," said village president Digambar Mallick and secretary Prasanna Kumar Jani.

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THE MOTHER



Climate, gender intertwined

Women account for 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, but account for only about 7% of investment in the sector. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, investing more in female farmers could increase agricultural yields by up to 30% - almost enough to offset the decline in output expected by 2030 because of climate change.

This is just one example of how climate and gender are deeply intertwined. Women's livelihoods often depend on forests, rivers, lakes, and oceans and their knowledge of these resources could spearhead conservation efforts. At the same time, women suffer more than men from climate change, because they tend to be poorer and often lack the financial wherewithal to recover from flooding, heat waves, or wildfires.

Though climate change profoundly affects women's lives, high-level climate discussions or policy initiatives rarely consider their conditions, needs, and views. This is both unjust and short-sighted. Climate projects need women's input to succeed, given the huge role they play as consumers, community leaders, workers, and entrepreneurs.

We already know that investing in women is good business. Enterprises in which women occupy at least half of the leadership positions have higher sales growth, are more profitable, and generate a better return on their assets. And because women make roughly 80% of consumer buying decisions, firms with stronger female representation often produce better-selling products.

But investing in women also makes good climate sense. Women are more likely than men to start businesses focused on sustainability. Companies with women on their boards are likely to improve energy efficiency, reduce costs, and invest in renewable power generation. Similarly, firms that increased female representation on their boards over a five-year period were 60% more likely to reduce the intensity of their energy consumption, 39% more likely to cut their greenhouse-gas emissions, and 46% more likely to lower their water use.

A growing number of investors evaluate companies not only on the basis of their financial performance, but also with a view to their environmental and biodiversity commitments and their efforts to promote gender equality. EcoEnterprises, a Latin America-based biodiversity investment firm, is tapping into that investor interest. It has a solid track record of helping environmentally sustainable businesses in the region to scale up their operations and provide economic opportunities for women in rural areas. Moreover, EcoEnterprises is owned and led by a woman, Tammy Newmark, and its management team is almost entirely female. The firm has raised money for three investment funds to date. The third fund - in which the European Investment Bank has invested about \$20 million - will allocate 15% of its capital to investments in women-owned or women-led companies, and will push for firms in its portfolio to employ women in 50% of jobs. Those objectives mean that the fund has qualified for the 2X Challenge, a global initiative supported by the EIB since its inception that aims to raise \$15 billion to enhance women's economic participation.

One EcoEnterprises investment, an organic orchard in Colombia, is hiring women to rebalance its male-dominated workforce and has promoted two to senior positions as head of human resources and chief operating officer. EcoEnterprises has also invested in EcoFlora Cares, a fast-growing Colombian producer of environmentally friendly natural colorants for the food and personal care industries. Founded by Sandra Zapata, the company is actively expanding its supply network to include more women.

Such investments show how biodiversity and gender equality can naturally complement each other. Focusing on the two objectives together enhances a project's impact while reducing risk. If done right, climate-change projects could provide a unique opportunity to invest in women's potential. The green economic transition is expected to create millions of jobs in the coming years. Ensuring that women have the skills to seize those new opportunities could help reduce persistent labour-market inequalities and gender-income gaps. But providing women with this chance requires integrating gender-sensitive policies into all aspects of job recruitment and promotion.

"Bridging the gender divide is not only a matter of justice for women and girls," UN Secretary-General António Guterres recently noted. "It's a game-changer for humanity." By directing climate resources effectively, the world could make significant - and simultaneous - progress in tackling both global warming and gender inequality.

The writer is Secretary-General of the European Investment Bank.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

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

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

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

WORDSWORTH

Caparisoned

Don't be confused by the first syllable: this English word doesn't imply a head covering, though it can be used for clothing. But there is a historical link, as some experts believe that caparisoned ultimately derives from the Latin word for a cap. The original caparison wasn't for humans. It was a cloth spread over the saddle or harness of a horse. Its source - through French - was Spanish caparazón for a saddlecloth (which may also be the source of carapace, for the upper shell of a tortoise, by inversion of the p and r through what's called metathesis). This probably came from capa, a short cape or hood, itself from Late Latin cappa, a cap. Our cape is from the same Latin word, though via Provençal and French instead. The link may be the idea that a cloth on the back of a horse is equivalent to a cape for a human. Medieval caparisons could be richly decorated, though that wasn't implied by its original meaning. However, almost as soon as it came into English it was being used for any sort of splendid or expensive covering, including that of the person. In The Winter's Tale Shakespeare created the confidence trickster Autolycus, the original "snapper-up of unconsidered trifles" (meaning he appropriated anything that had been left unguarded). When he appears, he wittily bemoans his caparison of rags and tatters, to which he had been reduced after too much gambling. Caparisoned often features in historical novels, especially nineteenth-century ones by writers such as Sir Walter Scott. It has dropped off in popularity since then and has become a semi-cliché, often preceded by words such as richly, ornately and finely.

ESCAPING BIBI'S SHADOWS

FOCUS ISRAEL



Shalom Lipner

THE ISRAELI CABINET IS LITERALLY A TEAM OF RIVALS, COMPRISING MINISTERS AFFILIATED WITH THE COUNTRY'S IDEOLOGICAL RIGHT, CENTER, AND LEFT

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett returned from this month's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) feeling buoyant. Hobnobbing with world leaders in Scotland lent credibility to his projected image as a worthy replacement to Binyamin Netanyahu, his polarising and larger-than-life predecessor who reigned supreme over Israel for more than 12 years. But Bennett's momentum - and his government - could be short-lived unless he is able to exercise prudent leadership in the months ahead.

In November, Israel's Knesset (parliament) passed new budget frameworks for 2021 and 2022 - a huge achievement for Bennett, given that the Knesset had not ratified a fiscal plan since March 2018. This triumph is a double-edged sword, however, because it might easily unleash political forces to precipitate his government's early demise.

The Israeli Cabinet is literally a team of rivals, comprising ministers affiliated with the country's ideological right, center, and left. Their commitment to working together was forged in the crucible of their shared antipathy toward Netanyahu. A similar aversion to Netanyahu's comportment and policies has been prevalent in certain foreign capitals, where leaders bristle at the prospect of his possible return to power. This has given Bennett additional ballast, while mitigating what would likely have been more vocal international criticism of Israel had Netanyahu remained in charge. In fact, Netanyahu is the proverbial superglue that has secured his successor tightly in place thus far.

That adhesive might be dissolving. One significant consequence of the approval of the 2021 Budget is the virtual neutralization of the Opposition, which requires 61 of the Knesset's 120 members to coalesce around the candidacy of an alternative premier - presumably Netanyahu - to unseat the current government. The haywire results of Israel's



Open policy conflicts within Israel's ideologically diverse government could ultimately render the fragile coalition untenable. Unless Prime Minister Naftali Bennett shows great political acumen in the months ahead, his predecessor, Binyamin Netanyahu, may yet exact revenge on his onetime acolyte

four recent, rapid-fire parliamentary elections, during which Netanyahu repeatedly failed to win the backing of 61 legislators, offer convincing proof of that scenario's implausibility. He now acknowledges dejectedly that it could take another three and a half years to topple Bennett's cohort.

Netanyahu's own spiral toward political irrelevance is further hindering his attempts to send Bennett packing prematurely. Although Likud remains the largest caucus in parliament, its declared boycott of Knesset committees has all but disintegrated, leaving the core of Netanyahu's putative government divided and in disarray. Increasingly preoccupied with court dates relating to corruption charges from his tenure as premier, Netanyahu also finds himself busy trying to assuage his frustrated allies, who had become accustomed to the trappings of power.

The resulting vacuum is providing Bennett and his ministers with the dubious luxury of breathing room to promote their respective partisan agendas as never before. Open conflict among the

coalition's erstwhile antagonists over the government's course could ultimately render their fragile alliance untenable. Suddenly, and paradoxically, the fledgling government is vulnerable to implosion.

Cabinet disputes erupted recently over the government's moves to criminalize six Palestinian agencies - the groups in question claim to be legitimate civil-society organizations, while Israel says they are connected to terrorist factions - and to greenlight the construction of new settler homes in the West Bank. Looming challenges emanating from serial flare-ups on Israel's borders with Gaza and Lebanon, a potential resumption of diplomatic negotiations concerning Iran's nuclear ambitions, and various items of domestic legislation also threaten to exacerbate intra-coalition tensions.

A parallel risk to the integrity of Bennett's coalition will come from quarters of the global community that have generally applauded his approach, but may now - with Netanyahu's specter having receded - exhibit less tolerance for Israel's policies of which

they disapprove. The Biden administration's reaction to Israel's latest settlement announcement was markedly more severe in tone, suggesting that a tipping point may have been reached.

Biden reportedly pledged a temporary delay in reopening the US consulate in Jerusalem - a move that Foreign Minister Yair Lapid warned "might destabilize this government" - until after Israel's Budget debate. This may have been a harbinger of mounting international demands for greater flexibility from Bennett. Having passed the Budget hurdle, Bennett may soon confront the limits of his power, and his premiership could come to an abrupt end if some of his cabinet partners see him as too compliant with foreign demands.

It is still unclear how much wiggle room Israel's allies will afford Bennett. They might prefer to abide by his more controversial actions if only to clear the path for Lapid - whom some may view as more amenable to their policy goals in the Middle East - to assume the premiership in August 2023, as envisaged under their coalition agreement.

In the meantime, Bennett will need to tread adroitly if he hopes to continue in office long enough to solidify the transformational changes he has begun to implement in domestic and foreign policy. Almost bereft of his electoral base, the Prime Minister will be anxious to court new voters, but will have to navigate cautiously through a minefield of other actors' clashing politics and principles.

The price of a misstep could be a fifth election contest against a revitalised Netanyahu (if he hangs on) or a new Likud leader - a contest Bennett may not survive.

The writer, a non-resident senior fellow for Middle East Programs at the Atlantic Council, served seven consecutive Israeli premiers over a quarter-century at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM AFGHANISTAN

Old foes poised against each other again



Asad Mirza

IT CAN BE DEDUCED THAT THE NEWFOUND LOVE FOR AFGHANIS AND AFGHANISTAN IS BASED ON THE HUNGER FOR THESE MINERALS IN THAT COUNTRY

India and Pakistan are poised against each other, to play a more proactive and constructive role in Afghanistan's redevelopment, trying to negate each other's initiatives.

The ascendancy of Taliban to power in Afghanistan almost two-and-a-half months ago, after the hasty and chaotic withdrawal of the US forces from the country had raised hopes that Afghanistan may see the dawn of a peaceful era and the Taliban 2.0 might be able to establish a stable and secure government in the country.

Since August, a lot of regional and multilateral meetings and conferences have been hosted to find a roadmap to lead Afghanistan to peace and stability, besides various countries' representatives meeting Taliban representatives in Doha.

Russia hosted the first regional conference titled Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan in which all the Central Asian republics, China, Iran, Pakistan and India and a high-level Taliban delegation also participated.

Its objective was to find "a regional consensus" amongst the participants regarding the Taliban 2.0. But the primary objective was

to get the Taliban to form a broad-based government in Kabul, reflecting the country's ethnic and religious diversity, ensure basic human rights of all Afghans, particularly the women and children, and get an assurance from the Taliban that Afghan territory will not be allowed to be used as a launchpad for terrorist attacks on other countries.

Soon after, Tehran hosted a similar conference of regional and neighbouring states to discuss how to deal with the Taliban. Once again, the de facto objective was to find a regional consensus and to pressurise the Taliban to adhere to its commitments. Its additional aim was to ensure the welfare and safety of the Hazara community and other Shias of Afghanistan.

However, the most curious meetings were hosted by India and Pakistan November 10 and 11 in New Delhi - called Delhi Regional Security Dialogue and Islamabad - called Troika Plus, respectively. It seems as if the two regional foes wanted to establish their supremacy over each other, in order to play a crucial role in the redevelopment of Afghanistan. But more curious play out during these meetings

was that no Taliban representative was present at either of the two, though the acting Foreign Minister of the Taliban government, Amir Khan Muttaqi was present in Islamabad from 10 to 12 November. In yet another twist Russia, issued a statement of its own after the release of the Delhi Declaration, based on a twist of words and technicalities, but this is uncalled for in diplomatic circles.

Now the question that arises is why are different regional and international players so interested in Afghanistan? The US which entered Afghanistan twenty years back, following the traces of its one time prodigy in the name of War on Terror; is also seen kowtowing to the same Taliban with which it fought for twenty long years.

The underlying reason seems to be based on reports, which originated at different times during the last twenty years, but were described as controversy theories and were brushed under the carpet. But now the turn of events shows that they indeed were true.

According to reports published by Afghanistan's Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, the country possesses at least \$1 trillion of un-

tapped mineral resources. A country of 38 million people is estimated to hold more than 2.2 billion tonnes of iron ore, 1.3 billion tonnes of marble and 1.4 million tonnes of rare earth minerals like Lithium, chromite, aluminium etc. besides gold and silver.

So it can be deduced that this newfound love for Afghans and Afghanistan is based on the hunger for these minerals. As far as India is concerned, it wants to play a constructive role in Afghanistan so as to ensure that the still present rogue terrorist elements in Afghanistan do not find their way to Indian Kashmir. Though it established contacts with Taliban, but was seen as lagging behind to pursue them proactively, perhaps because of internal political dynamics. It will have to take a calculated risk to engage with Taliban with foresight, so as to manage Pakistan's rude attitude on the issue, which considers Afghanistan as its protectorate and can't tolerate any Indian play. Only then India could claim to be a regional power.

The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi. Views expressed are personal.

IAN5

Corruption is like pandemic

Sir, The roots of corruption in India are so deep that it is impossible to uproot them. From the grassroots level to the very top positions, individuals are embroiled in corruption. Corruption is on the rise due to a lack of sincerity in the government's anti-corruption department. Most of the government employees are engaged in earning illegal money from the public as well as from government schemes. Vigilance and anti-corruption departments nab a few corrupted employees per month and the government suspends them. This has no effect on reducing corruption as suspension is not a punishment. It is a temporary detachment from assigned work with half pay. Corruption can be eradicated if the ruling party itself is honest and admonished. The inability of the government to provide clean and corruption-free governance has undermined the its abilities. The general public has been wondering as to when will the 'achche din' (good day) come? When will the system be corruption-free? Only time will tell.

Bishnu Prasad Das, CUTTACK

Dedicated force

Sir, In the never-ending battle between the police and the Maoists, the former is inching close to decimating the latter. The fierce 12-hour battle that culminated in the killing of more than 20 Maoists in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli Saturday is proof of this. The 500-strong C-60 jawans were too strong for the Naxals. Special training in guerilla warfare makes the C-60 unique. Set up in 1990, the special force is endowed with the singular aim of crushing the Maoists. These commandoes are tribals who are recruited from areas where the Maoists themselves pick their men. So, familiarity with the surroundings and rapport with the locals have acted as weapons in the C-60 armoury. Intelligence gathering has been a Maoist forte, and the C-60 jawans have succeeded in beating the opponents at their own game. An almost 79 per cent of the district has forest cover; the concerted police effort is all the more laudable. Amidst all this, the C-60 force is not content with merely taking on the Naxal might. Counselling the local tribals against giving-in to the Maoists' demands is on top of the C-60 agenda. Over the years, many Naxals have given up their violent ways in the Gadchiroli belt; the credit for the development should go to the C-60 force as well. A combination of humanitarian touch and taking the fight into the Maoists camp has paid rich dividends to the security personnel.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Param Bir declared 'proclaimed absconder'



The development follows an application filed by the Mumbai Police seeking a declaration to this effect with regard to Singh, who is 'untraceable' since several months now

as a 'Proclaimed Absconder' for his alleged involvement in an extortion case lodged against him. The development follows an application filed by the Mumbai Police seeking a declaration to this effect with regard to Singh, who is 'untraceable' since several months now. Allowing the police plea, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate SB Bhajipale passed the order against Singh. Earlier, courts in Mumbai and Thane had issued non-bailable warrants against the ex-Mumbai top cop, presently designated as Director-General, Maharashtra Home Guards. Besides Singh, the police had sought a similar declaration against two other co-accused in the same case - suspended policeman Riyaz Bhati and Vinay alias Bablu Singh. The three had been accused in

EXTORTION CASE
a case filed based on a complaint lodged by Mumbai hotelier Bimal Agarwal against the trio, besides dismissed cop Sachin Vaze, in an extortion case. Agarwal had alleged in his complaint that Singh and Vaze had extorted cash and valuables worth ₹11 lakh from him for not 'raiding' his restaurant in January 2020 and March 2021. Showing the NBWs against Singh to Bhajipale, advocate Shekhar Jagtap, appearing for the Mumbai Police, said that the police had deputed teams to execute the warrants at the last known addresses of the accused trio. However, they failed to trace them and also learnt that the accused have not visited their homes since the case was lodged against them, and their present where-

abouts are not known. There have been allegations from various politicians that Singh may have sneaked out of the country to evade action planned by the Mumbai Police against him in various cases. The police sought that the missing trio be declared as 'absconders' under the CrPC Section 82, which was allowed by Bhajipale. However, BJP's Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra, Pravin Darekar, dismissed the development, saying that the state government should concentrate on the burning issue of state transport (ST) strike. Well-known criminal lawyer Ujjwal Nikam said that with this, the police can initiate the formalities for serving the 30-day notice and then attach the movable and immovable assets of the accused.

in Mumbai Wednesday accepted a plea move by the Mumbai Police to declare ex-city Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh

Min under fire for using 'holy water' as sanitiser

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 17: Kerala Devasom Minister K Radhakrishnan has earned the public ire for treating the holy water of the famed Sabarimala temple as a hand sanitiser. The Devasom Minister arrived at the famed temple along with Travancore Devasom Board president Ananthagopan and local legislator Pramod Narayanan Monday to attend a temple function during which the priests opens the temple to prepare for welcoming devotees for the new fresh season, the next day. As is the custom, the priest pours the 'holy water' on the



Firefighters douse a fire that broke out at a shop near APMC market, in Navi Mumbai, Wednesday

POST TRIPURA VIOLENCE

Maha Cyber asks social media platforms to remove offensive posts

The cyber wing has identified at least 36 offensive posts on social media platforms

Mumbai, Nov 17: Maharashtra Cyber, a nodal agency for cyber security and investigation for the state, has asked different social media platforms to delete at least 36 offensive posts found circulating in the wake of alleged communal incidents in Tripura, an official said Wednesday. Last week, various places in Amravati, Nanded, Malegaon (Nashik), Washim and Yavatmal in Maharashtra had witnessed stone-pelting during rallies taken out by some organisations protesting the violence in Tripura. Maharashtra Cyber was constantly monitoring the social media platforms to avoid untoward incidents after the violence in Amravati, Nashik rural, Nanded, Yavatmal and Washim. The cyber wing has identified at least 36 offensive posts on social media platforms, most of them on Twitter, the official said. At least 25 such objectionable posts were found on Twitter, six on Facebook and five on Instagram. They were found posted on the platforms between November 12 and 15, he said. In those posts, the users had spread misinformation, which could have posed problems in terms of the law and order situation, the official said, adding that in some posts, videos and photos of violence were shared, which could hurt the sentiments of some community. Taking cognisance of those posts, Maharashtra Cyber sent letters to the concerned social media platforms, asking them to delete the posts. Accordingly, some posts have been deleted, while others will be removed soon, he said. On November 12, stone-pelting was witnessed in Amravati, Malegaon and some other cities in Maharashtra during rallies taken out by Muslim organisations protesting against the violence in Tripura. On November 13, a mob hurled stones at shops in Amravati's Rajkamal Chowk area during a bandh (shut-down) called by the BJP, prompting the police to impose curfew. Recently, Tripura witnessed incidents of arson, looting and violence after reports emerged from Bangladesh that the Hindu minorities there had been attacked during 'Durga Puja' on allegations of blasphemy.



It's curtains down on century-old ban on Dalit entry to this temple

During the annual festival of Jatadhari 'Devasthanam', Mohana climbed the 18 holy steps - forbidden steps in his case - and entered the temple complex, a centuries-old right reserved for the 'upper castes' in the village

Kasaragod, Nov 17: Three years ago, Krishna Mohana, a Dalit resident of a small village in the northernmost district of Kasaragod in Kerala, did something that was considered unthinkable for a person of his caste. During the annual festival of Jatadhari 'Devasthanam' a temple at Swarga in Enmakaje panchayat bordering Karnataka, Mohana climbed the 18 holy steps - forbidden steps in his case - and entered the temple complex, a centuries-old right reserved for the 'upper castes' in the village. A commotion followed, the police intervened and reached a compromise of sorts - it was decided that Dalits would be allowed into the temple. In a strange twist that followed, the temple administrators claimed to have lost the keys to the temple, effectively shutting it down for everyone in the village. A few days ago, a group of Dalits, led by Pattikajathi Kshema Samithi (PKS) from the district, entered the temple and climbed the very 18 steps that Mohana dared to traverse. In doing so, they effectively declared an end to the age-old custom that had been prevailing in the village, despite the historic Temple Entry Proclamation, which came into effect in the region in 1947, that abolished the ban on avarnas entering temples. The temple entry proclamation in the princely state of Travancore, now part of Kerala, that abolished the ban on avarnas entering temples was passed in 1936. The same came into effect in Kasaragod area which was under Malabar region in 1947. It's not just the ban on entry through the holy 18 steps, but Dalits are not even allowed to watch the Theyyam performance up close. They need to stand at a distance. Even to offer dakshina to the deity, the Dalits need to hand it over to a higher caste person, who in turn will deposit it before the deity. B.M Pradeep, the district secretary of PKS told PTI. He said PKS wants to put an end to the blatant discrimination. Talking to PTI, Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, K Radhakrishnan admitted that such evil practices are being followed by some still in our society and a government order alone will not be enough to end such practices. He said societal intervention is required to end this menace. Our parents and forefathers faced the worst kind of discrimi-

Famous magician Muthukad calls it a day

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 17: One of Kerala's popular figures, internationally reputed magician Gopinath Muthukad, Wednesday called time on his professional career. Henceforth, I will not hold any commercial magic shows. To organise a commercial magic show, one needs a lot of time and now that my priorities have changed, I want to work for the upliftment of phys-

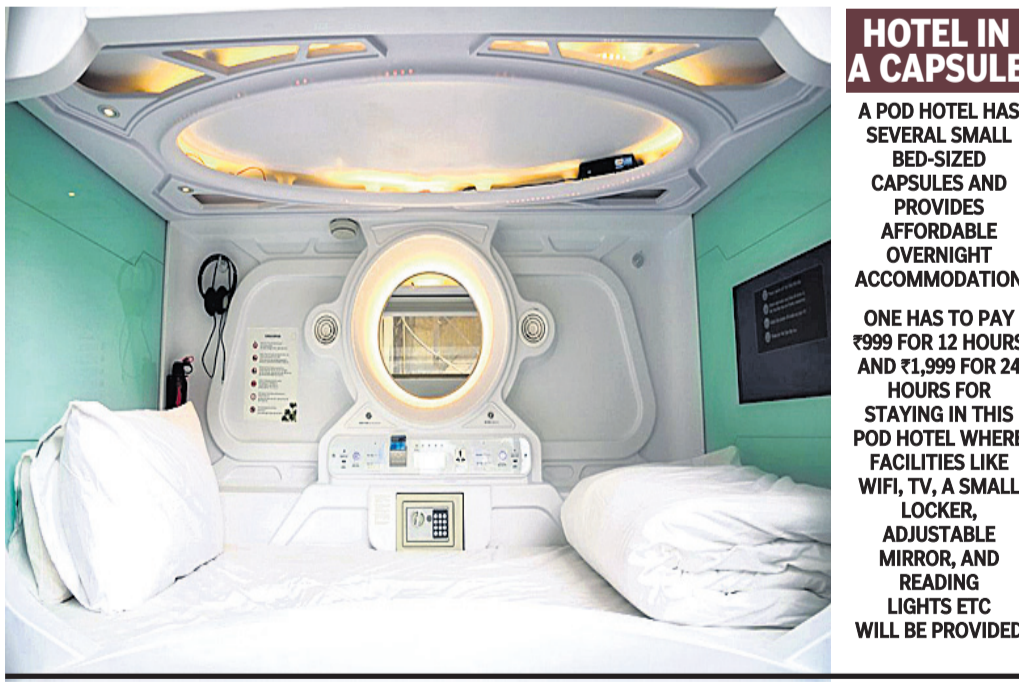


a university for them, which is my ultimate dream. I also wish to set up a sports complex and a skill centre, added Muthukad. In a professional career spanning over four decades, Muthukad has won numerous accolades, which include the International Merlin Award instituted by the International Magicians' Society. He is the first Keralaite to be honoured as the Celebrity Supporter by the UNICEF for promoting child rights in Kerala. In 1995, he became the first magician in the world to perform an escape act in a style similar to magic legend Harry Houdini's act of 1904. In his long career, he has staged over 8,000 shows across the world. He has also opened a Magic Academy in the state capital for the upliftment and promotion of magic to fight against all kinds of irrational beliefs, superstitions, violence and other evil practices existing in the society.

IN A FIRST

Pod hotel at Mumbai Central station

Mumbai, Nov 17: Passengers of Indian Railways and even common people can now avail of modern resting facilities at comparatively cheaper rates thanks to the first-of-its-kind pod hotel which has come up at the Mumbai Central station. According to a senior Western Railway (WR) official, one has to pay ₹999 for 12 hours and ₹1,999 for 24 hours for staying in this pod hotel where facilities like WiFi, TV, a small locker, adjustable mirror, and reading lights etc will be provided. A pod hotel has several small bed-sized capsules and provides affordable overnight accommodation. The first pod hotel on the Indian Railways was inaugurated virtually Wednesday by Union minister of state for Railways Raosaheb Danve from the Churchgate station in south Mumbai. The minister also inaugurated various passenger amenities via video link. Speaking at the event, Danve said passengers will get the accommodation at affordable rates at the pod-concept hotel, also known as capsule hotels. He also inaugurated a Railway Public Grievance office at the Churchgate station. Confirmed seats are not available for passengers who travel in general compartments of trains. Railways should ensure that the passengers are provided confirmed seats, he said.



HOTEL IN A CAPSULE
A POD HOTEL HAS SEVERAL SMALL BED-SIZED CAPSULES AND PROVIDES AFFORDABLE OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION
ONE HAS TO PAY ₹999 FOR 12 HOURS AND ₹1,999 FOR 24 HOURS FOR STAYING IN THIS POD HOTEL WHERE FACILITIES LIKE WIFI, TV, A SMALL LOCKER, ADJUSTABLE MIRROR, AND READING LIGHTS ETC WILL BE PROVIDED



On the occasion, Danve dedicated to people platforms at Ambernath and Kopar railway stations on the Mumbai suburban network, foot overbridges, escalators, lifts, and toilet blocks. He also inaugurated a coach-themed restaurant at CSMT and an executive waiting hall at CSMT and Mumbai Central railway stations. A reconstructed Road Over Bridge near Grant Road station and an integrated surveillance system on Mumbai suburban section of Western Railway were also inaugurated. Speaking on the occasion, opposition leader Devendra Fadnis requested Danve to revive proposed elevated corridor projects for boosting the carrying capacity on the Mumbai suburban corridors. Railway authorities had planned elevated corridors between Churchgate and Virar on Western Railway and CSMT-Panvel stations on Central Railway. Union minister Ramdas Athawale, who also attended the inauguration function, suggested the construction of malls at stations like Dadar, Sion, Kurla, and Churchgate so that passengers can do shopping while returning home. Alok Kansal, general manager of WR, said the total cost of the projects and facilities inaugurated on Wednesday was worth ₹230 crore. He said the pod concept hotel at the Mumbai Central station is the first-of-its-kind on the Indian Railways. Passengers can avail all modern facilities at comparatively cheaper rates at these pod concept rooms. Passengers, as well as the general public, can stay at the pod rooms by paying ₹999 for 12 hours and ₹1,999 for 24 hours, he added.

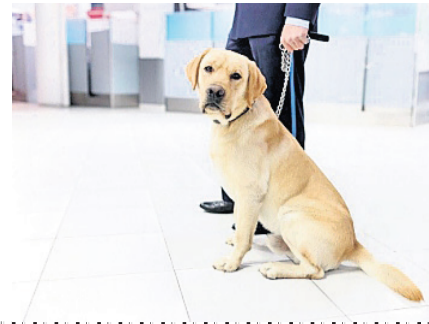
national



Democracy is not just a system but a natural tendency of India
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

TIGHT SECURITY

In an effort to strengthen the security design of Nabanna, Kolkata has decided to set up a dog squad at the state administrative headquarters



of the day quote

We are asking the government how much cruelty will you inflict. Kashmiris didn't go with Pakistan when it sent gunmen to Kashmir in 1947, Kashmiris rejected that. Today also Kashmiris cannot be cowed down with guns. Kashmiri won't surrender

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | J&K PDP CHIEF

System for permanent commission for women has been made in armed forces. The women had been demanding this for a long time. Now the force has decided to grant permanent commission to eligible women officers who qualify by merit. What can be a better example of women empowerment than this?

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Taxi and auto drivers from Delhi get 70 per cent of the credit for the formation of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the national capital

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

'Odd-even' rule in 4 Haryana districts

Gurugram: The Haryana government has announced to impose odd-even rule in four districts - Gurugram, Faridabad, Jhajjar and Sonapat -- from next week. A decision to this effect was taken in an emergency meeting called by Additional Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal Tuesday. It also decided that in 14 districts falling under the NCR, the government employees will work from home till November 22.

Heavy rain: Red alert in Chennai

Chennai: The Meteorological Department has issued a red alert in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, and Chengalpattu districts on heavy rainfall following a low pressure Wednesday and Thursday. The weather department predicted that low pressure was reaching the coast and this could lead to heavy rains in Chennai till Thursday night.

Protests held over Hyderpora encounter

Srinagar/Jammu: Protests were held at several places in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday over the Hyderpora encounter, demanding an inquiry into the killing of the three persons accused of having terror links and the handing over of their bodies. While voices calling for an independent probe grew louder, former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said he has been assured by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha that he would look into the issue "seriously".

AP Gov tests Covid positive

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan who was airlifted here Wednesday from Vijayawada for treatment, has been diagnosed with Covid-19. He had been indisposed Tuesday following his recent visit to Delhi. Brought to Hyderabad by special aircraft, Harichandan, 87, was admitted to a corporate hospital in the city Wednesday.

Model death: LoP seeks SIT probe

Kochi/Kozhikode: The Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, V D Sathesnan, Wednesday urged the government to constitute a Special Investigation Team to probe the recent car crash that killed three persons, including two models, "as local police probing the case are trying to protect someone."

Crisis in J&K Congress: Several leaders resign

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 17: The internal rift in the Congress party has surfaced again with Jammu and Kashmir leaders resigning from the party protesting over continuation of state Congress Chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir. Most of the leaders who have sent their resignation to Sonia Gandhi are said to be close to former Congress Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. The Azad loyalists want him to be appointed state President ahead of assembly polls in the state. The state leaders are miffed with Mir's style of functioning and his continuation in the post despite him and his son losing the Lok Sabha and the District Development Council elections.

As per sources, the resentment is also against the party's top leadership for neglecting the deterioration of the party in the union territory. The resignation letter reads, "Sycophants have captured and hijacked the functioning of the state Congress." The Congress is facing internal rift in several states and Sonia Gandhi has stepped in to resolve the issues.

On Wednesday, she met Oommen Chandy, the former Chief Minister of Kerala, Ashok Chavan of Maharashtra. She also met



Chhattisgarh Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo whose camp is pushing for a change of guard in the state.

Last week Sonia Gandhi had met former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot to resolve the issue between him and Ashok Gehlot in the state which has persisted for over a year.

The Congress state leaders are being miffed with the party's central leadership and are not in sync with the decision taken at the top level. In Gujarat, where the party is yet to appoint state President, local leaders have opposed any move to appoint a newcomer but wanted a veteran. The Congress problem goes on state after state where the party is out of power and in power. The party has witnessed rebellion in Punjab, Goa, Manipur, Odisha, MP and Assam as well.

Govt extends tenure of ED director by a year

New Delhi: The government Wednesday extended the tenure of ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra by a year till November 18, 2022, days after the Centre brought ordinances to allow ED and CBI directors to occupy the office up to five years. The extended tenure of Mishra, a 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income Tax Department cadre, was to end Thursday. The order issued by the department of revenue under the Union finance ministry said that the "President of India is pleased to extend the tenure of Shri Sanjay Kumar Mishra, IRS (IT:84006) as Director of Enforcement for a period of one year beyond 18.11.2021, ie, upto 18.11.2022, or until further orders, whichever is earlier."

India's ranking falls to 82nd spot

The bribery risk matrix assesses countries where officials are prone to demand bribes to carry out requirements of various companies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: India has slipped to 82nd position in 2021, five places down from 77th rank last year, in a global list that measures business bribery risks. The list has been published by "TRACE". It is an anti-bribery standard setting organisation, which measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.

According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Eritrea pose the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest. In 2020, India was ranked 77 with a score of 45 while this year, the country slipped five places down the order with a score of 44,



the TRACE data said. The bribery risk score is based on four factors - business interactions with the government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight which includes the role of the media. India however, fared better than its neighbours - Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh. Bhutan, meanwhile, secured 62nd rank, the data showed.

DELHI POLLUTION

Bureaucracy has developed inertia: SC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Centre and states to ensure implementation of the decisions taken in a meeting to curb air pollution, observing that it cannot get into the "nitty gritty" and the bureaucracy has developed a "sort of inertia" of not taking decisions which left to the courts to pass orders.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in the NCR and Adjoining Areas, which held the meeting at the direction of the apex court Tuesday with the Centre, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan, came out with a slew of emergency steps to deal with industrial pollution, thermal plants, vehicular emissions, dust control, diesel generators as well as encouraging work from home.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, which heard the case for over two hours, said, "Enough is enough. We cannot get into all the nitty-gritty of the issue. You please take the steps to deal with the emergency situation".

Referring to the affidavits of the Centre and others, the bench, also comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant, said that at one place they could have said the actions they proposed to take to deal with the situation. The CJ then said: "Over a period of time what I am observing, as a judge and an Advocate General, is that the bureaucracy, completely, I think has developed some sort of inertia. They don't want to take a decision. How to stop a car, seize a vehicle, how to stop



AIR EMERGENCY

Delhi government issued 10 directions, including a ban on the entry of trucks carrying non-essential items in the city and closure of schools and colleges till further orders, even as the air quality improved marginally due to a dip in emissions from farm fires

Worsening air quality in India's capital New Delhi has led to a spike in chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma among children, and prolonged exposure to deadly pollutants could impair their cognitive development, doctors said

The Delhi government has banned construction and demolition activities in the city till November 21

It has also ordered its employees to work from home till Sunday

a fire has to be done by this court. Everything we have to do. This is an attitude developed by the Executive."

"It is apathy and just apathy," he said while fixing the case for further hearing November 24. The bench, which did not pass any directions, asked the Centre and the states to implement the measures, decided in the meeting, to curb the pollution.

"People sitting in five and seven star hotels here keep blaming farmers, that 4-5 per cent is at-

tributed to them. After agrarian laws, what happened to their land holdings? With such small land holdings, can they afford these machines? If you actually have any scientific alternative, propose it to them, they will adopt them," it said. It has been acknowledged that vehicular pollution is the major source of pollution and still "gas guzzlers and hi-fi cars" are plying on Delhi roads and nothing is being done, the bench said.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the

TV debates creating more pollution: SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed its dissatisfaction with the content of debates on television, on court connected matters, and said that TV debates are causing more air pollution than anything else. At the beginning of the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted before a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, that the Centre did not mislead the court on the exact contribution of stubble burning, 4 per cent in winters and 7 per cent in summers, and data in the report was an annual average basis. Mehta said some nasty statements were made in TV studios in connection with

Centre, alleged that he has been targeted in TV debates with "nasty utterances" about his submissions on contribution of stubble burning to the air pollution in Delhi-NCR and they claimed that he had misled the court.

Mehta then listed the steps proposed in the meeting like banning entry of all trucks in the national capital except vehicles carrying essential goods, shutting of schools and 50 per cent attendance in offices of GNCTD to reduce air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

All industries in NCR having gas connectivity shall be run only on a gas fuel failing which industries concerned shall be closed, he said, adding, "out of seven thermal plants located within 300 km radius of Delhi 5 power plants shall be allowed to schedule their operations and the rest shall remain inoperative at least till November 30".

FLYING HIGH



Hot air balloons fly from Domri at the launch of the International Balloon Festival in Varanasi

ARMY GEARS UP FOR HARSH WINTER ALONG BORDER WITH CHINA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 17: Indian forces are gearing up for harsh winter deployment along the border with China amid a 19-month long face-off in Ladakh region.

To ensure that all logistic supports are provided in real time, Indian Air Force and Indian Army carried out a joint airlift exercise, 'Op Hercules' on November 15. It aimed to strengthen the logistics supply in the Northern sector and to augment winter stocking in the operational areas.

"The platforms utilised for the airlift were C-17, IL-76 and An-32 aircraft, which took off from one of the forward bases of Western Air Command," the Indian Army said.

The effort was a real-time demonstration of the inherent heavy lift capability of the Indian Air Force, which has played a major role in ensuring the ability to quickly respond to any contingency during the past, the force said. Indian troops are deployed at a height of around 17,000 feet along borders and they require high-altitude gear. The force has to be ready to sustain the enhanced troop deployment in the harsh winter at friction points where temperatures will soon start dipping beyond minus 20 degrees Celsius.

Chandrayaan-2 performs manoeuvre to avoid collision with NASA orbiter

A very close conjunction between Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter (CH2O) and LRO of NASA was expected to occur October 20 this year at 05:45 UTC (11:15 am IST) near the Lunar North pole

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Nov 17: India's Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft performed an evasive manoeuvre to avoid collision with NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), according to ISRO.

A very close conjunction between Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter (CH2O) and LRO of NASA was expected to occur on October 20 this year at 05:45 UTC (11:15 am IST) near the Lunar North pole, the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said in a statement.

Over a span of one week prior to the conjunction, analyses by both ISRO and JPL/NASA consistently showed that the radial separation between the two spacecraft would be less than 100 metres and the closest approach distance would be only about three km at the time of closest approach.

Both the agencies deemed that the situation warranted a collision avoidance manoeuvre (CAM) to mitigate the close approach risk, and it was mutually agreed that



CH2O would undergo the CAM. The manoeuvre was scheduled October 18.

It was designed to ensure a sufficiently large radial separation at the next closest conjunction between the two spacecraft. The CAM was executed nominally at 14:52 UTC (8:22 pm IST), October 18. After orbit determination of CH2O with post-maneuvre tracking data, it was confirmed that there would be no further close conjunctions with LRO in the near future with the achieved orbit, ISRO said. It may be noted that like CH2O, LRO orbits the Moon in a nearly polar

orbit and hence, both the spacecraft come close to each other over the Lunar poles. It is common for satellites in Earth Orbit to undergo CAM to mitigate collision risk due to space objects including space debris and operational spacecraft. ISRO said it regularly monitors such critical close approaches and execute CAMs for its operational satellites whenever the collision risk is assessed to be critical. "However, this is the first time such a critically close conjunction was experienced for a space exploration mission of ISRO which necessitated an evasive manoeuvre", the statement said. The event high-

BIG DISCOVERY

Bangalore: The exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), has discovered a new exoplanet orbiting too close to an evolved or aging star with a mass of 1.5 times that of Sun and located 725 light years away, according to Indian Space Research Organisation. This discovery was made using PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search (PARAS) optical fiber-fed spectrograph, the first of its kind in India, on the 1.2 metre Telescope of PRL at its Mt. Abu Observatory, the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said in a statement.

lights the importance of continual assessment of close approach situations for Lunar and Martian missions, and the fact that effective mitigation of close approach risk involves close coordination and synergy among different space agencies, it was stated.

Kartarpur corridor reopens for pilgrims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dera Baba Nanak (Punjab), Nov 17: Several pilgrims travelled through the Kartarpur Corridor Wednesday and others made plans to offer prayers at the historic Sikh shrine in Pakistan as the route reopened after a 20-month gap.

Kanwaljeet Sodhi, a resident of Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur, said, "There were no limits to our happiness when we came to know of the reopening of the Kartarpur Corridor and this joy cannot be described in words."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said Tuesday that the government has decided to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor from Wednesday. The Kartarpur Corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district. Gurdaspur, which marks the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, will be celebrated on November 19.

Pilgrimage to the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara was suspended in March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) said the pilgrimage to the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara commenced on Wednesday and added that it facilitated travel of pilgrims through the corridor.

international



The fusion of two civilizations (India and Israel) and two deep cultures are remarkable. I believe in that fusion. I believed it then and I believe it now
NAFTALI BENNETT | PM, ISRAEL

'MISS HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'

An 86-year-old woman, Selina Steinfeld, who survived mass roundups and massacres of Jews as a child in Romania was crowned Tuesday as Israel's 'Miss Holocaust Survivor'. Ten women in their 80s and 90s took part in the special pageant



of the day quote

Afghanistan's interim government will also be invited to the next meeting of Afghanistan's neighbours
SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI | FOREIGN MINISTER, PAKISTAN

I have received information that Lukashenko has provided the first buses which migrants are boarding and leaving. The camp site near Kuznica is slowly emptying
MACIEJ WASIK | DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER, POLAND

We have to do this hand-in-hand and beyond that, as two strong, vibrant democracies at a time when democracies are under some challenge I think the example we set is more important than ever
ANTHONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE

SHORT TAKES

Iran again raising nuclear stockpile

Berlin: The United Nations' atomic watchdog says it believes Iran has further increased its stockpile of highly enriched uranium in breach of a 2015 accord with world powers. The International Atomic Energy Agency told member nations in its confidential quarterly report Wednesday that Iran has an estimated stock of 17.7 kilogrammes (39 pounds) of uranium enriched to up to 60 per cent fissile purity, an increase of almost 8 kilograms since August.

75 yrs of political ties for US, Nepal

Kathmandu: Two senior US officials will visit Nepal to address challenges like Covid-19, climate change and strengthening democracies as the two nations mark their 75 years of diplomatic relations, the US embassy here said. While US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu will arrive in Kathmandu Wednesday, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Kelly Keiderling will arrive here Thursday, it said in a press statement.

Swiss govt allows same-sex marriage

Geneva: Switzerland's executive body announced Wednesday that same-sex couples can get married starting July 1 next year, making good on the resounding support Swiss voters expressed in a referendum. The Federal Council officially said that starting January 1, Switzerland would recognise the marriages of same-sex couples. In setting a date for the "Marriage for All" law approved by voters in September to take effect, the council said that civil partnerships would no longer be possible in Switzerland as of July 1.

Stir in SL over poor economy, shortages

Colombo: Thousands of people Tuesday protested in Sri Lanka's capital against deteriorating economic conditions amid fuel and other shortages. The demonstrations in Colombo were led by the country's main opposition political party, the United People's Force, which has blamed the economic crisis on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government. The march came as Sri Lankan Parliament debated the national budget for 2022.

World's most polluted city Lahore chokes in smog

LAHORE HAD AN AIR QUALITY RANKING OF 348, WELL OVER THE HAZARDOUS LEVEL OF 300, ACCORDING TO IQAIR

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Lahore, Nov 17: The Pakistani city of Lahore was declared the most polluted city in the world by an air quality monitor Wednesday, as residents choking in acrid smog pleaded with officials to take action.

Lahore had an air quality ranking of 348, well over the hazardous level of 300, according to IQAir, the Swiss technology company that operates the AirVisual monitoring platform.

"Children are experiencing breathing diseases...for God's sake, find a solution," labourer



Muhammad Saeed told AFP.

Air pollution has worsened in Pakistan in recent years, as a mix-

ture of low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal crop burn off, and colder winter tempera-

tures coalesce into stagnant clouds of smog.

Lahore, a bustling megacity of more than 11 million people in Punjab province near the border with India, consistently ranks among the worst cities in the world for air pollution.

In recent years residents have built their own air purifiers and taken out lawsuits against government officials in desperate bids to clean the air -- but authorities have been slow to act, blaming the smog on India or claiming the figures are exaggerated.

"We are poor people, can't even

afford a doctor's charges," shopkeeper Ikram Ahmed told AFP.

We can only plead with them to control the pollution. I am not a literate person, but I have read that Lahore has the worst air quality. If it continues like this, we will die.

"Before, I used to come (for a walk) with my children but now I don't bring them out with me," Saeed the labourer said.

There are factories and small industries operating here, either shift them somewhere else, give them compensation or provide them with modern technology, so we can get rid of this smog.

WHO: Europe only region with rising COVID deaths



ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 17: The World Health Organisation says coronavirus deaths in Europe rose by 5 per cent in the last week, making it the only region in the world where COVID-19 mortality increased.

The UN health agency said confirmed cases jumped 6 per cent globally, driven by increases in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

In its weekly report on the pandemic issued late Tuesday, WHO said COVID-19 deaths in all regions other than Europe remained stable or declined, and totaled 50,000 worldwide last week. Of the 3.3 million new infections reported, 2.1 million came from Europe.

It was the seventh consecutive week that COVID-19 cases continued to mount across the 61 countries WHO counts in its European region, which stretches through Russia to central Asia.

While about 60 per cent of people in Western Europe are fully immunized against COVID-19, only about half as many are vaccinated in the eastern part of the continent, where officials struggle to overcome widespread vaccine hesitancy.

WHO said infections have been falling in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia since July.

Within Europe, WHO said the highest numbers of new cases were in Russia, Germany and Britain. It noted that deaths jumped by 67 per

Germany's Covid dramatic: Merkel

BERLIN: Germany's coronavirus situation is dramatic, Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday, calling for a push to distribute booster shots faster and appealing to those sceptical of vaccination to change their minds. Earlier Wednesday, the Robert Koch Institute reported that confirmed cases had increased by 52,826 as the pandemic's fourth wave tightened its grip on Europe. "It is not too late to opt for a first vaccine shot," she told a congress of German city mayors. "Everyone who gets vaccinated protects himself and others. And if enough people get vaccinated that is the way out of the pandemic." She added that there needs to be a "national effort" to get mass distribution of vaccine booster shots underway, since the protection offered by vaccines began to dwindle six months after the second dose.

cent in Norway and by 38 per cent in Slovakia. The health agency previously described Europe as being the epicenter of the ongoing pandemic and warned that there could be 500,000 more deaths by January if urgent actions aren't taken.

Inflation in UK surges to highest rate in a decade



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 17: UK inflation surged to the highest level in nearly a decade in October as energy costs soared and prices rebounded after sharp declines during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to government statistics released Wednesday.

The Office for National Statistics said consumer price inflation accelerated to 4.2 per cent in the 12 months through October, from 3.1 per cent the previous month. The increase, which was bigger than expected, pushed inflation to the highest level since November 2011.

Gas and electricity prices for millions of households jumped by 12 per cent in October after UK regulators increased the re-

tail price cap to reflect soaring wholesale energy costs. Higher prices for used cars, fuel, restaurant meals and hotel rooms also drove inflation.

"Costs of goods produced by factories and the price of raw materials have also risen substantially and are now at their highest rates for at least 10 years," Office for National Statistics chief economist Grant Fitzner said.

ONS also cautioned that annual inflation statistics are being influenced by the effects of coronavirus-related lockdowns that triggered "dramatic declines" in some prices last year. These unusually low prices are now the starting point for calculating 12-month price increases, causing short-term "distortions" in the figures.

China, US to ease curbs on each other's journos

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Nov 17: China and the US have agreed to ease restrictions on each other's journalists amid a slight relaxation of tensions between the two sides.

The official China Daily newspaper Wednesday said the agreement was reached ahead of Tuesday's virtual summit between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden.

The agreement represents a degree of progress on an issue that has long aggravated relations, but details remain to be ironed out. COVID-19 travel restrictions and long-standing obstacles faced by foreign media within China are also factors stand-

ing in the way of a major breakthrough in media relations.

Under the agreement, the US will issue one-year multiple-entry visas to Chinese journalists and will immediately initiate a process to address "duration of status" issues, China Daily said. China will reciprocate by granting equal treatment to US journalists once the US policies take effect, and both sides will issue media visas for new applicants "based on relevant laws and regulations," the report said.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian gave no information on a timeline for implementation, but called the agreement a "hard-won achievement that is in the interest of both sides and should be cherished."



A silhouette of a deer is seen during the rutting season in Richmond Park, London, Britain

REUTERS

Qatar accused of traumatic searches of women at airport

WOMEN ON 10 QATAR AIRWAYS FLIGHTS FROM DOHA WERE SUBJECTED TO THE SEARCHES, INCLUDING CITIZENS OF FRANCE, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, WHERE THE LEGAL CASE IS NOW BEING BROUGHT

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Brisbane, Nov 17: One of the women pulled off a plane at Doha airport and forced to undergo an invasive gynaecological search told AFP Wednesday that she feels "disrespected and disregarded" by Qatari authorities and is still "terrified" of travelling a year later.

The French woman in her fifties, who asked not to be named, was among a group who were subjected to intrusive examinations in October 2020 as authorities tried to identify the mother of a newborn abandoned in an airport bathroom.

Seven women are now launching legal action against Qatar Airways

and Qatari authorities, seeking redress for an ordeal that sparked condemnation and global attention ahead of the country hosting the 2022 World Cup.

The woman said she remained "absolutely terrified" at the thought of travelling again.

"I don't think that there's been a single day when I haven't thought about it," she told AFP. "It's still very much present in my mind."

She was among a group of female passengers escorted off a Sydney-bound plane late at night without explanation.

The woman said she grew increasingly nervous as they were led through Hamad International



Airport and split into smaller groups, before being taken to the tarmac where armed officers stood

near several parked ambulances. "It was intimidating because there were a lot of policemen

Seven women are now launching legal action against Qatar Airways and Qatari authorities, seeking redress for an ordeal that sparked global condemnation

around and they all (had) heavy guns," she said.

Finally, an official told the assembled women they would be checked to see if one of them was the mother, sending her into "panic mode" at the thought of the gy-

naecological examination.

"I didn't feel, and I think that none of the women felt, that we had a choice," she said.

"They didn't say 'You have a right to say no'... They just said you do that, and then you go back to the plane."

Women on 10 Qatar Airways flights from Doha were subjected to the searches, including citizens of France, New Zealand and Australia, where the legal case is now being brought.

The woman, who was travelling alone, said the experience was "traumatic" and left the affected passengers in shock.

INDIA AT UNSC

'TERRORISTS ENJOY FREE PASS IN PAK'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Nov 17: Terrorists enjoy free pass in Pakistan, which has an established history and policy of actively supporting them and holds the ignoble record of hosting the largest number of militants proscribed by the UN Security Council, India has said, slamming Islamabad at the UN Security Council.

"I'm constrained to take the floor once again to respond to some frivolous remarks made by the representative of Pakistan earlier today," Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Kajal Bhat said in the UN Security Council Tuesday.

"This is not the first time the representative of Pakistan has misused platforms provided by the UN to propagate false and malicious propaganda against my country and seeking in vain to divert the world's attention from the sad state of his country where terrorists enjoy a free pass while the lives of ordinary people, especially those belonging to the minority communities are turned upside down," she said.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador R Ravindra had already delivered the national statement at the UNSC open debate on 'Maintenance of International Peace and Security Through Preventive Diplomacy'.

Bhat took the floor to make a second statement in the Council after Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Munir Akram raked the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his remarks at the open debate.

Af urges US to unfreeze assets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kabul, Nov 17: Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has written an open letter to US Congress, calling on the US to unfreeze Afghanistan's assets, the ministry confirmed in a statement Wednesday.

Despite the fact that following the signing of the Doha Agreement in February 2020, we no longer find ourselves in direct conflict with one another nor are we a military opposition, what logic could possibly exist behind the freezing of our assets? Muttaqi was quoted in the statement as saying.

At a time when we have an excellent opportunity for positive relations, reaching for the option of sanctions and pressure cannot help improve our relations, he said.

The Afghan economy after the Taliban's takeover in mid-August has suffered from the US freezing of over \$9 billion in assets belonging to the Afghan central bank as well as a halt in funds by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Xinhua news agency reported.

It is necessary for both sides to take positive steps in order to build trust, Muttaqi said.

Afghanistan is concerned that with no change in the current situation, the Afghan people will face greater difficulties and the country will become a source of mass migration in the region and the world, which will create more humanitarian and economic problems for the world, he noted.

of the day quote

National Single Window System (NSWS) has been launched to serve as a one-stop-shop for approvals and clearance needed by investors

PIYUSH GOYAL | MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Net zero commitment by 2070 is "massively net positive for India" as it would prompt the country to cut down imports of fossil fuels and reduce air pollution

JAYANT SINHA | BJP MP AND FORMER UNION MINISTER

Money laundering and lack of clarity on valuations are the primary concerns of central banks in being circumspect about the introduction of cryptocurrencies

NS VISHWANATHAN | FORMER RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Fuel prices remain steady

New Delhi: Consumers continue to get relief from rising fuel prices with oil marketing companies (OMCs) keeping pump prices of petrol and diesel unchanged post revision of duties by the state governments on Diwali eve. Accordingly, their prices remained static for 13th consecutive day Wednesday under the daily price revision mechanism followed by oil marketing companies. The pump price of petrol in Delhi, which fell to ₹103.97 a litre at am on the Diwali day November 4 from previous day's ₹110.04 a litre, remains the same. The diesel rates also remained unchanged in the capital at ₹86.67 a litre. In the financial capital Mumbai, petrol continues to be priced at ₹109.98 a litre and diesel ₹94.14 a litre.

FHRAI's plea for relief on LPG

New Delhi: India's apex Hospitality Association - Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) has submitted a representation, requesting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide immediate relief to the Hospitality industry from the abnormal increase in the cost of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG). The Association has requested that the tax rate charged on LPG supplied to standalone restaurants be reduced from the current 18 per cent to 5 per cent. It has stated that since standalone restaurants are not allowed to claim ITC, this move will help reduce the cost burden on restaurants. FHRAI said that restaurants, especially standalone, do not have any more headroom left to absorb such a steep increase in input costs.

NMDC workers hold protest

New Delhi: NMDC workers Wednesday staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar here against the demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant and government stake sale in the company. "We will protest tomorrow also. We will be giving a representation to the Labour Minister regarding this," Sant Ram Sethia, Nagarnar Steel Plant Workers' Union President, said. Rajesh Sandhu, Secretary of NMDC Sanyukt Khadaan Mazdoor Sangh, which represents workers at the NMDC operated mines, said over 200 employees of the company have gathered in the national capital for the two-day protest. "We are against the selling of the government's stake in the company. If this continues, one day the company will be privatised," Sandhu said.



An Indo-Pacific economic framework could be launched at the start of next year, and her Asia visit was to lay the groundwork for potential partnerships

GINA RAIMONDO | US COMMERCE SECRETARY

SABEER BHATIA BACK IN BUSINESS

Bhatia launched ShowReels, a purpose-driven social video platform that will match job seekers with companies looking for talent. The platform will enable job seekers to build their own professional video profile



Sebi proposes stricter IPO norms as startups listings gather pace

The proposals come amid a record ₹1-trillion-plus mop-up through IPOs this year, the bulk of which came from new-age and loss-making companies



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 17: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed to tweak rules governing initial public offerings (IPOs) to bring in more transparency and accountability. The market regulator has sought a cap on the amount companies, mainly start-ups, can raise for inorganic growth initiatives and also on the quantum existing shareholders can offload in the IPO. Further, Sebi has proposed to increase the lock-in period for anchor investors from 30 days to 90 days. It has also called for the monitoring of IPO proceeds. The proposals come amid a record ₹1-trillion-plus mop-up through IPOs this year, the bulk of which came from new-age and loss-making companies. The regulator Tuesday issued a consultation

paper in this regard. Sebi has invited market feedback before the end of this month, after which it will firm up the rules. "It is seen that lately in some of the draft offer documents, issuer companies are proposing to raise fresh funds for objects where object is termed as 'Funding of Inorganic Growth Initiatives', which include future acquisitions, investing in new business initiatives and strategic partnerships by the company without identifying the target acquisition or specific investments proposed to be deployed out of issue proceeds... raising fund for unidentified acquisition leads to some amount of uncertainty in the IPO objects," Sebi said in the paper. Start-up IPOs such as Zomato, Policy Bazaar, and Paytm had stated objects of the issue as funding acquisitions and growth initiatives. "Sebi wants to limit the end use

Sebi introduces investor charter

NEW DELHI: Market regulator Sebi Wednesday came out with investor charter for investors in securities market which aims at protecting investors' interest. The charter includes rights and responsibilities of investors and dos and don'ts of investing in securities market, as per a public notice. The vision of the investor charter is "to protect the interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner." The rights include getting fair and equitable treatment, expecting redressal of investor grievances filed in SCORES in a time-bound manner.

of funds raised if the objective of IPO proceeds is not specific. It wants to encourage definitive end-use plans from companies going for IPOs. This will help in better monitoring and help safeguard investors," said Supreme Waskar, a corporate lawyer. The current rules allow companies to raise up to 25 per cent of their IPO proceeds under a vague head of "general corporate purpose (GCP)". Sebi has prescribed a combined limit of 35 per cent of the fresh issue size for deployment on such objects of inorganic growth initiatives and GCP.

Jio tops in 4G download speed chart, VI in upload

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released the 4G download speed data in which Reliance Jio topped the chart in Odisha with 21.9 megabit per second (Mbps) in October, 2021. Trai's report says that Vodafone-Idea stood second in the download speed chart with 15.6 Mbps in October in the state followed by Bharti Airtel with an average 4G download speed of 13.2 Mbps. Meanwhile, Vodafone-Idea stood first in the 4G upload speed category in October. VI registered 7.6 Mbps speed, followed by Jio with an average upload speed of 6.4 Mbps and Airtel with 5.2 Mbps average upload speed, the data said. The download speed helps consumers in accessing content from the Internet, while upload speed helps them in sending or sharing pictures, video etc. The average speed is computed by Trai on the basis of data it collects from across India with the help of its MySpeed application on a real-time basis. As per the data published by Trai on its MySpeed portal, Jio also topped in average 4G download speed in Odisha with 35 Mbps followed by VI with 8.3 Mbps and Bharti Airtel with 6.6 Mbps. In terms of average 4G upload speed in Odisha, VI topped with 8.3 Mbps followed by Reliance Jio with 8 Mbps and Airtel with 2.9 Mbps average 4G upload speed, according to data published by Trai.

Govt to invite bids for privatisation of 6 PSUs by Dec-Jan

BPCL case is in due diligence stage with three bidders said to be keen in acquiring the OMC; BEML, Shipping Corp and Pawan Hans among others on the block



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 17: The government will invite financial bids for privatisation of five to six public sector undertakings (PSUs) in December-January, and close these transactions in the current financial year, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said. After 19 years, privatisation of five to six PSUs will take place this year itself, Pandey said at the Global Economic Policy Summit. BEML, Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Pawan Hans, Central Electronics, Nilachal Ispat Nigam are the PSUs the government is looking to privatise this year, he said. Pandey said privatisation of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd

(BPCL) is in the due diligence stage. Three bidders have reportedly shown interest in acquiring the oil marketing company. "These are the transactions which we think that financial bidding can take place in December-January, and we can actually privatise them during this year itself," Pandey said. While there is a consultative process at the official and ministerial level to accomplish things faster, the Cabinet Secretary also held a meeting to further simplify the process, he said. The government is also working to launch the initial public offering of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in January-March, Pandey said. This IPO will be a big event for markets, he added.

Odisha handloom's bid to create new markets



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Odisha handloom clusters might soon get a new impetus from the world's largest manufacturer of loyocell. The Lenzing Group of Austria along with Dr Binaya Bhusan Jena, a professor at NIFT, Bhubaneswar, and chairman of Textile Association of India (TAI), Odisha unit, has taken a unique initiative to introduce Tencel Luxe filament yarn in the handloom clusters of Odisha. Jena, in the past, had also taken initiatives to introduce modal fibre in the handloom clusters of Odisha. Tencel Luxe is now keen to support Indian handloom sector to promote the artisan handloom products in the global market. Recently Tencel Luxe fabrics made at Indian handloom clusters in Jharkand were displayed in a leading show in London Fashion Week. "Tencel Luxe is a vegan and sustainable alternative to silk, which

is accepted globally. Hence artisans in Odisha, particularly in the handloom silk clusters, supported under this programme can reach global markets with a wide range of products. We have identified handloom weavers in nearby clusters like Nuapatna and Gopalpur to initially experiment 'Tencel Luxe yarn along with silk of different varieties', said Dr Jena, who is heading the initiative in Odisha. This initiative is supported by Tencel Luxe team in India comprising Dr Pranesh Sridharan, Ganesh Jadhav and Manish Tayade, under the guidance of Vineet Singh, senior vice-president. The India team believes that their interventions can further strengthen the handloom sector in India. "The handloom clusters, particularly the silk-based handloom clusters, can have more options to explore different combination of fabrics by blending Tencel Luxe filament yarn with silk. The smoothness, drapability and colour vibrancy would be better with such blends in the handloom products, be it sarees, dupattas or stoles," said Dr Jena. Dr Pranesh from the Lenzing team believes that handloom fabrics containing Tencel Luxe filaments can help make better quality diversified products in the handloom clusters for different market segments both in the domestic and international market.

BRAINSTORMING



Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant (R) with other officials participates in a conference on Creating Synergies for Seamless Credit Flow and Economic Growth in New Delhi, Wednesday

IndiGo mulls charging fliers for check-in baggage

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 17: IndiGo, one of Asia's biggest budget carriers, is mulling charging passengers for checked-in luggage as the airline prepares for a potentially fierce price war in India's cutthroat air travel market, which is showing signs of recovery following the worst of Covid. IndiGo, operated by InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., didn't implement



the so-called unbundling of fares in February - just before a deadly wave of the pandemic hit the South Asian nation - even as India's Directorate General of Civil

Aviation ruled that carriers can start offering zero baggage and no check-in baggage fares. Regulatory caps on fares and capacity related to Covid prevented IndiGo from taking a decision at the time, Chief Executive Officer Ronojoy Dutta said in an interview on Tuesday. "We have been talking to the government about that," Dutta said. "We're waiting for everything to settle down before we lock something." IndiGo joins Go Airlines India

Ltd., which is also looking to unbundle baggage charges from air tickets to position itself as an ultra-low cost carrier. IndiGo's move to make ticket prices even cheaper will intensify competition among carriers known for driving fares so low they barely, and often don't, cover costs. The crushing price wars have put many airlines out of business in what was one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets before the pandemic.

WILL GASOLINE PRICES DROP IN 2022?

REUTERS

New York, Nov 17: Whether fuel pump prices fall in 2022 depends on two groups of producers who are struggling to increase oil output in the wake of the pandemic: OPEC and its allies and US shale firms. The global oil industry's slow response to the surging demand in 2021 has contributed to soaring energy costs and inflationary pressures worldwide. As the economy recovers and populations resume road, rail and air travel, global oil demand has nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. Supply has not recovered so fast - so to keep up with demand, the industry is burning through oil kept in storage. Benchmark oil prices have surged to multi-year highs over

\$86 a barrel, and some economists warn crude could surpass \$100 a barrel, threatening the recovery. The International Energy Agency (IEA) expects the roughly 100 million barrels per day (bpd) market to flip into surplus in the first quarter next year, and for supply to outpace demand by 1.1 million bpd, taking some heat out of prices. That oversupply could rise to 2.2 million bpd in the second quarter, the energy watchdog forecasts. Those projections, however, depend on OPEC and its allies increasing output at 400,000 bpd per month, as the group known as OPEC+ slowly unwinds cuts it was forced to make during the pandemic. But the IEA's monthly report in Tuesday showed OPEC+ is nowhere near its targets; it produced about 700,000 bpd below those levels in



September and October. That is largely due to top African producers Nigeria and Angola, whose maintenance and investment problems are likely to weigh on output

next year. If that underproduction continues, it could wipe out much of the surplus in the first quarter and keep markets tight for longer. The

IEA hiked its 2022 forecast for average prices to \$79.40 a barrel, even as it said higher supply could give some reprieve. The United States and other big energy consumers have asked OPEC+ to increase output more quickly, but the group has refused due to concern coronavirus may again sap demand during the northern winter. The market is now looking to the US shale industry, which has provided most of the non-OPEC output increase over the past decade. "There's one element where you could probably further increase capacity, which is shale in the US," said Marco Dunand, chief executive of merchant Mercuria Energy Trading, at the Reuters Commodity Trading Summit this week. The IEA expects a massive 480,000

bpd rise in US crude and natural gas liquids (NGLs) output in the second quarter of 2022, and by 1.1 million bpd for all of 2022. The US Energy Information Administration's near-term expectations are lower, with overall crude and NGLs output set to rise by 220,000 in the second quarter. The IEA sees US output accelerating in the second half of 2022, for a 1.25 million bpd increase in crude and NGLs for the year. However, shale producers have responded more slowly than during previous price rises. Investors and shareholders have demanded greater capital discipline from the industry than in previous boom-bust cycles, and are punishing firms that invest in capacity and rewarding those that pay dividends and reduce debt.

Surya, Rohit script victory

THE HOME TEAM WAS CANTERING TO A COMFORTABLE WIN BUT MESSED UP THE CHASE IN THE FINAL FOUR OVERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 17: Skipper Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav produced sublime knocks as India bungled towards end before recovering in time to fashion a five-wicket win over New Zealand in the opening T20 International ushering in a new era in Indian cricket. Martin Guptill (70 off 42) and Mark Chapman (63 off 50) took New Zealand to 164 for six on a good batting surface. India's chase was set up by Rohit (48 off 36), who made his full-time captaincy debut, and Suryakumar Yadav (62 off 40) who came in at number three in place of rested Virat Kohli.

Debutant Venkatesh Iyer hit his first ball in international cricket for four before Rishabh Pant got the winning runs. The game marked the start of a new chapter in Indian cricket with Rohit as T20 skipper and Rahul Dravid as head coach.

With both teams resting some of their key players as part of workload management, it was very much an even contest before the first ball was bowled. India raced to 50 for no loss in five overs with Rohit playing some delightful shots. He got going with back to back fours off Tim Southee in the third over



Suryakumar Yadav played a match-winning knock for India

before unleashing his signature front pull on the final ball of the over. The seasoned pace duo of Southee and Trent Boult were put under pressure upfront by both the openers. K L Rahul (15 off 14) got into the act with a massive six over deep square leg off Boult before Rohit hit another pull shot to collect 21 from the over. Rahul fell

to a soft dismissal on the first ball of Mitchell Santner's spell to give New Zealand a wicket against run of play.

Suryakumar meant business from ball one and the most memorable shot of his innings was the pickup stroke off Lockie Ferguson to get to his third T20 fifty. Both Rohit and Suryakumar should have gone



Martin Guptill's effort was in vain

on to finish the game but that didn't happen.

From a straight forward 23 off the last 24 balls, India made it complicated by making the equation to 10 runs off the last over.

Expecting heavy dew later in the evening, Rohit opted to field. Venkatesh was expectedly handed a debut while New Zealand made four changes to the playing eleven that played the T20 World Cup final Sunday as part of workload management.

India captain Rohit Sharma on Wednesday admitted that the win against New Zealand in the first T20 International did not come easy in the end but said the players would learn from the experience.

"It didn't come as easy as we expected, so great learning for the guys, to understand what needs to be done, not about power-hitting all the time," he said at the post-match presentation.

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand: 164 for 6 in 20 overs (Martin Guptill 70, Mark Chapman 63; Ravichandran Ashwin 2/23, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2/24) lost to India: 166 for 5 in 19.4 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 62, Rohit Sharma 48; Trent Boult 2/31).

HOCKEY TEAMS ARRIVE



From top: Team Argentina, France and The Netherlands arrive in the city for the upcoming FIH (International Hockey Federation) Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Bhubaneswar 2021

Muguruza, Kontaveit to play for WTA title



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guadalajara (Mexico), Nov 17: Garbiñe Muguruza dominated Paula Badosa in a 6-3, 6-3 victory and will play Anett Kontaveit for the title at the WTA Finals.

Eighth-seeded Kontaveit beat Maria Sakkari 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to advance, ensuring two first-time finalists at the women's season-ending championship.

Kontaveit lost to Muguruza in the last match of the round-robin stage, and has a 2-3 career record against the two-time major winner. The sixth-seeded Muguruza, a losing semifinalist in 2015, is the first Spanish woman to reach the singles final since 1993, when Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario was runner-up to Steffi Graf.

"I'm very happy with my performance. It was the best match I played here in Guadalajara," Muguruza said. "It's the first time we encountered each other. I'm very proud of Paula, she started the year back in the rankings and made all the way to the top 10."

The 28-year-old Muguruza now has a 13-2 record in Mexico, where she won back-to-back titles in Monterrey in 2018 and 2019.

She opened this year's WTA Finals with a loss to third-seeded Karolina Pliskova but bounced back with victories over second-seeded Barbora Krejickova, Kontaveit and Badosa.

"I don't feel like a favorite, maybe on paper or for the TV, but I don't

FEDERER OUT OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Geneva: Roger Federer does not expect to return from his latest knee surgery in time for Wimbledon next June, the tennis great said in an interview published Wednesday. "The truth is that I'd be incredibly surprised to play Wimbledon," said Federer. Wimbledon starts June 27, and Federer has not played on tour since a straight-set loss at this year's Wimbledon in the quarterfinals. Federer said there was never a question of playing at the Australian Open when the first Grand Slam of the season starts in January.

feel like it, Muguruza said. I started here losing and I thought that I could be eliminated, so for me to say that I feel like a favorite for the final is complicated."

The former No 1-ranked Muguruza broke seventh-seeded Badosa's serve in the third game and took the first set in 35 minutes. In the second, Muguruza had a service break in the second game, saved a couple of break points in the third and never looked back. Badosa finished a breakthrough season that saw her crack the top 10 for the first time.

"It was a tough day, I did not feel myself and she played good, all the credits go to her," said Badosa, who earlier in the tournament said that Muguruza had been her tennis inspiration.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Argentina draw with Brazil

2022 FIFA World Cup will be Lionel Messi's fifth and probably the final shot at winning the only major trophy missing in his career

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sao Paulo, Nov 17: Argentina joined Brazil in qualifying for next year's World Cup in Qatar despite the arch-rivals playing out a dour 0-0 draw in San Juan Tuesday.

Defeats for Uruguay (3-0 to Bolivia) and Chile (2-0 to Ecuador) ensured Argentina, unbeaten in 27 matches, booked their ticket, leaving just two more automatic spots available in South American qualifying with four matches left.

It caps a fine year for Argentina and Lionel Messi, who won their 15th Copa America in July with a 1-0 final victory over Brazil at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana stadium. It is also the 13th time



in a row that Argentina have qualified for the World Cup having failed to qualify only once, for the 1970 finals in Mexico. Brazil secured their qualification Thursday with a 1-0 win over Colombia.

Argentina welcomed back six-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi to their starting line-up while star forward Neymar missed out for Brazil.

But Messi was unable to inspire his team in a match of few chances, against opponents who booked their ticket to Qatar Thursday with a 1-0 win over Colombia.

Brazil remain top of the qualifying group, six points clear of Argentina, who took their unbeaten run to 27 matches. Brazil wasted a two-on-two break when Fred's pass forced Vinicius Junior wide, and his first touch ran out of play.

It summed up a match that never caught fire and in which almost nothing came off from either side.

Srikanth, Prannoy, Dhruv-Sikki in 2nd round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Nov 17: Indian shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy to say that I feel like a favorite for the final is complicated."

While Srikanth staved off a stiff challenge from world no 71 France's Christo Popov 21-18 15-21 21-16 in an hour and 15 minutes, former world no 10 Prannoy saw off Malaysia's Liew Daren 22-20 21-19 in the opening round.

Former world no 1 Srikanth, who had claimed the Indonesia Open Super Series premier in 2017 at Jakarta, will face Indonesia's sixth seed Jonatan Christie next. Prannoy will be pitted against

INDONESIA MASTERS 2021



Olympic champion and second seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark. In mixed doubles, the pairing of Dhruv Kapila and N Sikki Reddy



produced a stunning 21-11 22-20 win over second seeds and world no 5 Indonesian duo of Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti

to also advance to the second round.

However, it was curtains for world no 16 B Sai Praneeth and former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap.

While Praneeth, who played at the Tokyo Olympics, lost 21-16 14-21 20-22 to Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia, Kashyap went down 10-21 19-21 to Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus.

Among others, Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhvi Dewangan also bowed out after losing 15-21 12-21 to Hong Kong's Chang Tak Ching and Ng Wing Yung, while B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa lost 15-21 16-21 to sixth seeded Indonesian pair of Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Emanuelle Widjaja in another mixed doubles match.



port its efforts to bring fans and players across the globe closer to this important national sport."

Hockey India President Gyanendra Ningombam said, "We are excited that India is once again playing host to international sporting events. The biggest gainers from AMNS India's support are the sport of hockey, and the talented players who will be taking part in the tournament."

The Junior World Cup will be held at the iconic Kalinga Stadium from November 24 to December 5.

Ganguly appointed chairman of ICC cricket committee



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 17: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the game's governing body said Wednesday.

Ganguly will replace fellow Indian Anil Kumble, who stepped down after serving a maximum of three, three-year terms.

"I am delighted to welcome Sourav to the position of Chair of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee," ICC Chair Greg Barclay said in a release.

"His experience as one of the world's best players and latterly as an administrator will help us shape our cricketing decisions moving forward."

"I would also like to thank Anil for his outstanding leadership over the last nine years which has included improving the international game through more regular and consistent application of DRS and a robust process for addressing suspect bowling actions."

The Board also approved that first-class status and List A classification will be applied to women's cricket to align with the men's game and applied retrospectively.

Going forward the ICC Women's Committee will be known as the ICC Women's Cricket Committee and will assume all decision making responsibility for women's cricket reporting directly to the CEC.

Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.

SPORTS SHOCKER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 17: Tennis star Naomi Osaka says she's been shocked to hear about a fellow player who has gone quiet since making a sexual



assault allegation against a former top government official in China.

The Japanese former No 1-ranked, four-time major winner posted on social media Wednesday to join those asking where is: Peng Shuai?

The 24-year-old Osaka, who hasn't played at tour-level since her US Open title defense ended in a third-round loss in September, said she hoped Peng and her family "are safe and ok."

"I'm in shock of the current situation," she wrote, "and I'm sending love and light her way."

Other leading players including men's No. 1 Novak

Djokovic, and the organizers of the women's and men's professional tennis tours have been calling for a full investigation into the allegations made by the two-time Grand Slam doubles champion.

Peng wrote in a lengthy social media post earlier this month that a former vice premier had forced her to have sex despite repeated refusals.

The post was removed from her

media platform, and China's entirely state-controlled media has suppressed all reporting on the case.

Reports of the allegations circulated overseas for more than a week before WTA Chairman and CEO Steve Simon issued a statement saying "Peng Shuai, and all women, deserve to be heard, not censored. Her accusation about the conduct of a former Chinese leader involving a sexual assault must be treated with the utmost seriousness."

The men's tour followed Monday with ATP Chairman Andrea Gaudenzi saying tennis authorities were "deeply concerned by the uncertainty surrounding the immediate safety and whereabouts of WTA player Peng Shuai."

"We are encouraged by the recent assurances received by WTA that she is safe and accounted for and will continue to monitor the situation closely," Gaudenzi said. "Separately, we stand in full support of WTA's call for a full, fair and transparent investigation into

verified account on Weibo, a leading Chinese social



allegations of sexual assault against Peng Shuai."

Peng, 35, wrote that Zhang Gaoli, a former vice premier and member of the ruling Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee, had forced her to have sex despite repeated refusals following a round of tennis three years ago. She said Zhang's wife guarded the door during the incident.

Her post also said they had sex once seven years ago and she had feelings for him after that.

As is usual for retired Chinese officials, the 75-year-old Zhang dropped from public sight after his retirement in 2018 and is not



Not sure if you've been following the news but I was recently informed of a fellow tennis player that has gone missing shortly after revealing that she has been sexually abused. Censorship is never ok at any cost
NAOMI OSAKA | TENNIS PLAYER, JAPAN