

leisure



SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE STAR SIMON BOARDS HEIST FILM

Shakespeare in Love star Simon Callow has joined the cast of indie heist movie called *The Pay Day*. Callow, who has also appeared in fare as varied as *The Witcher*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *The Phantom of the Opera*, will play an eccentric crime boss in the upcoming film caper.

MARIAH CAREY ADAPTING MEMOIR INTO TELEVISION SERIES

Singer Mariah Carey is making a television show with *Empire* showrunner Lee Daniels, who produced her 2009 movie *Precious*. The *All I Want For Christmas is You* hitmaker is planning to bring her life story to television through an eight-part series, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You are enthusiastic about mixing with people today, and you will feel like combining business and leisure. You will be encouraged to take part in group activities as you have the ability to work and have fun at the same time.

TAURUS

Ganesh finds this an excellent day for managers and administrators. If you are one, the results you will achieve by the end of the day will far exceed the efforts you put in. This is mainly because your subordinates will be enthusiastic, compliant and cooperative. You will be focusing on the elements of leadership and team work and will use them resourcefully.

GEMINI

Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

CANCER

You wish to display your social prestige and monetary clout in front of your relatives. But you have to pay a heavy price for that. Your past experience will teach you something, which will stand in good stead for future dealings.

LEO

Your natural self-confidence and capability will help you attain a position of strength today. As a result, all your tasks will be completed easily and you will reap rewards greater than your expectations, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Ganesh says you realise the importance of family matters today. You have great skills when it comes to negotiations, and you will use them in settling disputes amicably. Ganesh says you have learned the lessons of life on staying level-headed, and that you keenly believe that opposition eventually leads to progress.

LIBRA

It's a full platter today, and you have to manage it all somehow. The day promises to be full of activities, especially those that involve writing letters and reviving old contacts. Expect a call to appear for an interview for a better job. Also, look forward to being put in charge of organising events at work, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

Try to take a chill pill as you may be worried about petty issues today. Do not let them hinder your happiness and take a toll on your health. However, the day looks promising towards the end. Friends are just a phone call away, call them and set out for a destination unknown to distress and rejuvenate.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesh foresees a day full of promises. People in the creative field, especially artists are going to benefit more. Radio jockey and television anchors can make a note of this day in their diary, as it may serve as a memorable day, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

You have projected yourself as a confused individual. You may have a tendency to remain in a double mind. But, today you'll come up with a very specific plan that will surprise many of the people around you. Be clear about what you want to do in life, how you want your life to be and make sincere efforts to achieve it, guides Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the king! Ganesh says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullabaloo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

PISCES

Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesh.

SAMANTHA SIGNS HER FIRST FOREIGN FILM

Los Angeles: South star Samantha Ruth Prabhu has boarded the cast of feature film *Arrangements of Love*.

The film is to be directed by BAFTA-winning Welsh director Philip John, whose credits include *Downton Abbey* and *The Good Karma Hospital*, reports *variety.com*.

The film is produced by Sunitha Tati's Indian outfit Guru Films, whose *Oh! Baby*, the 2019 Telugu-language adaptation of 2014 Korean film *Miss Granny*, was a commercial success. *Oh! Baby* starred Samantha.

Active in both the Telugu and Telugu language industries, Samantha's credits include S.S. Rajamouli's *Eega*, *Super Deluxe*, *Janatha Garage* and *Mersala*.

Samir Sarkar, of Singapore's Magic Hour Films, has joined the project as executive producer: Sarkar previously produced Rotterdam winner *Nasir*, *Jonaki* and Kolkata winner *The False Eye*.

Arrangements of Love is an adaptation of the bestselling 2004 novel of the same title by Indian author Timmeri N. Murari by John and British Sri Lankan actor Nimmi Harasgama, who played the female lead in Deepa Mehta's *Funny Boy* and is a series regular on *The Good Karma Hospital*.

It follows a Welsh-Indian man on his quest to find his estranged father with an

impromptu visit to his homeland.

Samantha plays a strong minded and funny force of nature 27-year-old, who runs her own detective agency and becomes part of the search.

She is a progressive bisexual Tamil woman, with ultra-traditional parents, who want her to have an arranged marriage. As much as she wants to please her parents she also wants to be able to make her own life choices.

"A whole new world opens up for me today as I start my journey with *Arrangements of Love* which has such an endearing and personal story," said Samantha. The film is expected to commence shooting in August, 2022.

ANS

Katrina orders special mehendi from Rajasthan



Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are set to be man and wife next month and several details about their royal wedding are pouring in.

Earlier, it was revealed that Katrina Kaif will

wear a Sabyasachi lehenga for her December wedding and that the couple has booked a lavish resort in Rajasthan for the nuptials.

And now, details about Katrina's mehendi have emerged. According to a news portal, a special Sojat mehendi order has been placed for Katrina Kaif's mehendi ceremony and the bride has also approved mehendi samples. The Sojat mehendi is reportedly a favourite of celebrities and actors and costs around Rs 1 Lakh.

With Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's wedding set for December 7-9, the mehendi suppliers have been asked to complete their order by December 1.

Several celebrities from Bollywood are expected to attend the shaadi. Ahead of the wedding, Vicky and Katrina had a low key roka on Diwali day, which was hosted at Filmmaker Kabir Khan's residence in Mumbai.

Vicky and Katrina have been dating since a few years now but have refrained from speaking about their romance. Post the wedding, the couple is planning to move into a plush new apartment in Juhu. Vicky has booked an entire floor in high rise Juhu.

Katrina is reportedly supervising the interiors of their new home, and they will move into this new address sometime in December.

AGENCIES

Nick Jonas is grateful to have Priyanka in his life

Mumbai: Amid rumours of having troubles in their marital life, Indian actress Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas shared a romantic post stating that they feel grateful to have each and have put an end to all gossip.

Priyanka and Nick shared a loved-up picture on the occasion of Thanksgiving. She

wrapped her arms around Nick in the picture and is lovingly looking at her husband. It seems that she leaned in for a kiss.

"So much to be grateful for: Friends, family. I love you @nickjonas. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone celebrating," Priyanka wrote as the caption.

Nick shared the same picture and wrote: "Happy Thanksgiving everyone! Grateful for you @priyankachopra."

Earlier this week, Priyanka featured in the Jonas Brothers Family Roast.

Priyanka and Nick got married in dual ceremonies at the Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur in 2018. IANS



Abhishek opens up on how he feels about being compared to Big B

Mumbai: Actor Abhishek Bachchan shares how he feels when people compare him with his father Amitabh Bachchan on the singing reality show *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*. He also requests contestant Rajshree Bag to sing a track *Bahon Mein Chale Aao* featuring his mother Jaya Bachchan.

Abhishek said after looking at the performance of Rajshree, who is often compared with Lata Mangeskar on the show, that she reminds him of being compared with his father.

"Rajshree, whenever I have got the chance to watch the show, I've seen people compare you to Lata didi. It actually reminded me about how people compare me with my father and ask me

how I feel about it."

According to him Amitabh Bachchan is a great actor in the industry and this is what he says to everyone making these comparisons. "My answer to them is that there's no greater actor in this film industry than Amitabh Bachchan and if I'm being compared to him, I am sure I must have done something good."

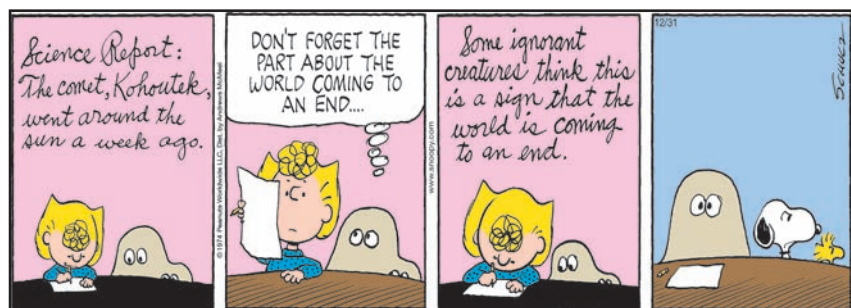
"Similarly, your voice has a different kind of magic like Lata ji and that's why people are comparing your voice with her. I feel you should always take this as a compliment," he concluded.

Sa Re Ga Ma Pa airs on Saturday and Sunday on Zee TV. IANS



FUN post

PEANUTS



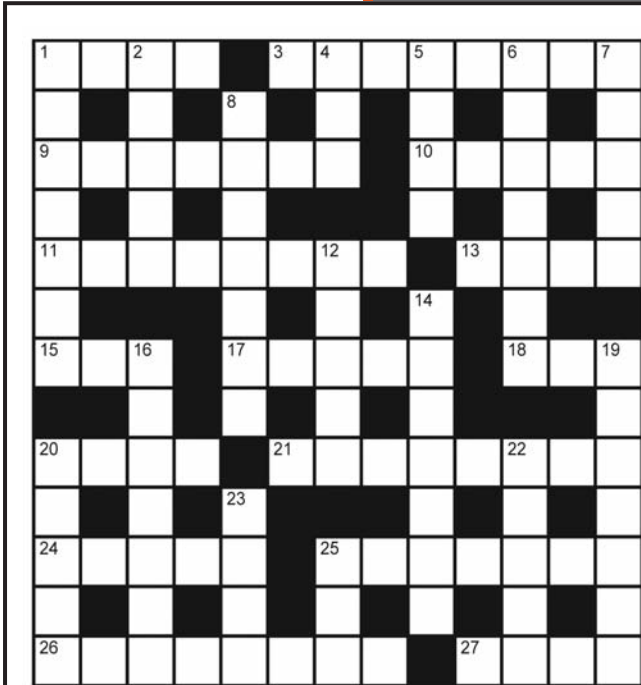
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



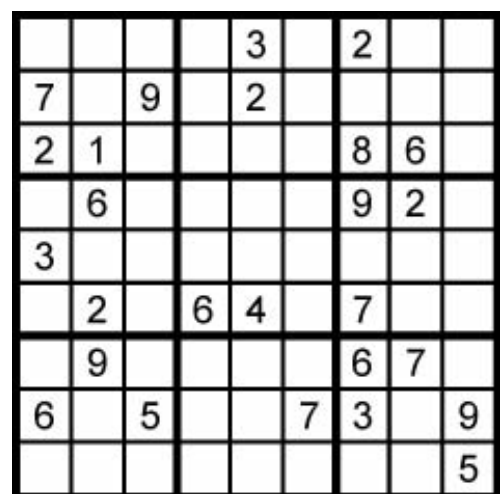
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Out of town
 - 3 Under pressure
 - 9 Character of the land
 - 10 Playground item
 - 11 Likely
 - 13 Chances
 - 15 Beast of burden
 - 17 Kitchen appliance
 - 18 Shoot the breeze
 - 20 River of Hades
 - 21 Magician
 - 24 Sight-related
 - 25 Drinking vessel
 - 26 Fiends
 - 27 Attention-getter
 - 5 Comfort
 - 6 Big bash
 - 7 Exploits
 - 8 Firearm measurement
 - 12 Vernacular
 - 14 Chinese capital
 - 16 Inert gas
 - 19 Tedium
 - 20 Tempest
 - 22 Achieve
 - 23 Highlander
 - 25 High craggy hill
- Down
- 1 Coroner's job
 - 2 Mystiques
 - 4 Plating material

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SHORT TAKES

Milk plant for Boudh soon

Boudh: Dairy farming received a boost in Boudh district as the state government will set up a milk pasteurisation plant with a capacity of 20,000 litre a day.

Vig seizes 3 trucks with minerals

Dharmasala: Vigilance officials along with forest officials conducted raids in Dharmasala area of Jajpur district and seized three trucks which were engaged in illegal transportation of minor minerals from a forest land.

Cong protests over 'arrests'

Basta: Police Thursday night picked up several Congress leaders including party's district unit president Sanjib Giri, its student's wing president Goutam Sahu, vice president Jiban Sahu and general secretary of the state Congress Rehma Ali ahead of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's visit to the district.



Women carrying firewood to a local market in Harbhanga area of Boudh district enveloped by a dense fog

CM launches health cards in Balasore

PATNAIK INAUGURATED AND LAID FOUNDATION OF MANY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WORTH ₹1,552.96 CRORE

PNN/AGENCIES

Balasore, Nov 26: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) smart health cards in Balasore district amid heavy security in view of the opposition parties' protests over the Kalahandi teacher's kidnap and murder wherever he attends meetings.



Patnaik said. Besides, a mega piped water project will be built at an expense of over ₹750 crore for 6.5 lakh people in 660 villages in six blocks of Balasore district, he added.

Tiger census begins with advanced app in Similipal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 26: Counting of Royal Bengal Tigers (RBT) at Similipal Biosphere Reserve in Mayurbhanj district started Friday after four years.



Significantly, M-Stripe Ecological Module and AITE-2022 mobile application will be used for the tiger census, said field director of Similipal Tiger Reserve M Jagjayananda, Friday.

of Royal Bengal tigers in Odisha. As per the fourth survey of All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) carried out in FY 2018-19, the total number of tigers in Odisha remained unchanged at 28 between 2014 and 2018.

Stir hits extraction, transport in MCL mines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher, Nov 26: Coal extraction and transportation from mines of MCL came to a halt in Talcher Friday after people of Hiloil village resorted to agitation. Tension prevailed in

the area while police were deployed at the site. According to reports, the MCL authorities with the help of police bulldozed some houses at the village in the wee hours Friday to acquire land for the mines.

locals who staged protests and stopped operation of mines at Hingula, Bharatpur, Balam, Lingaraj and Bhubaneswari. Coal transportation was completely paralysed even as tension continued to grip the area.

Death of girl in SC/ST dept-run school triggers row in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 26: A controversy has broken out over death of a Class-X girl student of an SC/ST department-run residential school at Kusumita in Keonjhar. It was alleged that the student died of sheer negligence on part of the school authorities.

went to school October 1. The school authorities got a paper signed by her father before letting her go home, it was alleged. Jagannath provided treatment to his daughter at home, but her condition turned critical.

Advertisement for KVS-ZONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION & TRAINING, BHUBANESWAR. Includes details about the institute, contact information, and a tender notice for catering services.

Advertisement for BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. Includes information about bid identification, invitations for bids (IFB), and details for various projects like illumination of pathways.

Advertisement for SUNDARAM HOME. Includes possession notice for two properties, detailing the borrower's name, address, and financial details.

Advertisement for Bank of Baroda. Includes possession notice for various properties across different branches, detailing the borrower's name, address, and financial details.

national



Every organ of the state should function within the constitutional mandate for people's welfare without infringing on others' domain

OM BIRLA | LOK SABHA SPEAKER

TOMATO PRICES MAY SOFTEN FROM DEC: GOVT

All India average retail tomato price, which has shot up by 63 per cent to ₹67 per kg over the last year is likely to soften from December with the arrival of fresh crop from northern states, the government said Friday



of the day quote

We have stopped construction activities and following all the orders and suggestions of the Supreme Court, the Delhi government is taking several steps to reduce pollution

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

The world is witnessing and grappling with rapid economic, technological and security challenges, and the current multilateral system has fallen short in providing an effective response to these challenges

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

During the pandemic period, it is the public sector banks which have been giving uninterrupted customer services. We therefore are of the view that privatisation of public sector banks will jeopardise the interests of the common people and backward regions of the country

D RAJA | CPI GENERAL SECRETARY

Dynastic parties matter of concern: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: In a scathing attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the "biggest threat" to the functioning of a healthy democracy is when a party is run by the same family generation after generation and the entire system of the party is controlled by it.

Without naming anyone, Modi at a Constitution Day event in the Central Hall of Parliament hit out at family-based parties, describing them as "party for the family, party by the family" and added, "I don't think I need to say anything more". The event was skipped by 15 opposition parties, including the Congress, Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, CPI(M) and CPI, which have been alleging that the government is "undermining parliamentary democracy".

Addressing the gathering, Modi said, "This event was not that of any government, or of any political party, or of any prime minister. The Speaker is the pride of the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures as he leaves after attending a function to commemorate 'Samvidhan Divas' at Parliament in New Delhi

House. It is a dignified post. It is a matter of Babasaheb Ambedkar's dignity, the dignity of the Constitution."

The event was organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Speaker. In an apparent reference to the Congress and some other Opposition parties, the prime minister said that in the form of family-based parties, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is heading towards a kind of a crisis, which is a matter of concern for the people devoted to the Constitution and those who believe in democracy.

He said that more than one per-

son from a family joining a party on the basis of merit and people's blessings does not make a party dynastic, "but a party run by one family generation after generation and the family controlling the entire system of the party is the biggest threat to a healthy democracy".

The prime minister said the spirit of the Constitution and every section of it is hurt when political parties lose their democratic character. "How can the parties which have lost their democratic character protect democracy," he asked. Elaborating on the spirit behind celebrating Constitution Day, Modi

Quake-like tremors felt in Bangalore

People in Rajarajeshwarinagar, Kengeri, Kaggalipura, Hemmigeppura and Yeshwanthpur localities in Bangalore experienced light tremors for a few seconds. They also noticed large thuds and sounds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 26: Light earthquake-like tremors were experienced in Bangalore and surrounding areas on Friday for a few seconds creating fear among the people. However, the official statement from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Center (KSNDMC) clarified that the Seismographs showed no signs of local tremors and earthquake.

People in Rajarajeshwarinagar, Kengeri, Kaggalipura, Hemmigeppura and Yeshwanthpur localities in Bangalore experienced light tremors for a few seconds. They also noticed large thuds and sounds.

The reports of tremors associated with mild vibrations were received between 11:50 a.m. and 12:15 pm. Little before this, a loud sound was experienced in neighbouring Mandya and Ramnagar districts

also. Huge sound and mild tremors were experienced near Jigani and Anekal in the outskirts of Bangalore at 12.30 pm.

Geologist Prakash stated: "Though it is a light and minor incident, we will have to conduct studies. We have to study and can't take it lightly."

He also clarified that there was no connection between the tremor and the incessant rainfall in the state capital. Bangalore last experienced a moderate earthquake in 2011. Earlier, on many occasions, people experienced tremors due to movement of fighter jet flights which created a sonic effect.

However, KSNDMC release stated that, "the data was analysed from our Seismic Observatories for any seismic signatures, possible earthquake signatures during the time period. The Seismographs show no signatures of local tremor or earthquake."

SHORT TAKES

Terrorist killed

Jammu: The Indian Army has foiled an infiltration bid on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district in which one terrorist was killed. Defence ministry spokesman, Lt. Colonel Devender Anand said, "On night of November 25, 2021, Pakistani terrorist attempted an infiltration bid along LoC in Bhimber Gali sector of J&K. "Alert Indian Army troops successfully foiled the infiltration attempt. "One Pakistani terrorist has been eliminated. The body of the terrorist along with weapon and ammunition has been recovered. "Operation is still in progress."

Racket busted

New Delhi: The Delhi Police have busted a gang dealing in illegal weapons and arrested four criminals in this connection, an official said here Friday. Deputy Commissioner of Police Benita Mary Jaiker said the Narcotics Squad staff, South District, kept a strict vigil on the movement of public vehicles and set up checkpoints regularly at strategic locations. On November 18, they received information about a person involved in supplying illegal firearms. "More details about the person were obtained by the police from social media platforms," the official said.

Three held

Patna: Three people, including a notorious criminal, have been held from Digha-Ashiana road in Bihar on the charges of supplying liquor in the dry state. "We had specific information about the movement of notorious criminal Bittu. Accordingly, we put up barricades on the roads and started checking vehicles. He was arrested along with two accomplices on Thursday night. We have also recovered expensive bottles of whisky," said Saroj Kumar, SHO of Rajiv Nagar Patna. The information about Bittu was obtained during a raid on a soft drinks agency in Digha locality, a couple of days ago.

Four killed

Hyderabad: Four persons were killed and one injured in a road accident in Telangana's Karimnagar district on Friday, police said. The accident occurred when the car in which the victims were travelling hit a tree at Manakondur. While the four occupants of the car died on the spot, the fifth was critically injured and admitted to a hospital in Karimnagar town.

Putin to visit India

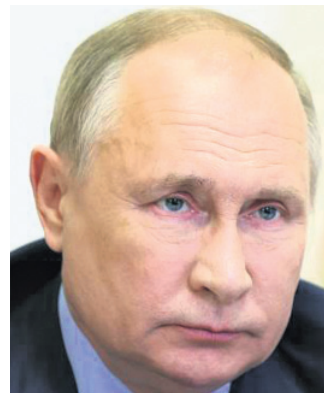
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 26: Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India December 6 to hold annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during which they will review the status of bilateral ties and discuss regional, multilateral and international issues of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Friday.

The MEA also announced that the first 2+2 foreign and defence ministerial dialogue between India and Russia will be held in here on December 6 as well. The Modi-Putin summit is expected to produce specific outcomes in further expanding ties in areas of defence, trade and energy, officials said.

It is learnt that the two sides are going to firm up a number of agreements in the areas of defence, trade and investment, and science and technology at the summit. "President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin will pay an official visit to New Delhi on December 6 for the 21st India-Russia annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

It will be the first in-person meeting between the two leaders after their talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Brasilia in November 2019. There have been six telephonic conversations between the two leaders since November 2019, to date apart from virtual meetings for multilateral summits.



RAMANA EXPRESSED HAPPINESS AT BEING PART OF THE LEGAL COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS GIVEN SO MUCH TO THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE AND PLAYED SUCH AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN THE DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION

MAKING A POINT



Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Mukund Naravane interacts with troops during the Dakshin Shakti exercise in Jaisalmer

RED ALERT FOR 5 TN DISTRICTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 26: The India Meteorological Department has issued a red alert in five districts of Tamil Nadu after heavy rains on Thursday pounded the southern part of the state leading to inundation and waterlogging.

Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Puduokottai, and Nagapattinam districts are facing severe rains with roads and rails being submerged in water. Several residential areas and hamlets are under the water and schools and colleges will remain closed.

On Thursday, Thoothukudi recorded a whopping 25 cm of rains till evening and heavy rains continued to lash the district on Friday morning. Flights were redirected to the neighbouring Tiruchi airport due to poor visibility and bad



Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Puduokottai, and Nagapattinam districts are facing severe rains with roads and rails being submerged in water

weather conditions in Thoothukudi. Train services were hit as tracks were submerged in water.

Rivers and streams are overflowing and heavy rains with light-

ning and thundering hitting several southern states, including Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Dindugal, Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, and Nagapattinam districts.

Several residential areas and hamlets are under water and schools and colleges will remain closed

According to IMD, heavy to very heavy rains will continue till Monday even though the cyclonic circulation over the southwest Bay of Bengal is unlikely to concentrate into a low-pressure area.

Flash floods were reported near the Courtallam waterfalls. Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts have also received massive rains. Almost all the residential areas in these districts are waterlogged and in several parts of the districts near the river banks houses are damaged as water is gushing into the low-lying areas.

Meanwhile, the weatherman has issued a Yellow alert for Chennai on Friday and Saturday and is predicting heavy rains till Monday in the state capital. The department has also warned people living in low-lying areas to be cautious.

PROTECT JUDICIARY FROM MOTIVATED ATTACKS: CJI



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 26: Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana Friday urged lawyers to protect the institution from motivated and targeted

attacks and to not shy away from standing up for what is right, and against what is wrong.

The Chief Justice made the remarks while addressing a Constitution Day celebration or-

ganised by the Supreme Court Bar Association. "I want to tell all of you, that you must assist judges and the institution. We are all ultimately part of one large family. Protect the institution from motivated and targeted attacks. Do not shy away from standing up for what is right, and against what is wrong," the CJI said.

Justice Ramana said as people with intimate knowledge of the Constitution and the laws, it is the lawyers' responsibility to educate the rest of the citizenry about the role that they play in society.

"The history, present and the future of this nation lie on your shoulders. This is a heavy, if not the heaviest, burden to bear. This profession is called a noble profession for a reason. It demands expertise, experience, and commitment,

like any other profession. But in addition to the above, it also requires integrity, knowledge of social issues, social responsibility, and civic virtue. You must be leaders and mentors in society."

Justice Ramana asked the lawyers to actively take up pro bono cases and be worthy of the confidence reposed in them by the public. He expressed happiness at being part of the legal community, which has given so much to the freedom struggle and played such an integral role in the drafting of the Constitution. "None can forget the contributions of lawyers such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Lala Lajpat Rai, Sardar Patel and Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, whose dedication and sacrifices for the cause of the people are legendary. All of

us here are successors of that glorious legacy."

He said the Constitution of today, built upon the foundations laid by the framers, is a richer and more complex document than what it was when it was adopted in 1949, and it is a result of the dialogue that took place both inside and outside the court room, resulting in novel and unique interpretations.

"Perhaps, the most important feature of the Indian Constitution is the fact that it provides a framework for debate. It is through such debate and discussion that the nation ultimately progresses, evolves, and achieves higher levels of welfare for the people. The most direct and visible players in this process are of course, the lawyers and judges of this country," the CJI added.

international



This land was given to you for strategic and defence purposes and yet you have started commercial activities on it. Were wedding halls, cinemas and housing societies built for defence purposes?

GULZAR AHMED | CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAKISTAN

REMEMBERING 26/11

Indians in Israel commemorated the victims of killings by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks of 2008, demanding swift justice by punishing the masterminds of the crime



of the day quote

An important part of this process is ensuring that every person in Australia has access to vaccine boosters to help maintain the best possible defence against serious illness or death

All representatives of Interpol are required to abide by the fundamental values of the organisation, for example the principles of neutrality and acting in accordance with the rule of law

If the opposing sides are prepared to return to their full obligations and the lifting of sanctions, a good and even immediate agreement can be reached

SHORT TAKES

EU eases curbs on vax exports

Brussels: The European Union said Friday that it will ease its restrictions on exporting COVID-19 vaccines. The Commission, the EU's executive arm, said that as of January it will no longer require vaccine producers to request special authorisation to export outside the 27-nation bloc.

Heavy rains lash Lanka, 14 dead

Colombo: Fourteen people were killed and one person was reported missing as heavy rains accompanied by strong winds have continued to lash Sri Lanka since last week, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said.

Solomon Islands violence recedes

Canberra: Violence receded Friday in the capital of the Solomon Islands, but the government showed no signs of addressing the underlying grievances that sparked two days of riots, including concerns about the country's increasing links with China.

World reacts to new 'deadlier' mutant

Medical experts, including the WHO, warned against any overreaction but nations said their concerns were justified

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Nov 26: A slew of nations moved to stop air travel from southern Africa Friday, and stocks plunged in Asia and Europe in reaction to news of a new, potentially more transmissible COVID-19 variant.

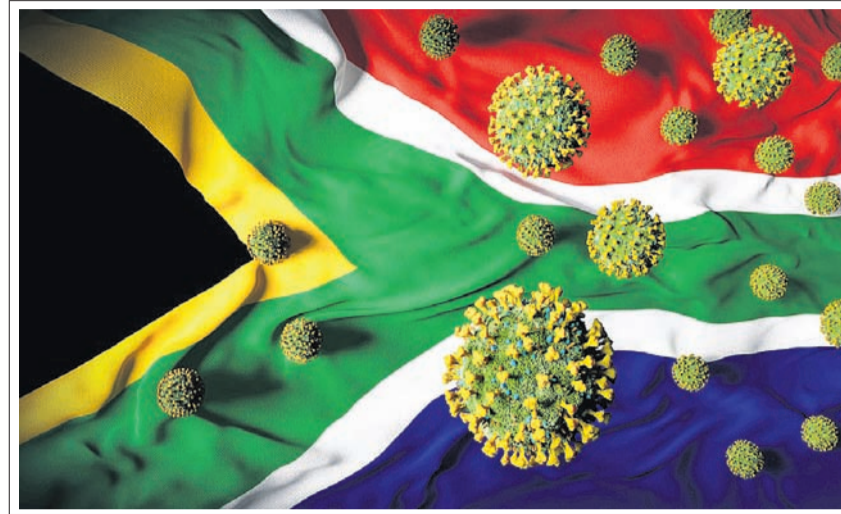
Within a few days of the discovery of the new variant, it has already impacted on a jittery society that is sensitive to bad COVID-19 news, with deaths around the globe standing at well over 5 million.

There are fears that the new variant could be even more contagious than the current predominant one and could bypass the effectiveness of the vaccination campaigns.

Belgium became the first European Union country to announce a case of the variant.

The UK announced that it was banning flights from South Africa and five other southern African countries effective at noon Friday, and that anyone who had recently arrived from those countries would be asked to take a coronavirus test.

Germany said its flight ban could be enacted as soon as Friday night. German Health Minister Jens Spahn said airlines coming back from South Africa will only be able to transport German citizens home, and travelers will need to go into quarantine for 14 days



- COUNTRIES BAN FLIGHTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA REGION
VARIANT HAS A SPIKE PROTEIN DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT TO ORIGINAL
EPIDEMIOLOGISTS WARN TRAVEL CUBS MAY BE TOO LATE
ISRAEL, BELGIUM REGISTER ONE CASE EACH

whether they are vaccinated or not. Germany has seen new record daily case numbers in recent days and passed the mark of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19 Thursday.

Italy's health ministry also announced measures to ban entry into Italy of anyone who has been in seven southern African nations — South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia and Eswatini — in the past 14 days due to the new variant.

The Japanese government announced that from Friday, Japanese nationals traveling from

WHO hosts special meeting

Geneva: Advisers to the World Health Organisation are holding a special session Friday to flesh out information about a worrying new variant of the coronavirus that has emerged in South Africa, though a top expert says its impact on COVID-19 vaccines may not be known for weeks.

It's really important that there are no knee-jerk responses. We've seen in the past, the minute there's any kind of mention of any kind of variation and everyone is closing borders and restricting travel. It's really important that we remain open, and stay focused

DR MICHAEL RYAN | HEAD OF EMERGENCIES, WHO

Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and

Lesotho will have to quarantine at government-dedicated accommo-

France slams Britain's proposal on migrants

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calais (France), Nov 26: France reacted with fury Friday to Britain's latest proposals for dealing with the deadly flow of migrants between their shores as the war of words between the two countries over the dangerous crossings across the English Channel ramped up further.

In a public letter to French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson laid out a series of proposals of how the two countries can deal with the crisis, following the sinking of a boat on Wednesday that saw 27 people die.

The letter, which was made public on social media, was deemed "unacceptable" by French government spokesman Gabriel Attal.

As a result, he said Britain's Home Secretary Priti Patel was no longer welcome at a European meeting Sunday to discuss the problem.

"We are sick of double-speak," Attal said. Among his recommen-

dations, Johnson asked that France take back all migrants who cross illegally from its shores to Britain.

Attal dismissed the idea as "clearly not what we need to solve this problem." He said the letter "doesn't correspond at all" with discussions that Johnson and Macron had Wednesday after the tragedy.

Johnson also set out proposals for British border officials to begin patrols on the beaches of northern France as early as next week — something Paris has long resisted. He also recommended joint or reciprocal maritime patrols in each other's territorial waters and airborne surveillance by manned flights and drones.

British Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said Johnson had made the proposals in "good faith" and urged the French to reconsider their decision.

The French move marks a sharp deterioration in relations between the two countries which have for weeks become increasingly strained

FISHING ROW

French fishing crews blocked French ports and ferry traffic across the English Channel Friday to disrupt the flow of goods to the UK, in a dispute over post-Brexit fishing licenses. French fishermen are angry at the British government for not granting more licenses to fish in UK waters — and angry at their own government for not doing more to defend them.

by the migrant crisis in the Channel.

More than 23,000 people have already entered the UK on small boats this year, up from 8,500 last year and just 300 in 2018, according to data compiled by Parliament.

DISPLAYING FRIENDSHIP



Italian acrobatic team Frece Tricolori and French Acrobatic Patrol fly above Quirinale Presidential Palace during meeting between French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi in Rome, Friday PT PHOTO

US lawmakers meet Taiwanese President

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei, Nov 26: Five US lawmakers met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen Friday in a surprise one-day visit intended to reaffirm the United States' "rock solid" support for the self-governing island.

The bipartisan group of lawmakers from the US House of Representatives arrived in Taiwan Thursday night and planned to meet with senior leaders including Tsai, said the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto US Embassy. No further details were provided about their itinerary.

The visit comes as tensions between Taiwan and China have risen to their highest level in decades. Taiwan has been self-ruled since the two sides split dur-



ing a civil war in 1949, but China considers the island part of its own territory. "When news of our trip broke yesterday, my office received a blunt message from the Chinese Embassy, telling me to call off the trip," Representative Elissa Slotkin, a Michigan Democrat who is part of the delegation, wrote on Twitter.

NATO chief warns Russia of 'costs' if it attacks Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Nov 26: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warned Russia Friday that any attempt to invade Ukraine would have costs, as concern mounts about a Russian military buildup near its former Soviet neighbor's borders.

Ukraine says Moscow kept about 90,000 troops near their common border following massive war games in western Russia earlier this year. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry said units of the Russian 41st army remain near Yelnya, about 260 kilometers (160 miles) north of the border.

Moscow denies that it's planning any invasion and refuses to provide details about troop movements on its own territory.

"If Russia uses force against Ukraine that will have costs, that would have consequences," Stoltenberg said, ahead of a meeting of the 30-nation military organization's foreign ministers in Latvia Nov. 30-Dec. 1, where Russia's activities will be high on the agenda. He did not say what those costs would be.

"This is the second time this year that Russia has amassed a large and unusual concentration of forces in the region," Stoltenberg told reporters. He said it includes tanks, artillery, armored units, drones, and electronic warfare systems, as well as combat-ready troops.

"This military buildup is unprovoked and unexplained. It raises tensions and it risks miscalculations," Stoltenberg said. He conceded that "there is no certainty about the intentions of Russia" but said that "this is a military buildup by a country that has invaded Ukraine before."

Black Friday: Climate activists block Amazon warehouses

Members of Extinction Rebellion targeted 13 Amazon fulfilment centers in the United Kingdom with the aim of disrupting 50% of the company's deliveries

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 26: Climate activists are blockading Amazon warehouses across the UK Friday in an attempt to pressure the e-commerce giant on one of its busiest days of the year to improve working conditions and end business practices that hurt the environment.

Members of Extinction Rebellion targeted 13 Amazon fulfilment centers in the United Kingdom with the aim of disrupting 50% of the company's deliveries on Black Friday, which marks the unoffi-

cial start to the holiday shopping season.

Activists blocked the entrance to Amazon's warehouse in Tilbury, just east of London, with an effigy of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos sitting on top of a rocket.

At Amazon's distribution center in Dunfermline, Scotland, about 20 Extinction Rebellion members strung banners across the entrance road that said "Make Amazon Pay" and locked themselves together, stopping trucks from entering and some from leaving.

The group is demanding Amazon provide better working conditions,



clear environmental commitments, and for the company to pay its fair share of tax. "The action is in-

tended to draw attention to Amazon's exploitative and environmentally destructive business

Amazon did not directly address the protests in response to a request for comment, but said the company takes its responsibilities "very seriously"

practices, disregard for workers' rights in the name of company profits, as well as the wastefulness of Black Friday," the group said. Extinction Rebellion said it was part of a wider international effort

that's also targeting Amazon fulfilment centres in the US, Germany and the Netherlands.

Amazon did not directly address the protests in response to a request for comment, but said the company takes its responsibilities "very seriously."

"That includes our commitment to be net zero carbon by 2040 — 10 years ahead of the Paris Agreement — providing excellent pay and benefits in a safe and modern work environment, and supporting the tens of thousands of British small businesses who sell on our store," the company said.

