

Orissapost

HERE . NOW



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

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12 PAGES | ₹5.00

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

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.



MORE P7

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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 systematic interventions, he said. It was decided to implement the



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 effective for the Odisha capital, informed an SPCB official.

Mahapatra reviewed the progress regarding the containment of pollution from various sources. He instructed officials to continue campaigning for clean air in cities and industrial towns.

The chief secretary pointed out that urban forests like the Bharatpur sanctuary, Ekamra Kanan, Jayadev Vatika and Chandaka have immensely contributed in the fight against pollution

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 aluminium smelter plants operating near Hirakud dam.

According to sources, 145 industries, put under 17 highly polluting categories, have been instructed to install high density internet-based surveillance cameras at suitable locations for viewing of the stag and fugitive emissions. So far, 24 industries have complied. These cameras are connected to the remote monitoring control room set up in the head office of the SPCB here. Others have been asked to do the same.

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 survey (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 urban localities.

Coastal districts face new cyclone threat

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, NCM and NEPS. It will then intensify into a severe category cyclone during the subsequent 24-48 hours.

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
SENSEX	58795.09	↑	454.10
NIFTY	17536.30	↑	121.30
DOLLAR	74.48	↓	₹0.12
EURO	83.52	↓	₹0.01
GOLD	₹47,482	↑	₹44
SILVER	₹63,150	↑	₹515

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
TEMP. MAX	30.7°C	31.0°C	
TEMP. MIN	19.5°C	18.0°C	
Humidity	63%	94%	Forecast
Rainfall	Nil	2.2mm	Fog/mist in the morning

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

leisure

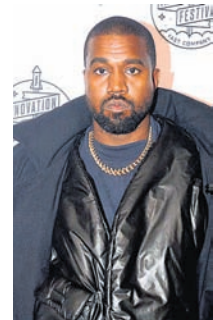


JARED LETO WAS FIRED FROM A JOB FOR 'SELLING WEED'

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

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ARIES
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. Ganesh 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 Ganesh. 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.

GEMINI
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 top at the end of it all, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will tackle with ease, even the most confounding challenges today. You may be the scapegoat, though, fears Ganesh. Beware, or this may shake you and lower your self-confidence. Try to shake off 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 entertainment are a possibility, says Ganesh.

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

LIBRA
Ganesh says that there are chances that today you might start some long-pending renovation project for your 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.

SCORPIO
The one thing that we neglect the most about ourselves is health. But today you are unable to do that. Your health needs to be paid enough attention as you may be suffering from ailment/s. Try to regularise your routine along with healthy food and regular exercise, advises Ganesh.

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, Ganesh 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.

AQUARIUS
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 Ganesh. Icing on the cake will be the cash inflow. You know your cards and you play them well to your advantage.

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

Aarya 2

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-racking 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 challenged myself by donning *Aarya* in a new avatar and I hope that the audiences will appreciate her fierce, unapologetic self in the second season."

Tying together the key themes, creator and director of the show, Ram Madhvani said, "We are excited to present the trailer of *Aarya 2*. Aarya, has to face her past so that she can save her family to protect her future. In the second season, the audiences encounter Aarya in a new light."

IAN S

Horse-riding is a liberating experience: Wamiqa Gabbi

Mumbai: Wamiqa Gabbi, who is known for her work in films like *Ishq Haazir*, *Nikka Zaildar 2* and *Godha*, has recently taken to horse-riding 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 active

lifestyle. I am burning calories, toning my muscles while having a superb time as well. I am loving this new found passio."

IAN S



Suhana heartbroken on leaving New York

Mumbai: Suhana Khan, daughter 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, and is heartbroken with the move.

She shared a post on Instagram 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 of Suhana's friends shared messages on her comment section.

One wrote: "New York 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

in *Romeo and Juliet*, a theatrical adaptation of William Shakespeare's novel of the same name.

IAN S



Satyameva Jayate 2 caters to viewers of a different era!

This second edition of *Satyameva Jayate* boasts of a larger-than-life 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 agitation, but not before saying, "Yeh desh main, corruption mitega ya mera lahu bahega."

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



FILM REVIEW

Director: Milap Milan Zaveri

Cast: John Abraham, Divya Khosla

Kumar, Harsh Chhaya, Anup Soni,

Gautami Kapoor, Zakir Hussain,

Nora Fatehi

as hooded vigilantes and at the very onset of the narrative state, "Ab ya toh corruption mitega ya beimaan ka lahu bahega!"

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

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 Satya's wife Vidya 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.

IAN S

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

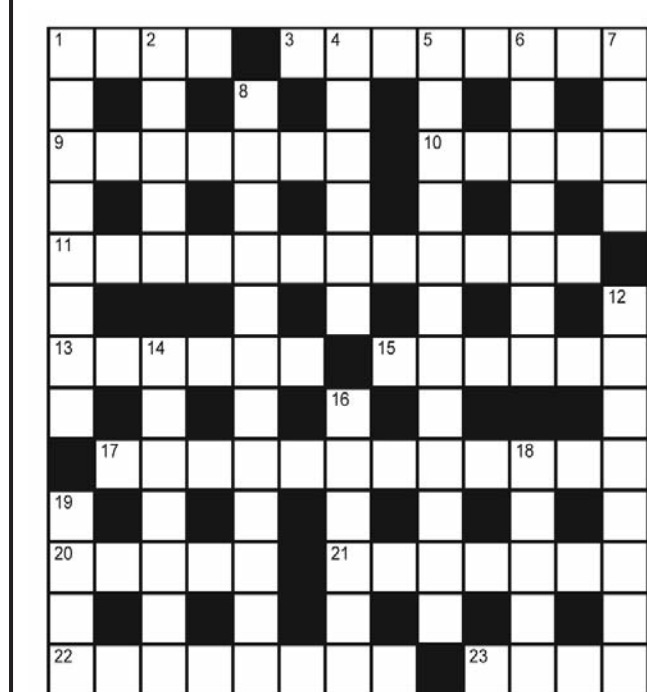


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Ringlet
- 3 Slaughter
- 9 WWII battle site
- 10 Egg cell
- 11 Electrical problem (5-7)
- 13 Noggin
- 15 Spirit session (7,5)
- 20 Blubberer

Down

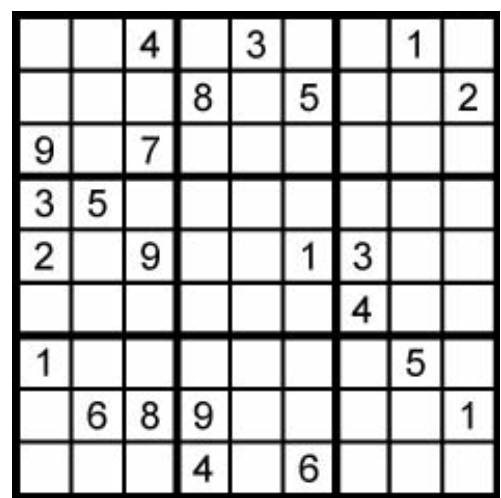
- 1 Making a selection
- 2 Safari sight
- 4 Slowly, to a conductor
- 5 Analysing occasionally (4-8)

6 Wariness

- 7 ___ and anon
- 8 Like some Frank Lloyd Wright buildings
- 12 TV fundraiser
- 14 Egg-shaped instrument
- 16 Incapable
- 18 Ludicrous
- 19 Healing sign

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

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 RI 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 Baliana in Khurda district. Non-payment 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 reports 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 officials 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.



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His Excellency,
The Australian High Commissioner to India



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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 Mayurbhanj district Thursday morning...

Youth held for rape of Class-VIII girl

Nischintakolli: 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...

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...

Lawyers protest police atrocities

Jagatsinghpur: Members of the District Bar Association in Jagatsinghpur staged a day-long strike Wednesday to protest the alleged illegal arrest of a colleague and police torture on him...

40 taken ill after marriage feast

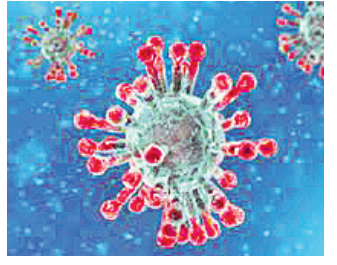
Rourkela: Forty people were affected by diarrhoea and fever after they ate food at a marriage feast at Haripur in Basanti Colony under Uditnagar police limits in Steel City, Thursday...

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...



round blood sample was collected 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...

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...

₹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, ST Secretary VK Pandian, District Collector, ADM, sub-collector, Vigilance SP and the DSP towards the irregularities. They have sought a special audit on how Covid funds have been utilised...

dren. However, no cooked food was allegedly served to them. The panchayats where irregularities have been committed includes Bhagbanpur (₹8.54 lakh), Karabar (₹13.11 lakh), Golapkhari (₹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 panchayats has been embezzled.

For daily use items, Andhra villages count on Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 25: While many fringe villages in Malkangiri look to Andhra Pradesh for various facilities, in some cases it is the other way round. Several fringe villages including Jodiguma and Kusumpat 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 development in the neighbouring state.



fact in Andhra Pradesh, but they have failed to get benefits from their own government. 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 treacherous terrains. They are upset over commuting issue. Five years ago, a solar project was set up for the people in these AP villages, but they got solar light four days only. People of these villages including Jodiguma and Kusumpat alleged that their government provided facilities to town people while 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 attempts 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 elections in some villages.

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 Keonjhar 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.



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Smart health cards given away in Subarnapur dist

FOUNDATION STONES FOR PROJECTS WORTH ₹148-CR LAID



POST NEWS NETWORK

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. ST Secretary VK Pandian was present in the video-conferencing in Bhubaneswar.

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 district for its rich art, culture 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

WOMAN ON A SIT-IN OUTSIDE IN-LAW'S HOUSE

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 the woman entered its fourth day Thursday. 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 protesting woman. 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 marriage in court, last year.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GUNUPUR. Procurement Notice for Repair/Maintenance of Roads & Bridges in Odisha.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CHHELIGADA HEADWORKS DIVISION, AT/PO: MAHENDRAGADA, VIA: CHANDRAGIRI, DIST: GAJAPATI, PIN-761017. Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and condition of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal http://tenderodisha.gov.in

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



of the day quote

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 per cent



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

For me, it is about respect, but I also do not want to lead a government where there may be grounds to question its legitimacy



MAGDALENA ANDERSSON | FORMER PM, SWEDEN

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, FRANCE

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

REUTERS

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 objects.

The new group, Airborne Object Identification and



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

Intelligence, the director of the Joint Staff and officials from the Office of the Director of



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

statement the presence of unidentified 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) underground 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.

All 3 men charged 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 neighbour 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 capsized 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



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

drowned. The discrepancy in the numbers was not immediately explained. Meanwhile, migrants are continuing to brave frigid weather 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 dangerous Channel crossing so far this year, about triple the total for the whole of 2020.

Ever-increasing numbers of people fleeing conflict or poverty in Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq, Eritrea or elsewhere are risking the perilous journey in small, unseaworthy craft from France, hoping to win asylum or find better opportunities in Britain. The crossings have tripled this year compared to 2020, and another 106 migrants were rescued in French waters Wednesday alone.

DEATHS FUEL UK-FRANCE TENSIONS

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 Qala, on the Afghanistan-Iran border

PTI PHOTO

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 Manji, 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 on 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.

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 through Manhattan streets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Nov 25: Crimped by the coronavirus pandemic last year, the Macy'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 through 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-

cluded 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,'" he added.

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.

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 virus.

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 nearly anything else about' — including the world-dominant Delta strain.

Scientists told 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.

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 sand-filled garbage trucks, other heavy vehicles and approximately 360,000 pounds (163,000 kg) of concrete barriers.

Bomb-detecting dogs, bomb squad officers, heavy-weapon 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 varying sizes and two dozen floats.

business

of the day quote

We have 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

PYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

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

JSW Energy has laid out a growth plan to reach 20 GW of power generation capacity by 2030, with about 85% of this capacity via renewable energy

PRASHANT JAIN | JOINT MD AND CEO, JSW ENERGY

SHORT TAKES

Airtel conducts 5G trial with Nokia

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 Nokia. The demonstration, which was conducted on the outskirts of Kolkata, also marked the first 5G trial in the eastern India, the company said in a statement. Airtel has been allotted test spectrum in multiple bands by Department of Telecommunications for the validation of 5G technology and use cases.

NFSSM launches info-graphic site

New Delhi: National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) 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 infographic web platform that highlights India's FSSM journey spotlighting the credible work of key states towards safe and sustainable sanitation practices. It showcases best practices, case studies and sanitation outcomes for the key states - Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha.

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 said Thursday. Under the collaboration, Clean Max 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.

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.

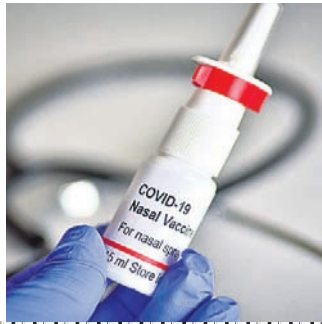


If the price of natural gas goes up, power generators cannot increase the price of electricity they produce. So we are looking at ways and means of how we can increase the penetration of natural gas in the power sector

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



RIL, Aramco call off \$15bln deal

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



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 TAZIZ 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

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,

Inflation batters 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 price-based 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 prices.

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

BIZ BUZZ

Pee Safe opens first store in City

Bhubaneswar: Pee Safe, India's leading hygiene and wellness brand, launched its first offline store in city, Thursday. The store, located in SaiAnandam Complex, is the brand's first FOF outlet in Odisha. The store was inaugurated by Jitendra Choudhury, a renowned real estate developer. CEO and Founder Vikas Bagaria said, "Pee Safe has been helping people combat hygiene-related issues with its holistic range of 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."

BMW to launch three EVs in next six months

New Delhi: German luxury car maker BMW Thursday said it will launch three electric vehicles in the next 6 months in India to accelerate its electric mobility journey in the country. To start with, the company will launch its technology flagship all-electric SUV iX in the next one month which will be followed by all-electric MINI luxury hatchback in 3 months. These will be followed by the launch of all-electric sedan BMW i4 in six months. BMW which is in the midst mix its biggest product offensive had said it would launch 25 products in 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 BMW Group India President and CEO Vikram Pawah.

ECONOMY TO REBOUND STRONGLY

Moody's: FY2022 GDP 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 economic 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.

43-MONTH HIGH

Investment via P-notes on the rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Investments in Indian capital through participatory notes (P-notes) rose to ₹1.02 lakh crore till October-end, making it the highest level in 43 months.

P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors 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

March 2018, when P-notes had invested to the tune of ₹1,06,403 crore. Abhay Agarwal, Founder and Fund Manager, Piper Serica,

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 year 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.

Over the last few months, the broader 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

ABHAY AGARWAL | FOUNDER AND FUND MANAGER, PIPER SERICA

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

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-



missible, and expectations for safety and soundness, consumer protection, and compliance with existing laws and regulations.

The agencies said that they con-

tinue to monitor developments in crypto-assets and may address other issues as the market evolves.

Further, the agencies will continue 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.

