



WR DEPT JOINS UNICEF

Water Resources dept signs a letter of understanding with Unicef to engage with communities on sustainable water management

DOWNTOWN P4



TACKLING KILLER ASTEROIDS

NASA launches a spacecraft on a mission to smash into an asteroid, in order to test asteroid defence concept

INTERNATIONAL P10



IST TEST STARTS TODAY

Ajinkya Rahane-led India begin their World Test Championship campaign as they face NZ in first Test

SPORTS P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



5 years ago, this time around people were giving me demonetized currency. Now, they are paying me in crypto!!

5kg free foodgrains till March

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a proposal to extend distribution of 5kg foodgrains per month for free under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to over 80 crore ration card holders for four months till March 2022, a decision that will cost an additional ₹53,344 crore to the exchequer. Free foodgrains under the PMGKAY scheme, which was announced in March last year to provide relief to poor people during the COVID pandemic, is over and above the normal quota provided under the National Food Security Act at a highly subsidised rate of ₹2-3 per kg.

Truck ploughs through wedding procession, kills 4



MALKANGIRI: In a tragic incident, four people, including a sarpanch, were killed while five others sustained critical injuries after a speeding truck ran over a groom's procession at Pandripani in this district, Wednesday. The procession for the marriage of the son of Shiba Khemdu, the sarpanch of Pandripani panchayat, was in progress when the incident occurred. The injured were rushed to the district headquarters hospital for treatment. As per reports, Pandripani sarpanch and two members of musical party died in the mishap. Police rushed to the spot and launched an investigation.

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Cabinet clears Farm Laws Repeal Bill

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 24: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved 'The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021' to scrap the three farm laws, which triggered protests at Delhi borders by thousands of farmers.

This was announced by Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Thakur said the Cabinet completed the formality of approving the repeal of three farm laws, as announced by the Prime Minister November 19.

The Bill will be introduced to repeal the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance, Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The Lok Sabha Bulletin Tuesday had already listed 'The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021'.

Modi's announcement had come after more than a year-long farmers' agitation where they have been demanding the repeal of the three contentious laws along with the legal backing for Minimum Support Price among other things. The Parliament had cleared the three farm Bills last year but the Supreme Court had stayed them this January.

The project aims at making adequate security provisions and amenities for devotees apart from facilitating smooth darshan of the deities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 24: The foundation stone for the ₹331-crore Heritage Corridor project in the Pilgrim city was laid by Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb in presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday. The project is expected to be completed within 18 months.

The foundation stone for the 'Srimandir Parikrama' (Heritage Corridor) project was laid on the culmination of the three-day-long 'Mahayagya' near the boundary wall (Meghanada Pacheri) of Srimandir, Gajapati Maharaja, the first servitor of Lord Jagannath, performed the rituals of 'Mahayagya' as the 'Karta'.

"Today is a historic day for all Jagannath devotees across the globe and indeed a sacred day for the people of Odisha," said Patnaik after making perambulation of the temple. The Chief Minister felicitated 10 persons who donated their ancestral land, adjacent to the temple, for the project.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb during the foundation stone laying ceremony in Puri, Wednesday

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Krishan Kumar said, "As per our plan, we target to complete the project within 18 months. Background works of the project including art & culture works and stone carving have already started. I am sure that with the support of Puri citizens, sevayats and other stakeholders, we will complete the

work on time."

A reception hall to accommodate around 6,000 devotees, a green corridor around the temple, a cloak-room along with separate toilet complexes for devotees, ATM counters, health centres and pilgrim information points would be built, they said. Infrastructure around 75-metre radius of the 12th-century shrine would be developed. Places of religious and historical importance such as Languli Mutt, Badachhata Mutt and Chhauni Mutt would be revamped in the new Kalingan style of architecture. The SJTA building would be redeveloped, besides creating an integrated command and control centre. The project includes development of Badadanda heritage streetscape, Sri Setu, Jagannath Ballav Pilgrim Centre and a multilevel car parking.

The development of the municipal market, Swargadwar, Pramod Udyan, Gurukulam and Mahodadhi Market will also be done. The beachfront development works, and revival works for Puri Lake, Musa River and Atharnala will be undertaken. The ambitious Heritage Corridor project was unveiled in December 2019.

MAJOR INFRA BOOST

- A reception hall to house around 6,000 devotees, a green corridor around Srimandir and other infra would be built
- Languli Mutt, Badachhata Mutt and Chhauni Mutt would be revamped
- SJTA building would be redeveloped

Junior Hockey Men's World Cup kicks off



Dignitaries including Governor Ganeshi Lal during the opening ceremony of Hockey Men's Junior World Cup at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: The much-awaited FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, which will see 16 top teams from across the globe vie for the title, was declared open by Governor Ganeshi Lal, Wednesday.

The opening ceremony was held at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium here which has previously hosted marquee events like the FIH Men's World Cup in 2018. The ceremony saw the presence of state Sports & Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera, FIH president Narinder Dhruv Batra, chairman of Hockey Promotion Council Odisha Padma Shri Dilip Tirkey, Hockey India president Gyanendro Ningombam and Hockey India secretary general Rajinder Singh graced the occasion which was held ahead of the hosts and defending Champions India's match against France.

As a token of his appreciation and gratitude, Dhruv Batra presented the replica of the Junior World Cup trophy to the Governor.

Wishing all the participating teams the very best for their campaign at the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, the Governor, said, "I am extremely happy that Odisha got this opportunity to host this showpiece event. Odisha has a deep connect with hockey. Over the years, the sport has evolved in the country and Odisha has been a preferred

hub for hockey." "Odisha has hosted the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 and will do so again in 2023 and it gives me immense delight that today we are hosting the Junior World Cup in Odisha, and I congratulate each and every player who has reached this stage. It is a matter of great pride for their country too and we are happy to be hosting you all. I am pleased to welcome all participants India for the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021. I would like to extend a special welcome especially to those international guests, who are visiting India for their first time," he added.



I AM EXTREMELY HAPPY THAT ODISHA GOT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HOST THIS SHOWPIECE EVENT. ODISHA HAS A DEEP CONNECT WITH HOCKEY
GANESHI LAL | GOVERNOR

Thanking the Governor for extending his support to the event, Gyanendro Ningombam, President of Hockey India said, "We are absolutely delighted that the hockey festivities have returned to Odisha, a state which is highly respected world over for their incredible ability to host world-class sporting events in the state."

The opening ceremony, which saw fireworks lighting up the night sky of Bhubaneswar, also included all 16 Captains from the participating teams taking a photo along with the coveted trophy.

FRANCE STUN INDIA 5-4
Vice-captain Sanjay scored a hat-trick but it was not enough as underdogs France stunned defending champions India 5-4 in their opening Pool B match of the FIH Junior Hockey World Cup here Wednesday.

MORE P12

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	58340.99 ↓ 323.34
NIFTY	17415.00 ↓ 88.30
DOLLAR	74.57 ↑ ₹0.14
EURO	83.45 ↓ ₹0.24
GOLD	₹47,470 ↑ ₹36
SILVER	₹62,703 ↑ ₹194

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	29.7°C	30.0°C
MAX	29.7°C	30.0°C
MIN	23.1°C	21.0°C
Humidity	76%	89%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	



National Disaster Response Force personnel conduct a mock drill on Taj Mahal premises as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in Agra, Wednesday

GETTING COMBAT READY

Panel formed to resolve Odisha-AP border row

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: The state government Wednesday formed an eight-member committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra to deliberate on bilateral issues including border dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

As per a notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management department, Development Commissioner, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) along with Principal Secretaries of Revenue & Disaster Management, Water Resources, Energy, School and

Mass Education and Higher Education departments are other members of the panel.

The panel has been formed as per a decision taken at the joint meeting held November 9 here between Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his AP counterpart

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy with a view to resolving bilateral outstanding issues of mutual interest. The Chief Ministers have decided that Chief Secretaries of both states will set up an institutional mechanism to deliberate on outstanding issues and find a solution that is in the best interest of the people of both the states.

A NEW REPUBLIC IS BORN Barbados freed from imperial bonds after 400 yrs

The birth of the republic unclasp almost all the colonial bonds that kept the tiny island tied to England since 1625

REUTERS

London, Nov 24: Barbados, a former British colony, will next week ditch Queen Elizabeth as Head of State, breaking its last remaining imperial bonds with Britain nearly 400 years since the first English ship arrived at the Caribbean island.

Barbados casts the removal of Elizabeth II, who is queen of Barbados and 15 other realms in-

cluding the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Jamaica, as a sign of confidence and a way to finally break with the demons of its colonial history.

This is the end of the story of colonial exploitation of the mind and body, said Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, a Barbadian historian. He said this was a historic moment for Barbados, the Caribbean and all post-colonial societies.

The birth of the republic, 55 years to the day since Barbados declared independence, finally unclasp almost all the colonial bonds that have kept the tiny island in the Lesser Antilles tied to England since an English ship claimed it for King James I in 1625.



It may also be a harbinger of a broader attempt by other former colonies to cut ties to the British monarchy as it braces for the end of Elizabeth's nearly 70-year-old reign and the future accession of Charles, who will attend the republican celebrations in Bridgetown. Barbados's move is the first time a realm has removed the queen as

head of state in nearly 30 years. Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean, proclaimed itself a republic but remained in the Commonwealth, an association of mostly former British colonies which is home to 2.5 billion people.

Originally populated by waves of Saladooid-Barrancoid and Kalinago migrants, Spanish slaver raids forced Amerindians to flee. Barbados was unpopulated when the English first arrived.

The English initially used white British indentured servants to toil on the plantations of tobacco, cotton, indigo and sugar; but Barbados in just a few decades would become England's first truly profitable slave society. Barbados re-

ceived 600,000 enslaved Africans between 1627 and 1833, who were put to work in the sugar plantations, earning fortunes for the English owners.

Barbados under English colonial rules became the laboratory for plantation societies in the Caribbean, said Richard Drayton, a professor of imperial and global history at Kings College, London who lived in Barbados as a child. It becomes the laboratory for slave society, which is then exported to Jamaica and the Carolinas and Georgia after that.

More than 10 million Africans were shackled into the Atlantic slave trade by European nations between the 15th and 19th centuries.



YOUTH CONCLAVE 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE: FOCUS ODISHA



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES Today you will feel mushy and forlorn. Ganesh says you will make special efforts to strengthen your relationships...

TAURUS Things will tend to get very difficult and complicated, says Ganesh. Be prepared for setbacks and challenges today...

GEMINI You will spend your day fulfilling the demands made upon you by your family members and colleagues...

CANCER The day shall find you in buoyant spirits, indicates Ganesh. As you are feeling lively and full of beans...

LEO A lot of people will sing your praises, however you will not be satisfied with whatever is occurring...

VIRGO Today finds you ambitious and meticulous. Actions will not speak - they'll roar! Your planning and scruples will set the pace at work...

LIBRA Ganesh says today is a good day to renovate your home. You will be able to decorate your home artistically because of your designing skills...

SCORPIO You are all set to paint the town red as you feel romance and love creeping into your life slowly...

SAGITTARIUS Variety is the spice of life. Add variety of activities to your daily schedule and nothing would seem boring any more...

CAPRICORN You will feel little lost in the maze of problems and tricky situations. You will, however, find a way out, feels Ganesh...

AQUARIUS If you are an astrologer, doctor or a spiritual leader, today is a favourable day for you...

PISCES Today your intellectual streak comes to the fore. You will indulge your curiosity and take interest in natural phenomenon...



Guests and participants listening to speakers at the event



Development Commissioner PK Jena replying to a question



Young climate activist Archana Soreng at the event



UK Dy High Commissioner, Kolkata, Nick Low sharing his experience



Arya Mohapatra reading out a script



Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy sharing a light moment with Monika O Neilsen, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha



Anwasha and Prajod performing at the event



Soumya Ranjan Biswal making his opening remarks



IMD Director Mrutyunjay Mohapatra making a point

Event Round-up

A potpourri of docu film, dance

The day saw the exhibition of documentaries and short films made by Snehasis Das and Saswat Pati depicting various aspects of climate change...

Kavish's cultural treat

Attendees and guests were offered a musical and poetic treat by Kavish Seth, a well known poet, singer and songwriter...

Change at individual level must: Mohapatra

Odisha being an agrarian society, drastic climate change is set to affect its agriculture pattern adversely. Detection, observation and intimation are three important aspects of preventing extreme weather conditions...

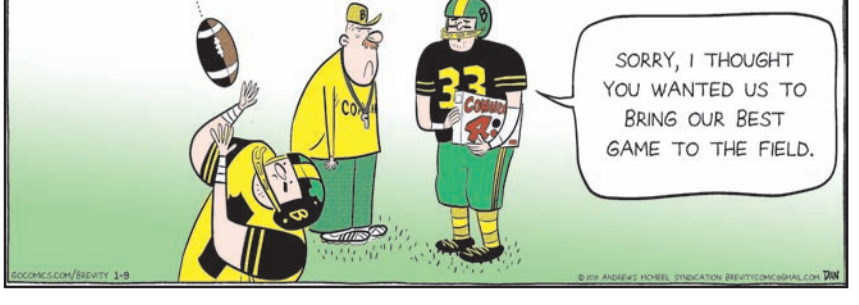
PEANUTS



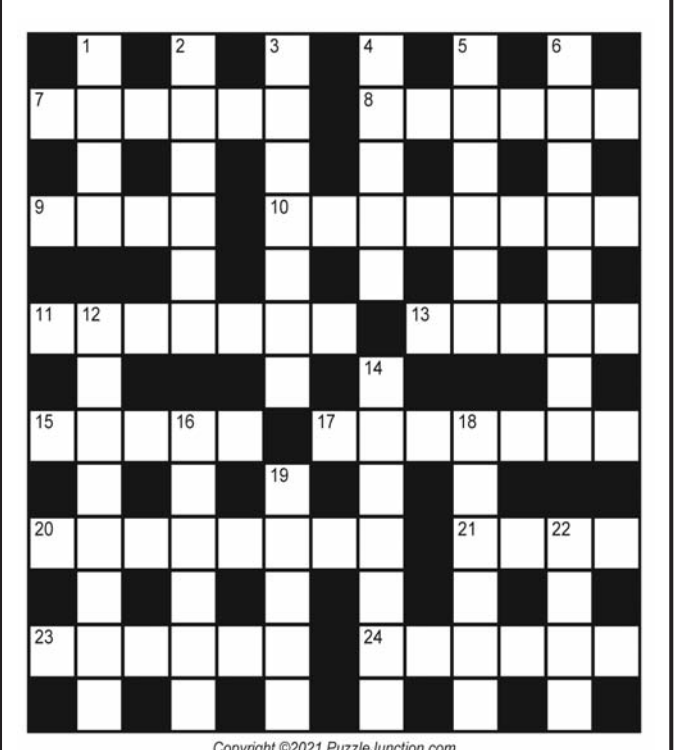
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



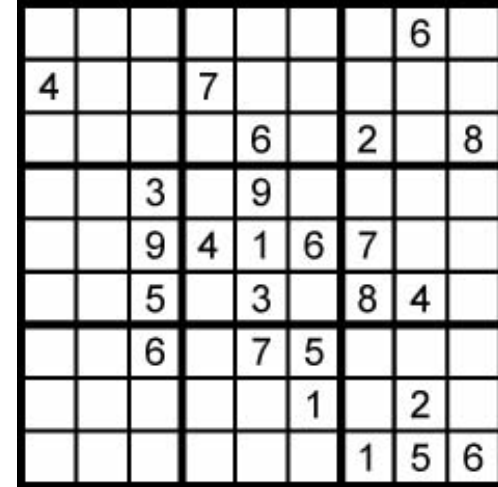
FUN post CROSSWORD



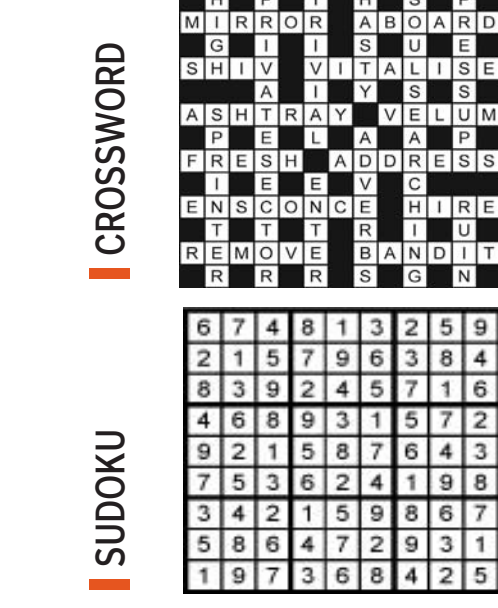
- Across: 7 Cloak, 8 Esoteric, 9 Footwear, 10 Decorate with colors, 11 White ant, 13 Cent, 15 Fool, 17 Venezuelan statesman, 20 Photograph, 21 It can be North or South, 23 Food grain, 24 Kind of policy, 5 Glacial period (3,3), 6 Sleep disorder, 12 Heightened, 14 Roman Catholic Pope, 16 Weak person, 18 Levy, as a tax, 19 Blackboard item, 22 Like some meats

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE: FOCUS ODISHA



Collective efforts can save Earth



(From left) Founding Volunteer of Bakul Foundation Sujit Mahapatra, Chief of Field Office, Unicef Odisha Monika O Nielsen, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata, Nick Low, climate activist Soumya Ranjan Biswal, Additional Chief Secy-cum-Development Commissioner Pradeep Jena and Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy at the first session of the Youth Conclave 2021

always given importance to youth and environment. Talking about the background of the conclave, she said the youth conclave has been organised to drive consciousness on climate change at local level.

Monika and Nick shared their experiences on climate change and how it is being observed in different parts of the world. "Prior to my working in India, I was in Papua

have to evacuate from the area. It is important that safety of the marine ecosystem should be given paramount importance for the survival of people living in coastal areas," Soumya mentioned.

Pradeep Jena said Odisha is one of the first states to start acting on climate change action plan. "Over last 20 years we witnessed around nine major cyclones. After Super Cyclone, we faced Hudhud, Fani and Phailin which showed something serious is happening," he added.

In the second session Archana, 26, a member of the UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, spoke vividly on the role of women in climate change. Archana talked about why it's necessary to empower women to lead as they can bring the change in all walks of life and make a difference on climate change.

Sharing his expertise, IMD chief Mrutyunjaya Mohapatra said Odisha with its unique topography is a gateway of cyclones. "The intensity of cyclones, lightning, heat waves is increasing in the state. While rural and tribal communities are worst affected by climate changes, an increasing number of flash floods and water-borne diseases in urban dwellings has affected us. Detection and forecasting of the same is important."

Highlighting on the issue, water activist Ranjan panda said people react to big incidents such as cyclone but the constant rise in sea levels which has devastating effects on coastal habitats in the state is usually getting unnoticed.

Concluding the sessions, Tathagata Satpathy, Editor of Dharitri, said while detection and forecasting of drastic climate events are an important step in preserving life and property we should think a step beyond saving lives and make goals that would conserve and preserve our environment in the long run.



Orissa POST and Dharitri Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy delivering the welcome address at the Dharitri Youth Conclave-2021

New Guinea where I had witnessed the impact of climate change when a rise in sea levels affected the island dwellers massively. Irrespective of quality of education children will be deprived of schools due to climate change," Monika said.

Speaking along the same lines, Nick mentioned that in past many civilizations have been destroyed completely due to climate change factors. "Eight out of 10 warmest summers were received in the UK this year. Moreover, it's not just about hot temperatures but about ferocious weather patterns observed all across the globe," he said.

Soumya, 24, said he has been witnessing the impact of climate change in his village from his childhood. "During every cyclone we

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: From witnessing unseasonal floods to increasing frequency in cyclones, climate change has affected one and all on the globe. There have been numerous talks at different levels, including summit meetings, on how to protect this fragile planet from imminent extinction. This and many other aspects of climate change were dissected at a conclave here Wednesday.

The event 'Youth Conclave on Climate Change' was organised by leading daily Dharitri, on the occasion of its 48th birth anniversary. The event saw participation by various stakeholders such as young climate activists and those



Over last 20 years, we witnessed around nine major cyclones. After Super Cyclone, we faced Phailin, Hudhud and Fani which showed something serious is happening

PRADEEP JENA | DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER-CUM-ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

representing the government, non-government organisations, world bodies like UNICEF and civil society.

Young climate activists Archana Soreng, Soumya Ranjan Biswal, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha, Monika O Nielsen, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata, Nick Low, Director General of IMD Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Development Commissioner cum Additional Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena,

water and climate change expert Ranjan Panda, Dharitri and Orissa Post Editor Tathagata Satpathy were on the panels.

Split into two sessions, the event was moderated by Sujit Mahapatra, founding volunteer of Bakul Foundation and independent journalist Sampad Patnaik.

The event began with the welcome speech by Adyasha Satpathy, chief executive of Dharitri and Orissa POST. She said Dharitri has



Pooja Mohanty, Ravenshaw University



Padmaja, BJB Autonomous College



Shirshita Pattnaik, SCBMC



Aradhana Manoswini, AIIMS



Sonali Giri, Utkal University



Preyrana Mishra, KIIT University



Suchismita Senapati, Sai International College of Commerce & Economics



Sanchita Das, XIMB



Barsha Priyadarshini Kar, College of Basic Science & Humanities



Bishwoksen Dash, College of Engineering & Technology



(From left) Independent journalist and researcher Sampad Patnaik, water and climate change expert Ranjan Panda, Director General of India Meteorological Department Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, member of UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change Archana Soreng and Dharitri & Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy at the second session of the conclave



Kavish Seth playing his Noori and singing at the event



IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra interacting with a group of students from AIIMS



Dignitaries, guests and audience at the event

BJP men hurl eggs at CM's convoy; Cong condemns attack

Puri, Nov 24: BJP supporters Wednesday hurled eggs at the convoy of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Puri Wednesday, protesting against the government's "inaction" in the Kalahandi teacher's kidnap and murder case.

SOA signs MoU with Makerere University



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), the multi-disciplinary deemed to be University here, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Makerere University

at Kampala, Uganda, for a variety of activities including knowledge transfer through development of collaborative research projects. The two universities would conduct joint academic, scientific and cross-cultural activities.

STUDENT AFFAIRS



Inmates of Ravenshaw University Kathajodi women's hostel stage a demonstration near the vice-chancellor's office in Cuttack, highlighting various issues at the hostel, Wednesday

WR dept, Unicef ink pact to resolve water issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: As part of the state government's 5T initiative, the Water Resources (WR) department Wednesday signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with Unicef Wednesday for collaborative efforts towards communication and policy initiatives of the department.

Unicef is committed towards bringing positive changes to the lives of women and children, and these changes cannot be achieved without addressing the water-related issues



MONIKA NIELSEN | UNICEF CHIEF OF FIELD OFFICE, ODISHA

Speaking on the occasion, WR department Secretary Anu Garg said that the department, for the first time since its inception, is unleashing its soft power through greater community engagement in matters of

water governance, water conservation and water cleanliness. She said that climate change has forced all to rethink the way water is being managed and that it is the responsibility of all the

stakeholders to work towards realising key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as access to safe and affordable drinking water; sanitation and hygiene; improved water quality; wastewater treatment and safe reuse; increased water-use efficiency; Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM); protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems; and sanitation management.

collaboration with Unicef going forward, she said. Chief of Field Office, Unicef, Monika Nielsen signed the LoU and said that large-scale urbanisation, shifting cultivation patterns, and an increase in industry have forced us to think more strategically about water and communication and work to achieve the SDGs.

STF seizes brown sugar worth ₹25 lakh, nabs 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: A 20-year-old man was arrested from Khurda district after brown sugar worth ₹25 lakh was seized from his possession, police said Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Special Task Force (STF) personnel of the Crime Branch conducted a search operation near Taratua area under the Khurda Town Police Station limits Tuesday and recovered 253 grams of the narcotic substance from him, a senior officer said.

PENSIONERS' MEET



MP Subhash Singh delivers a speech at the District EPF Pensioners' meet at Gandhi Bhawan in Cuttack, Wednesday

BJD in Tangi castigates BJP over gas price hike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Nov 24: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) activists staged a demonstration in front of the Tangi block office at 11am Wednesday, protesting the rise in LPG prices. District BJD youth wing president Rajesh Parida, MP Munna Khan and MLA Jyotirindranath Mitra among others attended the event and castigated the BJP government at the Centre.

Demo in Berhampur

BERHAMPUR: The BJD Wednesday staged a protest in Ganjam district, demanding reduction in the price of LPG cylinders. Members of the party's youth, student and women's wing staged demonstrations near the office of the Revenue Divisional Commission (RDC) of the southern range in Berhampur and at each block under the RDC. It was the last day of the party's three-day protest over the issue in the state. Several BJD leaders, including Berhampur MP Chandrasekhar Sahu and MLA Bikram Panda, took part in the protest.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR Release of book 'Bhagavad Geeta' by Swamy Mukundananda at Rabindra Mandap, 6:30pm

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

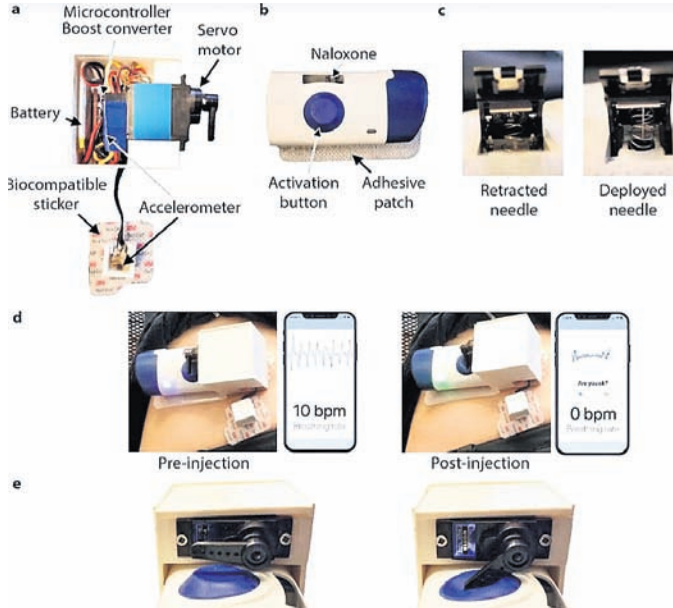
Affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Dhenkanal, I Amitish Soni, S/o. Kedar Prasad Verma, resident of Dakshinakali Road, Dhenkanal, Odisha. In my educational document it is mentioned as Amit Kumar Verma. That my name be treated as Amitish Soni instead of Amit Kumar Verma for all purposes and its stands for the same and one person.

New wearable device can detect, reverse opioid overdose

THE MAKERS ARE LOOKING TO MAKE THESE DEVICES WIDELY AVAILABLE, WHICH WOULD FIRST REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Researchers have developed a new wearable device that can be worn on the stomach like an insulin pump, and can easily detect as well as reverse an opioid overdose. The device, developed by a team at the University of Washington (UW), can sense when a person stops breathing and moving, and inject naloxone, a lifesaving antidote that can restore respiration.

HOW IT WORKS
To test the device, a clinical study was conducted with 25 participants in a supervised injection facility
The sensors were able to accurately track respiration rates among people with opioid-use disorder
The device was also able to detect non-medical, opioid-induced apnoea, a breathing pattern that commonly precedes a potentially fatal overdose



ical, opioid-induced apnoea, a breathing pattern that commonly precedes a potentially fatal overdose. A clinical trial was also conducted in a hospital environment among 20 participants who manifested signs of apnoea by holding their breath. When the wearable system detected that the subject had not moved for at least 15 seconds, it activated and injected naloxone into the participant.

"We have created algorithms that run on a wearable injector to detect when the wearer stops breathing and automatically inject naloxone," Chan added in the paper published in the journal Scientific Reports. According to researchers, one of the unique aspects of opioid

overdoses is that naloxone - a benign drug - is highly effective and can save lives if it can be administered in a timely fashion. The UW team worked on the prototype with West Pharmaceutical Services of Exton in Pennsylvania, which developed a wearable subcutaneous injector that safely administers medications.

The researchers combined this injector system with sensors and developed an algorithm to detect the life-threatening pattern of respirations that occur when people experience opioid toxicity. The device could also help people at different stages of opioid-use disorder to avoid accidental death. To test the device, a clinical study

was conducted with 25 participants in a supervised injection facility. The sensors were able to accurately

track respiration rates among people with opioid-use disorder. The device was also able to detect non-med-

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SHORT TAKES

Naluha river fast eats into banks

Kumara: Naluha river passing through Gopabandhanagar block in Mayurbhanj district has been changing its course and posing a threat to Kenduamundi village under Shilaghati panchayat. Locals are living amid fear of their village being washed away in a few years. They said since 2012 the river is continuously eating into its banks. Now, the river is just 50 metres from the village. They feared that if the government failed to take immediate steps to



check erosion, the village would be wiped out in two to three years. During the monsoon, the mud houses cave in due to floodwater from the river, while farmlands are sand cast. The villagers have demanded stone packing of the river banks.

Projects to curb kidney disease

Malkangiri: Kidney disease has been spreading in parts of Padia and Korukunda blocks in Malkangiri district. Keeping this in view, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced drinking water projects for 146 villages. After this announcement, people in



these areas are happy. Earlier, rural water supply and sanitation department had conducted tests on groundwater and found high content of iron in the water. ₹192.89 crore was sanctioned for projects to ensure safe water in 48 villages of Padia block and 88 villages of Korukunda block.

50 years on, locals await land pattas

Parjang: For last 50 years, people have been waiting for land pattas at Bajrangpatana on the bank of Brahmani river under this tehsil in Dhenkanal district. As the administration is doing nothing to provide pattas, the residents have warned of agitation from December 1. They have submitted a memorandum to the district administration and local leaders about their records of rights for their land. Many families have been living there since 1972. Since then they are running from pillar to post for land pattas, but the authorities of Dhenkanal and Parjang tehsils are taking no step to issue pattas, they lamented. The residents have already intimated their problem to the CM, then Parjang MLA, MP and the Collector. The tehsil officials suggest the residents to file complaints at the RDC office.

Keonjhar gets state's first synthetic handball court



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 24: A newly-built handball stadium with all modern facilities was opened in Keonjhar town, Tuesday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the facility. The stadium has a synthetic handball court which is the first of its kind in the state. The stadium has been built with ₹3.26 crore sanctioned

by the district mineral foundation and will help in sponsoring national and international players and in holding major tournaments.

This stadium approved by the International Tennis Federation has a dual court built with the materials approved by the International Handball Federation, the district administration said.

The stadium spread over an area of 1.6 acre has a sitting capacity for 200 spectators at a time, the district administration said.

Apart from handball, this stadium has facilities for other sports. It has special tracks designed for morning walks, yoga, open-air gymnasium, indoor gymnasium and sports facilities.

This stadium has arrangements for floodlights which will help in hosting tournaments and matches at night.

DEMO FOR HOCKEY STADIUM



Members of the Utsav Pariwar and hockey players wearing jerseys and holding hockey sticks march in a rally demanding immediate completion of the hockey stadium at Jujumara in Sambalpur district

OP PHOTO

47 MBBS students of VIMSAR in COVID unit

FIVE HOSTELS WERE DECLARED CONTAINMENT ZONES, CONTACT TRACING INTENSIFIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Nov 24: At least 47 MBBS students of Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in Sambalpur district have tested positive for COVID-19 over the past few days, an official said, Wednesday.

As many as 31 students tested positive for the disease Tuesday while 16 students were found affected Wednesday, officials said. Among them, 23 girls and 24 boys have tested positive for the disease.

They have been admitted to the Covid unit of VIMSAR, he said.

Authorities suspect that the infection might have spread during the institute's annual function held recently.

Five hostels – three of boys and two of girls – have been declared as containment zones, a VIMSAR official said.

Sabitri Giri Girls' Hostel, Gargi Girls' Hostel, Charak Hostel, Bhrgu Hostel and Patanjali Hostel have been declared as micro-containment zones.

These areas have been declared as buffer zones and restrictions have been imposed on movement



of people and vehicles. Supply of essentials including medical assistance has been allowed to these areas.

The Sambalpur Municipal Corporation has opened a control room at Vedavyas Guest House and is monitoring the situation with the help of health officials.

All have been asked to wear masks and maintain social distancing. VIMSAR principal Professor Lalmoan Nayak confirmed the development stating that the infection has increased and all the infected students have been kept in isolation. Meanwhile, contact tracing was intensified in

The Sambalpur Municipal Corporation has opened a control room at Vedavyas Guest House and is monitoring the situation with the help of health officials

the area. Physical classes have been suspended for 10 days from Tuesday and the offline examinations have been cancelled, the official said. Classes and examinations would be

held online, the official added.

The state has, meanwhile, logged 288 more coronavirus cases, including 53 in the 0-18 age group taking the tally to 10,47,674. The toll rose to 8,399 with three more deaths reported from the state, the health department said.

Eight of the 30 districts did not record any new case. Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, registered the highest number of new cases at 130 followed by Cuttack at 21.

Two patients succumbed to the virus in Khurda while one died in Jagatsinghpur district. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to official data.

The state had registered 212 cases and two deaths Tuesday.

Odisha currently has 2,221 active cases while 10.37 lakh people including 255 in the last 24 hours, have recovered from the disease so far, a health bulletin stated.

Around 2.34-crore samples have been tested so far, 57,546 of them Tuesday. Over 2.74-crore people have taken the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while nearly 1.47-crore people have been administered both the doses.

Chickens 'die of shock from loud music', owner files plaint

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Nov 24: In a bizarre incident, a man at Nilagiri in the district has lodged a complaint that his chickens died on listening to loud music that was being played at a wedding ceremony next door.

The man, who owns a poultry farm, filed a police complaint Tuesday alleging that more than 60 chickens died of shock from the high-decibel music. Ranjit Parida,

also said that the groom's family refused to turn down the volume of the music, despite being requested to do so.

He further stated that chickens started flying in various directions inside the cages as the music played on, and some later collapsed and died. A police officer confirmed that Parida has registered a complaint. He said that an investigation has been initiated into the matter.

Kidney disease playing spoilsport in Bolangir village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogaon, Nov 24: Kidney disease is rapidly spreading in Balarpali village under Deogaon block in Bolangir district with many of the affected people losing their lives to the disease, a report said.

The spread of the disease has triggered scare among the residents. Locals alleged that the affected persons died as the district administration is yet to take steps to check the spread of the disease.

The matter came to the fore after a team led by Ashis Kumar Pandey, district convener of Aam Admi Party (AAP) visited the village and enquired about the people's problems and their health. He said many villagers are suffering from kidney disease while several have lost their lives in past. The team members found the village has no drinking water facilities while the water from the tube well has sediments of oil floating on it. The village pond was also polluted.

Tribals oppose FCA amendment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 24: Tribals of various organisations staged a protest in Ganjam district Wednesday against the Union government's proposal to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The protesters demanded withdrawal of the proposed amendments, saying it would destroy forests and snatch the rights of tribal people over forest resources.

The Environment Ministry had in October proposed to amend the FCA to do away with the requirement of prior government approval for the development of border infrastructure on forest land.

Carrying traditional arms, including arrows and bows, and beating of drums, the tribals went around Berhampur before reaching near the office of the Revenue Divisional Commission (RDC) of southern range.

"The proposed amendments will dilute the Forest Rights' Act (FRA), which ensures rights of the



tribal people living in forest areas to forest resources, on which these communities are dependent for a variety of needs," said Tuna Mallick of the Adivasi Bharat Mahasabha, a tribal organisation.

According to the proposal, deemed forests listed by state governments up to 1996 will continue to be considered forest land. Land that was acquired by the Railways and the road ministries before 1980, but on which forests came up, will no longer be considered forests.

Nirakar Nayak of the Odisha Chasi Mulia Sangh asserted that the

main objective of the amendment was to hand over forest land to corporate houses at a throwaway price for setting up units.

Another tribal leader Bijay Swain demanded that the proposal should be dropped and the Forest Rights Act must be implemented strictly.

Swain warned that the tribal people across the state would resort to an agitation against the proposed amendments in the FCA.

After a brief meeting, the tribal leaders submitted to the RDC a memorandum addressed to the Union Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav.

CHILD ADOPTION



An awareness vehicle on child adoption was launched from Beguniapada block in Ganjam district, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Kuldiha, a safe haven for exotic birds

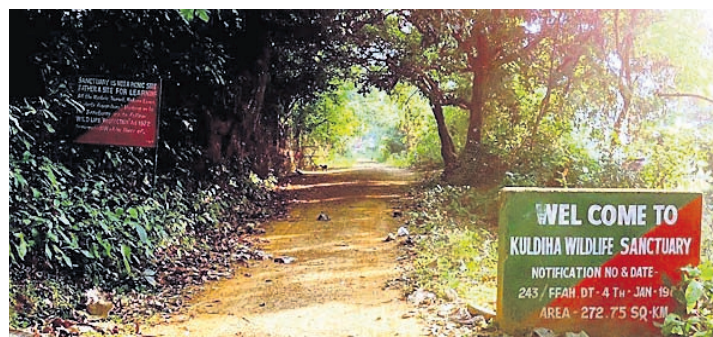
POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Nov 24: Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary, spread over 272.75 square/km in Nilagiri and Oupada blocks in Balasure district, is a treasure trove for wildlife lovers and tourists. Significantly, the sanctuary with its rich biodiversity plays host to a number of exotic bird species over last many years. The sanctuary is a safe habitat for elephants, too.

The sanctuary is thronged by elephants, leopards, bears, barking deer, spotted deer, sambars, boars, hornbills, peacocks, hawks, and many species of birds of prey. Now, a major attraction for tourists is a number of foreign birds.

The other major attraction for tourists is tribals living in its surroundings. Their colourful clothing, culture, music, festivals and customs have enriched the area in the sanctuary.

According to reports, 254 varieties of birds are found in Kuldiha sanc-



tuary. In winter, thousands of migratory birds fly from Andaman and Nicobar islands, the Himalayas, Bangladesh, South Africa, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Among foreign birds arriving at Kuldiha are Malabar trogon, heart-spotted woodpecker, crimson sunbird, varnai hanging parrot, white rumped shama, blue bearded bee-eater, blue bearded kingfisher, velvet-fronted nuthatch, pin-striped tit babbler, black

crested bulbul, black-naped monarch, rosy minivet, Asian paradise flycatcher, forest wagtail and yellow rumped flycatcher. These birds are found to be staying around water bodies at Gadasimulia, Kanjipani, Mechhakund, Chemachata and Rusianside the sanctuary.

Importantly, population of various birds is increasing in the sanctuary, which has brought cheers to the nature lovers, bird watchers, environ-

mentalists and wildlife activists. The forest department is also enthused over such development. The bird hunting inside the sanctuary has been curbed with a host of protective measures and awareness campaigns by the authorities.

Once in the sanctuary, tourists enjoy the nature agog with rich flora and fauna. Various facilities have been made for tourists– night accommodation and tasty meals at Gohirabhola, boating and wildlife tracking.

The department has made provision of guides for tourists. From November 1 to June 15, tourists are found in large number at Gadasimulia, Jodachua, Kuldiha bungalow, Purunapani, Mukhachaturi, Gohirabhola and Chemachata. Famous Panchalingeswar shrine is also inside the sanctuary.

Tourist guide Manoranjan Das said over the last ten years, foreign birds have started coming to Kuldiha due to its green and safe environment.

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Mankind has used two powerful weapons to destroy its own powers and enjoyment, wrong indulgence and wrong abstinence.

SRI AUROBINDO



Reining in Big Tech

ByteDance, the parent company of the popular social-media platform TikTok, has a not-so-secret weapon. Its powerful algorithms are able to predict users' preferences with precision and recommend content they actually want to see, thereby keeping them glued to their screens. But ByteDance may soon have to sheathe that weapon – or, at least, dull its blade.

Internet-platform companies in China are facing a slew of new data regulations that could curtail the use of recommendation engines. For starters, the Personal Information Protection Law, which took effect this month, requires platforms to allow users to opt out of personalised content and targeted ads. But China may soon go much further. Its internet regulator, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), recently issued new draft guidelines that entail a host of restrictions on the collection and processing of data and its transfer across borders. Notably, apps would have to obtain explicit consent from users before collecting or using data to make personalised recommendations. In other words, individuals would have to opt into personalisation, rather than opting out of it, as is the current norm.

This policy could go a long way toward eroding the business models of online platforms like Douyin (the version of TikTok used in China) and Taobao (an online-shopping platform owned by the Alibaba Group), with potentially far-reaching implications for future innovation in the Chinese tech sector. The reason is simple: many users, if asked, decide that personalisation is not worth giving up their privacy.

Asking makes all the difference. When Apple buried the option to refuse tracking by apps in its complicated privacy settings, only 25% of users took the time to find it and opt out. But when the company began prompting iPhone users with the opportunity to opt out of tracking, 84% took it.

Apple's new opt-out policy, which it introduced to its iPhone iOS last April, has been devastating for US tech firms such as Facebook, whose business models are built on the collection of user data and the sale of targeted ads. According to one estimate, Apple's policy change cost Facebook, Snap, Twitter, and YouTube together nearly \$10 billion in revenue – or 12% of the total – in the second half of 2021. Online advertisers, who now must pay much more to reach potential customers, are panicking. This is an ominous sign for China's tech companies – not least because the CAC's draft data regulations go well beyond Apple's new rule. Whereas Apple requires apps to get permission before sharing a user's data with third parties, the new Chinese measures would require apps to secure user opt-in even to use the data themselves. China's proposed opt-in requirement also appears to be stricter than the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation – currently one of the world's toughest privacy laws. While the GDPR requires platforms to secure user consent before collecting and processing data, it does not require specific consent to enable recommendation services.

It remains to be seen how Chinese platforms will respond to the proposed regulation. They will almost certainly lobby the government not to implement it at all. If the government refuses to listen, they will probably try to circumvent the rule by redesigning app features, though this will take time and raise serious compliance risks.

And yet, for the CAC, the struggles of private tech companies may not be much of a concern. While it is impossible to say exactly what factored into the body's cost-benefit analysis of the proposed opt-in requirement, it seems clear that encouraging business growth and technological innovation is not part of the CAC's mandate.

So, what are the CAC's goals? To answer that question, we must consider the agency's bureaucratic mission, culture, and structure. Given that Chinese administrative enforcement is shaped by path dependence, we must also look to the CAC's past behaviour – in particular, its status as one of China's most interventionist government departments.

Operating under the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission, a leadership group chaired by President Xi Jinping himself, the CAC was initially charged with ensuring cybersecurity and regulating internet content. But since 2013, it has expanded significantly, including by absorbing other cybersecurity agencies.

In July, the CAC grabbed headlines when it surprised the ride-hailing company Didi Chuxing with a cybersecurity inspection just two days after the firm's initial public offering in New York. The CAC subsequently mandated cybersecurity checks for any data-rich Chinese tech firm planning overseas listings, effectively establishing itself as a gatekeeper for efforts to raise capital abroad.

Given that data are the lifeblood of the platform economy, the CAC has significant scope to expand its bureaucratic bailiwick. And, if the new draft regulation is any indication, it plans to do just that, tearing down the walls surrounding the 'walled gardens' of internet platforms, prohibiting algorithmic price discrimination, and clamping down on other unfair pricing practices.

These efforts will undoubtedly overlap with the mandate of China's antitrust regulator, the State Administration for Market Regulation. But no matter: emboldened by the government's push to rein in tech giants, the CAC has big regulatory ambitions. In the coming years, its efforts to realise them will play a major role in determining the trajectory of platform businesses – and tech innovation – in China.

The writer, a law professor, is author of Chinese Antitrust Exceptionalism: How the Rise of China Challenges Global Regulation.

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WISDOM CORNER

- Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened. **BILLY GRAHAM**
- Change your opinions, keep to your principles; change your leaves, keep intact your roots. **VICTOR HUGO**
- The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude. **OPRAH WINFREY**

WORDSWORTH

■ Preantepenultimate

This train of prefixes surely needs uncoupling. Something that is ultimate is the last in a series (from Latin ultimum, come to an end); the penultimate is next to last (pen-, a prefix from Latin paene, almost); the antepenultimate is the one before that (ante-, previous, from Latin "ante"). Preantepenultimate (Latin prae-, before) is one step further back still, making it the fourth from the end of the series, the last but three. It was invented in all seriousness by a famous lexicographer, John Walker, in his Critical Pronouncing Dictionary and Expositor of the English Language, dated 1791. Linguists have continued to be almost its sole users (though not often) but other specialists, for some reason mainly zoologists, have borrowed it from time to time. Outside these areas, it is almost invisible, but not quite: While it was gratifying to see the return of the John H. Rice column to the pages of the Eagle, it was disappointing to have a typographical error mangle the sense of his pre-antepenultimate paragraph (Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 24 February 1977).



Pinak Mishra

CONSIDERING THAT SOCIAL MEDIA IS NO LONGER JUST A VIRTUAL WORLD MADE OF FUN APPS BUT A FULL-FLEDGED HYPER-REALITY, THERE NEED TO BE SERIOUS DELIBERATIONS ON THE EFFECTIVE REGULATION OF THIS SPACE

Lately, the social media space in Odisha has been inundated with worrying video clips showing intoxicated youths brandishing swords and firearms, engaged in violent display of aggression, and reenacting violent scenes from movies, all with an apparent disregard for the law. These youths have come together to form gangs with amusing names and have made social media their medium of choice to manifest their; often violent, intent. People from across the society have sharply reacted to these videos and have raised questions about the effectiveness of the police in putting a check on such spectacles. Although it is the duty of the police to address such issues within the confines of law, some questions need to be asked at the outset. Is this an issue that concerns only law enforcement? What role does technology, more specifically social media, play with regard to such social problems? What drives the youth to emulate violence, and display it so flagrantly? Is it the criminal mind, specific to the actors responsible for these 'performances', or are there other social determinants that promote such acts?

To find answers to the above questions, it is imperative to understand why these relatively younger age groups, including students, are fascinated with violence and aggression. The present younger age groups constitute the first generation of the original social media demography. For these digital natives, social media is a powerful and increasingly exclusive tool to express themselves; their joy, their friendships, their celebrations, as well as their vanity, their sadness and other dark impulses.

Social media trends and the younger demographics' fascination with them, are indicative, no doubt, of a larger national wave of social media 'content' fueled by confused, unripe minds staring at an uncertain future. The lack of job prospects, sense of relative deprivation, substance abuse and destabilisation of traditional institutions such as family, com-

FOCUS SOCIAL MEDIA

HOLLOW HASHTAGS



Social media is a wild beast. For all its spectacular glory that has the world gaping in amazement, the damage it can cause is massive, and often creeps in unexpectedly

munity and an easy, unregulated access to social media have accentuated the crisis. With the traditional social arrangement giving way to a more fluid social order that exists online, the youths are often left to themselves, with the project of self-construction of a unique identity. Pushed by this 'identity crisis', the youths are taking to the internet and social media to vent their fantasies with the hope of carving out a unique identity – a 'handle' that stands out from the crowd. Acute unemployment and financial insecurity, coupled with alcoholism and drug use, are acting as catalysts in driving such online trends among youths.

The Rakta Charitra and its allied trends are, in essence, just that. An expression of power, confidence, angst and identity that are all derived from either uncertainty or pure vanity, or both. Online trends, games, or 'challenges' that stoke the dark juvenile fantasies of violence and chaos, dressed up as cool or edgy and guaranteeing instant fame have become the new templates for self-construction of 'identity'. In the social media ecosystem, these younger users, confronted with an ever worsening identity crisis, are falling victim to the likes, followers and retweets which are nothing short of currency for them, and represent a self-fulfilling and self-driven opportunity to get quick fame.

However, while these instant hollow outrages endorsing violence have the potential to cause actual, concrete unrest and are a general nuisance and disturbance to a peaceful society, they cannot be responded to by way of knee jerk reactions. So where does a solution to such a problem lie, if at all there is one? Or is it a natural by-product of modernity in a society in transition. A crackdown by police, to use the term employed by the popular media, would be an ineffective overreaction at best. Though it is the duty of the police to check such trends, it would be naïve to believe that only police action will help in arresting these trends. Police action, at best would be restricted to apprehend the dramatis personae and charge them with relevant sections of the law. It would take a great deal of time and resources, and the police would still not be able to check these trends considering the speed with which they are being created, and the extent to which they are being proliferated.

To begin with, the issue of unemployment has to be tackled as a priority. Providing meaningful employment opportunities, and creating hope for financial security are inevitable to check the spread of such dark impulses. An effective, and consoling, check on substance/drug abuse, along with awareness and rehabilitation, are

urgent needs of the hour in order to save the youths from falling into the dark abyss of violence and aggression. Social media is a wild beast. For all its spectacular glory that has the world gaping in amazement, the damage it can cause is massive, and often creeps in unexpectedly. The recent trends are an upshot of an unfettered and unregulated social media ecosystem. Considering that social media is no longer just a virtual world made of fun apps but a full-fledged hyper-reality, there need to be serious deliberations on the effective regulation of this space, and putting a check on the circulation of content that extols violence and aggression.

However, at a deeper level, 'identity crisis' is at the core of this issue. The crucial question then, for society at large, is how to prevent this crisis to check this collective alienation of the younger lot from the society. There is an urgent need to reinvent traditional institutions such as the family and the community. Reinvention of the traditional institutions will illuminate the connections between the individual and the society. A society that shares, and counsels the anxieties of its young, will go a long way in reassuring them that identity formation is a social project and not a private problem.

All these videos and other delinquent expressions are part of a deeper malaise afflicting today's youth. Rather than being evaluated in isolation, it needs to be assessed within the larger scheme of youth development. We need to work towards developing a consolidated national youth project that helps the young to carve an identity of their own that is not fueled by hollow hashtags, but a sense of purpose. It would, indubitably, be an ambitious project requiring considerable resources and energy, but nevertheless an indispensable one that no nation could risk to abandon.

The writer is an IPS officer, currently working as SP, Berhampur. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Can varsities defy the new nationalism?



Emily J. Levine

UNIVERSITIES STAND AT THE INTERSECTION OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND UNIVERSAL GOALS

The cosmopolitan values of higher education are in retreat before a rising wave of provincialism. International student enrollment at universities in the United States continues to decline, while branch campuses of American universities abroad are being reorganised or shut down. This trend has ominous implications – and not only for education and research.

Universities stand at the intersection of national interest and universal goals. While they play a role in nation-building, they also promote the pursuit of truth, which has historically benefited from the free exchange of ideas and the free movement of scholars and students across borders. In an era of dwindling global institutions, the university is the latest to experience a decline in power and influence. The open flow of ideas is now at risk. Can that be changed?

Universities rose to prominence in the nineteenth century by making themselves useful to nation-states, training members of the civil service, and improving technology through basic research. Later, they became a forum for global collaboration, finding ways to balance their obligations to their home countries and their responsibilities to the international com-

munity. But fears about the rise of China and suspicion of espionage have tipped the scale toward national priorities in recent years.

In 2020, President Donald Trump issued an order banning Chinese graduate students and researchers in a number of scientific fields. President Joe Biden's administration has maintained the ban. Earlier this year, Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas proposed a prohibition on funding from Chinese entities to US universities and the end of the 10-year multiple-entry visa programme for Chinese citizens. American nationalists like Cotton rarely acknowledge that the Chinese are following a path laid by US students. In the nineteenth century, nearly 10,000 Americans travelled to study at universities in Germany. When they returned, they established institutions modeled on the ones they found abroad. The Americans' adaptations of the German universities were so effective that by 1900, the flow of traffic reversed. Germans attended the World's Fairs in Chicago and St. Louis to learn about American developments in higher education, such as co-education and applied mathematics. Research and innovation in the natural sciences and the humanities expanded as a result of this 'competitive emulation.'

Despite some German concerns that American students might steal trade secrets, intellectual curiosity overcame protectionism. Scientists and scholars from the two countries became partners as well as competitors. Professors travelled back and forth between New York and Berlin on exchanges, sharing and advancing ideas.

The two world wars undermined academic cooperation. The university was pulled toward the state and faculty promoted themselves as experts who could advance national goals.

After World War II, it took numerous efforts to revive the dormant values of transatlantic scientific exchange and transparency. Even the international programmes of the Cold War-era, like the Ford Foundation-funded Free University of Berlin, the Fulbright Programme, and the German Academic Exchange Service, were more expressions of 'soft power' than true scientific partnerships.

But US universities today are pulled in divergent directions. Although the majority of their research funding comes from the federal government, they generally support the global sharing of ideas, even with US competitors. That's how knowledge advances. Rather than blocking potential research

partners from acquiring visas, governments should be encouraging international scientific collaboration through financial support and exchange programs. The Biden administration should take this opportunity to promote the value of science as a public good.

In the long history of scientific discovery the recent trend toward nativism is an aberration. Scientific advances and technological innovation require free exchange. Those who want to participate in the scientific enterprise must be willing to open their borders to partners from elsewhere, including potential rivals. Many have asked whether China can become a scientific superpower despite its regressive politics and limited freedoms. But we should also be asking a different question: Can US universities remain the best in the world despite closing themselves off from China and the rest of the global community?

To remain vital and relevant – and support both national and global progress – universities must remain open to the world. Americans should know this as well as anyone.

The writer is Associate Professor of Education and History at Stanford University.

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Alternate currency

Sir, Thirteen years ago, a person named Satoshi Nakamoto published a paper on the internet on a version of electronic cash that would allow payments to be sent directly from one party to another party without going through a financial institution. Cryptocurrency was merely an idea in the mind of that person. Today, billions of dollars are at stake in crypto exchanges. In November 2016, when the government demonetised ₹500 and ₹1000 denomination notes, 86% of Indian currency became unusable. Those in favour of cryptocurrencies are so because they do not want the government or the central banks to control their money. If we recall the global economic meltdown of 2008, mega investment bankers like Lehman Brothers became bankrupt. Cryptocurrencies were born right after this scenario. Bitcoin was the first to arrive. And then many other surfaced - Ethereum, Litecoin and Ripple. Having seen the condition of banks, many Indians have lost their confidence on banks and are looking forward to investing in cryptocurrencies.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Exploited workers

Sir, For the first time in independent India, a survey is being conducted by the Centre on domestic workers. It is estimated that 20 to 80 million people work as domestic workers in India. The survey includes all types of services like cooks, drivers, housekeeping, tutors and watchmen. The survey will collect different kinds of information related to domestic work. Domestic workers constitute a significant portion of total employment in informal sector. They are the third largest category of workers after agriculture and construction. In spite of the fact that millions of workers are employed in this sector, they do not get the recognition they deserve and there are no laws and policies to deal with the problems faced by these workers. Furthermore, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, life became harder for them. They are often poorly paid and fed. Most of them struggle to make both ends meet. They find it hard to manage household expenses with their meagre income. They are not paid for doing overtime work. Their health needs are not met either. Although the number of domestic workers is very high, the government lacks data on them. The survey will help the government understand the issues related to them and formulate effective policies. When authentic data is available, it would be easier to protect domestic workers from exploitation.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST

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national

of the day quote

The ongoing anti-farm laws protest will not end yet and its future course of action will be decided November 27

RAKESH TIKAIT | Biju Leader

Aversion to taking the second dose of vaccine was one of the major causes for resurgence of the COVID-19 infection in many European nations

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | Kerala Chief Minister

The first train to Ayodhya under the free pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens will leave on December 3 and the government is going to include Vailankanni Church in Tamil Nadu to the list of destinations very soon

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | Delhi Chief Minister

SHORT TAKES

5 killed in MP road mishaps

Raisen/Bhind (MP): Five persons were killed in separate accidents involving two-wheelers in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen and Bhind districts, police said Wednesday. Three persons were killed in Raisen, while two died in Bhind in the last 24 hours, officials said. In a similar accident in Bhind district, two persons were killed and another injured when their motorcycle rammied into a stationary tractor-trolley, Mehgaon police station in-charge D B S Tomar said.

Akhillesh meets AAP, Apna Dal (K) leaders

Lucknow: A day after meeting Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday held talks with AAP leader Sanjay Singh and Apna Dal (K) chief Krishna Patel in the run-up to the 2022 assembly polls. After the separate meetings, Patel said a tie-up with the SP has been "finalised" while Singh indicated that the talks have begun. "A strategic discussion (rannitik charcha) was held on the common agenda to make UP corruption-free and get rid of the government under which law and order collapsed," Singh, who is the Aam Aadmi Party in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, told reporters here.

Pragya appears before court

Mumbai: BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, appeared before a special NIA court here Wednesday. Thakur, out on bail, had last come to the court in January 2021. Earlier in the day, her lawyers told special judge for NIA cases P R Sire that as she was in Mumbai for medical treatment, she would attend the court. She had not been summoned by the court. The Bhopal MP arrived at 12.25 PM and sat on a lawyer's chair in the front row.

Bank manager killed during robbery

Pune: The manager of a cooperative bank was killed during robbery in Junnar tehsil of Pune district Wednesday, police said. The deceased was identified as Rajendra Bhor (53). The incident took place at Anant Bigar Sheti Sakhari Patsanshta at Kandali, police said. "Two persons, who were wearing helmets, entered the bank and opened fire before making away with some cash. Bhor, who was hit by bullets, was declared brought dead at a hospital," said inspector Vilas Deshpande of Narayangaon police station. Police have formed multiple teams to trace the robbers, he added.



India will have to see how best to protect its interests in Afghanistan and make the best of a difficult situation

HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA | FOREIGN SECRETARY

SPUTNIK LIGHT VAX TO BE LAUNCHED BY DEC

Russia's single-dose Sputnik Light Covid-19 vaccine will be launched in India by December, 2021, said Kirill Dmitriev, CEO, Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) in a webinar Wednesday



Covaxin 50% effective against Covid, less than initially thought: Lancet

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: Two-dose of Covaxin, developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, provided only 50 per cent protection against the Covid-19 infection during the second wave of the pandemic in India, according to the first real-world assessment published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal Wednesday.

The study assessed 2,714 hospital workers from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, from April 15 to May 15, 2021, who were symptomatic and underwent RT-PCR testing for Covid-19.

The Delta variant was the dominant strain in India during the study period, accounting for approximately 80 per cent of all confirmed Covid-19 cases. "Our study offers a more complete picture of how BBV152 performs in the field and should be considered in the context of Covid-19 surge conditions in India, combined with the possible immune evasive potential of the Delta variant," said Dr Manish Soneja, Additional Professor of Medicine at AIIMS in New Delhi.

Covaxin (BBV152) is a vero cell-derived, inactivated whole-virion vaccine formulated with a novel adjuvant and administered in a two-dose regimen, 28 days apart.

In January 2021, BBV152 was approved for emergency use in India for people aged 18, while earlier this month, the World Health Organization (WHO) also added BBV152 to its list of approved emergency use Covid-19 vaccines. Covaxin shot developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Virology (NIV), in July announced the final results of its Phase-III clinical trials.

According to the company, the vaccine showed an efficacy rate of 77.8 per cent against symptomatic Covid-19, which went up to 93.4 per cent against severe symptomatic infection.

In a study published in the journal The Lancet, earlier this month, Bharat Biotech demonstrated Covaxin to be 77.8 per cent effective against Covid-19, and 65.2 per cent against Delta variant.

Meanwhile, a study has revealed that the highly transmissible Covid Delta variant can infect individuals who have been fully vaccinated against the virus. The study was conducted by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research (CSIR) and the National Centre for Disease Control in two Delhi hospitals.



Fall in Covid testing worries authorities

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 24: An alarming fall in testing for Covid-19 threatens to undermine India's efforts to contain the pandemic, the federal health ministry said Wednesday in a letter to state governments, as worries grew over fresh waves of infection abroad.

India reported on Wednesday 9,283 new Covid-19 cases, a day after recording 7,579 infections - the lowest in 543 days. But testing hovered around 1 million per day for the past few weeks, less than half the capacity.

"In the absence of sustained levels of sufficient testing, it is very difficult to determine the true level of infection spread in a geography," Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in a letter sent to the northeastern state of Nagaland, which has reduced testing by more than a third in two months.

"With a majority of countries see-



ing multiple surges in Covid cases in recent times and a few developed countries facing even fourth and fifth waves despite high levels of Covid vaccination, there is a

need for continued vigil given the unpredictable and contagious nature of the disease."

The ministry delivered the same warning to other states, though

each letter contained observations specific to the various states' circumstances. India has so far reported 34.5 million infections. The United States has the only higher total number of cases. Deaths in India rose by 437 Wednesday to 466,584.

Health workers have started a door-to-door vaccination campaign in India as tens of millions of Indians have not taken their second dose by the due date. India has so far administered 1.18 billion vaccine doses - at least one dose in 82% of its 944 million adults and two in 44%. Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope has cautioned that the third wave of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic is likely to hit the state by December, but it will be mild, Wednesday. The minister's assertions came a day after the Centre chided the state for a drastic fall in the testing rates - from 2.69 lakhs per day in May to barely 98,000 now in Nov.

3 terrorists killed in Srinagar encounter

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Nov 24: TRF top commander Mehran Yaseen, who was allegedly involved in killing of two teachers in Srinagar last month and several other attacks on civilians and security forces, was among three terrorists killed in an encounter at Rambagh in Srinagar on Wednesday, police said.

Police said acting swiftly on its own specific input regarding movement of terrorists in Rambagh area, a Srinagar police team signalled a vehicle suspected of carrying the terrorists to stop.

"However, the terrorists started firing indiscriminately on the police party from inside the car while trying to flee from the spot under the cover of firing.

The fire was however effectively retaliated, leading to a gunfight. "In the ensuing gunfight, three terrorists got killed and were identified as terrorist commander of proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF) Mehran Yaseen Shalla, resident of Jamalatta Srinagar, Manzoor Ahmad Mir, resident of Babhar Pulwama and Arafat Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Nikloora Pulwama."

Police said as per its records, the killed terrorists were linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF) and part of group involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities.

Govt extends funding for climate research, forecasts, warnings

The scheme will provide improved weather, climate, ocean forecast and services, and other hazard related services thereby ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the end-users as per the one of the mandates of the Ministry of Earth Sciences

INDO-ASIAN SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: The government Wednesday approved continuation of an umbrella scheme, at an estimated cost of Rs 2,135 crore, for R&D into weather and climate services, improved forecast, and better early warnings among several other things, in the next finance cycle (2021-2026).

The scheme will provide improved weather, climate, ocean forecast and services, and other hazard related services thereby

ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the end-users as per the one of the mandates of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The increased incidence of extreme weather events due to global climate change and the risk associated with severe weather has prompted the Ministry to formulate many target-oriented programmes, which are carried out in an integrated manner through its agencies.

As a result, these activities are put together under the umbrella scheme termed as Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS), with its eight sub-schemes.

The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry through its scientific agencies - the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the proposal for ACROSS.

The eight sub-schemes under the ACROSS scheme are multi-disciplinary in nature and will be im-

plemented in an integrated manner through IMD, IITM, NCMRWF and INCOIS to cover all the aspects of the weather and climate. Each institute has a designated role for accomplishing the above tasks through the following eight schemes," a Cabinet communique said, detailing the implementation strategy and target for ACROSS.

The scheme pertains to the atmospheric science programmes of the Ministry and addresses different aspects of weather and climate services.

Each of these aspects is incorporated as eight sub-schemes under the umbrella scheme and implemented in an integrated manner through the aforesaid four institutes. The eight sub-schemes include Commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) (IMD), Upgradation of Forecast System (IMD), Weather & Climate Services (IMD), Atmospheric Observations Network (IMD), Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate (NCMRWF), Monsoon Mission III (IITM/NCMRWF/INCOIS/IMD), Monsoon Convection, Clouds and Climate Change (MC4) (IITM/NCMRWF/IMD), and High-Performance Computing System (HPCS) (IITM/NCMRWF), the release added.

HC quashes all orders passed to convert Jaya's residence as memorial

AGENCIES

Chennai, Nov 24: The Madras High Court Wednesday set aside the previous AIADMK government's decision to acquire former Chief Minister, late J. Jayalalitha's residence "Veda Nilayam" at Poes Garden for her memorial.

Justice N Seshasayee, while accepting the petition moved by Jayalalitha's legal heirs, J. Deepa and J. Deepak, ruled that the decision of the government to acquire the property be set aside and the property handed over to them within three weeks.

The court also questioned the wisdom of establishing a second memorial for the late Chief Minister as there is already a memorial for her at the Marina.

Deepak and Deepa pleaded before the court that they were emotionally attached to the Poes Garden residence and that they would establish a public trust and do charity in her name.

The siblings also told the court that the authorities had not given them an opportunity to submit their objections against the acquisition of Veda Nilayam, and



this was in total violation of the principles of natural justice as mandated by the Land Acquisition Act, 2013.

Deepa and Deepak, in the petition, stated that a division bench of the Madras High Court had declared them as the legal heir of Jayalalitha and had also directed to establish public trust in her name with a few of her properties to do charity.

They also said that the action of the state government acquiring the property and converting it into a memorial will be against the order of the court.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE DECLINES TO 2 NATIONWIDE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the average number of children per woman, has further declined from 2.2 to 2 at the national level and ranged from 1.4 in Chandigarh to 2.4 in Uttar Pradesh, as per a Health Ministry survey.

NITI Aayog's Member, Health, Dr Vinod Kumar Paul, and Union Health and Family Welfare Secretary Rajesh Bhushan released the factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nu-

trition and others for India and 14 States and UTs clubbed under Phase 2 of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) (2019-21).

The survey showed that all Phase 2 states have achieved replacement level of fertility (2.1) except Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. The survey has found that the overall Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased substantially from 54 per cent to 67 per cent at all-India level and in almost all Phase 2 states/UTs with the ex-



ception of Punjab. The use of modern methods of contracep-

tives has also increased in almost all states and UTs.

The key indicator of the Health Ministry survey has revealed that the unmet needs of family planning have witnessed a significant decline from 13 per cent to 9 per cent at all-India level and in most of the Phase 2 states/UTs.

The unmet need for spacing which remained a major issue in India in the past has come down to less than 10 per cent in all the states except Jharkhand at 12 per cent, and Arunachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh - both at 13 per cent.

The full immunisation drive among children aged 12-23 months

has recorded substantial improvement from 62 per cent to 76 per cent at all-India level, underlined the survey. As many as 11 out of 14 states/UTs have more than three-fourth of children aged 12-23 months with fully immunisation and it is highest 90 per cent for Odisha.

The states/UTs which were surveyed in the Phase 2 are Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.



Mamata indicates expansion plans for TMC are underway

DURING HER MEETING WITH PM NARENDRA MODI, BANERJEE RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE BSF'S TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION IN WEST BENGAL AND DEMANDED THAT IT BE WITHDRAWN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday, indicated that expansion plans for her party, Trinamool Congress, were well underway, with trips to PM's constituency Varanasi and Mumbai already in the pipeline.

Speaking to reporters after her meeting with Modi, Banerjee said that she raised the issue of the BSF's territorial jurisdiction in West Bengal, demanding that it be withdrawn.

"Giving more powers to the BSF leads to confrontation in law and order with the state police. We are not against the BSF. It is not right to disturb the federal structure without any reason," she said.

The chief minister also said that she has invited the prime minister to inaugurate the Global Business Summit which will be held in the state next year.

"I also told him that we will get Rs 96,655 crore from the Centre which are pending as dues. How will states run if money due from the Centre is not provided? Whatever political differences we have... Our ideologies are different but that should not affect the state-Centre relations. If states develop, then the Centre will develop," she said.

The chief minister said that she raised the issue of violence in Tripura in which TMC workers



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Wednesday.

PTI PHOTO

were allegedly assaulted by BJP workers.

On the Uttar Pradesh elections, Banerjee said that she was open to helping Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav if he needs the TMC's help.

"If Trinamool can help defeat the BJP in UP, we will go... If Akhilesh (Samajwadi chief Akhilesh Yadav) wants our help, we will help," she said.

The TMC chief also said while her party has "started" in Goa, regional parties should slug it out in some states.

"We have started in Goa and Haryana... But I think some places, let regional parties fight. If they want us to campaign, we will help," she said.

Days after she inducted two senior Congress leaders into her party, Banerjee said she had no plans to meet party president Sonia Gandhi during her trip this time.

Congress leader Kirti Azad and former president of the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee Ashok Tanwar formally joined the party Monday.

"This time I sought time only

from the prime minister. The leaders are all busy with Punjab polls. Work is first... Why should we meet Sonia every time? It is not constitutionally mandated," she said when asked if she was meeting Sonia Gandhi.

Banerjee also said that she would visit Varanasi since "Kamalapati Tripathi's family is now with us."

Rajeshpati Tripathi and Laliteshpati Tripathi, the grandson and the great-grandson of former UP chief minister Kamalapati Tripathi, joined the Trinamool Congress in October.

Govt sensitive about ecology: Gadkari amid concerns over Chardham project

The strategic 900 km-long Chardham project worth Rs 12,000 crore aims to widen roads and provide all-weather connectivity to four holy places -- Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath -- in Uttarakhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Amid concerns over the proposed Chardham project, Union minister Nitin Gadkari Wednesday termed allegations that road construction triggered landslides in Uttarakhand as 'misinformation' and asserted that the government is sensitive about ecology and environment while carrying out development projects.

The road transport and highways minister also asserted that the pace of highways construction in the country will cross 40 km per day in the current financial year.

The pace of highways construction in the country touched a record 37 km per day in the financial year 2020-21.

Recently, the Supreme Court reserved its verdict on pleas with respect to the ambitious project.

"This is all misinformation (Ye galat prachar hai). Earlier there used to be flash floods and cloud bursts which used to cause damages and deaths," Gadkari, who is known for expressing frank views on any matter, told PTI.

His remarks also come against the backdrop of concerns about ecological issues expressed in certain quarters on the widening of the road for the Chardham project.

Gadkari pointed out that now, the hilly terrains have been secured with the construction of a tunnel (beneath chamba town).

"We are being sensitive about ecology and environment while carrying out development projects," he asserted.



This is all misinformation. Earlier there used to be flash floods and cloud bursts which used to cause damages and deaths...We are being sensitive about ecology and environment while carrying out development projects

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Centre's plea seeking modification of the September 8, 2020 order, which had asked the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to follow the 2018 circular stipulating carriageway width of 5.5 metre on the Chardham highway project, which goes up to the China border.

The Ministry of Defence has sought a modification of the order and directions that the national highways from Rishikesh to Mana, from Rishikesh to Gangotri, and from Tanakpur to Pithoragarh may be developed to two-lane configuration.

Gadkari said monetisation of some national highways has already fetched the government Rs 25,000 crore. Road assets worth Rs 1.60 lakh crore will be monetised over four years till FY 2025 under the ambitious national asset monetisation plan.

BJP launches campaign to woo Muslims in U'khand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: In an attempt to win support of minorities, especially Muslims in next year's Uttarakhand Assembly polls, the BJP has started a campaign to get 100 minority votes in each polling booth. The campaign has been carried out in minority dominated booths across the state.

BJP Minority Morcha national president Jamal Siddiqui told IANS that a campaign has been started to get 100 votes from minority communities at all the polling booths across the state.

"One booth, 100 votes" campaign has started and it will run till the Assembly polls next year. During the campaign, workers of the BJP's minority morcha will work to ensure minimum 100 votes for the party candidate in minority dominated booths by reaching out to the community specially Muslims," Siddiqui said.

The BJP Minority Morcha work-

MINORITY OUTREACH

Muslim constitutes over 15 per cent of the Uttarakhand population.

Sikhs are around three per cent of the state population and others constitute less than one per cent

Muslims, however, are not in a decisive position in any of the 13 districts, but play a crucial role in writing the electoral fortunes of any party

ers are reaching out to the members of the minority community and trying to dispel misconceptions created by opposition parties about the party and Narendra Modi government.

"Our workers are explaining the welfare initiatives of the Modi government which benefited everyone including Muslims and other mi-



nority communities. The Modi government has not discriminated against anyone in the name of religion in the last seven years and only opposition parties created a false narrative against us," Siddiqui said.

Muslim constitutes over 15 per cent of the Uttarakhand population. Sikhs are around three per cent of the state population and others constitute less than one per cent.

Muslims, however, are not in a decisive position in any of the 13 districts, but play a crucial role in writing the electoral fortunes of any party.

The Uttarakhand Assembly polls will be held in February-March next year along with Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur and Goa.

In the run up to the Assembly polls scheduled in February-March next

Our workers are explaining the welfare initiatives of the Modi government which benefited everyone including Muslims and other minority communities. The Modi government has not discriminated against anyone in the name of religion in the last seven years and only opposition parties created a false narrative against us

JAMAL SIDDIQUI | BJP MINORITY MORCHA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

year, the BJP state unit has already launched several campaigns to strengthen its organisational structure at the ground level like forming a 21-member committee at each polling booth and its verification.

Uttarakhand likely to scrap Devasthanam Board

AGENCIES

Dehradun, Nov 24: Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is likely to announce scrapping of Devasthanam board in Uttarakhand, top sources said. The move comes a day after a group of Chardham priests gheraoed the official residence of Uttarakhand Agriculture Minister Subodh Uniyal Tuesday.

Priests of the Chardham — Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri — have long been demanding the dissolution of the Devasthanam Board that they see as an encroachment upon their rights. The board was constituted during the chief ministership of Trivendra Singh Rawat and it is mandated to run the affairs of 51 temples in Uttarakhand, including the Char Dham.

However, soon after taking over,

Priests of the Chardham — Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri — have long been demanding the dissolution of the Devasthanam Board that they see as an encroachment upon their rights

former Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat announced during Kumbh that the temples will be removed from the board's control. But he had to step down before he could keep his word.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had constituted a high-powered committee to look into the issue and thrash out a solution that is acceptable to all stakeholders.

Left activists clash with police in Kolkata, many detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 24: Several SFI and DYFI activists were Wednesday detained in Kolkata, after they clashed with police while protesting against an alleged scam in recruitment in the School Service Commission (SSC).

The CPI(M) student and youth wings - the Students' Federation of India and the Democratic Youth Federation of India - had organised a march to the SSC office in Salt Lake Wednesday afternoon, as part of their stir.

The police put up barricades to control the crowd, but as the Left activists tried to break past those, they were prevented from moving ahead, following which a scuffle ensued between the two sides.

A number of the activists were detained, and taken to the Bidhanagar police station.

Later, youth activists sat on a dharna outside the police station, demanding the immediate release of those detained.

A division bench of the Calcutta High Court Wednesday granted an interim stay on a CBI enquiry ordered by a single bench into alleged irregularities in appointments of Group D workers in aided/sponsored schools by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSSE).

JEWES OF KOLKATA: A SLICE OF HISTORY

20-30 ODD JEWS LEFT IN THIS EASTERN MEGA-POLIS DOWN FROM A PEAK POPULATION OF 6,000 JUST AFTER WORLD WAR II

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 24: Hurrying down the busy Burrabazar area, Elisha Twena, 78, one of the last Jews of Kolkata ducked into a gate hidden by pavement shops selling trinkets at the crossing of Brabourne Road with Canning Street, leading into a stately red building with a tall steeple.

Walking in through an arched door with the 'Star of David' embellished over it, Twena entered a huge hall with chequered marble flooring, regal chandeliers and ancient fans hanging from a two-storied high roof. The hall's Renaissance stained glass windows, and ornate floral pillars shipped in from Paris gave it a medieval grandeur.

The building which may easily be mistaken to be a Central European church but for its setting is the 137-year-old Magen David Synagogue, considered one of the most magnificent Jewish temples in Asia, built by the 19th century realtor and business tycoon Elias David Ezra, whose legacy still lingers on in a street named after him in central Kolkata.

Like the 20-30 odd Jews left in this eastern mega-polis down from a peak population of 6,000 just after World War II, the Magen David where religious services have long stopped and its older neighbour Neveh Shalom Synagogue built in 1831, remain tucked away in obscurity, hid-



den to all but those who seek it.

"All my classmates from Kolkata's Jewish Boy's School who used to come to this synagogue, migrated out in the 1960s and 1970s in search of better prospects... we now don't even have a Rabbi left here," said Twena, a pensioner who lives in a penthouse on Loudon Street.

Waving his hands towards an empty driveway and garden, he reminisces "this is where we used to play cricket after religious services... there are no children left to play now, the youngest among us

is 53 and the oldest 96."

However, he has no regrets.

For him Kolkata or Calcutta as he still calls it, is one of the important centres of Jewish life, and has been ever since Shalome Obadiah Ha-Cohen, a merchant from Aleppo landed in the city, some 223 years ago to become court jeweller to the Nawabs of Awadh and Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Legend has it that he was asked to value the 'Kohinoor' diamond among other jewels in the 'Lion of Punjab's' treasury.

As Ha-Cohen was joined by his relatives and others from the Baghdadi or middle eastern Jewish community the city became a hub for Jewish enterprise and trade with connections with Shanghai in the east and London in the west and all important port cities in between.

Along with Armenians, Greeks, Parsis and Chinese, Jews brought a special cosmopolitan flavour to colonial Kolkata. The nearby Pollock, Ezra and Synagogue Streets thrived with Jewish families settling down there and the Jewish New

All my classmates from Kolkata's Jewish Boy's School who used to come to this synagogue, migrated out in the 1960s and 1970s in search of better prospects... we now don't even have a Rabbi left here

ELISHA TWENA

Year was celebrated with as much fervour as Durga Puja and Christmas.

"We were mostly Arab Jews, conservative Jews, but as we interacted with Indians and Europeans, we changed. We shed middle eastern attire for western clothes, the magnificent Magen David was constructed in such a manner that from afar it looks like a church, earning it the nickname 'Lal Girja' (Red Church)... at the same time we left an indelible impact on the city," said Jael Silliman, 66, a well-known author and scholar.

Hospitals, synagogues, boys' and girls' schools, besides numerous educational and charitable institutions were set up.

Ezra who set up the Magen David in his father's name and married into the wealthy Mumbai-based

Sassoon family, often called the 'Rothschild of the east', also owned many of Kolkata's landmarks — which included Chowringhee Mansion, Esplanade Mansion and Ezra Mansion.

Other Kolkata Jews owned jute mills, cigarette companies, textile and export firms including blue-chip firms — Agarpara Jute Mills, National Tobacco Company and Great Pyramid Insurance.

Kolkata got its first Hebrew press in 1840, and its first Judeo-Arabic weekly 'Mevasser' in 1873. Bene Israeli Jews from Mumbai too flocked to the city, as did European Jews, victims of Nazi Germany's persecution. By the time the Second World War engulfed the world, Kolkata's Jews numbered nearly 6,000. However, the bulk and the heart of the community remained Baghdadi Jews. Kolkata's Jews excelled in the world of movies too, Rachel Sofaer became a top heroine of the silent era under the stage name Arati Devi, while Ezra Mir under the name Edwyn Myers became a well-known film director.

With independence, partition riots and socialistic flavour to India's economic policies, many Jews, who were among the first free marketers in the world, decided to migrate. "Most of my classmates went to Australia, Canada, the US and England," said Twena. Very few migrated to the promised but far more austere land of Israel.

national

of the day quote

India's unique position in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), complemented by a capability of the Armed Forces, enables it to contribute significantly in humanitarian aid and disaster relief situations

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

The Congress government was snatching even the nominal employment of hundreds and thousands of people, who have been serving temporarily for 15-20 years

MANISH SIDOSHIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

We have decided our fate with Mahatma Gandhi's India which gave us Article 370, our own constitution and flag. If they take (Centre) everything from us, we will also take back our decision

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

ACB raids 68 locations

Bangalore (Karnataka): The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officers Wednesday conducted simultaneous raids in 60 locations across Karnataka against government officers on charges of disproportionate assets. The raids are being conducted on the residences and offices of 15 government officers working in various departments. According to sources in ACB, in the preliminary searches and findings, the officers have unearthed documents of huge assets disproportionate to their incomes.

Man who was kept in freezer died

Meerut: Srikesh Kumar, who had been kept in the mortuary freezer for more than seven hours after being presumed dead and later slipped into a coma, has passed away. He breathed his last late Tuesday night. Kumar, 40, had been admitted to the Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial (LLRM) medical college in Meerut. After he had slipped into a coma, he was on ventilator support and doctors put him under conservative treatment using medicines.

Shocking incident

Jaipur: A class 12 boy from Rajasthan's Pali district slit the throat of a class 11 girl while she was having lunch, after she refused his friendship offer. The girl is in hospital and has received 20 stitches on her throat. She is unable to eat or speak and is on glucose, at present. Meanwhile, police arrested the accused who was absconding after slitting the girl's throat.



Government would not have taken a decision to repeal the farm laws if there were no elections in UP and other states in the near future

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

INT'L FLIGHT SERVICES TO NORMALISE BY DEC-END

International passenger flight services are expected to be normalised 'very soon' and possibly by the end of this year, Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said Wednesday



AIR EMERGENCY IN DELHI

SC seeks statistical model to deal with pollution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: The Supreme Court Wednesday yet again pulled up the central government and state bureaucracy over air pollution in Delhi and wondered why they haven't come up with a permanent solution to prevent stubble burning.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking directions to provide stubble-removing machines to small and marginal farmers for free.

The Supreme Court Wednesday asked the Centre and the NCR states to continue with their measures to curb air pollution and called for advance preventive steps with the help of IMD which has "sophisticated mechanism and tools" to deal with the situation before it becomes severe.

Graded response to deal with the spike in air pollution should be taken before the situation becomes severe, the top court said, adding that it will not close the matter and continue to hear it even if pollution comes down by 'virtue of God's act' or restrictions.

A special bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, which discussed the issue of stubble burning and the problems faced by farmers with the lawyers, once again came down on bureaucrats for their alleged inaction in dealing with this aspect.



Only CNG, electric trucks allowed to enter Delhi

To keep Delhi's air quality under check, only CNG and electric trucks, along with trucks providing essential services, will be allowed to enter Delhi between November 27 and December 3, during which all other trucks will be barred from entering the national capital. Meanwhile, in view of an "improvement" in the air quality, the Delhi government Wednesday decided to resume physical classes in schools, colleges and other educational institutions and reopen government offices from November 29.

"Mr (Tushar) Mehta (Solicitor General) as a government lawyer or lawyers and judges we are using our common sense and discussing this issue and what the bureaucracy has been doing all these years and can't they go and meet the farmers. I do not know what they are doing."

"Let the secretaries of the central and state government sit for two days, discuss the issue. They can go to the field and talk to the farmers and decide," said the

bench which also comprised justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant.

The bench said the Indian Meteorological Department, which now has sophisticated mechanism and tools, must be having statistical data on expected wind direction and the time period when the air quality worsens and they can be used in evolving preventive actions in anticipation by the Commission for Air Quality Management in the NCR and

"Why should Delhiites suffer this severe and very poor air quality?" the apex court said. "This is the national capital. Look at the signal we are sending to the world. You can stop these (pollution causing) activities in anticipation itself."

Adjoining Areas.

"You did not have computers in those days and now you have super computers and if you prepare the statistical model, namely what is the data for the last five years and based on that you can plan the expected level of pollution for the next 15 days. Why should Delhiites suffer this severe and very poor air quality," the bench observed.

It said the measures suggested by the Commission on Air Quality Management to deal with industrial pollution, thermal plants, vehicular emissions, dust control, diesel generators as well as encouraging work from home be continued for the time being and it will take up the matter on Monday.

RKPA asks states to undertake agri market reforms

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: Rashtriya Kisan Progressive Association (RKPA) has strongly condemned and refuted equivocally the false and malicious claims made by self-acclaimed, anti-reform, section of the farmer leaders.

If India needs to assure its citizens of sustainable food security and low food inflation, it needs to help farmers by the market reforms undertaken recently.

The RKPA has also implored the government to not get swayed by the anti-farmers lobby and have requested the Chief Ministers of all 28 states and 9 Administrators to ensure execution of the reform in their respective states

Chintan Shivir of RKPA has decided to put forth the interest of Farmers and will do a mass campaign for consensus building to the crucial reforms which has been decided to repeal by PM Narendra Modi November 19.

Emerging states like Bihar, the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and other marginalised pockets will be affected badly after this decision due to a small Anti-reform farmer leader.

These marginalised farmers, who are away from the national capital, were much hopeful with the recent three Farmers Act passed in Parliament which is now going to be repealed.

In fact, 23 crops over which the MSP is provided affects only 33 per cent of the farmers by all means.

Norovirus outbreak in Ker: K'taka on high alert

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bengaluru, Nov 24: In the wake of the detection of 13 norovirus cases in Kerala, Karnataka has sounded an alert in the bordering districts of Kodagu and Dakshina Kannada.

In a circular issued on Tuesday, the Karnataka Health Department released guidelines to be followed.

It instructed the appointment of a physician as a nodal officer for every district to manage the situation. District Health and Family Welfare department officers have also been asked to pitch in.

The infection is caused and spread through contaminated food and water.

The person affected with the virus will develop symptoms of vomiting, loose motion, nausea, stomach ache, headache, body pain and fever, it said.

The patients will have to be admitted to hospital. If neglected it will become fatal, it said. The health department officials have been asked to gather information on sources of drinking water and test them.

The treatment for the infection is non-specific and the patient has

to be treated for symptoms.

The rare norovirus was reported among 13 students of a veterinary college at Pookode in Wayanad district of Kerala in October end. The Kerala government has called upon the people of the state to be on high alert.

The norovirus which is also known as the 'winter vomiting bug' is highly infectious and spreads easily among people. Doctors said that the disease is transmitted by direct contact with an infected person, contaminated food or touching a contaminated surface, and putting unwashed hands in the mouth.



Border Security Force (BSF) women soldiers patrol near a fence at International Border outskirts in Jammu PTI PHOTO

Can double masking for long cause breathing problems?

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 24: While wearing double masks, which helps create a strong barrier against Covid-19 infection spread via airborne viral particles, has become the new normal, prolonged wearing of masks can develop hydration issues or other nagging breathing troubles, health experts said Wednesday.

"Prolonged mask wearing can be associated with certain problems - the most common being headaches, dehydration, acne and difficulty in breathing," Radhika Banka, Consultant Pulmonologist at PD Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mumbai, told IANS.

Breathing issues are "usually seen in mouth breathers and in people with underlying respiratory problems such as COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary

Disease)", she added. According to Ravi Shekhar Jha, Additional Director and HOD, Pulmonology, at Fortis Escorts Hospital, Faridabad, wearing double mask for long hours can also lead to dryness. "It is because natural humidification of nasal mucosa gets impaired," Jha said.

There are various masks available in the market, including cloth masks, surgical masks and respirators such as N-95s. The cloth mask has the least protection and the US Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing a disposable surgical mask along with a cloth mask for additional protection. For surgical masks, the knotted technique (that is knotting the ear loops to provide better fit and prevent leakage from the sides) is recommended.

But with full vaccination rolled out in most countries, are double



masks still required? "Even after double dose vaccination, people can get breakthrough infections and can still be asymptomatic carriers and spread the infection. Hence masking is important even after double vaccination," Banka said. The health experts stated that for people living in India, double masks become more important as vaccination of children has not yet begun in the country, and asymptomatic transmission is the highest from children. Added to this is a high population density, where social distancing is not practically possible in many cases.

Most of the countries which have made masks voluntary are those in the West with low population density, where social distancing is feasible. These countries have managed to vaccinate more than 80 per cent of their population with two doses. Also, masks in these countries are still recommended in enclosed spaces, public transports, healthcare facilities etc. "With only 48 per cent of our population being vaccinated with one dose and 25 per cent being vaccinated with two doses, I do not think India can yet take the risk of removing the mandatory use of masks," Banka said.

However, according to Jha, "A single mask, if worn properly, is sufficient." "People who wear double masks, have this tendency of adjusting their masks repeatedly due to breathing issues, and that way the whole purpose of wearing a

mask is defeated," he said.

Jha added that for someone like a healthcare worker, who is in an area with high concentration of Covid viral droplets, an N-95 mask should be worn all the time. For other situations, a normal surgical mask (single) is sufficient.

Although several countries have loosened mask restrictions citing vaccine efficacy, various studies and health experts have stressed on the need for continuing wearing masks, even after being fully vaccinated, including booster shots; and following other protective measures such as physical distancing and handwashing. Most people are able to wear masks fairly well for a few hours, but if your job requires you to wear masks for a prolonged period, it is essential to take adequate breaks to hydrate oneself and prevent any skin problems, Banka suggested.

Anaemia among kids, women major concern nationwide, says survey

THE STATES AND UTS WHICH WERE SURVEYED IN THIS PHASE WERE AP, CHANDIGARH, CHHATTISGARH, HARYANA, JHARKHAND, MP, NCT OF DELHI, ODISHA, PONDICHERRY, PUNJAB, RAJASTHAN, TAMIL NADU, UP AND UTTARAKHAND



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: Anaemia among children and women continues to be a cause of concern, with more than half of them being found anaemic in 14 states and UTs, according to the findings of phase two of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).

The government Wednesday released the factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and others for India as well as 14 states and UTs, clubbed under phase two, of the 2019-21 NFHS-5 here.

The states and UTs which were surveyed in this phase were Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, a Health Ministry statement said.

At the national level, the occurrence of anaemia among women and children was found to be the same as that in 14 states and UTs. The findings for national level were calculated by using data from phase one and phase two of the NFHS-5.

The findings of phase one of the NFHS-5 for 22 states and UTs were released in December, 2020.

According to the findings, child nutrition indicators showed a slight improvement at all-India level as stunting declined from 38 per cent to 36 per cent, wasting from 21 per cent to 19 per cent and underweight from 36 per cent to 32 per cent. In all phase two states and UTs, the situation improved in respect of child nutrition but the change was not significant as drastic changes in respect of these indicators are unlikely in a short span, the statement said.

"Anaemia among children and women continues to be a cause of concern. More than half of the children and women (including pregnant women) are anaemic in all the phase two states and UTs and all-India level compared to NFHS-4, in spite of substantial increase in the composition of iron folic acid (IFA) tablets by pregnant women for 180 days or more," it said. Exclusive breastfeeding to children under six months of age has shown an improvement in all-India level from 55 per cent in 2015-16 to 64 per cent in 2019-21. All the phase two states and UTs are also showing a considerable progress, it said.

Gautam Gambhir gets death threats

New Delhi: Security has been beefed up outside the residence of BJP MP Gautam Gambhir here after he received an alleged death threat from "ISIS Kashmir", officials said Wednesday. A complaint addressed to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) stated that a death threat from "ISIS Kashmir" was received on the official email ID of Gambhir at 9.32 pm Tuesday, they said. The mail read, "We are going to kill you and your family", the officials said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
Tender Notice No.: MSM-STP-TIG-15-21	
Name of Work: CONSTRUCTION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) OF 30 KLD CAPACITY ON TURNKEY BASIS AT TITLAGARH STATION.	
Approx cost of the Work:	₹43,89,368.00
Completion period of the Work:	06 (Six) Months from the date of issue of L.O.A.
Tender Closing Date & Time: at 1100 hrs. of 10.12.2021	
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letterhead and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: http://www.irps.gov.in	
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Sambalpur	
PR-572/M/21-22	

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.B-670	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R&B DIVISION-V, BHUBANESWAR	
E-mail ID- eernb5bbsr@gmail.com; Tel- (0674)-2392424	
No. 6401	dtd 20.11.2021
Notice for Building work	
E-Procurement Tender Call Notice No.09 of 2021-22	
Number of the work	03 (three) nos Electrical works
Period of completion	05(Five) nos Road work
Date & time of sale & receipt of bid document in the office of Inviting Authority	As mentioned in DTCN
Date & time of opening of bids	From: 26.11.2021 at 4.00 PM To: 06.12.2021 at 4.30 PM
Name and address of Inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, R&B Division-V, Bhubaneswar
Further details can be seen from the state Govt portal https://odisha.gov.in . Any amendment /cancellation/ retenders will be available in the website.	
Sd./ Executive Engineer, R&B Division-V, Bhubaneswar	
OIPR-34090/11/0019/2122	

The Odisha Small Industries Corporation Ltd.	
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)	
(An ISO:9001:2008 certified Govt. Company)	
Industrial Estate, Madhupatna, CUTTACK - 753 010, Odisha.	
Tel No. : 0671-2341204, 2342816 Fax : 0671-2341875/2342561	
e-mail: osiclttd@gmail.com, osicrtd@gmail.com, website: osiclttd.in	
No.CAD-1978 OSIC GST No. 21AAAC02101M121	
TENDER CALL NOTICE	
Tender Notice No.4942	DT.23.11.2021
The Managing Director, OSIC Ltd., Cuttack invites tender from experienced MSMEs duly empanelled with OSIC for the 2 nos. of the works i.e."Beautification of Park with solar roof top plant in Deula Bandha, Nuagarh under Hinjilicut Municipality" and "Beautification of Park in Beberta Bandha under Hinjilicut Municipality".	
Tender details can be downloaded from the OSIC website www.osiclttd.in . Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof or the tendering process may be cancelled in Toto. Any corrigendum/ changes/modifications will appear in OSIC Ltd. website www.osiclttd.in only.	
Sd/-	
MANAGING DIRECTOR	
OIPR-14073/11/0060/2122	

international

of the day quote

We will continue to work together with Pakistan on matters of shared concern, including providing humanitarian support to the people of Afghanistan and to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a place where terrorism flourishes

NIGEL CASEY | UK SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AF & PAK

As president of the governing party, the loss is disappointing for the African National Congress but that is how we should accept the clear message of our people

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

The government takes the spread of infection around the world seriously. The purpose of offering a third shot is to be prepared for a possible deteriorating situation

LENA HALLENGREN | SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, SWEDEN

SHORT TAKES

EU for booster jab to all adults

Brussels: The head of the European Union's public health agency Andrea Ammon said Wednesday that Covid-19 vaccine boosters should be considered for all adults, with priority for those above 40 years, in a major change to the agency's guidance. Recommendations issued by the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) are not binding on EU governments but are used to make health policy decisions. "Booster doses should be considered for all adult individuals prioritising persons above 40 years of age," Ammon said in a recorded statement, noting that boosters should be administered at least six months after completing the primary vaccine schedule.

South Korea sets pandemic high

Seoul: New coronavirus infections in South Korea exceeded 4,000 in a day for the first time since the start of the pandemic as a delta-driven spread continues to rattle the country after it eased social distancing in recent weeks to improve its economy. The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said most of the new 4,116 cases reported Wednesday came from the capital Seoul and its surrounding metropolitan region, where an increase in hospitalisations has created fears about possible shortages in intensive care units. The country's death toll is now 3,363 after 35 virus patients died in the past 24 hours. The 586 patients who are in serious or critical conditions also marked a new high.

Norwegian journo arrested in Qatar

Dubai: Security forces in Qatar detained two journalists from Norwegian state television for over 30 hours and deleted footage they gathered at a migrant labor camp as they tried to report on worker issues ahead of the FIFA 2022 World Cup, authorities said Wednesday. Qatar's government later accused NRK journalists Halvor Ekeland and Lokman Ghorbani of "trespassing on private property and filming without a permit" as the two returned early Wednesday to Norway following their arrest. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre responded by saying their arrest was "unacceptable."

'Ethiopian PM, a Nobel Peace laureate, at battlefront'

Abiy's trajectory from winning the Nobel just two years ago to now potentially heading into battle has shocked many

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nairobi, Nov 24: Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister has gone to the battlefield to take charge in a yearlong war as rival fighters approach the capital, his government announced Wednesday.

State media showed no images of Abiy Ahmed, a 45-year-old former soldier, and his spokeswoman Billene Seyoum dismissed a request for details on his location as "incredible."

He arrived at the front Tuesday, according to a government spokesman.

Tens of thousands of people have died in the war between Ethiopian federal and allied troops and fighters from the country's Tigray region. The prospect of



ancient nation breaking apart has alarmed both Ethiopians and observers who fear what would happen to the often turbulent Horn of Africa at large.

Countries including France, Germany and Turkey have told

their citizens to leave immediately.

Abiy's trajectory from winning the Nobel just two years ago to now potentially heading into battle has shocked many.

But a move to the front would follow the tradition of Ethiopian

Tens of thousands of people have died in the war between Ethiopian federal and allied troops and fighters from the country's Tigray region

leaders including Emperor Haile Selassie and Emperor Yohannes IV, who was killed in battle in 1889, said Christopher Clapham, a retired professor associated with the University of Cambridge.

"It strikes me as a very traditional Ethiopian exertion of leadership," Clapham said. "It might be necessary to rescue what looks like a very faltering Ethiopian mil-

itary response.

The Tigray forces, who had long dominated the national government before Abiy came to power, appear to have the momentum.

They've approached the capital of Addis Ababa in recent weeks with the aim of strengthening their negotiating position or simply forcing the prime minister to step down.

While unusual, a leader's move to the front has occurred elsewhere in Africa, but at times with deadly results. Chad's president, Idriss Deby Itno, was killed while battling rebels in April, according to the military.

The prime minister announced earlier this week that he would go to the battlefield, saying that "this is a time when leading a country with martyrdom is needed."

Barrier Reef erupts in colour as corals recover, spawn

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canberra, Nov 24: Australia's Great Barrier Reef is spawning in an explosion of colour as the World Heritage-listed natural wonder recovers from life-threatening coral bleaching episodes.

Scientists Tuesday night recorded the corals fertilising billions of offspring by casting sperm and eggs into the Pacific Ocean off the Queensland state coastal city of Cairns.



Scientists Tuesday night recorded the corals fertilising billions of offspring by casting sperm and eggs into the Pacific Ocean

The spawning event lasts for two or three days.

The network of 2,500 reefs covering 348,000 square kilometers suffered significantly from coral bleaching caused by unusually warm ocean temperatures in 2016, 2017 and last year. The bleaching damaged two-thirds of the coral.

Gareth Phillips, a marine scientist with Reef Teach, a tourism and educational business, is studying the spawning as part of a project to monitor the reef's health.

"It is gratifying to see the reef give birth," Phillips said in a statement Wednesday. "It's a strong demonstration that its ecological functions are intact and working after being in a recovery phase for more than 18 months."

"The reef has gone through its own troubles like we all have, but it can still respond — and that gives us hope. I think we must all focus on the victories as we emerge from the pandemic," Phillips added.

SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

US invites Taiwan; China slams move

THE FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND GATHERING IS A TEST OF PREZ BIDEN'S ASSERTION THAT HE WOULD RETURN THE US TO GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TO FACE DOWN AUTHORITARIAN FORCES LED BY CHINA AND RUSSIA

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 24: The Biden administration has invited Taiwan to its Summit for Democracy next month, according to a list of participants published Tuesday, a move that infuriated China, which views the democratically governed island as its territory.

The first-of-its-kind gathering is a test of President Joe Biden's assertion, announced in his first foreign policy address in office in February that he would return the United States to global leadership to face down authoritarian forces led by China and Russia.

There are 110 participants on the State Department's invitation list for the virtual event Dec 9 and 10, which aims to help stop democratic backsliding and the erosion of rights and freedoms worldwide.



The list does not include China or Russia.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said the government would be represented by Digital Minister Audrey Tang and Hsiao Bi-khim, Taiwan's de facto ambassador in Washington.

Our country's invitation to participate in the 'Summit for Democracy' is an affirmation of Taiwan's efforts to promote the values of democracy and human

110 PARTICIPANTS ARE ON THE US INVITATION LIST FOR THE VIRTUAL EVENT DEC 9 AND 10

THE LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE CHINA OR RUSSIA

SELF-GOVERNED TAIWAN SAYS BEIJING HAS NO RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR IT

rights over the years, the ministry added.

China's Foreign Ministry said it was firmly opposed to the invite.

US actions only go to show democracy is just a cover and a tool for it to advance its geopolitical objectives, oppress other countries, divide the world and serve its own interests, ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing.

The invite for Taiwan comes as China has stepped up pressure on

countries to downgrade or sever relations with the island, which is considered by Beijing to have no right to the trappings of a state.

Self-governed Taiwan says Beijing has no right to speak for it.

Sharp differences over Taiwan persisted during a virtual meeting earlier this month between Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping. While Biden reiterated long-standing US support for the One China policy under which it officially recognizes Beijing rather than Taipei, he also said he strongly opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo or undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, the White House said.

Xi said that those in Taiwan who seek independence, and their supporters in the United States, were playing with fire, according to state news agency Xinhua.

HIGH FIVE



US President Joe Biden high fives 16-month-old Breklyn Petrolje as he gathers with US service members and military families during a Thanksgiving event at Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Russia, Ukraine stage military combat drills

REUTERS

Moscow/Kyiv, Nov 24: Russia staged military drills in the Black Sea, south of Ukraine, Wednesday and said it needed to sharpen the combat-readiness of its conventional and nuclear forces because of heightened NATO activity near its borders.

Ukraine, which with its ally the United States has said it believes Russia may be preparing an invasion, staged exercises of its own near the border with Belarus.

Ukraine Wednesday held what it called a "special operation" at the border with Belarus, including drone exercises and military drills for anti-tank and airborne units.

The increase of military activity on both sides follows weeks of rising tension that have raised the risk of war between the two neighbours, even though Russia denies aggressive intent and Western in-



telligence sources have told Reuters they do not see any invasion as imminent.

The United States and NATO have signalled their backing for Ukraine in ways that Moscow considers provocative, including through warship manoeuvres this month in the Black Sea and a delivery of US patrol boats to the Ukrainian navy.

Russian fighter planes and ships practiced repelling air attacks on naval bases and responding with air strikes during military drills Wednesday in the Black Sea, Interfax reported.

DART, NASA's bid to test asteroid defence, launched

ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE DART SPACECRAFT, SHORT FOR DOUBLE ASTEROID REDIRECTION TEST, LIFTED OFF FROM VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE ATOP A SPACEX FALCON 9 ROCKET IN A \$330 MILLION PROJECT WITH ECHOES OF THE BRUCE WILLIS MOVIE 'ARMAGEDDON'

Los Angeles, Nov 24: NASA launched a spacecraft Tuesday night on a mission to smash into an asteroid and test whether it would be possible to knock a speeding space rock off course if one were to threaten Earth.

The DART spacecraft, short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test, lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in a \$330 million project with echoes of the Bruce Willis movie "Armageddon."

If all goes well, in September 2022 it will slam head-on into Dimorphos, an asteroid 525 feet (160 meters) across, at 15,000 mph (24,139 kph).

"This isn't going to destroy the asteroid. It's just going to give it a small nudge," said mission offi-



cial Nancy Chabot of Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, which is managing the project.

Dimorphos orbits a much larger asteroid called Didymos. The pair is no danger to Earth but offer scientists a way to measure the effectiveness of the collision.

Dimorphos completes one orbit

of Didymos every 11 hours, 55 minutes. DART's goal is a crash that will slow Dimorphos down and cause it to fall closer toward the bigger asteroid, shaving 10 minutes off its orbit.

The change in the orbital period will be measured by telescopes on Earth. The minimum change for the mission to be considered a suc-

If all goes well, in September 2022 it will slam head-on into Dimorphos, an asteroid at 15,000 mph

cess is 73 seconds.

The DART technique could prove useful for altering the course of an asteroid years or decades before it bears down on Earth with the potential for catastrophe.

A small nudge "would add up to a big change in its future position, and then the asteroid and the Earth wouldn't be on a collision course," Chabot said.

Scientists constantly search for asteroids and plot their courses to determine whether they could

hit the planet.

"Although there isn't a currently known asteroid that's on an impact course with the Earth, we do know that there is a large population of near-Earth asteroids out there," said Lindley Johnson, planetary defense officer at NASA. "The key to planetary defense is finding them well before they are an impact threat."

DART will take 10 months to reach the asteroid pair. The collision will occur about 6.8 million miles (11 million kilometers) from Earth. Ten days beforehand, DART will release a tiny observation spacecraft supplied by the Italian space agency that will follow it.

DART will stream video until it is destroyed on impact. Three minutes later, the trailing craft will make images of the impact site and material that is ejected.



We are making all efforts to hand over operations of Air India by the end of December
RAJIV BANSAL | MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION SECRETARY

ADANI BECOMES ASIA'S RICHEST

Chairman of Adani Group, Gautam Adani, has replaced Reliance Industries Limited chairman Mukesh Ambani to become the richest man in India and Asia for the first time ever. Adani's wealth has swelled up after the onset of the pandemic. For instance, his total wealth stood at around \$4.91 billion March 18, 2020. As of now, his net wealth has touched nearly \$90 billion - a rise of more than 1800%



of the day quote

The cabinet has given approval to the MECL for assessment of mineral ore for phase one stage of the auction. We are auctioning around six to eight blocks. After that auctioning will be conducted by the State Bank of India

PRAMOD SAWANT | CM, GOA

We saw two clear indicators in our showrooms this festive season. A significant percentage of customers chose Hero E bikes over the petrol bikes and many factored environment and sustainability as influencing factors in their purchase

SOHINDER GILL | CEO, HERO ELECTRIC

With greater manufacturing capacity, we will be able to better serve the needs of our customers and contribute to the stability of the global semiconductor supply chain

KIM KI-NAM | VC AND CEO, SAMSUNG (DEVICE SOLUTIONS DIVISION)

SHORT TAKES

Crackdown on spurious goods

New Delhi: Consumer protection regulator CCPA Wednesday said it has stepped up crackdown on counterfeit or spurious household products like pressure cooker, two-wheeler helmet and cooking gas cylinder carrying fake 'IS mark' as a part of a special drive in the interest of public safety. Already, the Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) has issued notices to five e-commerce entities, including Amazon, Flipkart and PaytmMall, as well as various sellers for offering pressure cookers that are non-compliant with Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) norms.

Bigbasket forays into offline retail

New Delhi: Online grocery platform Bigbasket Wednesday announced its foray into offline retail with the opening a new technology-driven, self-service 'Fresho' store in Bangalore. The launch is part of the company's vision to open 200 physical outlets pan India by 2023 and 800 by 2026, a statement said. The stores will offer high quality products at extremely competitive prices, it added. The store was inaugurated by three farmers, who are a part of Bigbasket's Farmer Connect programme.

New feature by Paytm Money

Mumbai: Paytm Wednesday said its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Money has launched a 'margin pledge' feature, which will help users to access new trading opportunities by leveraging their existing portfolios. The feature will allow users to pledge their existing stocks and ETFs in return for a collateral margin that can be used for trading in stocks, ETFs, futures, and options, according to a statement. It, further, said that pledged stocks remain in the user's Demat account throughout the duration of the pledge and are eligible for all corporate actions.

Dizo logs ₹100cr revenue in 5 months

New Delhi: Consumer tech brand Dizo Wednesday said it has garnered more than one million customers and clocked revenue of over Rs 100 crore within five months of launch in the country. Dizo - a brand under Realme's open partner 'TechLife' ecosystem - was launched in May. Its product portfolio includes wireless neckband earphones, TWS earbuds and smart watches.

Uncertainty mounts over crypto

According to industry estimates, there are 15 million to 20 million cryptocurrency investors in India, with total crypto holdings of around ₹400 billion

Centre's move to bar private players leads to heavy selling

New Delhi, Nov 24: Plans by the Indian government for a new Bill that would bar most private cryptocurrencies has triggered heavy selling in the country's digital currency markets, as investors look to exit positions despite the losses, said traders and investors.

The government will allow only certain cryptocurrencies to promote the underlying technology and its uses, according to a legislative agenda released late Tuesday for the winter session of Parliament set to start this month.

The Bill, if passed, would effectively ban citizens in India from transacting in most cryptocurrencies. The dollar-linked stable coin tether (USDT) slumped 25 per cent to nearly Rs 60 (\$0.861) Wednesday after news of the bill, according to Naimish Sanghvi, a cryptocurrency investor.

A second crypto investor said the value of his portfolio had fallen to about Rs 22,000 from Rs 34,000 Tuesday as a result of the heavy selling. "I am contemplating selling because the future is so unclear," said the investor, who



UNDER THE NEW BILL

The government is considering a ban on all private cryptocurrencies in the proposed cryptocurrency Bill

No person shall mine, buy, generate, hold, sell, deal in, issue, transfer, dispose of or use cryptocurrency, the bill proposes, according to the sources

The Bill also has the provision of exit for those holding private cryptocurrency within the stipulated time frame

The Bill has also decided a definition of cryptocurrency. Any information such as code, number, token that promises a price will be considered Cryptocurrency

THERE IS ALSO A PROVISION TO GIVE RBI THE RIGHT TO RECOGNISE FOREIGN DIGITAL CURRENCY. RBI WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISCOUNT THE PRODUCT UNDER CRYPTOCURRENCY TECHNOLOGY

asked not to be named as the information is sensitive. Several exchanges were facing deposit and withdrawal challenges due to the high volume of selling, said cryptocurrency traders. WazirX, one of India's largest

cryptocurrency exchanges, said earlier on its official Twitter account that it was investigating reports that users were facing delays on its app and website. It later said the issue had been resolved.

Bankers are banking on phygital

Mumbai: Even as there is a surge in adoption of digital banking, physical branches will continue to be relevant as a large percentage of customers are more comfortable doing transactions at branches, according to bankers.

"Banks should make efforts in educating customers about various aspects of digital banking so that they can conveniently use these channels. I think branches, as a mode or a channel, will not be totally discounted. There is still a significant population who will be more comfortable in one-to-one dealings rather than only digital. Therefore, this world of physical plus digital or phygital will be the way forward," State Bank



of India Managing Director Ashwini K Tiwari said at a virtual summit organised by ET BFSI.

City Union Bank Managing Director and CEO N Kamakodi said that though the older generations are much comfortable with the manual banking channel,

many of them are now trying to use the digital channel also. "Around 90 per cent of the banking transactions in India have now started moving into the non-branch channel such as internet banking, mobile banking or ATM. The number of transactions happening at the branches are in single digit," he said.

Jana Small Finance Bank MD and CEO Ajay Kanwal said that according to a World Bank survey, a majority of customers trust a bank more if they can see its branches. "So, I think (the chances of bank) branches coming down to zero are less," he said, adding that the role of branches, however, will change in future.

State to set up Engineering Cluster

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: The Odisha government will set up an India's largest Engineering Cluster very soon at Indranipatna Industrial Area, Choudwar in Cuttack under MSE-CDP scheme of MSME department.

The detailed project report, for this project, has been passed by the state government and the centre. The MSME department organised a review meeting in this regard and Principal Secretary Satyabrata Sahu presided over the meeting.

Sahu said that IDCO has already



provided 6 acres of land for common facility center of the cluster and 8 acres of land to its Special purpose vehicle (SPV) members at Indranipatna.

The total project cost of the proposed cluster is Rs 31.8 crore out of

which the Centre will provide Rs 18.00 crore and the state government will offer Rs 7.18 crore as grant assistance under MSE-CDP Scheme. The SPV members will contribute Rs 5.31 crore.

Principal Secretary also said the cluster is promoted by Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME). The Cluster consists of 88 member units out of which 17 women entrepreneurs and 12 SC/ST entrepreneurs are there. The SPV will have 61 member units from 8 districts including industrially backward districts like Rayagada and Gajapati.

Ease in travel curbs to raise airport infra sector's profits: ICRA

ICRA SAID IT EXPECTS DOMESTIC AIR TRAVEL TO RECOVER BACK TO PRE-COVID-19 LEVELS BY FY2023 AND THE INTERNATIONAL SECTOR BY FY2024

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 24: After reporting operating loss last year, the airport infrastructure sector in the country is expected to turn around this year with an operating profit of Rs 3,200 crore, driven by a likely 82-84 per cent growth year-on-year in air passenger traffic during the period, according to a report by rating agency ICRA.

The significant ramp-up in vaccination, decline in Covid-19 cases and a pick-up in revenge leisure travel are supporting the growth in the domestic passenger traffic, it stated in a statement.

"The airport infrastructure in-

dustry was one of the worst-hit sectors due to the Covid-19 pandemic," said Rajeshwari Burla, group head (corporate ratings) of ICRA.

He added, "The sector's operating income and operating profits are estimated at Rs 14,000 crore and Rs 3,250 crore (operating loss of Rs 1,450 crore in FY2021), respectively, in FY2022. However, the outlook on the airport infrastructure continues to remain negative," he said.

With the improvement in the operating margins and the consequent cash flows in FY2022, the interest coverage and debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) are expected to improve to 1.8x and 1.2x, re-



spectively, according to Burla. According to ICRA, domestic passenger traffic has increased

consecutively for five months after the slowdown witnessed in April and May this year due to the sec-

HEALTHCARE BOOST

India, ADB sign \$300 million loan



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: India and the Asian Development Bank have signed a \$300 million loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas of 13 states that will benefit over 256 million urban dwellers including 51 million from slum areas.

Interventions through the programme will promote increased utilisation of urban HWCs with provision of comprehensive primary health care packages including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and community outreach services such as awareness raising activities on health care options, particularly for women.

The delivery and health information systems for primary health care will be upgraded through digital tools, quality assurance mechanisms, engagement and partnership with the private sector.

"Ensuring equitable access to non-Covid-19 primary health care is critical amid challenges posed by the pandemic to India's health system," said Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India

Resident Mission. He said that the programme complements the government's efforts to bridge the health care gaps by strengthening institutional capacity, operation, and management of urban health and wellness centres at the central, state, and municipal levels.

Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, Rajat Kumar Mishra signed the agreement from India's side for strengthening comprehensive primary healthcare and pandemic preparedness in urban areas programme, while Takeo Konishi signed for ADB.

Rajat Mishra said that the programme supports India's key health initiatives - Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) and Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY).

It is supported by a \$2 million technical assistance grant from ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction to provide support for programme implementation and coordination, capacity building, innovation, knowledge sharing and application of scalable best practices across the healthcare system.

RBI penalises TCPSL, ATPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 24: The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties on Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited (TCPSL) and Appnit Technologies Private Limited (ATPL) for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

A penalty of Rs 2 crore has been imposed on TCPSL and Rs 54.93 lakh on ATPL, the central bank said in a statement Wednesday.

"It was observed that TCPSL was non-compliant with the directions issued by RBI on White Label ATM deployment targets

and net-worth requirement. ATPL was non-compliant with the directions issued by RBI on maintenance of escrow account balance and net-worth requirement," it said.

The RBI had issued notice to these two authorised Payment System Operators (PSOs).

After reviewing their written responses and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, the RBI concluded that the charges of non-compliance with certain directions were substantiated and warranted the imposition of monetary penalty.

BIZ BUZZ

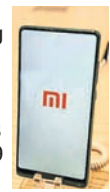
Dell Technologies posts record \$28.4 billion sales in Q3

San Francisco: Dell Technologies has announced a record third quarter (Q3) results, generating revenue of \$28.4 billion (up 21 per cent) with a net income of \$3.9 billion, driven by growth across commercial PCs, servers and storage verticals. The company achieved highest year-over-year PC share gain for its third quarter, with shipments up 26.6 per cent and global PC share up to 17.4 per cent. VMware revenue was \$3.2 billion for the third quarter, up 10 per cent driven by broad-based strength across a diverse product portfolio, the company said late Tuesday. Earlier this month, Dell completed the planned spin-off of VMware via tax-free distribution of shares to Dell investors.



Xiaomi tops Indian market for 4 years straight

New Delhi: Chinese smartphone brand Xiaomi has continued to stay on the top when it comes to smartphone shipments in India for 16 consecutive quarters, the company has announced. The Chinese smartphone maker maintained its lead in the third quarter (Q3) in India this year, shipping 11.2 million units for a 24 per cent share. According to the company, its revenue from overseas markets reached 40.9 billion Yuan during the third quarter of 2021. According to Canalys, Xiaomi's market share of smartphone shipments in the third quarter ranked Number 1 in 11 countries and regions and among the top five in 59 countries and regions globally.



BACK IN WHITE



All eyes on Rahane as second string India take on gutsy New Zealand in the first match of the two Tests – campaign opener of the 2nd World Test Championship

We know the strength of Indian spin bowlers and they have been fantastic over a period of time. I don't think we are favourites. The big strength of Indian cricket is its depth. Their knowledge of own conditions is unique and the challenge is a big one. We are excited to take that on



It's a challenge to play on spin-friendly wickets for Indian batters as well. We never play on such wickets. Batters, once they are in, will have to make (most use of) it. We are not bothered about (turners) as long as we are winning the Test match and the series

KANE WILLIAMSON

AJINKYA RAHANE

THE SQUADS

India

Ajinkya Rahane (C), Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Axar Patel, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Jayant Yadav, Srikrishna (wk) and Prasidh Krishna.

New Zealand

Kane Williamson (C), Tom Latham (wk), Ross Taylor, Henry Nicholls, Tom Blundell (wk), Will Young, Glenn Phillips (wk), Daryl Mitchell, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Kyle Jamieson, William Somerville, Ajaz Patel, Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra.



PEP TALK: Head coach Rahul Dravid has something to suggest for Cheteshwar Pujara ahead of the first Test against New Zealand, starting Thursday

A look at Rahane's net session doesn't inspire much confidence. He tried an ugly hoick off Jayant Yadav's off break and was clean bowled. Prasidh Krishna induced an outside edge which would have been regulation catch. But it was scary to see net bowler Shivam Mavi bowling a perfect bouncer and hitting him on the chest.

It is never easy to lead a side when your own batting form has deserted you. How Rahane strikes a balance in this Test between being a ruthless captain and also the batter his team expects him to be will decide in which direction his career goes from here.

If he plays the game of survival against a Tim Southee or bumper-happy Neil Wagner, it might bring about downfall but as Pujara said,

"being a bit fearless" will relieve him a bit from the gigantic pressure that's on his shoulders to save his career.

Similarly, for Ishant, the senior-most player in the current set-up with 100 plus games and 300 plus wickets, the situation is getting bleak by the day.

He didn't look in good rhythm during the net session and if Siraj is dropped from the eleven, the lanky pacer will once again need to prove that team management's decision isn't a travesty. Umesh Yadav however remains the first-choice new ball bowler.

While it's not known if Axar Patel's workload is being managed but Jayant Yadav had an extended run in the nets under watchful eyes of Dravid.

Colts go down fighting



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: Defending champions India started their campaign in the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup on a disastrous note, going down 4-5 to lowly-ranked France on the opening day of the tournament at the iconic Kalinga Stadium here.

It was a poor performance by the hosts as they took time to settle down, did not show good coordination in the attack, and allowed France the leeway to capitalise on counterattacks. But for goalkeeper Prashant Chauhan, who affected at least five good saves, India could have lost the match by a bigger margin.

The Indians did create several attacks and forward Uttam Singh looked dangerous whenever he got into the French half but on a lot of occasions, the Indian forwards were indecisive in the final third and were dispossessed easily. France defended stoutly and their goalkeeper Guillaume de Vaucelles was brilliant as he pulled off at least seven good saves to deny the Indians.

France skipper Timothy Clement scored a hat-trick in the first, 23rd, and 32nd minutes while Benjamin Marque and Corentin Sellier scored a goal apiece as France scripted a memorable win.

For India, vice-captain Sanjay also scored a hat-trick, converting penalty corners in 15th, 57th, and 58th minutes after Uttam had opened the scoring for the hosts in the 10th minute.

The Indians now need to pull up their socks in the remaining matches if they have to qualify for the quarterfinals and maintain their hopes of defending the title they won in 2016 at Lucknow.

France were clearly not intimidated by the reputation of the hosts and defending champions, and were 2-0 up within seven minutes. They are ranked 25th and were playing against a team that is ranked 5th in the junior rankings. But undaunted, France launched



an attack just after pushback and skipper Clement capitalised on a good attack to score a field goal, slotting home a reverse hit off a rebound after Prashant had made a good save.

France doubled their advantage after Marque scored another field goal. Uttam then pulled one back for the hosts after a penalty corner was saved, making it 1-2 for India off a second rebound.

India made it 2-2 when Sanjay capitalised on a penalty corner as he blasted one flick past the French goalkeeper to make it 2-2.

But all hopes of the Indians taking charge of the match after levelling the score did not materialize. France used the counterattacks well to not only take the lead again but also managed to keep the Indian attackers at bay.

Clement scored the third goal for France when he capitalised on a penalty corner. He again scored in the third quarter to make it 4-2 for France and the writing was on the wall for India as Sellier made it 5-2 when he scored off another counter-attack.

India scored two goals through penalty corner conversions by Sanjay but that proved too little and too late as the hosts and defending champions lost 4-5, starting their campaign on a poor note.

Earlier, Belgium and Germany began their campaigns in style scoring five past their opponents each. The Belgians outclassed South Africa 5-1, while the Germans overpowered Pakistan 5-2. Poland eked out a 1-0 win over Canada in the third match of the day before Malaysia edged past Chile 2-1.

Javi double helps Odisha stun BFC



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: It was a night to remember for Odisha FC as they kick-started their Indian Super League campaign in a memorable way – a 3-1 victory over former champions Bengaluru FC Wednesday at the Tilak Maidan in Vasco da Gama, Goa.

Javi Hernandez, who was adjudged the 'King of the Match', struck a couple of quality goals before Aridai Cabrera, who came on as a substitute finished the game in style. Alan Costa was on target for Bengaluru, who also witnessed a rare penalty miss by their skipper and Indian great Sunil Chhetri.

Odisha grabbed the lead in an unexpected fashion only three minutes into the match. A poor play from BFC backline and their custodian Gurpreet Singh Sandhu cost them the goal.

Following a harmless ball into the BFC box, Sandhu ran out and looked to clear. However the decision backfired as he hit it straight

to Javi outside the box and with the goalkeeper off his line, the Spaniard nicely chipped it over him and the other defenders to find the back of the net.

BFC slowly got into the rhythm and finally found the equaliser in the 21st minute. Costa, off a corner, went right across the face of the goal to give a sigh of relief to BFC.

BFC started strongly in the second half, but it was Javi again, who put Odisha ahead from a direct free-kick in the 51st. Then Chhetri failed to find the target from the spot after Hendry Antony fouled Cleiton Silva inside the box while going for a clearance.

Then in the stoppage time, Aridai gave the finishing touch to Odisha's brilliant display. A lovely cross field ball by Isaac Chhakchhuak found the feet of Aridai at the left-flank. He then left the BFC defender in the dust in a one-on-one battle with great trickery dancing past him to calmly slotted the ball past Sandhu for the Kalinga Warriors' final goal on the night.

United, Blues win; Barca held

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Nov 24: Energized by a change of manager and another opportunistic finish by Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester United qualified for the knockout stage of the Champions League with a game to spare.

Another newly appointed coach still has work to do, though, to get Barcelona into the last 16. United was led for the first time by Michael Carrick following the weekend firing of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and, just like his predecessor, the interim manager was left to be thankful for a goal by the Champions League's record scorer.

Ronaldo produced a sublime lobbed finish to put United ahead against Villarreal Tuesday and a 90th-minute strike by Jadon Sancho — his first goal since joining for USD 100 million in the offseason — sealed a 2-0 win to secure progress as the winner of Group F. Ronaldo has scored in all five group games so far, and now has a record-extending 140 Champions League goals in his career.

Another English team — defending champion Chelsea — also advanced on the back of a 4-0 win over already-qualified Juventus, who slumped to their heaviest ever loss in the Champions League.

With Liverpool also qualified and Manchester City likely to join them, the Premier League will again be well represented in the knockout stage.

Barcelona, now coached by former star midfielder Xavi Hernandez, have advanced from their group every season for almost two decades but a 0-0 draw at home to Benfica means the Spanish club might need to beat Bayern Munich in the final



Callum Hudson-Odoi wheels away in celebration after scoring against Juventus

round of games to advance.

All four teams in Group G are separated by three points and could still qualify heading into their last games after wins for Lille and Sevilla over Salzburg and Wolfsburg, respectively.

Ronaldo had already scored two winners and a late equaliser in the Champions League this season before his smartly taken go-ahead goal against Villarreal in the 78th minute, prompted by Fred winning the ball high up the field.

And both Fred and Ronaldo featured in a counterattack that ended with Sancho smashing a shot in off the underside of the crossbar to seal the win.

It was a bittersweet night for Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel. The thrashing of Juventus, achieved courtesy of goals by academy graduates Trevoh Chalobah, Reece

Sindhu, Srikanth, Praneeth advance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Nov 24: India's double Olympic medalist P V Sindhu showed great determination to outwit her opponent in the women's singles opening round, while B Sai Praneeth and Kidmabi Srikanth also advanced to the men's singles second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event here Wednesday.

After a slow start, Sindhu, the reigning world champion, engineered a turnaround to register a hard-fought 17-21, 21-17, 21-17 win over a tenacious Aya Ohori of Japan in one hour 10 minutes.

With the win, Sindhu improved her impressive record against the Japanese shuttler to 11-0. World No.7 Sindhu, who made a semifinal exit after suffering a straight game defeat to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi here last week, will meet 23-year-old German shuttler Yvonne Li in the second round. It will be the first meeting between the third seed Indian and world number 26 Li.

In the men's singles, world number 16 B Sai Praneeth clinched a 21-19, 21-18 win over France's Toma Junior Popov.

In a repeat of last week's Indonesia Masters quarterfinal, Srikanth once again got the better of compatriot HS Prannoy. The former World No.1 Srikanth, who is coming off two back-to-back semifinal finishes at Hylo Open and Indonesia Masters, continued his good run of form as he eked out



a 21-15, 19-21, 21-12 victory over Prannoy in 56 minutes.

While Praneeth will next take on Christo Popov of France in the second round, Srikanth will meet the winner of the first round clash between Tokyo Olympics gold medalist second seed Dane Victor Axelsen and Japan's Koki Watanabe.

The mixed doubles pairing of N Sikki Reddy and Dhruv Kapila, however, made a first round exit, falling to the Japanese duo of Kyohei Yamashita and Naru Shinoya, 7-21, 12-21.

It was a bad day in the office for Reddy who made a first round exit in the women's doubles event as well. Reddy and veteran shuttler Ashwini Ponnappa went down 27-29, 18-21 to the fifth seeded Bulgarian duo of Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva.