PUSHING BOUNDARIES

Actor Sushmita Sen says she has challenged herself in Season 2 of 'Aarya' which recently bagged an Emmy nomination LEISURE P2



NEW GROUP TO PROBE UFOS

The US Department of Defence said it will form a new body to investigate reports on the presence of UFOs

INTERNATIONAL P10



KEEPING HOPES ALIVE

India kept hopes of a quarterfinal berth alive thumping Canada 13-1 in their Jr WC hockey game

SPORTS P12

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 235 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | 2021

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Instead of banning crypto, we should alloow people to use it for buying edible oil, vegetables

SENSEX **58795.09** 👚 454.10

17536.30 121.30

VARIATION

₹0.01

MARKET WATCH

DOLLAR **74.48**

₹63,150

EURO

GOLD

WEATHER

SILVER

Navy commissions new sub

Mumbai: Adding teeth to India's naval prowess, the Navy commissioned Thursday submarine 'INS Vela' here. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh called the sub a 'potent platform' with an ability to undertake the entire spectrum of operations. This is the fourth of the

six submarines the Indian Navy is inducting under the Kalvari class Project 75 programme. This is the second major induction in the Indian Navy in less than a week as the Navy had commissioned November 21 warship 'INS Visakhapatnam'. "INS Vela's capability and fire power will play a crucial role in the Navy's ability to protect and preserve India's maritime interests across the Indian Ocean," Singh said

Women outnumber men in India

New Delhi: Indicating a demographic shift, the number of women surpassed men for the first time in India with the sex ratio being 1,020:1,000, according to findings of the National Family and Health Survey-5. "With this, we can say India moves in the league of the developed countries - as the sex ratio crosses 1000," a Health Ministry official said, attributing it to measures taken

for women empowerment such as financial inclusion and for combating gender bias and disparities. The sex ratio at birth also improved from 919 in 2015-16 to 929 in 2019-20, indicating positive impact of measures like implementation of the PC and PNDT Act and various other interventions.



Roadmap for clean air

■ *An action plan will soon be* drawn up so that residents of various Odisha towns do not suffer the deadly effects of air pollution

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Keeping in mind, the deadly effects of air pollution in Delhi, the Odisha government has decided to prepare an action plan to prevent such a recurrence in the state capital. The decision to prepare such a plan was taken Thursday during a meeting of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) here. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra directed officials of SPCB to make the action plan collaborative by involving the BMC, departments of Works and Tourism and local residents of various areas. The action plan would target monitoring of air quality through



clean air programme in Ekamra Kshetra (Bhubaneswar). Out of several global level air pollution management models, the technique of less emission zone (LEZ) would be more effec-

and have enriched human lives. SPCB officials have been asked to create awareness among people regarding the contribution of urban forests towards healthy life.

Sources said that a decision was also taken to protect pollution of water in Hirakud dam. The pollution control board has been asked to ensure zero discharge of fluoride by local industries into the reservoir. Mahapatra also asked SPCB officials to strictly enforce pollution control measures in the aluminum smelter plants operat-

50% of Odia populace addicted to tobacco

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 25: Almost half the population of Odisha is addicted to tobacco in its various types, as per the latest National Family Health survev (NFHS -5).

According to the survey, 51.6 per cent men of 15 years and above and 26 per cent women in same age category in Odisha are exposed to the use of tobacco. Interestingly, the survey highlighted that the use of tobacco in rural areas is more than that of urban areas. Approximately 54.1 per cent men and 28% women use tobacco in rural areas as compared to 40.5% men and 16.6% women in urban localities, the survey revealed.

The survey has also revealed that the rural populace in the age group of 15 years and above consumes more alcohol than their urban counterparts. The survey states that 4.9 per cent women and 30.2% men consume alcohol in rural areas as compared to 1.4% women and 22.7% males in



new cyclone threat

ESPLANADE

#WECARE

100% VACCINATED STAFF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: A fresh low pressure area is likely to form over south Andaman Sea around November 29, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday. The predicted system is likely to become more marked and move west-northwestwards during the subsequent 48 hours, the agency said in a release.

"A low pressure area is likely to form over south Andaman Sea around November 29, 2021. It is likely to become more marked and move west-northwestwards during subsequent 48 hours," the IMD said in its bulletin. It however, did not say anything as to whether the low pressure area would

turn into a cyclone or not, but did not rule out the possibility of one.

The IMD:GFS model indicated that the system in all likelihood will move towards Odisha coast and make landfall around December 3. Due to its effect, the coastal districts of Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda, Puri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jajpur and Jagatsinghpur are likely to receive heavy rainfall in the first week of December.

However, the IMD also said that there is a possibility that the low pressure will turn into a depression by December 3 as per predictions made by numerical models including GFS, GEFS, NCUM and NEPS. It will then intensify into a severe category cyclone during the subsequent 24-48 hours.

tive for the Odisha capital, informed ing near Hirakud dam. According to sources, 145 industries, an SPCB official. Mahapatra reviewed the progress put under 17 highly polluting cateregarding the containment of pollution gories, have been instructed to install from various sources. He instructed ofhigh density internet-based surveilficials to continue campaigning for lance cameras at suitable locations for viewing of the stag and fugitive emisclean air in cities and industrial towns. The chief secretary pointed out that sions. So far, 24 industries have comurban forests like the Bharatpur sancplied. These cameras are connected to tuary, Ekamra Kanan, Jayadev Vatika the remote monitoring control room set systematic interventions, he said. and Chandaka have immensely conup in the head office of the SPCB here. It was decided to implement the tributed in the fight against pollution Others have been asked to do the same. urban localities.



Esplanade One wishes you a happy Prathamastami. Get the best deals this festive season.

SHOP FOR Rs.5,000 AND ABOVE AND GET CHANCE TO WIN A Mi MOBILE PHONE

SHOP FOR Rs.50,000 AND ABOVE AND GET AN ASSURED GOLD COIN

SHOP FOR Rs.5,000, Rs.15,000 & Rs.25,000 AND GET AN ASSURED GIFT VOUCHER

lifestyle[.]

iconic Upto 40% OFF*

MARKS & **SPENCER** Flat 20% OFF*

Reliancedigital

OTRENDS Buy 3 & get 50% OFF* Buy 2 & get 30% OFF*

iDestiny 🎩

NYKAA Upto 50% OFF*



Buy for Rs.9,999 and get JBI Headphone* Buy for Rs.14,999 and get JBL Earpods*



*T&C Apply

ARROW

Shop for Rs.6,999/8,999/14,999 and get merchandise worth Rs.699/1,499/2,699

sunglass hut Get 40% OFF*

on second pair

FILA Flat 50% OFF* Inc.5 Buy 1 Get 1*

6.6 **CHUMBAK** Upto 40% OFF* Indian Terrain

Buy 1 get 20% OFF* Buy 2 get 30% OFF* **FOREVER NEW**

Buy for Rs.15,000 & above get 15% OFF* Rs.25,000 & above get 20% OFF*

spykar2

Shop for Rs.7,999/11,999/Rs.19,999 and get Rs.1,000/2,000/4,000 OFF*

Esplanade One, Puri - Cuttack Rd, Rasulgarh Industrial Area Estate, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751010

Follow us on: fesplanade one esplanade one mall



leisure



JARED LETO WAS FIRED FROM A JOB FOR 'SELLING WEED'

Actor Jared Leto, who stars in House of Gucci alongside Lady Gaga, shared that he was dismissed from his job as a teenager for selling drugs. He said: "I actually worked at a movie theatre when I was a kid. And I got fired for selling weed out the back door. I was just an entrepreneur."

KANYE'S PUBLIC PLEA TO REUNITE WITH KIM

Rapper Kanye West has said that he 'made mistakes' in his marriage to reality TV star Kim Kardashian and declared 'I need to be back home'. He made the confession during an emotional speech at Los Angeles Mission's Annual Thanksgiving event in Los Angeles this week, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks,co™

You have to take care of your health, and at last you realise the importance of diet and exercise. However, today you may wish to eat something new, or try some different cuisine. Ganesha says go out with some old friends whom you have been neglecting of late.

TAURUS

You will be fondly thinking about your close friends, particularly about the ones of the opposite sex. It may suddenly dawn upon you that you are in love, says Ganesha. If per chance, there is a romantic encounter, go ahead and dive fearlessly in the pool of love. It is near certain that the wedding bells will be ringing for you sooner than you think.

Your family members and your friends will have much higher expectations from you today, and trying to fulfill the same will make your irritable. However, you will figure out creative ways to juggle the many demands made upon you and come out on tops at the end of it all, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You will tackle with ease, even the most confounding challenges today. You may be the scapegoat, though, fears Ganesha. Beware, or this may shake you and lower your weaknesses, and you should see yourself obtaining energy and positivity

LEO

Financial gains in shares and stocks are indicated. If you are an investor, your investments will yield substantial profits. Long-standing debts are also likely to be cleared, and pending dues will be settled. Expenses for the purposes of entertain ment are a possibility, says Ganesha.

■ VIRGO

Ganesha foretells that your writing abilities will help you give vent to your emotions without hurting others. You will finish all your incomplete tasks successfully. Ganesha says that you will experience success in everything that you choose to do today.

Ganesha says that there are chances that today you house. You may decorate your home with new paintings and items. There may be guests over in the evening that will make you very happy. You may also go out for dinner with your family and friends or, more probably, with your sweetheart.

routine along with healthy food and regular exercise, advises Ganesha.

SCORPIO

The one thing that we neglect

the most about ourselves is

unable to do that. Your health needs to be

paid enough attention as you may be suf-

fering from ailment/s. Try to regularise you

health. But today you are

SAGITTARIUS For you, appreciation and recognition for the efforts you put in may be delayed but it's not denied. There's is no point losing heart and getting disappointed. This may only affect your work, instead, wait for a better tomorrow, Ganesha says giving you hope.

CAPRICORN

The hassle and bustle around you will not disturb you today. You've been holding your emotions in your heart and they have started suffocating you. Such an uncomfortable situation may hamper your logical reasoning power and make you feel trapped. But, this too shall pass.

AOUARIUS

Today is the day to turn dreams into reality and how! With your talent, wit, and intelligence you will make a great impression on everyone's mind, feels Ganesha. Icing on the cake will be the cash inflow. You know your cards and you play them well to your advantage.

PISCES

vour friends or relatives living abroad today. There is a chance that these communications could translate directly into substantial gain for vou. You will find yourself in the mood for socializing. You will likely invite friends over to dinner at your place in the evening, says Ganesha.

Sushmita looks fierce in her new avatar

'Aarya', in its first season, was nominated for the International Emmy Awards in Best Drama Series

Mumbai: Sushmita Sen-starrer Aarya is returning with its second season as the makers of the series have released the trailer and by the looks of it, this time it's going to have even more nerve-wracking thrill, more intense undertones of crime and higher stakes.

The trailer is laced with surprising twists and showcases Sushmita in a ferocious avatar willing to go all out for her family as she fights back with all her might.

Shedding light on her character in the second season, Sushmita said, "After being nominated for the previous season for the International Emmy Awards, we are supercharged for

the second season. Season 2 is not just about Aarya, a strong

woman but also a warrior.

The new chapter is a fascinating revelation of the character and has proved

to be a huge learning for

me as an actor. I chal-

lenged myself by don-

ning Aarya in a new

avatar and I hope that

the audiences will ap-

preciate her fierce, un-

ond season.

apologetic self in the sec-

Tying together the key

themes, creator and di-

rector of the show, Ram

Madhvani said, "We are

excited to present the

trailer of *Aarya 2*.

Aarva, has to face

her past so that

she can save

her family to

protect her

future. In

the second

season, the

audiences en-

in a new light.

IANS

Horse-riding is a liberating experience: Wamiqa Gabbi

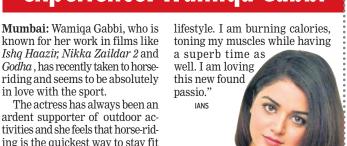
known for her work in films like Ishq Haazir, Nikka Zaildar 2 and Godha, has recently taken to horseriding and seems to be absolutely in love with the sport.

The actress has always been an ardent supporter of outdoor activities and she feels that horse-riding is the quickest way to stay fit and gain body strength.

Wamiqa describes the sport as a liberating experience as she says, "Horses are such creatures of beauty! There is an immediate sense of freedom as soon as one is on horseback. I mean, we actors lead such fast paced lives so unwinding is equally important for us.'

Talking about how it helps in mindfulness, the actress

says, "Horse-riding is my much needed relaxant. This aside, it is a great way to maintain a healthy and ac



Mumbai: Suhana Khan, daughter in Romeo and Juliet, a theatrical of top star Shah Rukh Khan, has hinted that she is all set to leave New York, where she was studying filmmaking at the New York University,

hinting that she is all set to leave the big apple. She shared a monochrome picture of a building and a moving truck, which had "Don't worry. Even if you leave New York, you will always be a New Yorker,' written on it. To caption it, Suhana dropped a broken heart emoji. A slew

messages on her comment section. One wrote: "New York

of Suhana's friends shared

already misses you." "You're going to do amazing things," said another.

It is no secret that Suhana wants to follow the footsteps of her superstar father as she launched her acting career in 2018 appearing as Juliet



Suhana heartbroken

adaptation of William Shakespeare's novel of the same name.



Satyameva Jayate 2 caters to viewers of a different era!

his second edition of Satyameva Jayate boasts of a larger-thanlife projection from its very first frame. It is a fantasy or masala film catering strictly to the masses, where one needs to leave their sensibilities behind to enjoy it. Despite this, the film is a tedious fare.

Set in Lucknow, and narrated in a non-linear manner, Satyameva Jayate 2 is the convoluted story of the Azaad family, where Dadasaheb Balram Azaad, a righteous farmer fighting for the farmers' rights is killed during the farmer's agita-

before saying, desh "Yeh main, corruption mitega ya mera lahu bahega."

FUN

tion, but not

Twenty-five years later, his twin sons; Jay an officer in the police force and Satya a politician, are his torchbearers, who, when not performing their respective professional roles moonlight



at the very onset of the narrative state, "Ab va toh corruption mitega va beimaan ka lahu bahega!"

And blood flows while the vigilante brothers deal with various issues like doctors strike in Government Hospitals,

SUDOKU

9

3 5

2

food poisoning cases in schools, reprimanding irresponsible government officials who are deputed to deal with pension dues, and those responsible for the collapse of a flyover.

With dialogues like, "Chhappan kilo ka jigar nahin, chhappan kilo ka hathoda chahiye", "Tan, man, dhan se badkar, Jan, gan, man", "Maa ki kokh, baap ki topii" and many more such lines, the writers seem to be catering to an audience of a different era.

John has a good screen presence, and he looks good in 'poser shots,' but his acting abilities are highly questionable. Divya Khosla Kumar as Satva's wife Vidva and Gautami Kapoor as Dadasaheb's wife Suhasini, are earnest in their delivery.

Harsh Chhaya as the Chief Minister and Vidya's father along with Anup Soni and Zakir Hussain in their respective roles are perfunctory in their acts. As seasoned actors, they do not add any nuances to their characters.

Mounted with exuberant production values, each frame of the film is poster perfect but the loud deafening background score along with the absurd narrative mars the viewing experience.

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

8

3

5

6

3

4

5

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

9

8

6

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

9

PEANUTS

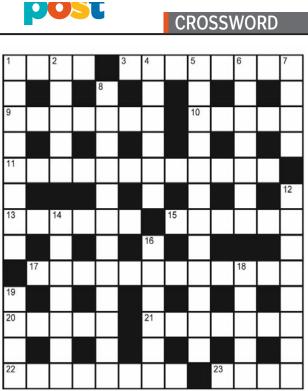


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction co

22 Not used (5-3)

23 Sea swallow

21 Under

Across

- 3 Slaughter
- 1 Ringlet
- 9 WWII battle
- 10 Egg cell 11 Electrical
- problem (5-7)
- 13 Noggin
- 15 Spirit session
- 17 Chef's utensil (7,5)

20 Blubberer

selection

<u>Down</u>

- 2 Safari sight

Making a

- 4 Slowly, to a conductor
- 5 Analysing occasionally

(4-8)

- 6 Wariness
- and anon 8 Like some Frank Lloyd
- Wright buildings 12 TV fund-
- raiser
- 14 Egg-shaped instrument
- 16 Incapable 18 Ludicrous
- 19 Healing sign

SUDOKU

9 8 4

2 7

1 2 6

9 5 8 6 4 1 3

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

People with mild fever advised Covid-19 test



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: After incidents of several school and college students testing positive for Covid-19, Health Services director Bijay Mohapatra Thursday advised people suffering from mild cold and fever to go for Covid test.

Speaking to the media, Mohapatra said the virus has been mutating as people with mild cold and fever are found to be infected with Covid-19. Hence, people should get themselves tested as soon as they develop the flu-like symptoms.

Regarding detection of positive cases in a girl's high school in Sundargarh and VIMSAR, he said both the areas have been declared containment zones and there is no need to panic as the infection has spread in some specific belts. The severity of the disease is also less among the infected.

The official further said that people are not properly following Covid-appropriate behaviour at public places which may have dangerous consequences in coming days. Mohapatra cautioned people against stepping out if it is not very necessary.

Sr auditor gets 10-yr Rl for raping job aspirant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The court of Additional Sessions Judge here Thursday sentenced a senior government official to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) by pronouncing him guilty of sexually abusing a female job aspirant at his official residence September 6, 2014.

The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 30,000 on convict Somendra Narayan Das, 50, of Balianta in Khurda district. Nonpayment of the penalty amount would invite imprisonment for additional one year.

The victim came in contact with Das, a senior auditor at the Accountant General's (AG) office here, just two days prior to the incident. Das assured the girl of arranging a job at a financial company in the City here. He asked the girl to go for an interview at the office of the company located near Ram Mandir Square September 5, 2014.

On reaching the interview venue, the victim, an intermediate degree holder, came to know that the requisite educational qualification for the post was graduation. Later, Das told the victim that he would ask a senior official of the company to arrange a job for her. He asked the victim to come to his official residence at Unit-IV for a meeting with the official concerned September 6, 2014.



THE COURT IMPOSED A PENALTY OF ₹30,000 ON CONVICT SOMENDRA NARAYAN DAS, 50, OF BALIANTA IN KHURDA DISTRICT

NON-PAYMENT OF THE PENALTY WOULD INVITE IMPRISONMENT FOR ADDITIONAL ONE YEAR

Das raped the girl twice when she reached his house. The victim, somehow, managed to escape and narrated her ordeal before a lady staying nearby. The lady informed the incident to Kharavel Nagar police.

The Mahila police later arrested Das and collected the medical examination re-

ports of the victim and the accused. The Additional Sessions Judge convicted Das after going through the evidence including the call detail record (CDR) of Das and statements of the witnesses. Public prosecutor Suresh Chandra Barik was pleading the case on behalf of the victim.

ED grills ex-IFS officer Pathak over money trail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Former Odisha cadre Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Abhay Kant Pathak Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) that has been investigating the money trail of Abhay and

his son Akash Pathak.

The officials of the Central agency grilled Pathak for around eight hours Thursday.

Pathak was earlier interrogated by the ED sleuths in October while the officials quizzed his son Akash at Jharpada Special Jail here a few days back.

Meanwhile, Gopalpur MLA, Pradeep Panigrahy and his daughter sought more time from the ED offi-

cials to appear before them. Several others have also been questioned by the sleuths in the case to find out the illegal money transactions between the Pathaks, Panigrahy

and their other associates.

The Odisha Vigilance officials had unearthed deposits of several crores in the account of Akash by his father.

Abhay was allegedly found amassing properties worth four times of his known sources of income.



9th Convocation

On Friday, 26th November 2021 at 10:30 AM



His Excellency, The Governor of Odisha

Prof. Ganeshi Lal

Visitor, Centurion University Will preside over the Ceremony



His Excellency, The Australian High Commissioner to India

Mr. Barry O' Farrell AO

Chief Guest Will deliver the commencement Address



CBI RAID OVER LOAN FRAUD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sleuths Thursday raided different places in connection with Rs 140.48 crore loan fraud.

A case has been registered against seven accused including officials of private companies by CBI on the basis of a complaint lodged by Punjab National Bank, Bhubaneswar.

The accused include SR Alcobev Private Limited, a company at New Industrial Estate, Jagatpur, in Cuttack and Ranjan Kumar Padhi, its Managing Director, his wife Saina Kar, three private companies who had given their consent as the guarantors and a supplier based at Kolkata, New Delhi, Dehradun.

LPG price hike: BJD's November 30 ultimatum to Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The ruling BJD Thursday warned the Union government of intensifying its protest against cooling gas price hike if the latter does not reduce the price by November 30.

The party has already organised protests in three Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) zones, November 22, 23 and 24 demanding rollback of the LPG cylinder price hike.

"The biggest problem women are facing today is LPG price hike. Despite several protests and requests, the Centre is not reducing the price, which made the life of common man miserable," said BJD leader Pranab Balabantray.

The price of LPG cylinder has increased to Rs 930 from Rs 414 in 2014. The continuous LPG price hike by Rs 25, Rs 50 and Rs 75, hit the common man, he said.

"If the Union government does not reduce the LPG cylinder price by November 30, we will further intensify our protest over the issue," warned the BJD leader.

Handloom expo at Ekamra Haat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: A special handloom exhibition, organised by Boyanika, was inaugurated by Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda at Ekamra Haat here Thursday.

The exhibition will continue till December 15.

The primary objective of the exhibition is to facilitate sustainable livelihood to the weavers by providing a common platform for marketing of handloom products, sources said.

At least 30 leading primary weavers' cooperatives (PWCS) from across the state along with Boyanika, Serifed, Sambalpuri Bastralaya and Utkalika are participating in the exhibition, sponsored by the Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts department.

The exhibition will remain open from 10am to 9pm on all days. The customers can avail special rebate on purchase of handloom products at the exhibition.

WASSUP TODAY BHUBANESWAR

- Inaugural occasion of 25th National
- Gunjan Dance & Music Festival, Saheed Bhawan, 6:30pm

 Protest by SUCI & DSO workers,
- near Collectorate, 11:30am
- Panel discussion by Rabi Ray Academy, near Gora Kabar Ground, 10:30am
 Agitation by farmer bodies, near
- Netaji statue, College Square, 10:30am

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

UK to aid Odisha in green energy installations: Low

He has travelled six continents of the world because of his work. On completion of his second term as British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata, Nick Low, deals with 13 eastern states of India including Odisha.

Low, who was here to attend the Dharitri Youth Conclave 2021, had a tete-a-tete with Orissa POST correspondent Aviral Mishra. He shares his thoughts on what lies ahead for Odisha in terms of clean energy, electric vehicles and what not. Excerpts...

- As part of COP26 zero emission vehicles campaign, the UK has proposed to support Indian states in transition to electric mobility. Do you think the global and especially the Indian auto industry is ready for such a shift?
- I believe that change is gradually happening at a global level. However, what governments all across the world can do is to ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure to encourage people to buy electric cars. The other thing we can do is to legislate to get rid of internal combustion engine vehicles. In the UK, we have already done that and by 2027 we plan to stop the sale of combustion vehicles thereby replacing it with EVs by 2035. I also think as the demand for EVs will increase, its prices will eventually fall. It will follow a similar trend as computers mobile phones and other modern technologies do. This is a very much one-way road and we will enter into this transition comfortably by the



- In a state like Odisha, electricity is primarily derived from coal-fired power plants. How would the transitioning to EVs be considered 'clean' energy?
- I am glad that you asked me that. We had some really good conversations on this with the Odisha government including

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena. We have discussed about EVs, infrastructure and training people in installing and maintaining these infrastructure. Many British organisations are interested to come to Odisha and make that happen. We are also exploring options for clean renewable energy. The UK was once called 'the dirty man of Europe' because we burned so much of coal to produce electricity. However, now we have planned to remove use of coal in next 18 months. We have reduced our greenhouse emissions by 43 per cent since 1990. I do understand that in Odisha, where power generation is mostly from coal, this could be a major challenge but is still doable.

- What can Odisha expect from the recently held discussions between the UK and India on Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), since this coastal state is prone to frequent natural calamities?
- The CDRI is an Indian initiative and we are proud to be a part of it. Climate change is sadly with us. It's not coming, it's already here and it is going to get worse. Even if we stop emitting greenhouse gases today it's going to get worse for a few years before it stabilises. So, the need for infrastructure that can with-

stand extreme weather events is very real and very present. We will listen to the Odisha government very carefully, understand what their needs are and then we will work together to meet the needs.

- How do you feel events like Dharitri's Youth Conclave could motivate youngsters to come forward and work for environment protection?
- I really enjoyed it. And, it's so energising for people like me to see how involved young people are, especially young women, in issues like climate change. We really need that. We want youngsters to have their voices heard. I want to see a world of blue and green and not yellow and brown. It is really symbolic for me that the first thing that I did in Odisha was to attend this conclave and I am really happy about it. Maybe if there's another one in 12 month's time, I would again like to be a part of it.

RT-PCR tests for legislators, staff ahead of Winter Session

Immunity of the MLAs against the novel coronavirus will also be tested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: In view of the prevailing Covid-19 situation, all MLAs, ministers and their personal staff will undergo RT-PCR tests ahead of the Winter Session of the Assembly, scheduled to begin December 1.

Speaking to reporters here Thursday, Speaker SN Patro said, "The Winter Session of the Assembly would be held under Covid-19 restrictions. We will follow the same guidelines which were in force during the previous session of the Assembly."

All MLAs, ministers and their staff will undergo RT-PCR tests November 28, 29 and 30. The officers and staff of the Assembly Secretariat will also undergo Covid tests, he added.

Persons with negative RT-PCR

Business hour of the Assembly will be decided in an all-party meeting, scheduled to be held

The session, which will ontinue till Dec 31, will have 26 working days

Supplementary Budget will be presented on the first day while the Appropriation Bill will be tabled Dec 10

reports will be allowed to enter the Assembly premises. The immunity of the MLAs against the virus will also be tested, Patro said.

The legislators would sit in the House, Speaker Gallery and Public Gallery to ensure social distance. Members unable to attend the House in person can participate in the proceedings through videoconferencing, the Speaker said.

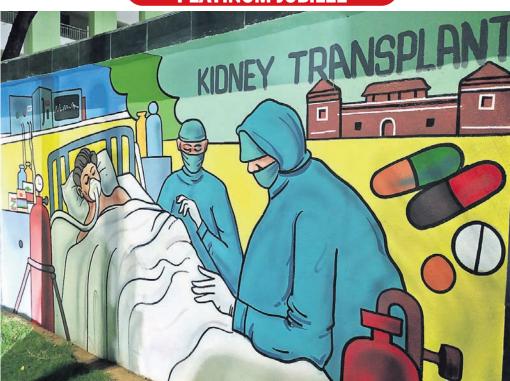
The business hour of the Assembly will be decided in an all-party meeting, scheduled for November 29.

The legislators will be provided with face shields, masks, gloves and sanitiser by the Health department before the commencement of each sitting during the session. The Assembly premises would be sanitised on daily basis.

The session will have 26 working days and it will continue till December 31. On the first day, the Supplementary Budget will be presented while the Appropriation Bill will be tabled December 10.

Recently, the Council of Ministers has given its nod for the first Supplementary Budget for 2021-22 fiscal. The Council of Ministers has given its approval for Supplementary Budget of Rs 19,380 crore, sources said.

PLATINUM JUBILEE



The boundary walls of an auditorium at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack decorated with murals for the platinum jubilee celebration of the institute, Thursday

EOW cuffs for ponzi firm director in multi-crore scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch Thursday arrested the director of a chit fund firm on charges of duping several investors of crores through ponzi schemes. The accused has been identified as Sudarsan Senapati, one of the directors of Akash India Multi Complex Ltd.

The EOW sleuths have been investigating the multi-crore fraud by registering a case (8/2017) on the basis of a complaint lodged by

Debendra Kumar Nayak of Astaranga in Puri in 2017. Nayak is one of the victims who

Nayak is one of the victims who had invested several thousands in different schemes launched by the sham company.

CB sources claimed that

CB sources claimed that Senapati along with the Managing Director of the firm, Kedarnath Sahoo, and other officials of the company had collected huge amount of money from the victims on the pretext of higher interest rates against their deposits during 2011 and 2016.

The head office of the firm was lo-

cated at Dumduma here while it had several branches at places like Niali, Charichhak, Puri, Astaranga, Baungarigaon, Panikoili, Brahmagiri and Jagatsinghpur.

"It is also revealed that Senapati along with other accused persons had collected approximately Rs 3 crore from the public under different schemes of the company between 2011 and 2016. Initially, the company had made some payments to the investors to win their trust but it stopped making any payments to the investors since 2013 and

closed down their offices functioning at different places," the EOW sources said.

Senapati was Thursday produced before the designated court under Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act at Cuttack. The court sent him to judicial custody after rejecting his bail plea.

The EOW had earlier arrested Kedarnath, another director Suresh Chandra Sahoo and the Chief Executive, Subash Chandra Mohanty too.

Collectors told to construct AWCs in primary schools Bhubaneswar: Women and Child Development and School and Mass

Education departments Thursday jointly directed all the District Collectors for construction of Anganwadi centres (AWCs) on government primary school premises. In a letter to all the Collectors, W&CD secretary Anu Garg and S&ME secretary Satyabrata Sahu said, "It is observed that a large number of Anganwadi Centres are still functioning in rented houses or community halls. So, it is once again reiterated that due to functional linkage of Anganwadi Centres and primary school, construction of AWCs building of a village will be done, as far as possible, inside of the premises of Govt. Primary School of the said village."

Wittify training for students

Bhubaneswar: Wittify is providing free online Spoken English training to students of Odisha. Students can download wittify app from play store or can login to wittify.in to join the courses. Online zoom interactive classes will also be provided to provide skills sets such as exam stress management, interview and GD clearing skills.

Khurda drug peddler's assets worth ₹2.34 crore attached

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Nov 25: In a first in the district, Khurda Town police Thursday claimed to have attached movable and immovable properties worth Rs 2.34 crore owned by notorious drug peddler Somnath Bhujbal.

Khurda superintendent of police (SP) Rajkishore Dora said they would soon move the competent authority in Kolkata for confiscation of the assets.

Dora said Somnath and his father Krushnachandra of Samantarapur Saguan Bagicha were into drug peddling for at least six years. The two are lodged in jail ever since they were arrested in October last year in connection with a drug peddling case (258/20) registered with

Baselisahi police in Puri. At least 18 cases have been pending against the duo in Khurda and Puri areas, he added.

According to Dora, the asset attachment move came in response to an instruction of the Inspector General of Police (Central Range). A special case (01/2021) was registered with the Khurda Model police. The case was linked to another case (354/19) that had been registered against the duo under Section 21B/19 of the NDPS Act at the police station.

During investigation, it was found that the Bhujbals have invested the ill-gotten money in assets like house and jewellery.

assets like house and jewellery. "We've attached assets worth Rs 2,34,52,594 owned by Somnath and his family. The attached properties include house worth Rs 1.10 crore, shop worth Rs 24.50 lakh, jewellery worth Rs 13.50 lakh and Rs 3.45 lakh in cash," the Khurda SP said.

NCC sailing expedition in Chilika begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 25: As many as 60 Naval wing boys and girl cadets of 3 (Odisha) Naval NCC, Cuttack Group from six colleges started sailing on Chilika Lake November 25 as part of an expedition that will continue till November 30.

As per sources, three DK Whaler boats along with a safety boat are participating in the expedition. The boats will start sailing from INS Chilika early in the morning every day to an island and return by evening. The purpose of the campaign is to inculcate leadership qualities, confidence, discipline, courage and self-reliance among cadets.

These NCC cadets will also be participating in various social service activities during the expedition.

Art on Puri beach spreads message of plastic menace



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: A 15 feet long art of a turtle made of layered plastics by Delhi-based artist Manveer Singh was a delightful sight for the visitors to the Puri beach, Wednesday. The big art work was aimed at spreading the message of increasing level of plastics in the sea

plastics in the sea.
With more than 5,000 people

viewing Manveer's impressive work on the beach near the Digabareni Point, the mythic structure representing the Olive Ridley sea turtles has a story to

tell every visitor.

The artist, who has won the "METIS Initiative on Plastics and Indo-Pacific Ocean 2021" Residency of city-based Utsha Foundation for Contemporary Art, said, "Odisha has a special link with the Olive Ridley sea turtles and its long coast is famous across the globe for many mass nesting sites. However, with the plastic level rising in the sea water day-by-day, my work at Puri beach showed the tragedy which is likely to happen as the baby turtles might not feel safe to go to the sea once they hatch. I have used the mythical symbolism of Olive Ridley as its connection with Odisha's coastline is well recognized."

MST, QST reinstated in 8 more pairs of trains

-POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: For the convenience of daily commuters, East Coast Railway (ECOR) has reinstated Monthly Season Ticket (MST)/ Quarterly Season Ticket (QST) in eight more pairs of trains.

The trains are: 18301/18302 Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur Inter-City Express, 22819/22820 Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Inter-City Express, 18417/18418 Puri-Gunupur-Puri Express, 12893/12894 Bhubaneswar-Bolangir-Bhubaneswar Inter-City Express, 18528/18527

Visakhapatnam-Rayagada-Visakhapatnam Express, 18443/18444 Bhubaneswar-Palasa-Bhubaneswar Express, 18043/18044 Bhadrak-Howrah-Bhadrak Express, 18038/18037 Jajpur Keonjhar Road-Kharagpur-Jajpur Keonjhar Road-Exp. Earlier, ECoR had reinstated MST/QST in 11 Intra Zone Express and five Inter Zone Special Trains.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-889550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution-9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Levis Road-Spider Web-7890186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Coke Room-7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookilman-9439491273, Nigamannada-Omm Sai Travels-9688284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point-9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

SHORT **TAKES**

Siblings found hanging from tree

Baripada: Two minor siblings were found hanging from a tree at Lodha Sahi village under Betnoti police limits in Mayurbhani district Thursday morning. On being informed, police arrived at the scene, recovered the bodies and began a probe into the incident. The cause of their deaths has not been ascertained yet. The bodies have been sent for postmortem. Police have registered an unnatural death case and are conducting a detailed probe, an official said. While locals suggested that the two committed suicide, it is not known what prompted them to take the extreme step. Local police said they are probing the case from all possible angles.

Youth held for rape of Class-VIII girl

Nischintakoili: Police arrested a youth on charge of outraging the modesty of a minor girl, a Class-VIII student, by giving her a mobile phone and promising to marry her at Sarapada village under this block of Cuttack district, Thursday. The accused was identified as Alok Kumar Sahu. A case was registered in this connection and a medical examination was conducted on the accused and the survivor. Later, the accused was produced in court. The accused of the same village was known to the girl's family and often visited their house. Meanwhile, he forced the girl into physical relationship by presenting her a mobile phone. Her parents began to doubt her after they noticed the mobile phone with her. The girl broke down and narrated her ordeal after her mother enquired about the phone. Her parents met the boy's father. Enraged, Alok visited the girl's house and threatened her parents of severe consequences.

Man trampled to death

Deogarh: A 60-year old man was trampled to death by a tusker which strayed into Kalakatha village under this police limits of this district, Tuesday night. The deceased was identified as Cheru Kishan, a native of Kishan Sahi in Kalakatha village. The incident occurred when the animal broke the fence of the house of Cheru and tried to get inside his house. Panicked Cheru tried to run out of his house but was caught by the

animal and trampled to death.

Lawyers protest police atrocities

Jagatsinghpur: Members of the District Bar Association in Jagatsinghpur staged a daylong strike Wednesday to protest the alleged illegal arrest of a colleague and police torture on him. The Kujang and Tirtol bar associations have supported the boycott, resulting in disruption of work in all district's courts. A case under Section 498A (dowry harassment) was registered against lawyer Ramanath Panda at Jagatsinghpur Police Station in response to an FIR filed by his wife. Jagatinghpur police allegedly picked up Panda from his home late Sunday night for interrogation where he was allegedly beaten up. He was taken to court and then shifted to jail the following day.

40 taken ill after marriage feast

Rourkela: Forty people were affected by diarrhoea and fever after they ate food at a marriage feast at Haripur in Basanti Colony under Uditnagar police limits in Steel City, Thursday. Five of them were admitted to Rourkela Government Hospital while the rest were referred to other hospitals in the city. Reports said Karunakar Sahu, a resident of Haripur in Basanti Colony, had organised a feast for the marriage of his son at RMC Park in the area. Hundreds of people attended the function and ate food. The people returned home but complained of diarrhoea and fever.

POST TWO-JAB VACCINATION

O+, B+ BLOOD GROUPS MORE **SUSCEPTIBLE TO COVID ATTACK**

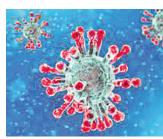
POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 25: A study jointly conducted by four researchers from Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in Sambalpur district and another researcher from Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, has revealed that people with blood group 'O+' and blood group 'B+' are more susceptible to Covid-19 infection even after two doses of vaccination.

Moreover, the team also found a substantial drop in antibody level six months after the vaccination, causing risk to re-infection and they have suggested a booster dose.

The five researchers, who studied the antibody kinetics following Covishield vaccination six months after the second dose and the factors affecting the kinetics, are Dr Sanjeeb Kumar Mishra, Dr Subrat Kumar Pradhan, Dr Rajiv Kumar Nanda and Dr Sumanta Sahu from VIMSAR and Dr Sanghamitra Pati from RMRC, Bhubaneswar.

The study included 122 participants. Two doses of the vaccine were administered with a gap of 28 to 30 days between doses. Blood samples were collected in three rounds for the test. While the first



one month after the first dose, second round was collected one month after the second dose and the third six months after the second dose.

Principal author of the study, Dr Sanjeeb Mishra, said, it was found that 99.2% of participants achieved seroconversion after the second dose. Of 122 participants, 11 did not seroconvert one month after the first dose. However, one did not seroconvert even after the second dose. Seven participants showed seroreversion six months after the second dose. "Our study found that the seroreversion cases had either B+ or O+ blood groups," he said.

Mishra further said, "Our study also demonstrated the effectiveness of Covishield in achieving seroconversion one month after the second dose. Most patients showed substantial waning in antibody level from round 2 to round 3. Cases of seroreversion and break-

VIMSAR Covid-19 infection up to 51

AGENCIES/PNN

Sambalpur, Nov 25: The number of students with Covid-19 at VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Sambalpur district rose to 51 Thursday, up from 47 the previous day, an official said. Infected students have been admitted to the Covid unit of the VIMSAR, according to the official.

Authorities suspect infection might have been spread during the institute's annual function held recently. The number of infections has surged to 51 now, VIMSAR dean Jayshree Dora said. Superintendent Dr Lalmohan Navak said all the affected students have shown mild symptoms and their condition is stable after treatment.

Five hostels have been declared as micro-containment

through are a concern requiring further evidence for a booster dose for high-risk health profession-

₹4-cr scam in Covid aid alleged

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 25: Locals have alleged massive irregularities to the tune of ₹4 crore in the distribution Covid assistance and cooked food for the virus-hit people in Bhapur block of Nayagarh district.

Locals have drawn the attention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian, District Collector, ADM, sub-collector, Vigilance SP and the DSP towards the irregularities. They

Malkangiri, Nov 25: While many

fringe villages in Malkangiri look

cilities, in some cases it is the other

Several fringe villages includ-

ing Jodiguma and Kusumput in

Andhra Pradesh are dependent on

Odisha villages in Malkangiri to

meet their requirements. It is a

pointer to the fact that these villages

have been deprived of develop-

ment in the neighbouring state.

PEOPLE OF JODIGUMA
AND KUSUMPUT ALLEGED

HAS NEGLECTED THEIR

VILLAGES IN FRINGE AREA

DRINKING WATER AND

PANCHAYATS AND OTHER

FIVE HILLS AND NEGOTIATE

THEY ARE UPSET OVER

COMMUTING ISSUE

THEY GO TO THEIR

THAT THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT

HESE VILLAGES HAVE NO

OTHER BASIC FACILITIES, WHEN

OFFICES, THEY HAVE TO CLIMB

WITH TREACHEROUS TERRAINS.

Masijakunda river flows on the

limits of Bondaghati under

Khairput block. The river divides

the two states at Bondaghati. Some

way round.

have sought a special audit on how Covid funds have been utilised. A Vigilance investigation into the matter was demanded.

According to reports, a number of Covid care centres had been opened in various panchayats for isolation of migrants and infected people. The government had sanctioned over ₹2.38 crore for assistance of migrants.

Besides, funds were provided for serving cooked food to elderly people, pregnant women and chil-

For daily use items, Andhra

villages count on Malkangiri

fact in Andhra Pradesh, but they

have failed to get benefits from

These villages have no drinking

water and other basic facilities.

When they go to their panchayats

and other offices, they have to climb

five hills and negotiate with treach-

erous terrains. They are upset over

commuting issue. Five years ago,

a solar project was set up for the peo-

ple in these AP villages, but they got

People of these villages includ-

ing Jodiguma and Kusumput al-

leged that their government pro-

solar light four days only.

their own government.

dren. However, no cooked food was allegedly served to them.

The panchyayats where irregularities have been committed includes Bhagbanpur (₹8.54 lakh), Karabar (₹13.11 lakh), Golapokhari (₹13.74 lakh), Baigunia (₹21.38 lakh), Badasahara (₹15.95 lakh), Fatehgarh (₹19.10), TK Sasan (₹9.30 lakh), Dhanchangada (₹12.83 lakh) and Bhapur (₹16.65 lakh)

They claimed that ₹4.75 crore provided through SHGs in 19 panchavats has been embezzled.

their villages have been neglected.

They depend on Malkangiri's

villages like Patrapur and Khilguda

to meet their basic requirements

while shunning contact with their

own people. On the other hand, the

AP government carries out various

development works in some fringe

villages in Koraput, Gajapati and

Ganjam districts with repeated at-

tempts to claim its ownership on the

Odisha villages. It has locked horns

with Odisha to stake claims on some

Kotia villages. The issue has been sub

judice in the Supreme Court after

Andhra forcibly held panchayat elec-

tions in some villages.

district for its rich art, culture **WOMAN ON A**

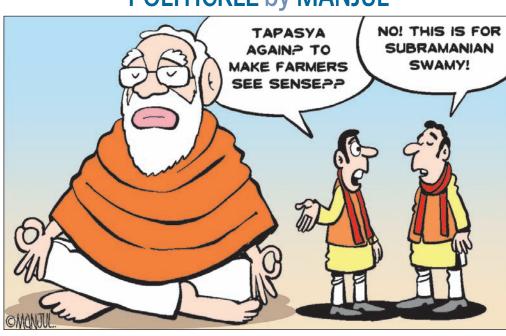
Berhampur, Nov 25: A woman, who is on a sit-in outside her in-law's house at Brahmanagar here after being ditched by her husband observed 'Manabasa Gurubar' at the protest site Thursday. Tapaswini of Chhatrapur also prayed before Goddess Mahalakshmi to bless her in getting back her husband. The stir by

Meanwhile, the woman's husband and father-in-law said as a case is sub-judice in the court they will obey whatever the court orders. On the other hand, local police have failed to take any action as the matter is sub-judice in court. However, two police personnel have been deployed at the spot to keep a watch on the security of the

Reports said, the woman from Chhatrapur fell in love with a doctor from Berhampur which soon developed into a relationship between them. In order to give approval to their relationship, the two even registered their mar-



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Smart health cards given away in Subarnapur dist

FOUNDATION STONES FOR PROJECTS WORTH ₹148-CR LAID



Sonepur, Nov 25: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched smart health cards under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana through video conferencing in Subarnapur district Thursday. Besides, he also inaugurated 67 projects worth ₹79.22 crore and laid the foundation stones for 35 projects worth ₹148.04 crore.

The CM took the name of Maa Sureswari, the presiding deity of the district, before making his speech. He was all praise for the

and its weaver community. "Skilled weavers of Subarnapur

have made Odisha known across the country. The state government has been carrying out its developmental agenda in the district. Lots of works have been done in health, education and irrigation sectors. Construction of the 7-storied building for the district headquarters hospital is under way," he said,

Patnaik also stated that people are availing free healthcare services at government hospitals. 'Whenever the member of a family falls sick, the family remains

tense. Some people sell off their land to meet medical cost while others sell off their jewellery. Others meet medical cost by taking loans. Even some people are forced to stop studies of their children. The smart health cards will remove their tension. The state government will bear medical cost of patients. Thus, people can use their money on studies of their children." He said the smart health card is a milestone in the health sector of the country.

Among the projects inaugurated by the CM are Biju Patnaik Swimming Pool (₹4.74 crore) at Rameswar, new Town Hall building (₹5.34 crore) at the district headquarters, two roadside facility centres (tourism department), five bridges, 28 Mission Shakti buildings and eight drinking water projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari dubbed the scheme as a boon for the people of Odisha. 5T Secretary VK Pandian was present in the videoconferencing in Bhubaneswar.

SIT-IN OUTSIDE **IN-LAW'S HOUSE**

POST NEWS NETWORK

the woman entered its fourth day, Thursday.

protesting woman.

riage in court, last year.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GUNUPUR** Lr.No. 4726, Dated: 23.11.2021 e-mail id: eerwgunupur@gmail.com "e" Procurement Notice for Repair/Maintenance of Roads & Bridges in Odisha

(Tender eerwgnp-Online-07/2021-22) Repair / Maintenance of Roads & Bridges 2. Total No. of Works 21 (Twenty one) Nos.

Varies from Rs.1.96 lakhs to Rs.43.75 lakhs. 4. Class of contractor

: "D", "C", "B" & "A" class as applicable.

Availability of tender

: As mentioned in Col.4 of TCN

Annexure.

Other Details

Period of Completion

Officer	Identification	Road works	online for bidding		toades energian
			From	То	tender opening
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur	EERWGNP On line- 07/2021-22	(Twenty	29.11.2021 At 11.00 A.M.	07.12.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	08.12.2021 at 12.00 Hrs.
					% GST. The ich shall be

exclusive of GST applicable as per norms. GST as applicable on works contract shall be paid over the bill amount at the time of payment of bill. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which

is available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Any subsequent addendum or corrigendum will be made available

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur OIPR-25170/11/0006/2122

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CHHELIGADA HEADWORKS DIVISION, AT/ PO:MAHENDRAGADA, VIA: CHANDRAGIRI, DIST: GAJAPATI, PIN-761017

e-mail: eechwd@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice No. SE-CHWD-03/2021-22

Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and condition of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in

Type of the work Building No. of works.

'D', 'C' Class Class of contractor e-CHWD-11/2021-22 to

Bid Identification No.

e-CHWD-13/2021-22 Estimated cost Rs. 7.91 lakhs to Rs. 7.95 lakhs Period of completion 6(Six) calendar months Date & time of availability: 29.11.2021 to 09.12.2021 upto 5.00 PM

e-procurement portal http://tenderodisha.gov.in

of bid documents in the portal Last date / time for receipt: 09.12.2021 upto 5.00 PM

of bids in the portal

Date of opening of bid : 10.12.2021 at 11.30 AM, in the

e-procurement cell, Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RBVN Basin, Berhampur, Dist: Ganjam. Superintending Engineer, Chheligada

10 Name of the office inviting bid

Head Works Division, Mahendragada, Dist: Gajapati.

N.B.: 1) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can be seen in the said website.

2) Further details can be seen from Government website: http://tenderodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Chheligada

Head Works Divisioin, Mahendragada(Gajapati)

villages across this river are in vided facilities to town people while Special audit unearths job card scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 25: Following a directive from the Lokayukta, a special audit was conducted on alleged irregularities in MGNREGS projects in Hatadihi block

of Keonihar district. The audit has detected a scam. Some people had made a complaint at the Lokayukta about irregularities in projects executed at a cost of ₹32.95 crore. The special audit unearthed a scam to the tune of ₹40.89 lakh. The administration has taken a step for recovery of the fund from the contractors. The Lokayukta has also asked the Collector to submit an action taken report in the next hearing.

A copy of the audit report was sent to the minister of panchayati raj and drinking water. The department has been asked to make its opinion on the issue during the next hearing of the case. Locals had complained that funds for ponds were embezzled with fake muster rolls.





Be fearless and resolute, all obstacles will melt away

THE MOTHER



Iohan Rockström &

Tobias Raffel

With its highly

industrialised

pioneer in

economy, Germany

wants to become a

decarbonisation

without losing its

competitiveness

international

Green Biz Post-COP26

hat is next on the global climate agenda? This year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow certainly did not fail, but nor was it much of a success. While world leaders entered into some promising new agreements on targets, global greenhouse-gas emissions so far are not being reduced at the pace we need. And while some countries' climate pledges have been strengthened, the lack of concrete measures for achieving them is a real worry. We still see

Climate science clearly shows that future prosperity and equity lies in only one direction: toward a nature-positive, zero-carbon global economy. Between this year's extreme weather events and the razor-sharp, sciencebased messages in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's sixth assessment report, we do not need any more confirmation of the facts. The world is facing massive threats to biodiversity and nature. To remain on track to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, we must reduce emissions sig-

Many policymakers continue to drag their feet, voicing concerns that climate action will burden businesses. But many top business leaders are increasingly putting their companies on a more sustainability-minded course. The vast majority of them have accepted the findings of climate science and moved beyond the phase of denial and hesitation. This broader trend was clear to see in Glasgow, where senior executives from many of the world's largest corporations were in attendance.

In the run-up to COP26, we interviewed business leaders from more than 20 top German companies (including BASF, Daimler, Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Telekom, Lufthansa, and Siemens), and examined their respective sustainability strategies. Among our main findings were that nine out of 10 German CEOs consider sustainability to be at least as important as digitalisation over the next five years.

This represents a striking change, and it is not just cheap words. On average, the companies participating in the study aim to achieve climate neutrality by as early as 2035, not only on their factory premises but across their

global value chains. German corporate leaders are under no illusions that this will be easy; most recognise that their actions have yet to catch up to their attitudes. Nonetheless. sustainability has clearly moved to the top of the CEO agenda, supplanting COVID-19 as the

Our survey suggests that a new narrative has emerged in German business. Companies now consider a robust sustainability strategy necessary for maintaining their 'license to op erate.' More are coming to realise that there are business opportunities in sustainability. And more CEOs are taking personal responsibility, establishing new corporate governance mechanisms and incorporating sustainability targets into executive board compensation.

In the context of the broader climate challenge, Germany makes for a particularly in-

teresting case study. With its highly industrialised economy, Germany wants to become a pioneer in decarbonisation without losing its international competitiveness. From the average German CEO's perspective, progress is being held back not by a lack of green technologies or support from key stakeholders, but by still-high up-front costs. For 60% of those surveyed, sustainability and profitability remain at odds. Still, many existing sustainability projects are already paying off, and costs will continue to fall as the opportunities for increasing sales of sustainable products increase.

Transforming companies' modes of operation requires three kinds of action. First, they urgently need to reduce their negative footprint on the planet and society, by stopping their overuse and destruction of natural resources. Second, they need to increase their positive handprint through system-wide purpose-oriented (rather than solely profit-driven) business strategies to build resilience and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

And, third, they need to create a heartprint, winning the support of all stakeholders. Here, we can all have an impact, by changing our behaviour as consumers, supporting bold policies as voters, creating new knowledge as scientists, and setting meaningful incentives and frameworks as policymakers.

The German companies we surveyed offer good examples for sustainable corporate action. Some of them use 'green digital twins' in product development to quantify a product's climate effects even before a prototype is built. Others report on their 'product carbon footprint' to provide suppliers and customers transparency about emissions and enable informed choices between alternatives. Many businesses cooperate across sectors to operate and finance sustainable projects. And several large German companies are training employees to become 'sustainability ambassadors' who will show others how to pursue similar strategies.

Such models need to spread quickly, because the transition to a safer, healthier, sustainable world is not proceeding smoothly. The global economy is still shaped by misaligned incentives that make it profitable to pollute, destroy, and destabilise the climate and biosphere. We urgently need climate science-aligned policies that provide a new framework for business. COP26 did not deliver this - and it probably never could. Additional formats will be needed, starting with the 2022 G7 summit in Germany. The EU could sign on to the US-China declaration in Glasgow. even forming a science-based 'climate G3.'

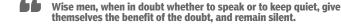
But we also need more companies to take it upon themselves to adopt science-based targets. This applies not only to cutting carbon-dioxide emissions but also to conserving other limited resources, especially water, biodiversity, food, and soil.

The challenges ahead are immense, but so are the opportunities. We are currently in a phase of acceleration, having only just realised the urgency of the issue. The carbon budget for remaining aligned with 1.5° Celsius of warming will last (at current emissions rates) until the end of this decade - at most. We must start reducing emissions now, across all sectors and at all levels.

As our study shows, business leaders are aligning behind the science and showing a willingness to transform their operations. The question now is whether policymakers will provide the necessary framework to ensure a safe future for everyone.

Johan Rockström is Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. Tobias Raffel is Co-Founder of the FUTURIST Institute for Sustainable Transformation.

WISDOM CORNER



NAPOLEON HILL

The highest levels of performance come to people who are centered. intuitive. creative. and reflective - people who know to see a problem as an opportunity.

PAULO COELHO

Tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself. And no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its

FOCUS CLIMATE CHANGE

HOLDING THE PLANET HOSTAGE



Chris Patten

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING, WHO **DECLINED TO ATTEND COP26** IN PERSON, **HAS ONE OVERRIDING PRIORITY: TO KEEP THE CPC IN POWER**

The verbal emissions at the recent United Nations Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow were understandably extensive but fortunately less environmentally damaging than the energy path on which the world a fragile agreement that still just about keeps in play the 2015 Paris climate agreement's main target of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. But unless countries do a great deal more, and quickly, the actual temperature rise is likely to be at

The biggest disappointment in Glasgow was the last-minute watering down of the proposed (and widely supported) agreement to "phase out" the use of coal in energy production. With India providing political cover for China in vetoing this language, the final conference proposal was to "phase down" coal-an expression that has never left my lips or pen in several decades of speaking and writing English. It is entirely devoid of conviction. If an alcoholic promises to "phase down" his alcohol consumption, the result will almost certainly be trouble.

China accounts for more than half of the world's coal consumption, and has the largest amount of coal-fired generating capacity under construction. Pressed about why his country would not do more in Glasgow to help save the planet, China's chief negotiator pointed to the commitments in the Communist Party of China's current Five-Year Plan.

So, our future now depends on the CPC's programme. The tragedy for the world is that the Party cannot be phased down, much less phased out, despite the fact that it is a huge threat to the future of all of us.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, who declined to attend COP26 in person, has one overriding priority: to keep the Party in power. That is why, at the very least, the CPC covered up the initial coron-



Our future now depends on the CPC's programme. The tragedy for the world is that the Party cannot be phased down, much less phased out, despite the fact that it is a huge threat to the future of all of us

avirus outbreak in Wuhan in late 2019, in the process ignoring China's international commitments to the World Health Organisation. And that is why the CPC will not go further for now in reducing China's mining, purchase, and use of coal. It fears that doing so would endanger its economic model and risk undermining living standards, potentially weakening its grip on power.

Unfortunately, China's behaviour will most likely undermine the credibility of governments in open and free societies. How can democratic governments ask citizens to make sacrifices and, in some cases, reduce their living standards in order to tackle climate change, when China blithely pumps more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere?

Likewise, how can one justify undercutting businesses in some countries by allowing Chinese exports that are produced using a type of energy that is being phased out elsewhere? China is, once again, trying to tilt the playing field and compete by its own set of rules.

It is therefore difficult for a US politician today to make the case for preventing climate change in the coal-mining communities of West Virginia. And leaders in Germany, Poland, or the UK will have a tough time attempting to tailor such an argument to similar domestic constituencies

But democratically elected governments must still try to step up efforts to tackle climate change in order to save the environment for everyone, including the Chinese. And what will Xi's response be? Simple: don't do what I do, do what I say - or rather, what the CPC's Five-Year Plan says. You must try to save our environment while we ruin yours.

Moreover, losing the fight to limit global warming to 1.5°C also may threaten democracies, because the resulting extreme weather events will further strain relations between governments and electorates. Democracy has no divine right to exist. If the strains and tensions become too much, some democracies could simply implode into chaotic populist authoritarianism.

These pressures could hardly come at a worse time. For starters, Europe faces problems all around

its borders. In the Balkans, the 1995 Dayton Agreement that brought peace of a sort to Bosnia is under threat from Serb extremism. Russia's military buildup near Ukraine and the Baltic states could again be a prelude to war. Belarus, egged on by the Kremlin, is creating a migrant crisis on its border with Poland.

Russia is using every trick it can to try to increase Europe's dependence on Russian energy exports. Meanwhile, Germany will have its first new chancellor in 16 years, and the UK's Brexit-era leadership seems to have lost its way in trying to find a global role for the country. Countries across Europe face rising inflation, higher energy bills, and the prospect of a cold winter as governments try to find a sustainable path out of the COVID-19 crisis.

The US, for its part, is struggling to respond appropriately to the rise of China, whose grievance-infused nationalism raises anxieties about its threats to the Indo-Pacific region, and in particular Taiwan. In addition, America is seeing its own global standing undermined by the takeover of the Republican Party by Donald

Trump's personality cult. So, the existential threats to the planet and to democracy are being aggravated by more traditional political and geostrategic problems around the world. It will take strong leadership to get us out of this mess in 2022. US President Joe Biden will have his work cut out for him. And who else will there be to help him?

To save the planet, robust democratic leadership must be phased up – not phased down, let alone phased out. Rather than merely keeping our fingers crossed and hoping for the best, we should start by calling out the appalling behavioUr of dictatorships such as China and Russia

> The writer is Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

SPECTRUM NON-MOTORISED TRANSPORT

An unfussy introspection of Mo Cycle



Avilash Roul

CYCLING CULTURE EVOLVES GRADUALLY THROUGH THE ENGAGEMENT OF CITIZENS RATHER THAN TOP-DOWN BUREAUCRAT-CONSULTANT MODEL OF GOVERNANCE AS IT IS IN THE CASE OF **MO CYCLE**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

sharing system (PBS) was **I**introduced Bhubaneswar November 26, 2018. The objective of Mo Cycle was to offer a sustainable and affordable alternative for short trips or 'first and last mile' connectivity. Unfortunately, neither it has emerged as an affordable alternative for short trips, nor integrated into the city transport system.

Cycling as a part of urban mobility in Bhubaneswar can be traced back to the early 2000s. The Works Department mooted a cycle lane on the Jaydev Vihar-Nandankanan route. Similarly a cycle lane of 3.5 metre width was developed from OMFED Chowk to the East Coast Railway office. While such ad-hoc arrangements were made during the 2000s, it was the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) which adopted cycling as an integral part of the city through Mo Cycle.

In its submission of Bhubaneswar Smart City Proposal (SCP) in February 2015, the BSCL anchored on a child-friendly city providing accessible, safe, inclusive and vibrant public places and quality of urban life. Also, the Union government had put a condition that bicycles must be an eligible component for funding under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for smart cities. Thus, BSCL opted for a ₹6crore public financed but hybrid public-private-partnership (PPP) model with multiple operators (three private operators) – Yulu, Yaana and Hero Hexi. It is believed that the lure for

the Union government's financial support and to fulfil a requirement to qualify as a smart city, the city administration added PBS in a hurry without proper due diligence. The laying down of its infrastructure in three days prior to the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 had baffled all citizens except those who were in charge. Was it a collective decision to canvass Bhubaneswar as a destination city with PBS when the mega hockey event opened? While the so-called PPP model col-

lapsed in less than 18 months, partly the pandemic is to be blamed for Mo Cycle's misfortune or agony showcasing near various bus stops across the city. That the city administration couldn't maximise the cycling facilities during the pandemic is altogether another story of shortsightedness. The bilateral agencies that are extending finance and knowledge support to the Union government and state governments on sustainable transport are hell bent on assessing the success of PBS in terms of business model only. The success of PBS in cities in India lies beyond its limited business model.

Bicycle sharing emerged in Europe in the 1960s. Since then,

there has been remarkable transformation of its service offerings and geographical outreach. Since the first generation of PBS in Bhubaneswar. It may be advisable Europe, PBS have rapidly evolved to adopt Dutch Guidelines for Cycle and adapted to changing environmental, technological and economic factors.

Meanwhile, the Union government, through its National Urban Transport Policies of 2006 and 2014, and National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) and Smart City Initiative, prioritises Non-Motorised Transport (NMT), focusing on planning for people rather than vehicles. Walking, cycling and cycle rickshaws, as NMT, are preferably customised into Indian cities both by evolving necessity and design.

Cities across the world have been ramping up their cycling systems for smooth movement of people in response to the pandemic and thereafter. Neither BSCL nor Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) considered reviving Mo Cycle during the pandemic when it was most required. If at all the city wants to adopt a long term, successful, people friendly, transparent PBS, we need to consider some of the aspects which were missed in Mo Cycle.

First of all, consult with city dwellers from all sections in a transparent manner to co-create the PBS. Set aside dedicated space for constructing a permanent cycle track for a few kilometres in the most feasible intersections. Don't implement cycle infrastructure as an add-on, as is the case in

Cycling culture evolves gradually through the engagement of citizens rather than top-down bureaucrat-consultant model of governance as it is in the case of Mo Cycle. With awareness and education on cycling, the state must initiate steps to develop an NMT policy. PBS must not be considered as a one-time investment project.

Mo Cycle's premature collapse is unwarranted and uncalled for. Cycling can be an effective alternative to public transport in the post-pandemic world. Albert Einstein once wrote "Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance, you must keep moving." Bhubaneswar too will have to perform a balancing act for a long time to come. City administration must allow individuals to contribute their share of reducing carbon emissions by maximising their trips in cycles rather than burning fossil fuels. For that, right kind of cycle infrastructure backed by a law for NMT must be a priority. Are we ready for PBS?

The writer is Guest Professor/ Principal Scientist, IIT Madras. Views are personal.

Fraught with risk

Sir, A female forest guard on duty was attacked by a tigress at the TATR, Maharashtra. Generally, tigers are nocturnal hunters. Attack on Swati Dhumane took place at around 8 am. Was the big cat provoked? Swati and three of her colleagues are said to have waited for half an hour or so for tigress Maya to move away after spotting her a mere 200 metres away. When the tigress did not budge, the guards, instead of returning to their base, explored a detour only to be ambushed by it. Tigers are introvert and moody animals. They do not hunt human beings for food. Also, tigers are wary of possible injuries that can incapacitate them. The big cats love hunting for food and for sport. However, injured tigers are frustrated: such tigers can attack humans without provocation. Intrusion of tiger territory can be lethal for human beings. Though tourism crowd can instigate a tiger, generally they are not known to turn hostile in such situations. It is not known whether the tigress was separated from her cubs because such big cats are known to be provoked at the slightest pretext. Experts are also questioning the prudence of undertaking the tiger survey post-monsoon when it is difficult to spot the striped animal due to the overgrown bushes. Besides, officials have said although guard Swati joined the forest department in 2011, this was her maiden wildlife stint. Was she adequately trained? Did she panic on witnessing the tigress? It is unknown whether guards like Swati who dangerously venture into the forests sport some type of protective gears. It is appropriate for them to be armed with some type of weapons or tranquilliser guns to save themselves

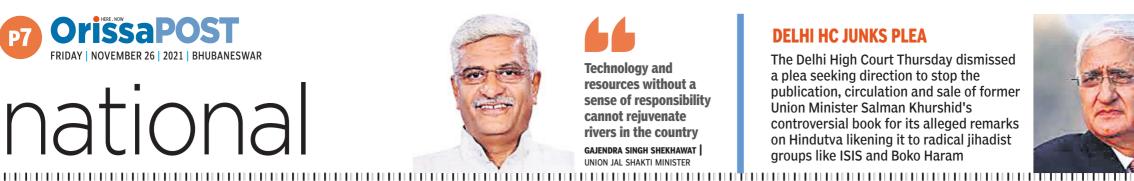
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Step in right direction

Sir, The Centre's decision to extend its free ration scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), for another four months until March 2022 is a step in the right direction. Though the economy is bouncing back to normal, many deprived families are still walking a tightrope post the pandemic. Providing free food grains for the next four months could ease their ordeal. The Cabinet decision will benefit 80 crore cardholders and will cost ₹53,344 crore to the exchequer. -Earlier this month, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey had told presspersons that there was no proposal for an extension as the economy was reviving. People are, however, sceptical that the government's move could be an election gimmick ahead of the Assembly polls in

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

national



Technology and resources without a sense of responsibility cannot rejuvenate rivers in the country GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT I

UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER

DELHI HC JUNKS PLEA

The Delhi High Court Thursday dismissed a plea seeking direction to stop the publication, circulation and sale of former Union Minister Salman Khurshid's controversial book for its alleged remarks on Hindutva likening it to radical jihadist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram





Badals made laws to protect its monopoly... @capt_amarinder stalled my proposed law which would have ended fastway

monopoly, got revenue for state per connection & reduced TV cable prices for people to half NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU PUNJAB

Those who are following the path of adharma, should be brought on the path







RAJNATH SINGH DEFENCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Youth held

Chennai: A 28-year-old man was arrested for sexually assaulting a woman in a moving car here, police said Thursday. A search is on for two of his colleagues who had also committed the crime. The incident took place on early Wednesday morning. A police patrol team found a woman screaming for help from a car passing by following which it chased and intercepted the moving vehicle.

Four arrested Dakshina Kannada

(Karnataka): Four persons have been arrested in the gangrape and murder case of an eight-year-old girl in Dakshina Kannada district, police said Thursday. The arrested were identified as Jayban a.k.a Jay Singh (21). Mukhesh Singh (20), Manish Tirki (33) and Muneem Singh (20). Jay Singh and Mukhesh are from Madhya Pradesh and Muneem is from Jharkhand.

Man kills brother

Lucknow: In a shocking incident, a man stabbed his elder brother to death with a pair of scissors at their house in the Gomti Nagar police station area. The two brothers were alone in their house on Wednesday evening while the other family members had gone shopping at a weekly market.

Cop found dead

Kolkata: A middle-aged woman police officer from Kalimpong, who was visiting the city on official work, was found lying unconscious inside a room of a guest house here Thursday and rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared her "brought dead". A resident of Darjeeling, Bindu Lama Subba had checked-in at a guest house in Kalighat area on Wednesday. Her designation is yet to be known. A case of unnatural death has been registered by the police.

PM lays Noida airport foundation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 25: Laying the foundation Stone of Noida International Airport, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said that for his government, infrastructure is not part of 'Rajniti' (politics) but part of 'Rashtra Niti' (national policy).

Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone of the airport in presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia, General V.K. Singh, Sanjiv Baliyan, S.P. Singh Baghel and B.L. Varma.

Addressing the public gathering after laying the foundation stone, the Prime Minister said, "Infrastructure is not part of politics for us but part of national policy (rashtra niti). We are making sure that the projects do not get stuck, do not hang in limbo or do not go astray. We try to ensure that the infrastructure work is completed within the stipulated time".

He mentioned that proposed International Airport will play a major role in the growing aviation sector of India and will be a key centre of maintenance, repair and operations of aircraft.

"A Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility is com-

Foreign board students can join CBSE schools without prior approval

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Students from foreign boards seeking admission to CBSE schools will no longer require prior approval, the board announced

The move comes following an increase in the number of students applying for approval as many families have been shifting from abroad post the Covid pandemic due to various reasons, a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) official said

'In the post period of corona pandemic, many families are shifting to India because of various reasons. Therefore, many students studying abroad in foreign boards are joining schools affiliated to the CBSE," CBSE Controller of Examination Sanvam Bhardwai said

"As admissions are given to students of other boards based on the equivalency of classes of two different boards, every time students shifting from foreign boards to the CBSE are applying through schools to the CBSE to accord them approval to seek admission in classes 9 and 11 based on the equivalency,' Bhardwaj said.

Bhardwaj explained that keeping the current circumstances and problems faced by these students and their families, the CBSE has decided that from now onwards, no such prior approval is required by students from foreign boards to seek admission in schools affiliated to

the CBSE. "A list of equivalency of classes 10 and 12 of foreign boards with similar classes of the CBSE has been hosted on our website. Thereafter, admissions can be provided to students by the schools without seeking any approval from the CBSE,



The Prime Minister International Airport will of northern India

ing up in 40 acre, giving employment

to hundreds of young people. Today

India spends thousands of crores

of rupees for getting these serv-

ices abroad. Now, all repairs and

maintenance work will be carried

out at proposed MRO centre and

thousands of crores will be saved,"

The Prime Minister pointed out

that the new India of the 21st cen-

tury is building one of the best

modern infrastructure today. "Better

roads, better rail network, better air-

ports are not just infrastructure

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 25: Bharatiya

Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh

Tikait made it clear Thursday that

the protest by farmers will con-

tinue for Minimum Support Price

(MSP) law and to oppose various leg-

islations which are in pipeline and

He said though the Central gov-

ernment has announced repeal of

three farm laws, the farmers' prob-

lems will not come to an end with

this as the government is trying to

bring in various anti-farmer laws.

Dharna' organised by All India

Kisan Sangharsh Coordination

Committee (AIKSCC)-Telangana

unit in Hyderabad to mark one

year of the countrywide agitation

by the famers against the three

Tikait was addressing 'Maha

are harmful to their interests.

He mentioned that proposed International mentioned that the new | Airport will play a major role in the growing aviation sector of India and will be become the logistics gateway a key centre of maintenance, repair and operations of aircraft

> projects but they transform the entire region, transforming people's lives completely," he said. The Prime Minister mentioned

> that the new International Airport will become the logistics gateway of northern India. "This airport will make the entire region a powerful symbol of the National Gati Shakti Masterplan," he said.

Talking about benefits of infrastructure projects, Modi said, "Employment opportunities are created during airport construction. The airport also requires thou-

Stating that farmers' protest at

Delhi's Ghazipur border will con-

tinue, he claimed their protest was

not merely for repeal of the three

agri laws but it was also to demand

MSP guarantee law and resolve

Modi government was run by com-

panies and several legislations

were in pipeline to serve their in-

terests. He cited the proposed

He alleged that the Narendra

other issues faced by farmers.

sands of people to run smoothly. Therefore, this airport will also give new employment to thousands of people of western Uttar Pradesh.'

The Prime Minister stated that after seven decades of independence, for the first time, Uttar Pradesh has started getting what it has always deserved. "With the efforts of the double engine government, today Uttar Pradesh is turning into the most connected region of the country," he said.

Commenting on the integrated multi-modal cargo hub that is coming up, he said that in a land-locked state like Uttar Pradesh, airport will be very useful and this hub will serve industrial centres like Aligarh, Mathura, Meerut, Agra, Bijnor, Moradabad and Bareilly. "Khurja artisans, Meerut Sports Industry, Saharanpur furniture, brass industry of Moradabad, Agra footwear and Petha industry will get huge support from the upcoming infrastructure," Modi said.

Hitting out at the opposition parties, Prime Minister said, "Uttar Pradesh, which the previous governments kept in deprivation and darkness, the Uttar Pradesh which was shown false dreams by the previous governments is making its mark not only nationally but also internationally."

Protest to continue, says Tikait

amendments to laws relating to

electricity and seeds

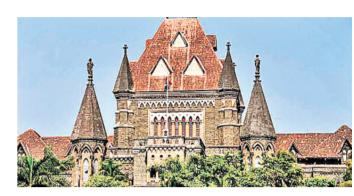
'They are looking to do away with weekly agriculture markets in the country. There will also be police stations for seeds where farmers will be questioned about the seeds sown $\bar{b}y$ them in their fields. Several laws are in pipeline because nobody in Parliament speaks on these issues," he said.

The farmers' leader said Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), the union of nearly 40 farmers' group spearheading the agitation, will write to all political parties to raise the real issues like repeal of three agri laws, passing of MSP guarantee Bill and price rise during the ensuing Parliament session. The parties will be urged to avoid debate on non-issues as they are taken up to divert public attention from the real problems faced by people.

SHAKTI MILLS GANGRAPE CASE

HC overturns death penalty of 3 accused

The verdict came in appeals filed by the three convicts, who -- along with one Siraj Rehman Khan and an unidentified minor -- were tried for the August 22, 2013 gangrape which shook the nation



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 25: The Bombay High Court Thursday commuted to rigorous life imprisonment the death sentences awarded to three repeat offenders, who were convicted for the brutal gangrape of a photo-journalist in the Shakti Mills Compound in 2013.

A division bench of Justice S.S. Jadhav and Justice P.K. Chavan, while upholding the conviction, commuted the trial court's 2014 order of Principal Judge Shalini Phansalkar-Joshi, giving the death penalty to the accused trio -- Qasim Shaikh 'Bengali', 21, Salim Ansari, 28 and Vijay Jadhav,

The verdict came in appeals filed by the three convicts, who -along with one Siraj Rehman Khan and an unidentified minor -- were tried for the August 22, 2013 gangrape which shook the nation.

The judges ruled that the Constitutional court cannot award punishment based on public opinion and though it may be contrary to the majority view, the court followed the procedure.

The three convicts -- who became the first in the country to be awarded under the amended Indian Penal Code Section 376 (E) providing for life term in jail or death for rape cases or repeat offenders, in the wake of the Delhi Nirbhaya gang-rape case of December 2012 -- shall not be entitled to furlough or parole while serving their rigorous imprisonment for life.

The incident took place late that evening when the young woman photo-journalist, along with a male colleague, was on an assignment to the defunct Shakti Mills Compound. There, they were waylaid for the four young men and a minor boy, sparking a nationwide outrage, and the Mumbai Police managed to arrest all the accused within a week.

Subsequently, another victim, a 19-year old telephone operator also approached the police a month later to complain against the same five youngsters at the same venue on July 31, 2013, three weeks before the second incident.

Both the victim women identified the accused, and the two cases were heard simultaneously and in March 2014, the Sessions Court Principal Judge Phansalkar-Joshi found the four adults guilty in each case, while two minors were tried by the Juvenile Justice

Subsequently, the prosecution sought permission to invoke the IPC Section 376(E) against the convicts which was allowed, the court sentenced the trio of Shaikh, Ansari and Jadhav to death as it was "the rarest of rare cases", while one was awarded a life sentence.

Delhi Assembly panel summons Kangana SC re-imposes ban on construction

The committee issued the notice summoning Ranaut after complaints cited an alleged offensive and derogatory Instagram story posted by her, said a statement from the panel

New Delhi, Nov 25: Delhi Assembly's Peace and Harmony Committee has summoned Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut on December 6 over her alleged hateful posts on social media, panel chairperson Raghav Chadha said

The committee issued the notice summoning Ranaut after complaints cited an alleged offensive and derogatory Instagram story posted by her, said a statement from the panel. The complaints claimed that Ranaut, in her story, labelled the Sikh community 'Khalistani terrorists', it said.

"As per the complaints, the content of such stories has gravely hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community and has caused apprehensions in their mind regarding their safety as well as life and liberty," the statement said.

Further, according to the complainants, the stories were published by Ranaut on her Instagram account, @kanganaranaut, which has a massive reach and is being followed by around 80 lakh people worldwide

It illustrates the instances which hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community and have a tendency to "disturb" the peace and harmony of the society, it said.

A complaint mentions that on November 20, Ranaut posted a story that read, "Khalistani terrorists may be arm twisting the government today... But let's not forget one woman... The only woman prime minister ne inn ko apni jooti ke neeche crush kiya tha...," the statement said

"Given the gravity and the im-



portance of all these issues in the NCT of Delhi, the committee on Peace and Harmony under the chairmanship of MLA Raghav Chadha has summoned Kangana Ranaut to appear before the committee so as to deliberate on the present issue in a more comprehen-

It said Ranaut has been summoned to appear before the committee on December 6 at 12 pm.

According to the complainants, the statements purportedly posted by Ranaut have caused "immense agony, distress and gravely hurt the religious sentiments" of the people from the Sikh community.

This potentially leads to a situation of "disruption of peace and harmony" in the NCT of Delhi by allegedly disrespecting the entire community and instigating threats to their life and liberty, said the statement quoting the complaints.

The Peace and Harmony Committee, which was formed by the Delhi Assembly in 2020, is also currently hearing complaints related to the Delhi riots and last week it recorded statements of a Facebook India representative.

on construction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Taking note of worsening air quality, the Supreme Court has re-imposed the ban on construction activities in Delhi and national capital region (NCR) and directed the states to provide subsistence to workers from the funds collected as labour cess for the period during which such activities are prohibited.

A special bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, in an interim order uploaded Wednesday night, also directed the Commission for Air Quality Management in the NCR and Adjoining Areas to "commission a scientific study of air quality based on available data of previous years bearing upon recorded levels of air pollution".

'We direct that instead of waiting for the air quality to deteriorate before initiating action under the graded response plan, necessary measures must be put into place in anticipation of a deterioration of air quality. For this purpose, it is necessary for the commission to engage expert agencies with domain knowledge in meteorological data and statistical modelling," said the bench which also comprised justices



DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant. Asking the commission on pollution and NCR states -- Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan -- to continue with their measures to curb the spike in pollution, the bench reversed the decision to allow construction activities from November 22 in viewof improved ground situation in air pollution level.

NFHS SURVEY FINDS MORE WOMEN THAN MEN IN INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Indicating a demographic shift, the number of women surpassed men for the first time in India with the sex ratio being 1,020: 1,000, according to findings of the National Family and Health Survey-5.

"With this, we can say India moves in the league of the developed countries - as the sex ratio crosses 1000," a health ministry official said, attributing it to measures taken for women empowerment such as financial inclusion and for combating gender bias and dis-

The sex ratio at birth also improved from 919 in 2015-16 to 929 in 2019-20, indicating positive impact of measures like implementation of the PC and PNDT Act and various other interventions. According to NFHS-3, conducted in 2005-06, the sex ratio was 1000: 1000 and in 2015-16 (NHFS-4), it declined to 991:1000.

On November 24, the Union health ministry released NFHS-5 (2019-21) results for India and 14 phase-II states and union territories in the form of fact-sheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and other health related areas

The findings of NFHS-5 in respect of 22 states and union territories covered in phase-I were released in December, 2020. According to NFHS-5, 88.6 per cent of the births (in the 5 years before the survey) in the country were delivered in a health facility. A significant rise since



NFHS-4 (78.9 per cent) is a proof that India is marching towards achieving universal institutional births,

officials said. "Assistance by properly trained health personnel working within

an enabling environment is needed to eliminate preventable maternal and newborn deaths. A key strategy to ensure skilled care during childbirth is to that all births take place in health facilities in which obstetric complications can be treated when they arise," the offi-

Nearly four-fifth (78 per cent) mothers received postnatal care from health personnel (doctor/nurse/LHV/ ANM/midwife/other health personnel) within two days of delivery in the country, a significant rise from 62.4 percent in NFHS-4.

This would result in reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates in the country. The days and weeks following childbirth - the postnatal period, are a critical phase in the lives of mothers and newborn babies. Most maternal and infant deaths occur in the first month after birth. Thus, it is recommended to receive postnatal care from health personnel within the first 48 hours (2 days) of delivery, the official said.

The survey findings stated total fertility rate (children per woman) in the country has reached the replacement level of fertility, a significant demographic milestone. The TFR for India in 2019-21 has reached 2.0 children per woman compared to 2.2 in 2015-16.

This means women are giving lesser number of births in their reproductive period compared to earlier. This also indicates better knowledge and use of family planning services, late entry into marriage/union, etc, the ministry official said. The birth registration (with the civil authority) for children under age 5 years has increased from 79.7 per cent (NFHS-4, 2015-16) to 89.1 per cent.





TWOSTATES





FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 26 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

MVA's two years: Durable despite challenges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: The Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra which completes two years in power November 27 has survived against all odds amid the coronavirus

The unlikely coalition of the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and its traditional foes NCP and Congress has remained stable despite different ideological leanings of its constituents, unresolved tricky issues like Maratha reservation and an aggressive BJP. The pandemic broke out within months of the coalition coming to power, but political observers say it could have benefited the government in an unexpected way, as it shifted the focus away from its common minimum programme and the alliance's internal frictions. But the government had a massive challenge on its hands as Maharashtra, the most urbanised state in the country, struggled to contain the spread of the virus. At one point the state was recording as many as 24,000 new coronavirus infections a day. As the economy took a hit, new big-ticket projects were kept on hold and the focus was on completing ongoing infrastructure projects like the coastal road and Mumbai-Nagpur expressway, said

The government found itself in

a senior state minister.



the BJP-led Union government's then home minister Anil Deshmukh court by demanding that it carry of the NCP of corruption. out a constitutional amendment Deshmukh denied the allegations but had to step down, and a CBI to make overall reservations above 50 per cent feasible. probe began against him. Initially A new episode of political drama on the backfoot and unsure about began amid the second wave of how to react, the government set the pandemic when an SUV with up a judicial commission to probe explosives was found near the south Singh's allegations. Extortion cases

The opposition BJP accused the

Thackeray government of failing

to argue its case in favour of

Maratha quota strongly. The gov-

ernment sought to put the ball in

Mumbai residence of industrialist

situation, the state saw Singh, a former Mumbai police commissioner, being declared absconder in extortion cases, and his one-time boss, former home minister of `encounter specialist' police of-Deshmukh, being arrested by the ficer Sachin Waze and transfer of Enforcement Directorate. Raids IPS officer Param Bir Singh from by the ED and Income Tax dethe post of Mumbai police compartment on properties linked to missioner. Singh, in turn, accused MVA ministers and leaders led to allegations that the BJP, smarting from the loss of power despite getting the highest number of seats in the 2019 Assembly polls, was trying every means to destabilize the government. The drugs-on-cruise case in which Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan was arrested created sensation, but were filed against Singh, on the later the Narcotics Control Bureau

TROUBLE AHEAD

Knotty issues of Maratha quota and OBC political reservation remain and can create trouble for the government

Over 10 municipal corporations, 27 zilla parishads and more than 300 gram panchayats are going to polls early next year, and it will be interesting to see if the MVA manages to put up a joint front against the BJP

The Congress, which is looking to regain its once dominant position in Maharashtra politics, is not in favour of contesting local bodies polls in alliance

Turf wars between the Shiv Sena and NCP at the local level could also test Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP supremo Sharad Pawar's political skills

(NCB) and its Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede found themselves in the dock as state minister Nawab Malik launched a tirade against them, claiming they were framing up innocent people. Allegations by a witness that there was an attempt to extort money to let off Aryan Khan provided ammunition to Malik.

Param Bir appears before crime branch

Mumbai, Nov 25: Former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh, declared a proclaimed offender by a Mumbai court, arrived in Mumbai Thursday to join the investigation as directed by the court, an official said. Singh was questioned for about seven hours by the crime branch.

Singh flew in from Chandigarh, the official said. "He has come to join the investigation with the orders of the court and will co-operate the investigation," he added.

"I will join the investigation as

directed by the court," Singh told media on arrival. After leaving the airport, Singh appeared before the Mumbai police crime branch unit-11. where his statement in connection with an extortion case registered at Goregaon police station here will be recorded, the official said. The IPS officer, who is facing several extortion cases in Maharashtra, had told news channels Wednesday that he was in Chandigarh. Singh has not reported to work since May this year, after his transfer from the post of Mumbai police commissioner and his subsequent allegations of corruption against then Maharashtra

home minister Anil Deshmukh. The Supreme Court has granted Singh protection from arrest. He



The IPS officer, who is facing several extortion cases in Maharashtra. had told news channels Wednesday that he was in Chandigarh

was transferred after Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze was arrested in the case of an SUV with explosives found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house, 'Antilia' and the subsequent suspicious death of businessman Mansukh

Singh was seen leaving the crime branch unit-11 in an official vehicle around 6.15 pm.

Winter session of Maha Assembly shifted from Nagpur to Mumbai



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nagpur, Nov 25: The much awaited annual political affair for the people of Vidarbha, the staging of Winter Session of Maharashtra Legislature which was scheduled to be held in the first week in December, has been finally shifted to state capital, Mumbai, commencing from December 22 to 29.

The state Cabinet took the decision Thursday in Mumbai after days of uncertainty.

The second capital of Maharashtra, Nagpur, which lost the status of capital of then Madhva Pradesh after the formation of Maharashtra with merger of Bombay State, Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad State in

1953, was bestowed upon the honour of holding one session of newly created Maharashtra state Assembly every year.

A historic Nagpur Agreement was signed September 28, 1953 by the then leaders and protagonists of Vidarbha who had submitted their demand for Vidarbha State before the State Reorganisation Commission (SRC) headed by Justice Fazal Ali which suggested an alternative of giving importance to Nagpur and Vidarbha region and holding Assembly Session here.

The Winter Session of Legislature has not been held in two successive years in 2020 and 2021. In short, the MVA government has not visited Nagpur for holding Winter Session of State Assembly.

For Kasab's nemesis, life remains a challenge

Devika Rotawan, then about to turn nine, was a survivor and a key witness in Mumbai terror attacks trial

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 25: In the Mumbai terror attacks trial, the crucial evidence provided by a survivor and star witness -- a girl who was not even ten years old - proved to be the nemesis for Ajmal Amir Kasab, the only Pakistani terrorist who was captured alive, and ensured that he was hanged after he had exhausted all legal remedies.

Kasab was one of the 10 heavily armed Pakistani attackers who wreaked unprecedented mayhem in the country's commercial capital for nearly 60 hours as the world watched silently.

Devika Rotawan, then about to turn nine, was injured by a bullet that hit her in the leg as Kasab and his associate opened fire indiscriminately inside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus building that eventful

Now 22. her father Natwarlal and she were waiting to board a train for Pune where her brother, Bharat, 34, lives with his family. "Suddenly, we heard gunshots and loud booming sounds, people shrieking, crying, running helter-skelter. We were caught in the melee and the complete chaos," she said, recounting the horrors of that night.

As she tried to escape with the others, she stumbled, felt a numbing pain and saw blood oozing from her right leg. "Within moments, I realised I had been shot. I collapsed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dharamsala, Nov 25: There is

nothing 'fishy' going on in the sa-

cred natural Dal Lake nestled

amidst lush green deodar forests in

the foothills of Dhauladhar range

on the countryside of McLeodganj,

the abode of Tibetan spiritual

leader the Dalai Lama, in Himachal

As old as the memory of the lo-

cals and their ancestors, the sa-

cred lake with some 200-year-old

Lord Shiva temple located on its

banks is on the verge of renounc-

Pradesh these days.



Devika Rotawan (centre) with her father and brother.

right there and regained consciousness only the next day,' Devika told IANS. Despite the confusion, she was

somehow rushed to the nearby Sir JJ Hospital and the next day, she underwent a major surgery to remove the AK-47 bullet lodged in her leg. That was just the beginning of her visits to the hospital. Over the next six months, she underwent several surgeries and in the subsequent three years, it was only after another six major operations that she was able to become completely mobile and independent.

"She was so small," her father, Natwarlal Rotawan, recalled. Natwarlal was one of the prime prosecution witnesses in the 26/11 trial. Devika admits that those initial three years were horrific for the entire family. She was even shifted to her native Sumerpur village in Pali district (Rajasthan), where the entire clan took good care of her. Soon afterwards, the family had to return to Mumbai for the court proceedings against Kasab.

With both the distraught father and his injured daughter not only surviving the ordeal, but also becoming the star witnesses, it was finally their 'clinching evidence' in the court in June 2009 that drove the proverbial last nail into Kasab's coffin. After exhausting all legal remedies. Kasab was hanged nine years ago November 21, 2012. Though his life ended at the gallows, little Devika, who turns 23 next month, has seen her life being a continuing struggle on all fronts.

After managing to complete her school education from IES New English High School, Bandra East,

Locals rescue fish gasping for breath in Himachal's lake

NEARLY 300 PEOPLE, LARGELY LOCALS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM TIBETAN ORGANISATIONS, HAVE BEEN INVOLVED

IN THE DAWN-TO-DUSK EXERCISE LARGELY AT THEIR OWN RESOURCES

Devika went on to do her HSC from Siddharth College, Churchgate, and is now pursuing her Second Year Bachelor of Arts from Chetana College in Bandra.

Natwarlal said that initially, the family got around ₹3.5 lakh as compensation, besides ₹10 lakh as medical aid, and they had been promised a house under the quota for the economically weaker sections, but it has not come to the family even after 13 years

We have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to successive governments in Maharashtra. The PM talks about 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', but what about my daughter Devika who challenged terrorists and Pakistan for our country," the disconsolate father added bitterly. Devika's brothers Bharat, a shopkeeper, and Jayesh, 26, who has a severe spinal problem, recall how the family rose to the onerous task of caring for their "star kid sister. who was often in deep pain, but always restless"

It involved regular visits to hospitals, cajoling her to take medicines on time, the daunting trips to the high-security Special Court inside the Arthur Road Central Jail, and Devika and her father coming face to face with Kasab during the trial, her unending meetings with lawyers, police officials, trudging from one government department to another for her financial compensation, college admission and other necessary chores.

fully vaccinate all adults by next week

Himachal likely to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Nov 25: Himachal Pradesh is likely to vaccinate 100 per cent of its eligible adult population with the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by next week, state Health Secretary Amitabh Avasthi said

We have set up a target for ourselves to accomplish complete saturation of vaccination in the next seven days

AMITABH AVASTHI I HEALTH SECRETARY

Himachal Pradesh is close to administering the second dose of its vaccination to 90 per cent of the pop-

ulation as on date, he told PTI. "We have set up a target for ourselves to accomplish complete saturation of vaccination in the next

seven days," he said. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya is likely to visit Bilaspur

to participate in a function in this regard December 5, he added. During an interaction with

healthcare workers and beneficiaries of the vaccination programme via video conferencing in September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had lauded Himachal Pradesh's efforts to complete the first dose of vaccination of 100 per cent adult population

Shimla ranked first under SDG Urban Index

The Queen of Hills was also ranked the most liveable among the cities across the country under the Ease of Living Index ranking which was issued earlier this year

AGENCIES

Shimla, Nov 25: Himachal Pradesh Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj said Wednesday that summer capital Shimla was ranked first under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Urban Index by the NITI Aayog.

The index took into account 56 urban areas for measuring SDGs indicators in areas related to ending poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, etc. Shimla has secured the first rank with 75.50 marks out of 100 for this year.

The minister said the statistical methodology for the SDG Urban Index is drawn from the globally accepted methodology developed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). A comprehensive list of 77 indicators, covering 46 global SDG targets across 15 SDGs, is used in the index.

Shimla was also ranked most liveable among the cities across the country under Ease of Living Index ranking which was issued earlier this year. This was based on the assessment of four parameters - quality of life, economic ability, sustainability and citizen perception.

ing the world, but that has not left the people high and dry. They are religiously saving the fish by reintroducing it into nearby water bodies -- an arduous task

but nevertheless fulfilling. Like previous years, the Dal Lake located at an altitude of 1,775 metres above sea level at a distance of 11 km away from McLeodganj in Kangra district has

shrunk to a small pit of slush. Experts blame warming climates, scanty precipitation, and lack of mechanical management are draining crucial water sources,

threatening habitats and cultures. Locals, comprising a large number of exiled Tibetans from McLeodganj, are busy these days in rescuing the fish gasping for breath in the muddy waters.

"For the past one week we have been catching the fish from the lake by using nets and then immediately transporting them to nearby water bodies. Otherwise, they will die owing to asphyxiation," Ramesh Thakur, a resident of Tota Rani village located close to the lake, told IANS Thursday.

He said every winter the lake dries up and the locals come to the rescue of the fish. "During monsoon the lake is brimming with water. But in winter it dries up fast. The reason is that the water seepage is at an alarming rate owing to lack of the lake restoration by the local authorities," he said, adding "the phenomenon of lake drying has been occurring for the past eight-

Another resident Deepak Verma said every winter they catch the fish from Dal Lake and release them to nearby water bodies and private fish farms. "This helps give



Nearly 300 people, largely locals and volunteers from Tibetan organisations, have been involved in the dawn-to-dusk exercise largely at their own resources.

Government official Shilpi Beakta, a Subdivisional Magistrate in Kangra district, told IANS a majority of the stock of fish has been rescued from the lake. "Our teams were there to assist the local volunteers (in the fish rescue operation)," she said.

Admitting that for the past many years the natural water system of the lake has been drying up, she said the Deputy Commissioner has called a meeting in Dharamsala Friday to look into the reasons for its shrinking and to adopt mechanical steps to save and restore its glory.

Even the Jal Shakti Department has been recharging the lake by pumping water into it to enable the fish to survive. The area of the Dal Lake is around one hectare (i.e. 10,000 sq mt). On the bank of the lake the famous Lord Shiva temple is located. According to one legend, a sage named Durvasa prayed to Lord Shiva there. The experts attribute the lake's decline to man-made problems like pollution, siltation, construction activities and overgrowth of weeds.

They recommend treatment of catchment area by taking vegetative and mechanical measures, clearing of streams, management of excreta of the livestock near thewater body and awareness about the lake's multifunctional role.



national



The Centre intends to bring reforms in chemicals and petrochemicals sector to **boost domestic** manufacturing and attract investments

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA I CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS MINISTER

ANOTHER MILESTONE

In another milestone for the DMRC, driverless train operations on 59-km Pink Line of the Delhi Metro were flagged off Thursday





The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has identified 101 PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

to enhance port connectivity with

consumption and production centres SARBANANDA SONOWAL UNION MINISTER

Peace has been restored in the Northeast in the last seven years, militancy has come to an end and there is political stability in all the eight states in the region





HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

Man ends life

Hyderabad: A man in Telangana's Suryapet town allegedly committed suicide after losing money in cryptocurrency, police said. G. Ramalingaswamy (36), hailing from Khammam, allegedly killed himself by consuming poison at a lodge in Suryapet town. Police late on Wednesday recovered his body from a room after the lodge owner lodged a complaint that the person staying in the room was not responding to door knocks. Police shifted the body for autopsy. A police official said the man may have resorted to take the extreme step on Tuesday. Police also recovered a suicide note left behind by the man for his wife.

Teacher hangs self

Chennai: A 44-year-old Math teacher of a private school in Karur district hanged himself, a week after a girl student of his class committed suicide citing rape. The incident occurred at Sengatupatti Village in Thuraiyur, Tiruchi. Saravanan's death followed the suicide of his Class XII girl student. In her suicide note, the student had said that she was raped but did not name the rapist. While Karur police dismissed the suicide of Saravanan as fallout of some domestic dispute. reports from local media state that he took the extreme step as students of the school linked him to the death of the girl student.

4 found dead

Prayagraj (UP): Four members of a family were found murdered in Phaphamau area of Prayagraj on Thursday. All four were killed with a sharpedged weapon, possibly an axe. The deceased include Phoolchand, his wife Meenu. daughter Sanna and son Shiv. On receiving information about the murders, the police reached the spot with a dog squad and forensic team to collect samples.

Heroin seized

New Delhi: Delhi Police have seized a huge quantity of heroin in the national capital worth approximately ₹106 crore in the international market, an official said here. According to the official, the contraband, weighing 10.688 kg, was recovered by the Anti Narcotic Cell of the Dwarka district police. Details about the whole operation are yet to be furnished by the Delhi Police. Notably, the Dwarka district police had recently launched 'Operation Varchasva' in their mission to make Dwarka area crime free. Since the launch of the operation, several gangsters, snatchers and robbers have been arrested in a small period of time. The police are also keeping a tab on illegally

staying foreigners in the area.

12 Meghalaya MLAs punch 66 students Covid **Cong hard, join Trinamool**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, Nov 25: Twelve of the 17 Congress MLAs in Meghalaya joined Mamata Banerjee's TMC Thursday, with their leader Mukul Sangma blaming the grand old party's "ineffectiveness" to combat "divisive forces" for the decision that catapulted Mamata Banerjee's party from being a non-entity in state politics to becoming the opposition spearhead.

The development not only added heft to TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Banerjee's already formidable reputation of a 'giant killer', having exterminated the BJP's ambition of ruling Bengal in the near future, but also fortified Prashant Kishor's image as an effective political negotiator and an election strategist.

Sangma, who was the chief minister of the relatively calm

had its roots in the Congress's failure to fight the BJP which was growing stronger. But many say his action was prompted by his disaffection over the Congress leadership appointing Vincent H Pala as state party chief without consulting him.

northeastern state between 2010

and 2018, asserted the decision

to shift allegiance to the TMC

"As you are aware the divisive forces in the country are growing stronger. We have to take them head on. There is a void created by the ineffectiveness of the Congress, and our decision today to find an alternative pan-India party is to take on the NDA," Sangma told a press conference.

"I am happy to announce that I along with these MLAs have formally joined the All India Trinamool Congress. We know the merger will bring better prospects

for our state and for our country,"

He said the decision to join Mamata Banerjee's party was taken after "exhaustive due diligence and analysis" about how best to serve the people. Sangma alleged the Congress failed to take on the BJP and its allies in the state.

"In my preceding years, we have not optimally served the state. The optimal utilisation of our potentiality can happen now," he asserted, and indicated that before joining the TMC he and his team had visited New Delhi quite a few times to meet the Congress high command and discuss the issues plaguing the party but in vain.

Sangma insisted there was no truth in suggestions that he quit Congress because of his differences with Pala. "In fact, as you recall, the INC leadership were clueless when we in Meghalaya were denied to form a government despite being elected the largest political party," he said.

The Congress had emerged as the single largest party in the 60-member assembly in the 2018 polls with 21 seats, but National People's Party of Conrad Sangma, which had won 19 seats, and ally BJP that bagged two, managed to stitch together a majority with smaller parties.

An NPP-led coalition now rules the state. However, it was senior Congress leader and former assembly speaker Charles Pyngrope who let media in on the role Kishor played in convincing the disgruntled Congress MLAs to join the TMC bandwagon.

FLYING HIGH

positive in K'taka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

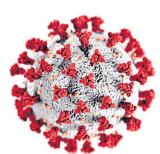
Dharwad (Karnataka), Nov 25: Two hostels of SDM College of Medical Sciences and Hospital here have been sealed, with 66 medical students studying there having tested positive for COVID-19, officials said Thursday.

About 300 out of the total 400 students studying in the medical college have undergone COVID tests so far. According to officials, a students' event almost a week ago might have resulted in the spread, as they advised people to avoid attending programmes like marriage, functions, and cultural gatherings.

....So far 66 students have tested positive. 300 students have been tested so far and the remaining 100 are also undergoing tests. By evening their results are also likely Also, there are about 3,000 staff members, who will be tested. Those testing positive will be quarantined and given treatment," Deputy Commissioner of Dharwad Nitesh Patil said.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the campus with officials, he said two hostels have been sealed and necessary food, medicines and other essential things are being provided there. "Those who have tested positive will not be allowed to come out and those who are awaiting test results are also quarantined, so precautionary measures have been taken to avoid any further spread," he said, adding that everyone in the campus will

Officials said all students of the college have received two doses of



Officials said all students of the college have received two doses of **Covid vaccine**

COVID vaccine. As all the staff fall under health care workers category, they would have been completely vaccinated. However, the records are being verified.

Noting that the infection so far is only among the students, the Deputy Commissioner said the authorities are aiming to curb it and see to it that it doesn't spread.

In response to a question as to what might have caused the spread, he said almost a week ago there was some students' event and those who are now positive had attended it. "All those students who attended the event have been tested, also their primary and secondary contacts are being tested."

"So we advise people to avoid events such as marriages and cultural events, or follow precautions such as use of masks, sanitisers, and maintaining distance among others if attending such events are unavoidable." Patil added

Over 80 % turnout in Tripura civic polls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, Nov 25: Amid allegations of large-scale political violence, over 80 per cent of around 5 lakh voters exercised their franchise in the civic polls in Tripura on Thursday, officials said.

According to officials of the State Election Commission (SEC), while no major incidents occurred across the state, the opposition parties including the CPI-M and the Trinamool Congress alleged that violence, intimidation and booth capturing that happened on Thursday, was never witnessed in Tripura since it became a fullfledged state in 1972.

The CPI-M, due to the alleged large-scale malpractices and booth capturing, has demanded countermanding of elections in five civic bodies and in 10 seats in four other local bodies. A statement from the police headquarters on Thursday said that except for some stray incidents in Agartala and Melaghar, no major incident has been reported from any part of the state.

A total of 4,93,041 voters, including 2,49,778 women, were eligible to cast votes in the Agartala Municipal Corporations (AMC) and other civic bodies - Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), however, has already secured a majority in the seven civic bodies in five districts.

On Thursday, elections were held in the 51-seat AMC and 171 seats in seven Municipal Councils and six Nagar Panchayats. Amid allegations of pre-poll violence by the Opposition parties, the ruling BJP won 112 (34 per cent) of the 334 seats un-contested in the AMC and 19 urban local bodies in Jirania, Ranir Bazar, Mohanpur, Bishalgarh in western Tripura, Santir Bazar and Udaipur in southern Tripura and Kamalpur in northern Tripura.

A total of 785 candidates of various parties, including the BJP, the CPI-M-led Left, the Trinamool, and the Congress, are vying for 222 seats in the AMC and other civic bodies. Counting of votes will take place on November 28. The leaders, candidates and election agents of the CPI-M and the Trinamool Congress separately organised massive demonstrations here to protest against alleged malpractices by the BJP.

Sinha elected to top Interpol panel The elections for various positions for the top panel

were held at the ongoing 89th Interpol General Assembly in Istanbul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: CBI Special Director Prayeen Sinha was Thursday elected as a delegate for Asia on the executive committee of the Interpol, capping an "intense" and "well-coordinated" campaign across the world by India, official sources

The elections for various positions for the top panel were held at the ongoing 89th Interpol General Assembly in Istanbul.

'This was a tough election with India running against four other contestants from China, Singapore, Republic of Korea and Jordan for two posts," said a source.

The Interpol (International Criminal Police Organisation) brings together police forces from around 190 countries and has emerged as a vital body for tackling the rising spectre of trans-national crimes and ter-

The sources said crucial support of friendly countries was sought during bilateral engagements at different levels and Indian embassies and high commissions across the world regularly fol-

"This was a tough election with India running against four other contestants from China, Singapore, Republic of Korea and Jordan for two posts," said a source

lowed up the matter with their host governments.

Ambassadors and high commissioners in Delhi were similarly reached out to, they said. "Today's victory is the result of an intense and well-coordinated election campaign across the world,"

the source said. The Indian ambassador in Turkey camped in Istanbul for the last few days and held on-theground bilateral meetings with delegations in his efforts to gain support for the Indian candidate, the sources said.

They said India will continue to actively contribute to Interpol's aims and objectives and to enhance its effectiveness through professional competence and



Migratory gulls fly above the Yamuna in Mathura

'Ready to revisit ₹8L income criteria for EWS'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi. Nov 25: The Centre Thursday informed the Supreme Court that it has taken a decision to revisit the criteria of ₹8 lakh annual income limit for EWS criteria and added that a fresh decision will be taken within a period of

four weeks. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, assured a bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud that the counselling for NEET won't take place until then. Mehta submitted that in the

matter, "I have instruction to say that the government has decided to revisit the criteria... We will decide

within four weeks. The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath, during the hearing, observed that the EWS reservation is progressive and pragmatic reservation, and the only question is whether it should be horizontal or

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, representing the petitioners, submitted that the question is whether ₹70,000 income per month can be

called EWS. On the aspect of limit issue, Justice Kant said that can be worked out.

The bench suggested that the Centre may apply for it next year. Mehta submitted that he will need to take instructions on that. Justice Chandrachud pointed out that it is the end of November.

The top court, in its order, said: "Centre has taken a decision to revisit the criteria determining the EWS in terms of provisions of explanation to Article 15 of the Constitution, inserted by the 103rd Amendment Act 2019.

Centre warns states

New Covid variant:

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Centre Thursday asked all states and union territories to conduct rigorous screening and testing of all international travellers coming from or transiting through South Africa, Hong Kong and Botswana, where a new COVID-19 variant of serious public health implications has been reported

In a letter address to additional chief secretary/principal secretary/secretary (Health) of all states and union territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan asked them to ensure that samples of travellers turning positive are sent to designated genome sequencing

laboratories promptly. It has now been reported by National Centra for Disease Control (NCDC) that multiple cases of a COVID-19 variant B.1.1529 have been reported in Botswana (3 cases), South Africa (6 cases) and Honk Kong (1 case), Bhushan said in the letter

KMC POLLS: LITMUS TEST FOR TRINAMOOL, BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 25: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) polls will be held on December 19, a notification issued by the State Election Commission (SEC) on Thursday said.

The stage is now set for a litmus test for the ruling TMC and the opposition BJP on whether they have been able to hold on to their ground or increase their support base among urban voters since the assembly elections seven months ago. The TMC had swept all the 16 assembly segments in Kolkata in the last election.

The counting of votes polled in the 144 wards of the civic body is likely to be held on December 21, State Election Commissioner Saurav Das said.

"The KMC elections will be held on December 19 and the counting is likely to take place on December 21. We will issue a separate notification for that. The entire polling process has to be completed by December 22. From today onwards, the Model Code of Conduct is implemented," Das told reporters.

A total of 40,48,352 voters are eligible to cast their votes."There will be 4,742 polling booths. The filing of nomination starts from today and will continue till December 1. The last date for withdrawal of candidatures is December 4. The polling and election campaign will take place adhering to all COVID protocols," he said.

Das said that discussions are on with the DGP and the Kolkata Police Commissioner regarding



the deployment of security forces. When asked whether the SEC will seek deployment of the central forces. Das said he can comment on it only after going through the security plan submitted by the police

forces in the state. The elections to KMC, along with 112 other municipalities and municipal corporations, were due in April-May 2020. But the polls were postponed due to the raging COVID pandemic.

For the time being, the state government has decided to conduct the KMC polls. These civic bodies are now being run by a state-ap-

pointed Board of Administrators. Former mayor of Kolkata and present Chairman of the Board of Administrators, Firhad Hakim, welcomed the notification and said the party is ready to contest the polls."We are ready for the elections and are confident of winning the KMC for the third consecutive time. With the kind of development that our party has done in the last 11 years, we are confident of bagging the majority of the

seats." he said. The opposition BJP, Congress and the Left Front demanded that elections to all the civic bodies be held together."We want that election to the civic bodies be held together. The state government had been delaying the elections for their political interests, and later they blamed the COVID-19 pandemic for it," state BJP vice-president Pratap Banerjee said.

The Congress and the Left Front, which doesn't have any representation in the state assembly, accused the state government of delaying the civic elections for political reasons.

"The state government has no proper explanation on why it is delaying the civic elections to other municipal bodies. In areas where they are not on the strong ground politically, they are delaying the polls," CPI(M) leader Sujan

Chakraborty said.

international



They destroyed national security. The commission report has clearly said the former **President, Prime Minister and** the Cabinet were responsible for the attacks

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA | PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

INTERPOL ELECTS UAE OFFICIAL AS PRESIDENT

Interpol Thursday elected Major General Ahmed Naser al-Raisi, a contentious official from the United Arab Emirates, as its new president during the international law enforcement body's annual General Assembly held in Istanbul





When we ask whether the tough stance against North Korea based on sanctions and pressure really produced the results the Western world has aimed for, I can't say that has been the case 100

LEE JAE-MYUNG PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SOUTH KOREA

For me, it is





Those responsible for the tragedy which took place yesterday in the Channel are the smugglers, who for a few thousand euros promise Eldorado in England. The smugglers are criminals, this tragedy reminds us, painfully

GERALD DARMANIN INTERIOR MINISTER.

SHORT TAKES

Germany records **1L Covid deaths**

Berlin: Official figures released Thursday show Germany has become the latest country to pass the grim milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. Germany's disease control agency says it recorded 351 additional deaths in connection with the coronavirus over the past 24 hours, taking the total toll to 100.119. In Europe, Germany is the fifth country to pass that mark, after Russia, the United Kingdom, Italy and France.

Pak test fires **Shaheen 1-A**

Islamabad: Pakistan Thursday conducted a successful flight test of the Shaheen-1A surface-to-surface ballistic missile. "The test flight was aimed at re-validating certain design and technical parameters of the weapon system," the army said in a statement. However, the army did not share any technical detail of the missile. The flight test was witnessed by Lieutenant General Nadeem Zaki Manj, Director General Strategic Plans Division; Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali, Commander **Army Strategic Forces** Command and the scientists and engineers of strategic organisations.

EU okays Pfizer's vax for kids (5-11)

The Hague: The European Union's drug regulator Thursday authorised Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine for use or children from 5 to 11 years old. clearing the way for shots to be administered to millions of elementary school pupils amid a new wave of infections sweeping across the continent It is the first time the European Medicines Agency has cleared a COVID-19 vaccine for use in young children. The agency said it "recommended granting an extension of indication for the COVID-19 vaccine Comirnaty to include use in children aged 5 to 11."

Al-Shabab blast claims at least 8

Mogadishu: A large explosion outside a school in Somalia's capital Thursday killed at least eight people, including students, witnesses said. The extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack. The al-Qaida-linked group controls large parts of rural Somalia and continues to frustrate efforts at rebuilding the Horn of Africa nation after three decades of conflict.

Pentagon to form new group to probe UFOs

THIS COMES AFTER A REPORT IN JUNE, ENCOMPASSING 144 OBSERVATIONS, SAID THERE WAS A LACK OF SUFFICIENT DATA TO DETERMINE THE NATURE OF MYSTERIOUS FLYING OBJECTS

Washington, Nov 25: The United States Department of Defense late Tuesday said it will establish a new group to investigate reports on the presence of UFOs in restricted airspace.

The formation of the group comes after the government released a report in June, encompassing 144 observations, which said there was a lack of sufficient data to determine the nature of mysterious flying

The new group, Airborne Object Identification and



Management Synchronisation Group, will be overseen by the Under Secretary Of Defense for

Joint Staff and officials from

in small boats and unseaworthy

dinghies in hopes of getting to

British shores to seek asylum or

better opportunities. More than

25,000 people have made the dan-

gerous Channel crossing so far

this year, about triple the total for

Ever-increasing numbers of

people fleeing conflict or poverty

in Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq,

Eritrea or elsewhere are risking

the perilous journey in small, un-

seaworthy craft from France, hop-

ing to win asylum or find better op-

portunities in Britain. The

crossings have tripled this year

compared to 2020, and another 106

the whole of 2020.

National Intelligence. Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks said in a separate

The three countries that

got clearance for

graduation are

the Lao People's

Democratic Republic

UNGA'S HISTORIC RESOLUTION

Nepal, B'desh set to join

developing countries bloc

tified aerial phenomenon (UAP) in restricted airspace poses a potential safety of flight risk to aircrews and raises potential national security concerns.

The new group which will succeed the US navy's Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force. will work to detect, identify and attribute objects, assess and mitigate any associated threats, the Pentagon said. The US military have spent decades deflecting, debunking and discrediting observations of unidentified flying objects and flying saucers dating back to the 1940s.

Coal mine fire in Siberia kills 14, dozens missing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Nov 25: At least 14 people died in a fire at a coal mine in Russia's Siberia Thursday that also left 35 others missing and feared dead.

Authorities said 11 miners were found dead and three rescuers also died later while searching for others who were trapped at a remote section of the mine. Regional officials declared three days of mourning for the victims.

Kemerovo Governor Sergei Tsivilyov said 35 miners remained missing, and their exact location was unknown.

Efforts to rescue those trapped in the mine about 250 metres (820 feet) undeground were halted on Thursday afternoon because of an explosion threat, and rescuers were rushed out of the mine.

The Interfax news agency reported that miners have oxygen supplies normally lasting for six hours that could be stretched for a few more hours but would have expired by late hours Thursday anyway.

Nearly 50 other miners were injured. A total of 285 people were in the Listvyazhnaya mine in the Kemerovo region in southwestern Siberia when the fire erupted and smoke quickly filled the mine through the ventilation system.

uate from the LDC category after an exceptionally extended prepara-Bangladesh, Nepal and tory period of five years (the standard period is of three years) to enable them to prepare for graduation while planning for a post-COVID-All 3 men charged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 25: The UN General Assembly has adopted a historic resolution to graduate three nations, including Bangladesh and Nepal, from the least developed country (LDC) category to the developing country grouping, a major milestone demonstrating the countries' significant development progress

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution at its 76th session. The three countries that got clearance for graduation are Bangladesh, Nepal and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

"The UN General Assembly has adopted resolution A76L.6Rev.1, Graduation of Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal from the least developed country category," the UN said in a statement Wednesday. "The three countries will grad-

19 recovery and implementing policies and strategies to reverse the economic and social damage incurred by the COVID-19 shock, it said Currently, there are 46 coun-

tries on the LDC list, according to the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP). According to the UN. per capita income of USD 1,230 is one of the requirements for transitioning into a developing nation. When the UN included

Bangladesh in the LDC group in 1975, the country's poverty rate was 83 per cent. The rate of poverty declined over the years and it was 20.5 per cent in 2019-20 before the pandemic devastated jobs and income opportunities for many.

Nepal's inclusion in the LDC status took place in 1971. LDCs are those that suffer from severe structural impediments to achieve sustainable development.

in Arbery's death convicted of murder_ ASSOCIATED PRESS Brunswick (US), Nov 25: Jurors

have convicted the three white men charged in the death of Ahmaud Arbery, the Black man who was chased and fatally shot while running through their neighbourhood in an attack that became part of the larger national reckoning on racial injustice.

The jury Wednesday deliberated for about 10 hours before convicting Greg McMichael, son Travis McMichael and neighbou r William "Roddie" Bryan, who all face minimum sentences of life in prison. It is up to the judge to decide whether that comes with or without the possibility of parole. Travis McMichael stood for the

verdict, his lawyer's arm around his shoulder. At one point, McMichael lowered his head to his chest. After the verdicts were read, as he stood to leave, he mouthed "love you" to his mother, who was in the courtroom.

Migrant boat capsize in **English Channel kills 27**

More than 25,000 people have made the dangerous Channel crossing so far this year, about triple the total for the whole of 2020

drowned. The discrepancy in the

numbers was not immediately ex-



Migrants are brought ashore onboard an RNLI Lifeboat, in Dungeness, Britain

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calais (France), Nov 25: At least 27 migrants bound for Britain died Wednesday when their boat sank in the English Channel, in what France's interior minister called the biggest migration tragedy on the dangerous crossing to date.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said 34 people were believed to have been on the boat. Authorities found 31 bodies — including those of five women and a young girl — and two survivors, he said. One person appeared to still be missing. The nationality of the travelers was not immediately known.

The regional maritime authority, which oversees rescue operations, later said 27 bodies were found, two people survived and four others were missing and presumed plained. Meanwhile, migrants are migrants were rescued in French

London: The deaths of at least 27 people in the English Channel is fueling tensions between the UK and France over how to stop migrants from crossing the world's busiest waterway in small boats. Despite a pledge from British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron that they would "do everything possible" to stop people smugglers from endangering lives, politicians on both sides of the channel are already sniping at their counterparts for failing to prevent Wednesday's tragedy. UK officials criticize France for rejecting their offer of British police and border officers to conduct joint patrols along the channel coast with French police. French authorities say Britain is stoking the crisis because it is too easy for migrants to remain in the country and work if they manage to cross the channel. Amid the finger pointing, British lawmakers Thursday will debate the soaring number of migrants who are crossing the channel in small boats. Macron is scheduled to discuss the issue with European Union officials.

GUNS & PRAYERS

Afghan fighters pray in a field near the town of Islam Oala. on Afghanistan-Iran border

New mutant 'deadlier than delta'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Nov 25: British experts have sounded the alarm over a new Covid variant believed to have emerged in 'Botswana' that is the most mutated version of the virus yet, Daily Mail reported.

Only 10 cases of the strain, which could eventually be named 'Nu', have been detected so far.

But it has already been spotted in two more countries - South Africa and Hong Kong, suggesting the variant is more widespread.

It carries 32 mutations, many of which suggest it is highly transmissible and vaccine-resistant, and has more alterations to its

spike protein than any other variant, the report said.

Professor Francois Balloux, a geneticist at University College London, said it likely emerged in a lingering infection in an immunocompromised patient, possibly someone with undiagnosed AIDS,

the report added.

Changes to the spike make it difficult for current jabs to fight off, because they train the immune system to recognise an older version of this part of the

Dr Tom Peacock, a virologist at Imperial College who first picked up on its spread, described the variant's combination of mutations as 'horrific', the report added

He warned that B.1.1.529, its scientific name, had the potential to be 'worse than anything else about - including the world-dom-🚵 inant Delta strain. Scientists

MailOnline, however, that its unprecedented number of mutations might work against it and make it 'unstable', preventing it from becoming widespread.

They said there was 'no need to be overly concerned' because there were no signs yet that it was spreading rapidly.

Macy's Thanksgiving parade returns, with all the trimmings

Balloons, floats, marching bands, clowns and performers — and, of course, Santa Claus — will once again wend though Manhattan streets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Nov 25: Crimped by the coronavirus pandemic last year, the Macv's Thanksgiving Day Parade is returning Thursday in full albeit with precautions

Balloons, floats, marching bands, clowns and performers - and, of course, Santa Claus — will once again wend though 2.12 miles (4 km) of Manhattan streets, instead of being confined to one block or sometimes pre-taped last year.

Spectators, shut out in 2020, can line the route again. High school and college marching bands from around the country have been in-

vited back to the lineup; most of last year's performers were locally based to cut down on travel. The giant balloons, tethered to vehicles last year, are getting their costumed handlers back.

"Last year was obviously symbolic. It wasn't everything we would have liked to see in a parade, but they kept it going," Mayor Bill de Blasio said at a news briefing Wednesday. "This year, the parade's back at full strength. "It's going to be a great sign of our rebirth,

The Thanksgiving parade is the latest US holiday event to make a comeback as vaccines, familiar-



ity and sheer frustration made officials and some of the public more

comfortable with big gatherings amid the ongoing pandemic.

Still, safety measures continue. Parade staffers and volunteers must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear masks, though some singers and performers can shed them. There's no inoculation requirement for spectators, but Macy's is encouraging them to cover their faces. A popular pre-parade spectacle—the inflation of the giant balloons — was limited to vaccinated viewers. The Thanksgiving event also comes days after an SUV driver plowed through a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee, killing six people and injuring over 60.

Thousands of police officers are assigned to the parade route, from streets to rooftops. Cars are blocked from the parade route with sandfilled garbage trucks, other heavy vehicles and approximately 360,000 pounds (163,000 kg) of concrete barriers.

Bomb-detecting dogs, bomb squad officers, heavy-weapons teams, radiation and chemical sensors and over 300 extra cameras also are being dispatched to the parade route, NYPD Chief of Counterterrorism Martine Materasso said.

Inside the barricades, the parade features about 8,000 participants, four dozen balloons of vary-

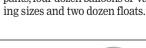












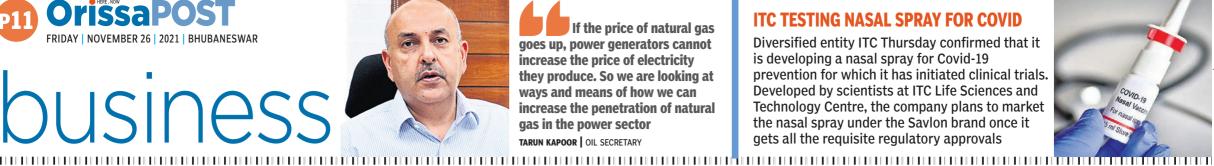
business



If the price of natural gas goes up, power generators cannot increase the price of electricity they produce. So we are looking at ways and means of how we can increase the penetration of natural gas in the power sector TARUN KAPOOR | OIL SECRETARY

ITC TESTING NASAL SPRAY FOR COVID

Diversified entity ITC Thursday confirmed that it is developing a nasal spray for Covid-19 prevention for which it has initiated clinical trials. Developed by scientists at ITC Life Sciences and Technology Centre, the company plans to market the nasal spray under the Savlon brand once it gets all the requisite regulatory approvals





achieved a change in the attitude of people both lenders and borrowers because of IBC and your efforts. It has given the confidence that the money can be recovered PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND

With a strategic view to grow the business and cater to increasing demand we have been pursuing our plans to

set up local assembly units in priority markets beginning with Argentina in 2020 and then Colombia earlier this year

B GOVINDARAJAN | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ROYAL ENFIELD



reach 20 GW of power generation capacity by 2030. with about 85% of this capacity via renewable energy

PRASHANT JAIN | JOINT MD AND CEO. ISW

SHORT **TAKES**

New Delhi: Telecom operator

Bharti Airtel Thursday said it

has conducted India's first 5G

trial in the 700 MHz spectrum

band in partnership with

outskirts of Kolkata, also

Nokia. The demonstration.

which was conducted on the

marked the first 5G trial in the

said in a statement. Airtel has

been allotted test spectrum in

multiple bands by Department

of Telecommunications for the

validation of 5G technology

NFSSM launches

info-graphic site New Delhi: National Faecal

Alliance, a collaborative body that drives the discourse on faecal sludge and septage

management (FSSM) forward

in India, launched 'India for the

World', a comprehensive info-

highlights India's FSSM journey

spotlighting the credible work

of key states towards safe and

practices. It showcases best

practices, case studies and

sanitation outcomes for the

kev states - Uttar Pradesh.

Uttarakhand, Maharashtra,

Telangana and Odisha.

Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh,

MG Motor adopts

wind-solar energy

New Delhi: MG Motor India has

collaborated with CleanMax to

become the first passenger car

company to adopt wind-solar

hybrid energy, a statement

Enviro Energy Solutions will

supply 4.85 MW of wind-solar

hybrid power to MG Motor's

manufacturing facility in Halol

"With this partnership, MG will

abate approximately 2 lakh MT of CO2 over 15 years which is equal to planting more than 13

lakh trees," the statement said.

said Thursday. Under the collaboration, Clean Max

graphic web platform that

sustainable sanitation

Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM)

and use cases.

eastern India, the company

RIL, Aramco call off \$15bln deal Inflation batters

Aramco, the world's top oil exporter, signed a non-binding agreement to buy a 20% stake in Reliance's O2C business for \$15 billion in 2019. Last week, the companies announced they would re-evaluate the deal

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Dubai, Nov 25: Reliance Industries and Saudi Aramco have called off a deal for the state oil giant to buy a stake in the oil-to-chemicals business of the Indian conglomerate due to valuation concerns, sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Talks broke down over how much Reliance's oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business should be valued as the world seeks to move away from fossil fuels and reduce emissions, they said.

Instead, Reliance will now focus on signing multiple deals with companies to produce specialty chemicals for higher margins, one of the sources said.

The collapse of the deal reflects the changing global energy landscape as oil and gas companies shift away from fossil fuel to renewables. Valuations of refining and petrochemical assets have gone down especially after the recent COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, a second source involved in the deal discussions said.

Despite this, Reliance had stuck to the \$75 billion valuation for Industries Limited Growth is Life

The collapse of the deal reflects the changing global energy landscape as oil and gas companies shift away from fossil fuel to renewable Valuations of refining and petrochemical assets have gone down especially after the recent COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, a source said

The Indian conglomerate has already announced a \$2 billion investment in the UAE's TA'ZIZ chemical joint venture between Abu Dhabi National Oil Co and sovereign wealth fund ADQ

the O2C business made in 2019, he said. Evaluation by consultants showed a significant cut in valuation...more than a 10% cut, he added.

'Reliance has highlighted the difficulty of separating Jamnagar from the clean energy business as a reason to not complete the

Bhubaneswar: Pee Safe,

India's leading hygiene

launched its first offline

store in city, Thursday.

SaiAnandam Complex, is

store was inaugurated by

The store, located in

the brand's first FOFO

Jitendra Choudhury, a

outlet in Odisha. The

and wellness brand,

transaction, although we suspect business alignment and valuation were also key reasons,' Bernstein wrote in a recent note. referring to Reliance's huge refining complex in Gujarat state.

Reliance was seeking advice from Goldman Sachs and Aramco was seeking help from Citigroup, sources said. The banks declined

CHANGE OF STRATEGY

Reliance, which aims to become net carbon zero by 2035, plans to switch to cleaner feed stock and energy at its O2C business and expand in solar power, batteries, electrolyzers to produce hydrogen and hydrogen fuel cells.

"The full value of this integration is also best extracted by repurposing existing O2C assets as well as evaluating multiple joint venture and partnerships in downstream ventures in specialty chemicals," a source familiar with the matter said.

Demand for specialty chemicals - used in industries such as agrochemical, colourants, dyes, fastmoving consumer goods, pharmaceuticals, fuel additives, polymers, and textiles - is set to rise in India as its economy expands. These chemicals also yield better margins for companies than conventional fuels as demand for gasoline and diesel are expected to fall with more electric vehicles and renewable energy.

BMW to launch three EVs in

its electric mobility journey in the country. To start

flagship all-electric SUV iX in the next one month

which will be followed by all-electric MINI luxury

India this year. "We've already done that and that is

giving us a lot of results because our growth is very

solid in the first ten months. We are taking the

product offensive to the next level and this whole

offensive is aimed at pure electric mobility," said

with, the company will launch its technology

next six months

New Delhi: German luxurv

car maker BMW Thursday

electric vehicles in the next 6

months in India to accelerate

said it will launch three

middle class

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 25: From daily essentials like tomatoes, milk as well as edible oils to transport fuels, rising prices have hampered the financial health of ordinary middle class families in India.

The trend has not only hurt the economically weaker section of the society but has lately been cited to impact the savings rate of the well-off. The biggest impact of inflation is that it affects the purchasing power of the fixed income groups as they can buy less compared to what they were buying earlier.

However, even as consumer pricebased inflationary pressure has eased lately on a macro level, it is still high enough to hamper the financial health of any middle class Indian family.

Notably, the CPI-indexed inflation has come down to 6 per cent which is in the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank of India. But some items of CPI as well as wholesale price inflation (WPI) have shown a drastic increase such as transport fuel

Significantly, any rise in fuel costs bumps-up prices of nearly all the essential items because of a second-round effect. A rise in fuel rates typically impacts overall freight and transportation costs.

Besides, a spike in commodity prices globally inflated the manufactured goods' cost thereby hurting margins along with end users

Acuite Ratings and Research's Chief Analytical Officer Suman Chowdhury said: "Some categories in the food basket have seen heightened inflation in the current year which includes edible oil, egg, meat and fish and pulses. Further, the sharply increased prices of petrol and diesel have also increased household expenditures with the unlocking of the economy."

"However, it needs to be mentioned that the higher retail fuel prices have got offset to an extent as many salaried employees still have the flexibility to work from home. Going ahead, there is a risk that as the economy continues to unlock and demand for contact intensive services such as hospitality and leisure increases, the inflation in services may see a surge."

Chowdhury sees Indi's headline inflation at 5.5 per cent for overall FY22 fiscal, and at 6 per cent in particular for Q4FY22.

Tata Steel sets up 8 MTPA crushing, Airtel conducts washing plant **5G trial with Nokia**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Joda Nov 25: Tata Steel's Ores, Mines & Quarries (OMQ) Division has set up 8 MTPA Crushing & Washing Plant at its Khondbond Iron & Manganese Mine (KIMM) near Joda in Keonihar district of Odisha, KIMM is a captive mine of Tata Steel, operated by OMQ Division



TV Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel. He stressed upon the need to focus more on resource efficiency. productivity and technology with the requirement of raw materials growing in line with the growth of the company. He congratulated the OMQ division and the Engineering & Projects team for achieving this great milestone.

The iron ore processing plant will cater to the rapidly growing raw material requirements of Tata Steel and will provide raw material security. In line with the Company's core objective of building sustainable mining and manufacturing processes, the state-of-the-art facility incorporates latest technology for ore processing, enabling efficient resource usage and reduced wastage.

In-plant rainwater harvesting reservoir has also been created to store and reuse the rainwater runoff from the hill slopes for dust suppression, plant operations & ground water charging in and around Khondbond. A paste thickener facility is also being set-up within the premises for further improving the recovery of water.

renowned real estate developer. CEO and Founder hatchback in 3 months. These will be followed by the Vikas Bagaria said, "Pee Safe has been helping people launch of all-electric sedan BMW i4 in six months. combat hygiene-related issues with its holistic range of BMW which is in the midst mix its biggest product offensive had said it would launch 25 products in

products ever since its inception. During the pandemic, the demand outgrew our expectations and we expanded in several categories." Choudhury said, "The brand is a frontrunner in the hygiene and wellness space and its products are extremely relevant in any scenario I congratulate the team and wish that they achieve many more such milestones ahead."

Pee Safe opens first store in City

BMW Group India President and CEO Vikram Pawah.

ECONOMY TO REBOUND STRONGLY

growth pegged at 9.3%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Moody's Investors Service Thursday said India's rising vaccination rate, low interest rates and higher public spending drive the positive outlook for corporate sector. Moody's projects India's eco-

nomic growth will rebound strongly. with GDP expanding 9.3% in the current fiscal ending March 2022, followed by 7.9% in fiscal 2023. In a report, Moody's said credit

fundamentals are favorable for India's companies on a sustained economic recovery and earnings of rated companies' will rise on strong consumer demand and high commodity prices.

"India's steady progress on inoculation against the coronavirus will support a sustained recovery in economic activity. Consumer demand, spending and manufacturing activity are recovering following the easing of pandemic re-



strictions. These trends, including high commodity prices, will propel significant growth in rated companies' EBITDA over the next 12-18 months," Moody's Analyst Sweta Patodia said.

However, if new waves of infections were to occur, it could trigger fresh lockdowns and erode consumer sentiment. Such a scenario will dampen economic activity and consumer demand, potentially leading to subdued EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) growth of less than 15-20 per cent for Indian companies over the next 12-18 months, Moody's said.

Moody's: FY2022 GDP Investment via P-notes on the rise

43-MONTH HIGH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

months

P-notes are

issued by

foreign port-

registered

folio

New Delhi, Nov 25: Investments in Indian capital through participatory notes (P-notes) rose to ₹1.02 lakh crore till October-end, make ing it the highest

level in 43 markets have shown some correction and have made many midcap and smallcap companies attractive on valuations. We have seen higher interest from FPI's towards the broader market vestors (FPIs) participation lately to overseas in-ABHAY AGARWAL | FOUNDER AND FUND MANAGER, PIPER SERICA

vestors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process. According to Securities and Exchange Board of India data. the value of P-note investments in Indian markets - equity, debt, and hybrid securities -- was at ₹1,02,553 crore by October end.

This was the highest level since

the last few months, the broader March 2018, when P-notes had in-

vested to the

of

tune

₹1,06,403 crore.

Abhay

Agarwal, Founder and Fund Manager, Piper Serica, a Sebi-registered PMS, said that the overall investment via P notes increased by more than ₹5.000 crore in October to hit a new high of ₹1.02 lakh crore.

"More interestingly, the value of equity went up by almost ₹7,000 crore while the value of debt investments fell by ₹2,000 crore. This

change in stance by FPIs is not surprising since there are expectations that long-term interest rates have hit a bottom and faced with inflationary pressures RBI will be forced to increase rates in 2022," he added.

The assets under the custody of FPIs slightly dropped to ₹53.6 lakh crore in October-end from ₹53.71 lakh crore in September-end. Getting towards the end of the calendar vear 2021. Piper Serica's Agarwal expects the FPIs to lock in gains made during the year so the secondary market will see FPIs selling to book profit during the current month and first half of December.

upGrad merges its 3 India arms

Mumbai: Edtech company upGrad Thursday said it has consolidated its three Indian subsidiaries, in a bid to become a global integrated 'LifeLong Learning' company. The company has announced the merger of its three subsidiaries: upGrad Campus, upGrad Jeet and upGrad KnowledgeHut, The consolidation will create one parent company in India that will drive upGrad's vision for an integrated strategy to expand and drive transnational learning through 2022, according to a statement.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco/New Delhi, Nov **25:** The banking regulators in the US have announced a plan to clarify the rules and regulations around how banks can use cryptocurrencies over the next year, at a time when governments the world over, including India, are weighing the risks associated with cryptocurrencies and safeguard investors.

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency said in a statement that they recognise that the emerging crypto-asset sector presents potential opportunities and risks for

banking organisations, their customers and the overall financial system

"As supervised institutions seek to engage in crypto-asset-related activities, it is important that the agencies provide coordinated and timely clarity where appropriate to promote safety and soundness, consumer protection, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. including anti-money laundering and illicit finance statutes and rules," the regulators said in a joint statement Wednesday.

Throughout 2022, the US agencies plan to provide greater clarity on whether certain activities related to crypto-assets conducted by banking organisations are legally per-



After India, US regulators to mull over crypto risks in '22

missible, and expectations for safety and soundness, consumer protection, and compliance with exist-

ing laws and regulations The agencies said that they continue to monitor developments in crypto-assets and may address other issues as the market evolves.

Further, the agencies will con-

tinue to engage and collaborate

'Banning could lead to more unlawful usage' New Delhi: The Blockchain and Crypto Assets Council (BACC), which is

part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) Thursday said a blanket ban on cryptocurrencies will encourage non-state players, thereby leading to more unlawful usage of such currencies. BACC's statement comes days after the government listed for introduction in Parliament a bill to ban all private cryptocurrencies, with some exceptions. In a statement, IAMAI said there would be several negative outcomes of a ban such as zero accountability and traceability of the origin and end usage of the cryptocurrencies; besides a complete evasion of taxes. A ban will also adversely impact retail investors, it added. The Council has always argued in favour of prohibiting the usage of private cryptocurrencies as a currency in India by law since usage as currency is likely to interfere with monetary policy and fiscal controls, the statement said.

with other relevant authorities, as appropriate, on issues arising from

activities involving crypto-assets. In India, the upcoming Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill,-2021 seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India.

Gill and had Jamieson not bowled

a beauty with the old ball, he should

have completed what was expected

But more importantly what Gill

and Iyer did on the day was to send

another warning signal for Pujara

and Rahane, who are now on bor-

Rahane was done in by low

bounce when he was expecting the

ball from Jamieson to rear up. With

12 Tests without a big score (India

might not bat twice), Rahane's

record is not reading too well for

Similarly, Pujara being stopped

from scoring by spinners, whom

younger players like Gill and Iyer

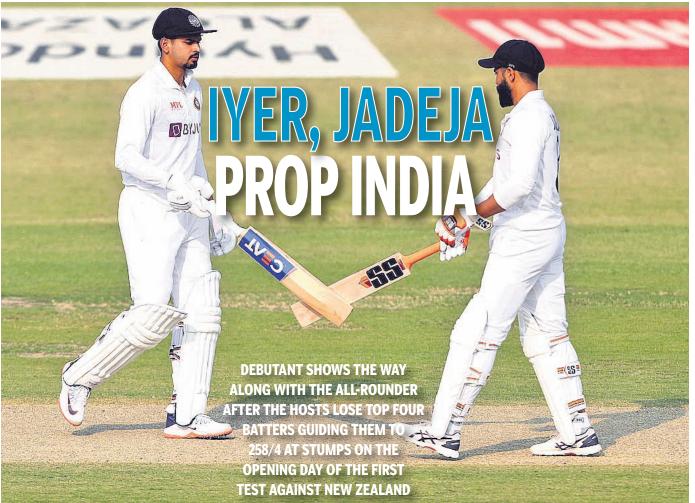
played freely, is an indicator that he

either has to reinvent himself or

there is trouble in waiting.

a stand-in skipper.

to be his maiden Test hundred.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur, Nov 25: Debutant Shreyas Iyer (75 batting, 136b, 7x4, 2x6) was guts, aggression and flair rolled into one during an unbeaten knock. which was nothing short of a baptism by fire, as India ended on 258/4 on the first day of the opening Test against New Zealand here Thursday.

On a pitch that had variable bounce and didn't offer enough pace off it, Iyer put his best foot forward on his very first day in office in the longest format.

Coming in at 106/3 at the fall of Cheteshwar Pujara (26), the debutant, in another half an hour, found his skipper Ajinkya Rahane's (33) promising knock come to a halt as Kyle Jamieson (3/47) and Tim



BRIEF SCORES: India 258/4 (Shreyas Iyer 75 batting, Shubman Gill 52, Ravindra Jadeja 50 batting, Ajinkya Rahane 35, Cheteshwar Pujara 26, Mayank Agarwal 13; Kyle Jamieson 3/47, Tim Southee 1/43) v New Zealand. Match to continue.

Southee (1/43) rocked the middleorder in inspiring post-lunch spells.

But at 144/4, Iyer took charge with senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja (50 batting, 100b, 6x4) for company as they resurrected the innings, at the same time batting with a lot of intent to keep the scoreboard ticking. Jadeja scored his 17th Test fifty and did his trademark sword celebrations much to the delight of the crowd.

One doesn't know if Sunil Gavaskar, while presenting the India Cap to Iyer, mentioned about a very special player to him. Someone, who had announced his arrival at this very ground 52 years back in 1969 against Bill Lawry's Australia.

There are very few in Indian cricket who have received unadulterated love like Gavaskar's illustrious brother-in-law Gundappa Viswanath. His hundred on debut at this very ground is a part of Indian cricket's most warmly recounted folklores. They say every blade of grass at Green Park had felt punch in Viswanath's shots and remembers him forever.

He might not be of Viswanath's class but from Thursday onwards, Green Park will also remember Iyer for once again proving the old concrete jungle saying: "A good player, is a good player, is a good

Doesn't matter whether one hails rom a T20 generation, what ultimately matters is sound temperament to succeed at highest level. Iyer proved that all those hard yards

put in during Ranji Trophy and

the 1000 plus runs season that he

once had, haven't gone in vain. It did help that he wasn't just looking to survive but score as there were pull shots, lap scoops, drives down the ground and some imperious cut shots. There was Mumbai's 'khadoos' schooling in the manner he played Jamieson and Southee with caution.

The six over long on off left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel, while giving him the charge, was that of a vintage 50-over batter and the shuffle towards off-stump to play the lap scoop off left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra was straight from the IPL play-book. Iyer had it all and it was on display. Shubman Gill (52, 93b, 5x4, 1x6)

did that with élan before perishing on a day when a hundred was there for the taking and he looked good to reach the landmark before Jamieson exposed the gap between his bat and pad.

The 113-run unbroken partnership between Jadeja and Iyer might prove to be the winning one in the final analysis.

That's because if India's batters found it hard to score freely on a two-paced track, the Black Caps' willow wielders, with very little experience of dealing with Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel and Jadeia in these conditions. will find it doubly difficult.

If Iyer's debut innings was the brightest spot, comeback man Gill's taking the attack back to the opposition camp in the first session couldn't be seen in isolation either. It was a stage that was set by

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Vice-captain Sanjay scored a second consecutive hat-trick while Araijeet Singh Hundal too found the net thrice as defending champions India bounced back strongly to demolish Canada 13-1 in their second Pool B match of the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup here, Thursday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stunned by France 4-5 in their tournament opener, the Indians roared back into the tournament. scoring through three goals each through Sanjay (17th, 32nd, 59th minutes) and Hundal (40th, 50th, 51st). Uttam Singh (3rd, 47th), Shardanand Tiwai (35th, 53rd), skipper Vivek Sagar Prasad (8th), Maninder Singh (27th) and Abhishek Lakra (55th) were the other scorers

Shocked by France Wednesday, the Indians enjoyed the early share

France assured of quarterfinal berth

BHUBANESWAR: France became the first team to virtually assure themselves a spot in the quarter-finals with a dominant 7-1 win against Poland in a Group B match for their second win in the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup here Thursday. France had stunned hosts and defending champions India 5-4 in their opening match Wednesday. The second win in the four-team Pool B put France on top, three points ahead of India. The hosts will fight with Poland Saturday for second quarterfinal berth from this pool.

of possession and put pressure on the Canadian goal. India's efforts bore fruit immediately when Uttam slapped in from inside the circle to give them a 1-0 lead.

Goal-fest at Kalinga Stadium

Sanjay bags second successive hat-trick, while Hundal too scores a treble

in India's 13-1 demolition of Canada in the FIH Men's Junior World Cup

The hosts kept up the pressure and extended their lead in the eight minute through skipper Vivek who flicked in after being fed by Maninder Singh.

Soon after the resumption of second quarter, India made it 3-0 in their favour when Sanjay scored from the spot after being awarded a stroke following an infringement from their first penalty corner.

Two minutes from half time India's best player of the match, Maninder, registered his name in the scoresheet, slapping home with a reverse shot after dribbling past two Canadian defenders to give the holders a 4-0 lead.

Seconds from the second quarter, Canada pulled a goal back through a penalty corner conversion from Roopkanwar Dhillon. India earned their third penalty corner just after the change of ends and once again Sanjay was bang on target. The Indians continued their of-

more penalty corners in quick succession, the second of which was converted by Shardanand Tiwari with a powerful grounded flick through the legs of Canada goalkeeper Daniel Goodwin. The hosts extended their lead to 7-1 by converting another penalty

corner in the 41st minute through

the lanky Hundal. Uttam scored

his second goal of the day in the 47th

minute, with a fine field strike.

fensive intent and secured two

Thereafter, it was all India as Hundal scored two goals in quick succession to register a hat-trick. There was more in store as seven minutes from the hooter, Tiwari converted his second penalty corner of the day to make it 11-1 in India's favour.

Odisha lad Abhishek Lakra also found his name in the scoresheet, converting India's eighth penalty corner, in the 55th minute. Sanjay rounded off a perfect evening for India by converting another penalty corner in the final minute of the match.

RECORDS TUMBLE

Bhubaneswar: In a goal-fest at the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021, the record for biggest margin of victory was set twice within hours as big guns Argentina, The Netherlands and Spain thrashed lower ranked teams at the Kalinga Stadium Thursday. The first three matches on the second day of the competition produced 48 goals with Argentina setting the record for the win by the biggest margin before Spain rewrote it. Argentina set the ball rolling with a 14-0 win against African minnows Egypt, in the process setting India's record for the biggest win that India had set in beating Singapore 13-0 in the Junior World Cup in 1982. The Netherlands then handed South Korea a 12-5 thrashing to set the record for most goals in a match as both teams combined to produce 17 goals. Spain then handed the United States an absolute shellacking, handing them a 17-0 verdict to set the record for a win with the biggest margin and equalling the record for most goals scored in a match.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cricket tourney

BHUBANESWAR: The Nayudamma Memorial Cricket Tournament, organised by CSIR-IMMT, is going on at three different venues - CSIR-IMMT cricket field, Hi-Tech Sports ground and IDCO recreational ground here. The competition commenced November 23 and will finish November 26. on behalf of CSIR-Sports Promotion Board (SPB), New Delhi. This tournament is being played in profound memories of Prof. Y Naydamma, the ex-Director General of CSIR.

Sathiyan in round of 32 at Worlds

HOUSTON: India's G Sathiyan progressed to the men's singles third round at the World Table Tennis Championships with a 4-0 win over Russia's Vladimir Sidorenko here. The World No.37 from India defeated his 179th-ranked opponent 11-9, 11-9, 11-8, 11-6 in the round of 64. Sathiyan next faces world number 17 Aruna Quadri of Nigeria in the round of 32. Sharath Kamal and Archana Kamath entered the round of 32 with a 3-0 win over lgeria's Sami Kherouf and Katia Kessac Batra got a first round bye and play their round of 32 mixed doubles match against Puerto Rico's Adriana Diaz and Brian Afanador, Manika and Archana have got a first round by in

Sindhu, Praneeth in Jesus blesses Citizens with a Sterling win last 8, Srikanth loses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Nov 25: Top Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and B Sai Praneeth progressed to the quarterfinals but former champion Kidambi Srikanth made an early exit in the second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament here Thursday.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu hardly broke a sweat to win the second round clash 21-12. 21-18 against World No.26 Germany's Yvonne Li in 37 minutes at the USD 850,000 event.

In the women's singles quarterfinals, the reigning world champion, seeded third, will face South Korea's Sim Yujin.

Praneeth staved off a spirited

History awaits Sen

NEW DELHI: India's Lakshya Sen is set to become the youngest shuttler from the country to qualify for the season-ending HSBC BWF World Tour Finals which will be held in Bali, Indonesia from December 1. The 20year-old from Almora has enjoyed an impressive run on the BWF world tour and is currently ranked fifth in the World Tour rankings. He will join Kidambi Srikanth (ranked 3rd) in the men's singles competition, two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu (4th) in women's singles and women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy (6th) at the event, which

was shifted from Guangzhou to Bali

Sindhu is the only Indian to win the

due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BWF World Tour Finals in 2018.





fight from France's World No.70 Christo Popov, claiming a 21-17, 14-21, 21-19 win in a gruelling match that lasted an hour and 23 minutes.

The World No.16 Indian will meet Olympic champion and former World No.1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark next. The second seeded Axelsen, a world champion, ended the campaign of Srikanth, beat-

ing him 21-14, 21-18 in 37 minutes. The sixth seeded men's pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also survived a scare against Korea's Kang Minhyuk and Seo Seungjae, prevailing 21-15, 19-21, 23-21 in a thrilling contest to

also make it to the last eight. The Indian pair, ranked 11, will square off against Malaysian combination of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Nov 25: Fresh from scoring Manchester City's winner, Gabriel Jesus surely would not have intended to have a dig at Paris Saint-Germain.

Even if the striker's comment

after City's 2-1 win Wednesday - as

both teams advanced in the Champions League — did cut to the heart of the contrasts in their performances. "We have a lot of players who can help the team," he said. "Everyone wants to give good balls to other players. Nobody is selfish."

PSG had their 11 players on the field at the Etihad Stadium — with Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappé leading the attack — but it didn't always seem there was a complete team out there.

It was the less glamorous Brazilian attacker on the scoresheet rather than Neymar in the chill of Manchester. Brought off the bench in the second half to give The Citizens a No.9, Gabriel Jesus completed the City comeback with a scuffed shot after being teed up by Bernardo Silva.

City clinched top spot in Group A and a meeting with a runnerup in the round of 16 in February.

The clash of the competition's wealthiest teams, who are yet to win European football's top prize, fully came to life in the 50th minute when Mbappé put PSG ahead after an interchange between Messi and Neymar.

But the attacking dominance by City that defined the first half saw Raheem Sterling's outstretched left foot nudge in a cross from Kyle Walker to equalize before the win-

ner came in the 76th. PSG is also sure of going through



THE SAVIOURS: Manchester City scorers Gabriel Jesus (R) and Raheem Sterling (2nd from R) celebrate a goal against PSG at the Etihad Stadium, Wednesday

B, while Porto stayed in second

place ahead of a match against

Atletico Madrid in two weeks that

as runner-up thanks to Leipzig beating Club Brugge 5-0.

All four English teams will now be in the knockout stage with a game to spare, with City joining defending champion Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United

Reds make it 5 in 5 Thiago Alcantara's sublime longrange strike and Mohamed Salah's latest individual goal maintained Liverpool's perfect record in its Champions League group with a 2-

0 win over Porto. Liverpool was assured of ad-

vancing to the last 16 even before

their fifth straight victory in Group

will help to determine which team qualifies with the English club. Atletico in danger A late goal by Junior Messias -

a 30-year-old Brazilian making his Champions League debut - kept alive AC Milan's hopes of advancing and left Atletico Madrid on the

brink of elimination. The result left Atlético and Milan tied on four points in the last two positions of Group B, with Atletico in last place on goal difference.

Porto was a point ahead. Atletico

will need to win at Porto and finish with a better goal difference than Milan if the Italians defeat Liverpool at home. Milan needed the victory to avoid elimination.

OTHER MATCHES

Goals by David Alaba, Toni Kroos and Karim Benzema helped Real Madrid see off FC Sheriff 3-0.

Inter needed a second-half brace from Edin Dzeko to seal a 2-0 win over Shakhtar Donetsk.

German side RB Leipzig blanked Belgium's Club Brugge 5-0, courtesy two goals each by Christopher Nkunku and Emil Forsberg, and an Andre Silva strike.

share points in intense match

NEUFC, Kerala

Goa, Nov 25: After facing defeat by similar margins in their opening round game, NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) and Kerala Blasters FC drew 0-0 as both teams were locked in an intense battle, in an ISL match at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda,

Kerala would rue a great chance to earn full points, having to blame all but themselves for some shabby finishing, especially with a lacklustre display by NEUFC's forwards.

Ivan Vukomanovic handed young Vincy Barretto an ISL debut on the right wing as Enes Sipovic made his debut in yellow at the heart of defense.

While neither side could carve out clear-cut chances in the opening exchanges, NorthEast did look threatening a couple of times. However, the highlight remained a right-footed free-kick from Hernan Santana that went inches above after Enes Sipovic had brought down Deshorn on the run.

At the half-hour mark, Blasters captain Jessel Carneiro swung in a cross that ultimately found Adrian Luna. His chip over the defensive line had Jorge Diaz almost head in 🗦 the opener of the night.

Five minutes into the second half, Sahal Abdul Samad missed a golden opportunity. Vincy blazed through the pitch after winning a second ball. He squared it into the box but with only the keeper to beat, Sahal grazed it wide.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159