



Volunteers of Vande Mataram participating in an awareness campaign on AIDS and Covid-19 on the eve of World AIDS Day, in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

RREGULAR by MANJUL

Cyclonic storm to hit state Saturday morn POST NEWS NETWORK

Night curfew to stay, no zero night revelry

ing," Pal told PTI.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 30: To constitute a committee for discussion on MSP and other issues, the Centre has sought five names from the Samkyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and it will be decided by the umbrella body of farmer unions in its December 4 meeting, farmer leader Darshan Pal said Tuesday. The move comes a day after both houses of parliament passed a bill

to repeal the three contentious

farm laws against which farmers

five names from SKM for the com-

mittee that will deliberate on the

issue of minimum support price

(MSP) for crops. We have not yet de-

cided on the names. We will de-

cide this in our December 4 meet-

"Today, the Centre has asked for

have been protesting for a year.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The state government Tuesday released Covid-19 guidelines for December 2021. Night curfew (10 pm-5 am) will continue in urban areas in

PASSENGERS NEW DELHI: Strict norms for

names of farmer leaders

arriving international

judge ABS Najdu will supervise the investigation into the murder of teacher Mamita Meher in Kalahandi district. Judge Naidu was entrusted

The SKM, an umbrella body of based agriculture, changing crop patover 40 farm unions, has been terns as per the changing needs of spearheading the farmers' movethe country, and making MSP more ment against the three farm laws effective and transparent. and their other demands, includ-He made the announcement ing a legal guarantee for MSP.

during his address to the nation in which he also stated that the government has decided to repeal the three farm laws, which were at the centre of protests by farmers for the past year.

Retd dist judge to supervise Mamita probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 30: Retired district

CURBS ON INT'L

Earlier this month. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi had an-

nounced that a committee would be

formed to take decisions on the sub-

jects of promoting zero budgeting-



That place is for making laws. those who want to debate & discuss can always meet us in a TV studio!

MARKET WATCH					
INDEX			VARIATION		
RSES	SENSEX	57064.87	₽	195.71	
BOU	NIFTY	16983.20	➡	70.80	
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	75.01	➡	₹019	
CURR	EURO	85.31		₹0.60	
ION	GOLD	₹48,128		₹541	
BULLION	SILVER	₹62,423		₹783	

WEATI	HER		
	BHUB	СТК	
<mark>e</mark> MAX	28.2°C	28.6°	C
[₽] MIN	15.8℃	15.4°	C Forecast
Humidity	75%	77%	
Rainfall	NIL	NIL	Dry weather most likely

🗖 Met office preaicts very heavy to extremely heavy rain at many places in state from Dec 3 to Dec 5

convert into a cyclonic storm by

move west northwestward and con-

centrate into a depression by

December 2 and further intensify

into a cyclonic storm over central Bay of Bengal in next 24 hours. It

is likely to move northwestwards.

intensify further and reach north

Andhra and ¬Odisha coasts by the

tivities will commence from the

evening of December 3 and heavy

to very heavy rain with extremely

heavy rain is likely during

Under its influence, rainfall ac-

morning of December 4.

POST NEWS NETWORK

morning.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday said the low pressure area formed over South Thailand would

December 4 and 5 over coastal and interior Odisha.

The weather office said heavy December 3 and cross the Odisha and Andhra coast by December 4 rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over Gajapati, Ganjam, In a special bulletin, the Met Puri and Jagatsinghpur December office said the low pressure area, 3 and issued a yellow warning for which now lies over South Thailand these districts. & its neighbourhood, is likely to

It predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places over Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Balasore, Jajpur with extremely heavy rain at one or two places over Ganjam, Puri and Jagatsinghpur and issued orange warning for these districts for December 4.

The Met office has already sounded orange warning for Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Jaipur, Cuttack, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal and 5 next. Farmers were advised to shift their harvest to safer places and postpone sowing of rabi crops. The Met office predicts squally wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph over southeast and adjoining east central Bay of

Bengal, December 2. Gale with speed reaching 65-75 kmph gusting to 85 kmph is likely to prevail over central Bay of Bengal from early morning of December 3 and gradually increasing to 90-100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph over northwest and adjoining west central Bay of Bengal from the morning of December 4 for the subsequent 24 hours.

Squally wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is likely to commence along and off north Andhra - Odisha coast from the midnight of December 3 and increase gradually to 70-80 kmph with gusting to 90 kmph from December 4 afternoon for subsequent 12 hours, the IMD said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has reviewed the preparedness to tackle the possible cyclone with senior officials. He asked the agriculture department to take all possible measures to protect harvested paddy of farmers.

December like before and there will be no weekend shutdown.

There will be graded unlocking till January 1, 2022. With a view to protecting health of public and preventing spread of Covid and normalising economic activities, there will be graded unlocking as notified under order August 31 till 5 am of January 1.

Night curfew will be imposed in all urban areas of the state from 10 pm to 5 am every day. There will be no weekend shutdown across the state. During unlocking, all types of shops, malls will remain open across the state from 5 am to 10 pm every day.

"Cultural gatherings/programmes including melodies, orchestra/jatra/opera, dances-classical, folk and other permitted dance forms, cultural competitions, open air theatres/ drama/ nukkad natak/ street plays/ other such performances will be allowed with due compliance to Covid protocols," the notification read.

However, congregation in hotels, restaurants, parks and other public places for zero night celebration and welcome to New Year programme will be prohibited throughout the state December 31.

passengers, especially from 'atrisk' countries, will come into effect from Tuesday midnight amid mounting concerns over the emergence of the COVID variant Omicron. The Centre has asked states and UTs to ensure RT-PCR tests for travellers coming from 'at-risk' countries on the first day of arrival and retesting on the eighth day. RT-PCR tests are mandatory for passengers arriving from 'at-risk' countries and they will be allowed to leave the airport only after the

2021 and January 1, 2022.

test results come

The order also prohibits picnics at public places. Besides, no community feast will be allowed in public places on the occasion of zero night celebration.

People are advised to celebrate such functions at homes avoiding mass gatherings and adhering to Covid -19 protocols such as physical distancing, use of face mask/covering and hand washing /hand sanitiser, the SRC said, adding people are advised to use green crackers during this celebration with utmost safety/caution and not to use them in public places. More P7

with the responsibility by the Orissa High Court Tuesday which informed the state government about this through a letter.



The HC had earlier asked the state government to submit the status report on the probe into the murder case while posting the next date of hearing to December 3. The victim's family had approached the HC November 15 seeking its intervention to fast-track the hearing. On the other hand, the Bharativa Bikash Parishad had filed a petition in the HC and sought a CBI probe into the incident. The outfit also sought Rs 50 lakh compensation for the victim's family.

In its interim application, the outfit had urged the court to include Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra, Sambalpur DIG and Bolangir SP in the investigation. Besides, the outfit had appealed to the court to direct the investigation officers to examine the laptop, mobile phone and pen drive of the deceased as part of the probe.

Musk praises Parag, says US gains from Indian talent

Others include Google's Sundar Pichai, Microsoft's Satya Nadella, IBM's Arvind Krishna, Adobe's Shantanu Narayen.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 30: Soon after Parag Agrawal, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, became Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter, Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk took to the micro blogging site to praise Indian talent in the US

Musk said that the US benefits greatly from India's talent. Musk noted while reverting to a tweet by Stripe CEO Patrick Collison.

"Google, Microsoft, Adobe, IBM, Palo Alto Networks and now Twitter run by CEOs who grew up in India. Wonderful to watch the amazing success of Indians in the technology world and a good reminder of the opportunity America offers to immigrants. (Congrats, Parag Agrawal)," Collison wrote. Musk then tweeted, "USA benefits greatly

from Indian talent!" For those who are unaware, Parag Agrawal will take over from Jack Dorsey as the CEO in 2022.



Agrawal joins a select group of CEOs of Indian origin heading technology companies in the US. They include Sundar Pichai, who heads Google and its parent

company Alphabet, Microsoft's

Satya Nadella, IBM's Arvind Krishna, and Adobe's Shantanu Narayen.

Dorsey will remain a member of the Board until his term expires at the 2022 meeting of stockholders.

Agrawal has been with Twitter for more than a decade and has served as its Chief Technology Officer since 2017.

"I've decided to leave Twitter because I believe the company is ready to move on from its founders. My trust in Parag as Twitter's CEO is deep. His work over the past 10 years has been transformational. I'm deeply grateful for his skill, heart, and soul. It's his time to

lead," said Dorsey. Agrawal said: "I look forward to building on everything we have accomplished under Jack's lead ership and I am incredibly energised by the opportunities ahead. By continuing to improve our execution, we will deliver tremendous value for our customers and shareholders as we reshape the future of public conversation.

Dorsey returned to lead the company as CEO in 2015 despite being orced out of the post in 2008.

In a letter to employees, Dorsey said he will serve out his term on the board of directors until "Mav-ish' when he will also leave that position.

POST NEWS NETWORK

NAVEEN ANNOUNCES SOPS

FOR NEWSPAPER HAWKERS

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday announced social security assistance for newspaper hawkers.

All newspaper hawkers registered in Odisha Un-Organised Workers Welfare Board will get social security benefits. Their next of kin will get ₹2 lakh in case of accidental death while ₹1 lakh will be provided for natural death.

Newspaper hawkers who become completely disabled due to an accident will get ₹1.5 lakh while ₹80,000 will be provided in case of loss of both limbs and ₹40,000 for those who have lost one limb.

The CM also announced special aid of ₹3,000 in two phases to all registered newspaper hawkers in view of the Covid-19 situation. The aid will be paid from the CM's Relief Fund. The government has decided to construct work-sheds for hawkers at district level. Moreover, information and the public relations department will prepare a digital database of hawkersat the state and district levels, and provide them with identity cards.





eisure

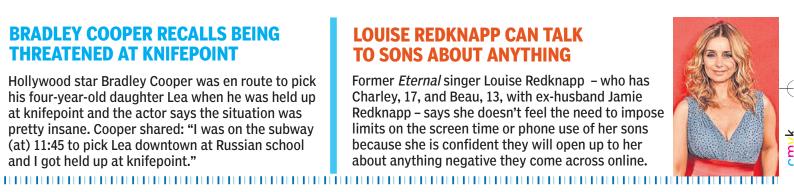


BRADLEY COOPER RECALLS BEING THREATENED AT KNIFEPOINT

Hollywood star Bradley Cooper was en route to pick his four-year-old daughter Lea when he was held up at knifepoint and the actor says the situation was pretty insane. Cooper shared: "I was on the subway (at) 11:45 to pick Lea downtown at Russian school and I got held up at knifepoint."

LOUISE REDKNAPP CAN TALK **TO SONS ABOUT ANYTHING**

Former Eternal singer Louise Redknapp - who has Charley, 17, and Beau, 13, with ex-husband Jamie Redknapp - says she doesn't feel the need to impose limits on the screen time or phone use of her sons because she is confident they will open up to her about anything negative they come across online.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

Okay, so the plans you chalked out have not delivered any results. Today, you may want to do a rethink. By noon, you may put things in place, and this will fire your confidence. Ganesha says this is what life is about - try, try, try, until you succeed.

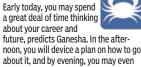
TAURUS

You need to exercise great discretion in planning your agendas and taking important decisions. Do not undertake anything simply because it appeals to your nature. Be sure that, this day, you are going to feel uncomfortable in taking uncomfort able firm decisions on your own. Ganesha recommends that you should seek counsel of some well known consultant. preferably an advocate

GEMINI

A hectic day at the home front awaits you. You will spend your entire time taking care of household matters and projects. You will only be able to succesfully pay attention to your work post noon, savs Ganesha.

CANCER



about it, and by evening, you may even put the plan into action. You will spend some time with the near and dear ones



lways tells us a lot of things. If only we were more in sync with ourselves, we could avoid so many troubles, says a retrospective Ganesha. Well, today it seems you are going to have no gualms in listening to your inner voice as you strive for excellence in all your efforts.

VIRGO

You don't need to be one of the Mafia to realise the importance of family, says Ganesha. Your better half will try spicing up the relationship in the afternoon some time. So keep fuelling the fires of love - a wildfire isn't always bad now, is it?



GOTHAM AWARDS

The Lost Daughter wins top honour

On the TV side, buzzy new series 'Squid Game' and 'Reservation Dogs' were picked up for two Breakthrough Series awards.



aggie Gyllenhaal's directorial debut The Lost *Daughter* dominated the 2021 Gotham Awards and the popular Netflix survival drama Squid Game was named as one of the

Breakthrough Series in the event. The Lost Daughter, which went into the event as a five-time nominee, won four awards, including the top prize of best feature, reports Hollywoodreporter.com.

After a quick speech thanking her loved ones and collaborators for best screenplay, Gyllenhaal declared she'd deliver a 'real speech' for her second win of the evening, for breakthrough director. "It's expensive to make movies,"

said Gyllenhaal in her second acceptance speech.

Meanwhile, fellow Netflix title, Passing, which also had five nominations, went home empty-handed as did three-time nominee *Test*



Pattern, from Kino Lorber. CODA won two of the three

awards for which it was nominated. On the TV side, the Gotham Awards honoured buzzy new series Squid Game and Reservation

Dogs with its two breakthrough series awards. Squid Game Creator Hwang Dong-hyu reminisced, "It took 12 years to make this show and show

it to the people. And it took less than 12 days to become the No. 1 show on the planet. What can I say? It's a miracle.' Reservation Dogs creator Sterlin Harjo, urged the audience to remember the indigenous people

who called Manhattan home. Over the summer, the Gotham Awards made its acting awards gender-neutral, a move that was

praised by non-binary Billions

actor Asia Kate Dillon as they pre-

sented the award for outstanding performance in a new series, one of two awards that resulted in ties.

Kathleen Collins the with

first Icon Tribute. IANS

'I don't want to be restricted by language barrier'

Mumbai: After making her debut opposite Hrithik Roshan industries.

tunity to showcase my talent in dif-

work. The idea is to do good work, work hard and prove

Revealing as to how she progresses from one project to another: the actress said. "The big question that an actor always has to face is 'what next?'. One has to go by their instinct, give their 100 per cent and leave the rest up to the Almighty. I have been doing that ever since I started



The Gotham Awards also honoured Power of the Dog director Jane Campion, Spencer star Kristen Stewart, Magnolia executive Eamonn Bowles, the cast of The Harder They Fall, The Actors Fund and, posthumously, activist and filmmaker

Gothams'

Itanagar: Senior actor Sanjay Dutt has been roped in by the Arunachal Pradesh government to be the brand ambassador for the state. This apart, filmmaker Rahul Mittra has been named brand for the golden jubilee celebrations, marking the 50th year of

the naming of the state. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Assembly Speaker Pasang Sona Dorjee at a packed function in the presence of both Sanjay and Mittra, who arrived from Mumbai by a chartered flight to Dibrugarh and then by helicopter to the picturesque vallev of Mechuka on the afternoon. A campaign executed by

Rahul

Mittra

Films

and

shot

Sanju now Arunachal's brand ambassador

Arunachal tourism

In addition to the promotional films, the actor will also engage with the local youth of the state on a series of initiatives on substance abuse and other key issues that cause concern in the state.

Filming on a large scale is taking place at Ziro village, Pakke valley, Dambuk, Namsai, Parshuram Kund, Pasighat, Mechuka and Tawang.

The month-long celebrations will commence at Ziro January 20, 2022 as it was in Ziro that Arunachal Pradesh got its name and Union Territory status in 1972.

The closing ceremony will be held in Itanagar on the occasion of the Statehood Day February 20, 2022. IANS

by ad filmmaker Shiraz Bhattacharya was kickstarted on this occasion, featuring Sanjay catering to the target audience for

Enough playing victim card in films: Mrunal

Mumbai: The past few weeks have been busy for actress Mrunal Thakur. She was recently seen in Netflix's Dhamaka, post which she released the poster of her next, Aankh Micholi. The high point of the month was launching the trailer of Jersey that sees her alongside Shahid Kapoor

Jersey, the official adaptation of the 2019 Telugu film of the same name, sees her play wife to Kapoor's character - a former cricketer struggling to make peace with his fate. For a story that hinged on the chemistry of the leads, Thakur says she found the perfect co-star in Kapoor. " found a friend in Shahid. I will never tire of praising him. He is such a focused actor, and owns his character. I learnt the quality from him." A quick look at Thakur's filmography makes one thing evident regardless of the screen time, each of her movies has her playing a well fleshed-out and strong-headed character. The actor says it's no coincidence. She is mindful of her characters' arcs

and the films' messaging. "I have made sure the women I play have a voice of their own. I am happy that through films like Toofaan, Dhamaka and Batla House. I am sending a message out. Enough being supportive, or playing the victim card in films. Women play an important role in men's lives; it should be presented that way." AGENCIES

The tiny voice inside us





in Ashutosh Gowariker's Mohenjo-Daro, Pooja Hegde took the pan-India approach and worked in various regional film

The actress always wanted to be recognised as an Indian actor rather than an actor limited to just one particular in-

dustry. Talking about being a part of different film industries across India. Pooja said, "God has been really kind to have given me the oppor-

rier of language restrict my

your credibility.

my acting career.

noon is an auspicious time to propose to your loved one for marriage. Today is the day you shall experience love and closeness with your partner. Ganeshii sends you his best wishes

SCORPIO

A one to one conversation with your partner or spouse may leave you happy. In short, marital bliss is on the cards today. To come closer to each other, you may even think of a getaway or plan a long vacation with each other. Your cheerful nature would keep you going throughout the day and even help you to sort out small issues.

SAGITTARIUS

Business tycoons, be ready to scale new heights today! Ganesha sees a fantastic day of massive business growth. In the afternoon, your professionalism will be held in high esteem by friends and foe alike. You may also take your first step in exploring new territories by launching new products in the market, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You're not somebody who would do something just for the sake of doing it. In fact, your desire to achieve your dreams will lead you towards putting your best foot forward and probably setting up a new business venture.

Your creativity will come to the fore today. Music will give an outlet to your emotions and creativity, says Ganesha. You will aim for the bull's eye, and to everyone's surprise, you'll hit it, too. The day is expected to go well; howev er, some unforeseen events in the evenings may spoil your mood, and may even create some confusion.

PISCES

Your cauldron of conflicts boils over, savs Ganesha. At work, confrontations with your peers are a distinct possibility Domestically, property related squabbles with your siblings are possible. Your family will be the cause of some monetary loss today. Keep a calm head.

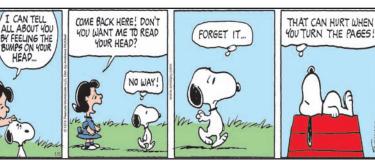
ferent film industries and be given so much love by the audience. I alwavs wanted to be known as an Indian actor and not let the bar-IANS

Kabhi Diwalia, Cirkus, the multi-lingual Radheshyam and Kollywood film Beast. Pooja Hegde



FUN

PEANUTS

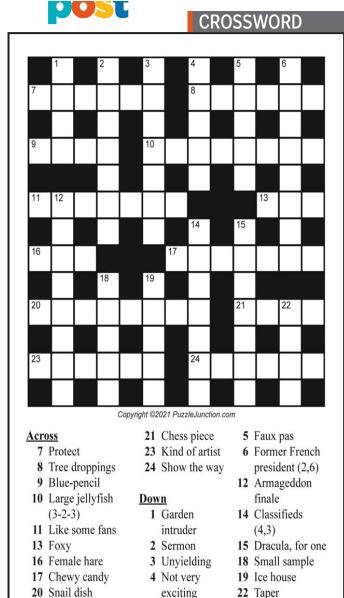


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

100

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.

		2			1			9
			2		6	4		
	5			7		8		
3			6	8			5	
1				с) (7		
		8	9					
9		1						
			4			6		7
3				3				

SOLUTIONS PAF CROSSWOR HI DESE RA FFCEN E 715 6 8 9 з 1 2 5 9 7 3 6 8 4 2 1 9 3 7 4 5 8 6 4 7 1 2 5 6 9 8 SUDOKU 8 3 7 4 1 2 6 5 6 2 5 8 9 3 4 1 7 4 1 7 8 9 2 6 5 3 537 9 6 2 8 4 1

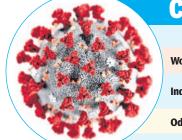
3 8

4 6 2 9



MEDICOS' STIR

Junior doctors take out a rally at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack to protest against delay in enrolment to postgraduate courses



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	26,26,56,063	23,71,86,853	52,28,963
dia	3,45,87,822	3,40,18,299	4,68,980
lisha	10,49,108	10,38,306	8,411

Odisha 2nd from bottom in farm income



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 30: With a meagre average monthly earning of ₹5,112, the farmers in the state of Odisha have lowest income after Jharkhand, the Union government told the Lok Sabha Tuesday.

In response to an unstarred question by Congress Lok Sabha MP from Koraput, Saptagiri Shankar Ulaka, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare said that the average monthly income per agricultural household in Odisha during agricultural year July 2018 to June 2019 stood at ₹5,112 while that of farmers in Jharkhand was ₹4,895.

The Union ministry referred to the National Statistical Office's report on Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land and Livestock Holdings of

The average monthly income per agricultural household in Odisha during July 2018 to June 2019 stood at ₹5,112 against ₹4,895

in Jharkhand Households in Rural India, 2019 as source of the data.

was ₹392

The min-**ODISHA IN** istry also said in its reply that PA the average monthly paid out expenditure for crop production in Odisha was

omy recovery is taking shape, the

fact remains that pressure on rural

jobs has increased all over the

country. He asserted that the peo-

ple's demand for jobs under NREGA

compared to 2019-20, in 2020-21, the

"In Odisha, we have seen that as

has increased manifold.

₹1,587 and for farming of animals

Recognise Anganwadi workers as govt staff, BJD tells Centre

New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Subhash Singh Tuesday urged the Centre to recognise Anganwadi workers as government employees with a monthly salary of ₹18,000 as mandated by 7th Pay Commission.

Speaking during the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha, the BJD MP said that the Anganwadi workers have played a significant role during Covid-19 pandemic as frontline workers.

'Despite the extra burden of work, their salaries have not been raised adequately. These workers are des-

ignated as 'honorary' and are provided with monthly honorariums and hence are not eligible to avail minimum wages. Despite the 7th Pav Commission mandat-

ing the monthly wage to be fixed at ₹18,000 for skilled workers, they barely receive this," Singh said. Highlighting the hardship faced

Patnaik said.

by the Anganwadi workers, the

cent, so much so that we have been

able to create about 20 lakh crore

person-days of jobs in 2020-21,"

He also said the Odisha Chief

Minister has made a request to

the Union government to grant 25

lakh crore person-days for labour

BJD MP said, "Being frontline workers, they had to conduct surveillance duties to control the pandemic without adequate protective gear. They are categorised as low-risk workers despite the health risks associated with their work. Failure to recognise them as actual workers is reflective of the casual attitude of devaluating the work entrusted to the Anganwadi workers. I urge the government to ameliorate their status."

The BJD MP apprised the House that the Odisha government has been giving ₹3,000 in addition to ₹4,500 monthly honorarium to Anganwadi workers on 60:40 cost sharing basis but the Centre is reluctant to provide its share.

"Odisha government is allocating ₹400 crore for the purpose every year with no contribution from the Centre. I request the Finance minister and other ministers to recognise the contribution of Anganwadi workers. They have played a key role in the vaccination drive. Kindly help them out. Make some arrangements for them and enhance their wages," the BJD MP said.

"We would request the Union

government to kindly consider

this particular demand of Odisha

because not only have the urban

jobs decreased, people who have

migrated have not yet left for the

places where they had earlier

migrated,"







Oppn to corner govt over Mamita case

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The Winter Session of the Assembly, scheduled to begin Wednesday, is set to be stormy with opposition parties planning to corner the state government over several issues including the Mamita Meher murder case in Kalahandi.

Both BJP and Congress have decided to attack the state government over the issue. The parties have also threatened not to allow MoS, Home Dibya Shankar Mishra into the House alleging his close links with the prime accused in

the murder case Gobinda Sahoo. "We have decided to demand a CBI probe and resignation of the minister in the Mamita Meher murder case. Besides, deterioration of law and order, irregularities in paddy procurement, and housing scam among other issues would be raised during the session," said opposition chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi, after BJP Legislature Party meeting.

Congress MLAs also met at the party's state headquarters to decide their floor strategy. "We will not allow the House to function till the government agrees to discuss

Mamita issue on the floor and Mishra steps down," said Congress chief whip Tara Prasad Bahinipati. The Congress party has also de-

cided to raise issues regarding deterioration of law and order situation, farmers' woes and rising prices of essential commodities, he said.

'The Centre has neglected Odisha several times. We will raise several issues during the session including the price rise of essential commodities and LPG, coal royalty, and minimum support price of paddy," said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha.

Raise person nder N

New Delhi: BJD MP Amar Patnaik Tuesday urged the Union government in the Rajya Sabha to enhance the labour budget for Odisha under MGNREGA to 25 lakh crore person-days for the year 2021-22.

The BJD MP, while speaking in the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, said that even though the econ-

CM releases book on Lok Seva Bhawan



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday released a book titled 'Where People Matter' on 60 Years of Lok Seva

Patnaik said. increase is to the extent of 81 per budget to Odisha for 2021-22 CM flags off 7 industrial projects, lays stone for 10 504 government

quarters for cops

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday laid the foundation stone for construction of 504 government quarters in the Capital city. Officials sources said over two-third



Bhawan, the erstwhile Secretariat.

It is a commemorative edition to mark the 60th year of the Secretariat (now the Lok Seva Bhawan), which was inaugurated in November 1959.

The book, through vivid photographs, throws light on the services and facilities available, rich architecture, lush gardens, history and offers homage to those who designed and built the Lok Seva Bhawan. The publication has been made possible by a sponsorship from Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd and published by Public Relations Society of India.

It is a commemorative edition to mark the 60th year of the Secretariat (now the Lok Seva Bhawan) inaugurated in November 1959

Appreciating the publication, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the team and stressed on the importance of documentation for posterity. VK Pandian, Secretary, 5T and Managing Director of OMC Balwant Singh attended the book release event.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) based in Germany has certified that paper used in the book is made from responsibly sourced wood without causing any damage to natural forests. The publication has also been submitted to Google and Amazon for release as e-books and will be available very soon, at free of cost or a token charge.

The book has been authored by Amar Jyoti Mahapatra, Chairman PRSI Bhubaneswar Chapter and edited by Sukanta Kumar Panda. Secretary PRSI Bhubaneswar Chapter Sanjay Kumar Sahoo, creative designer Jyoti Ranjan Swain and photographer Ashis Dhir also joined the programme.

The book is expected to evoke interest about history of Odisha and Bhubaneswar, and also portray various programmes of the government that are currently underway.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday inaugurated seven industrial projects worth ₹152 crore and laid foundation stone for 10 other projects with an investment of ₹Rs 848 crore – entailing a total investment of 1.000 crore

These diversified projects ranging across sectors like food processing. tourism, plastic, manufacturing and fertilizer will create potential employment of 2,400 persons in the state, the officials said.

On the occasion, Patnaik said, "Odisha is fast emerging as the manufacturing hub of eastern India. We have been marching ahead on the path of industrial development and are consistently ranked amongst the top states in terms of live manufacturing investments in India.' The Chief Minister said

several proactive measures for the development of industries. This has created an industry-led ecosystem of value addition, sustainable employment generation and revenue augmentation in the state. "My government's stable policy and regulatory environment have enabled robust growth of the industrial sector in the state.

The implementation of ease of doing business reforms and facilitation provided by various departments involved has also ensured that businesses continue to grow in the state," he said.

He also said that his government is committed to providing the best of support to enterprises as well as the best of opportunities to its people to grow. Among others, a polyurethane foam manufacturing unit at Jaymangal in Khurda by Shree Malani Foams with an investment of ₹135 crore was inaugurated.

of these residences will be allocated to constables and head constables deployed in the City. While 56 E-Type quarters will be constructed at Janla, 28 D-Type quarters in Reserve Police Line, 28 E-Type Quarters in Tamando. 28 E-Type Quarters in Airfield area, 28 E-Type quarters in Badagada, 28 F-Type quarters in Reserve Police line, 28 F-Type quarters in Laxmisagar, 28 F-Type quarters in Badagada and 28 F-Type quarters will come up in Reserve Police Line. Besides, 224 F-Type quarters will be constructed at Urban Police & Traffic Training Institute (UPTTI) Campus here.

Similarly, foundation stone was laid for the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)'s Nano Urea unit at Paradip. The project will be set up with an investment of ₹225 crore.

₹17.79cr boost to Mo School

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The 30th Executive Council meeting of 'Mo School Abhiyan' held under the chairmanship of School & Mass Education (S&ME) secre-

tary Satyabrata Sahu Tuesday sanctioned ₹17.79 crore for 23 districts. The meeting, which was

held virtually in view of Covid-19. revealed that within a month, more than 9,000 alumni have joined the Mo School campaign and donated ₹4.28 crore for the development of their Alma Mater.

The alumni in Balasore

have contributed ₹1.90 crore. ₹23.20 lakh in Bolangir, ₹19.26 lakh in Cuttack, ₹16.57 lakh in Dhenkanal and ₹14.34 lakh in Jajpur districts. Till date, 6.16 lakh alumni

have been connected with Mo School Abhivan.

The drive has received grants worth ₹1.66 crore from various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions which will be utilised for the development of the government schools. Coupled with the donors' contributions, CSR funds and a 2-time matching grant from the state government, the council has approved projects worth ₹17.79 crore.

Keeping the legacy intact, Balasore district has topped the list of donors' contribution. While the campaign has reaped immense success in Balasore district, efforts are underway for the successful implementation of the drive in primary and upper primary schools.

Under the School Adoption Programme (SAP) of Mo School, virtual meetings have been conducted among 783 school mentors, alumni and headmasters. As many as 1,329 mentors have been associated with the ongoing development drives of 1,364 govt and govt aided schools.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

1st December

ODISSI Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Madhavi Mudgal (Padma Shri Awardee) & Group, New Delhi

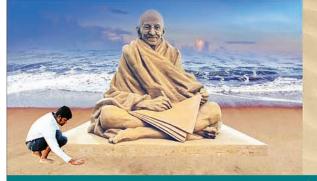
KATHAK

Dhwani Vaswati Misra & Group, New Delhi

3rd December

ODISSI Kolkata Mayur Lalit Dance Academy Debamitra Sengupta & Group, Kolkata

MOHINIYATTAM **Dasyam Centre for Mohiniyattam** Gopika Varma & Group, Chennai



SATRIYA Abhinaya Dance Academy Anita Sharma,

2nd December

& Group, Guwahati

ODISSI

Nupur Niranjan Rout & Group, Bhubaneswar

4th December

BHARATNATYAM Spanda Dance Company Leela Samson (Padma Shri Awardee) & Group, Chennai

ODISSI

Suravi Pitambar Biswal & Group, Bhubaneswar



G

LIVE telecast in DD Bharat

5th December

ODISSI GKCM Odissi Research Centre Bhubaneswar

KUCHIPUDI Shivamohanam Jaikishore Mosalikanti & Group, Chennai

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downtown

CONG: MISHRA POSSESSING ₹100CR ASSETS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Hours before the beginning of the Winter Session of Odisha Assembly, Congress Tuesday turned its gun at Minister of State (MoS) for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra, whose sacking is being demanded by opposition parties accusing him of having close links with the prime accused of the Kalahandi woman teacher's kidnap and murder case. Odisha Pradesh Congress

Committee spokesperson Manoj Mohapatra alleged that the minister, apart from being close to criminal elements has acquired huge landed property and owns assets worth Rs 100 crore.

Dubbing the minister a 'fake pilot', he said Mishra had declared the value of his assets was Rs 2 crore during 2014 Assembly elections and in 2019 as Rs 8 crore.

Mishra had said in October that he had quit a high paying job as a pilot and had joined the people of his constituency Junagarh in Kalahandi district.

"We have evidence of the minister acquiring properties worth Rs 100 crore," Mohapatra claimed at a press conference here and released a list 16 landed properties worth Rs 74.17 crore allegedly owned by the minister.

The list also included another plot of land in the name of his brother which costs Rs 3.96 crore.

The OPCC spokesperson also alleged that the minister had acquired the properties of over 200 Dalits in his and relatives' names during the BJD regime.

"The state government should confiscate all these properties, Mohapatra demanded.

Six-day NCC sailing expedition concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 30: A six-day DK Whaler Sailing Expedition was organised at INS Chilka from November 25 to 30.

As many as 60 Naval wing cadets of 3 (Odisha) Naval Unit NCC, Cuttack Group, Odisha Directorate have participated in the expedition and covered 120 km from Naval base Chilka to the various islands like Kalijai, Gupteshwar, Nalabana, Rambha, and Krishna Prasad.

Three DK Whaler boats along with safety boats participated in the expedition. Boats set for the sail every day early in the morning and then returned by evening.

The expedition was flagged in by Colonel Rajnish Kapoor, Group Commander, Cuttack, in the pres ence of Camp Commandant Capt Himansu Prusty and Deputy Camp Commandant Cdr Pradeep Basak. The motive of the expedition was to inculcate leadership qualities, discipline, confidence, enthusiasm, and self-reliance among cadets. These NCC cadets also participated in various Social Service and Cultural activities during the expedition.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT Ensure active engagement of community partners, SEs told

POST NEWS NETWORK

Management Model being imple-

Shakti self-help groups (SHGs),

the entire sanitation value chain, said

Principal Secretary of Housing and

Urban Development Department

Speaking in the first session of an

G Mathivathanan Tuesday.

phasised on active engagement of the community partners in the en-Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The tire sanitation value chain. He also Decentralised Solid Waste batted for 100 per cent waste collection in a segregated manner mented in Odisha is unique in the along with 100 per cent processing, country with active engagement of thereof ensuring better managecommunity partners like Mission ment of solid waste in urban areas. He emphasised on various aspects such as optimal use of Ama transgenders and rag pickers in

Sahara App, training for need-assessment, and nodal officers adhering to their responsibilities for successful functioning of the scheme. The second session was devoted

orientation-cum-training meeting to orientation of SEs on the strateheld at the convention centre of gies to achieve 100 per cent collec-Lok Seva Bhawan Tuesday with tion of segregated waste from households. Key responsibilities all nodal officers and mentors of wealth centres, and sanitation exof SEs were also discussed at length perts (SEs), Mathivathanan emin the second session



An anti-terror mock drill in progress at Cuttack railway station, Tuesday

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested a person for his alleged involvement in the QNet fraud case, officials said Tuesday.

Accused Arabinda Kumar of Kendrapara district was arrested on the basis of a case registered against the QNet Ltd, a Hong Kongbased multi-level marketing company, and its franchise M/s Vihaan Direct Selling (India) Private Limited in September 2019.

According to an official statement of the EOW, the above companies represented through their directors and promoters namely



Chandan Kumar Mohalik, Sarat Parida, Devabrat Harichandan, Prasant Kumar Mohanty, Arabinda Kumar and others were running illegal money circulation scheme in guise of direct selling multi-level marketing, and misappropriating the invested

During investigation, the police found that the accused persons have duped 31 investors, pursuant to a criminal conspiracy, by collecting ₹1.2 crore from them with the assurance of very high returns

Further, the aforesaid companies and their directors/promoters have failed to provide the assured services/returns for which the money was invested

> found that the accused have duped 31 investors, pursuant to a criminal conspiracy, by collecting Rs 1.2 crore from them with the assurance of very high returns

> Further, the aforesaid companies and their directors/promoters have failed to provide the assured

STF raids interstate drug peddler's house in WB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 30: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police, with the help of its West Bengal counterpart, has seized 390 grams of brown sugar worth over Rs 30 lakh during a raid at the residence of a drug peddler in Murshidabad.

The STF in a statement said that the Odisha and West Bengal police Monday jointly conducted a raid at Lalgola, Murshidabad in the house of an interstate drug peddler identified as Ismail Sk under Chamakpur Police Station. A case has been registered NDPS Act, 1985. "The peddler escaped. During

search however, brown sugar weighing 390 gm and other incriminating materials were seized from his bedroom," the statement said.

the tune of crores. Earlier, four other accused Sarat Kumar Parida. Devabrat Harichandan, Chandan Kumar Mohalik and Prasant Kumar Mohanty had been arrested in this case, the officials said. During investigation, the police

amount of gullible investors to

CBI raid over ₹21cr loan fraud

services/returns for which the

money was invested, the EOW said.

into the scam on the basis of a

complaint lodged by one Gyan

Ranjan Mishra, advocate and

Chairman, Voice of Victim, in 2019.

tims, had invested several lakhs

in various schemes of the com-

pany as membership fees between August and November 2018.

On February 12, 2020, the state

Crime Branch also issued an advi-

sory cautioning people not to in-

vest in the schemes run by QNet or

its franchise. The company used to

pay a meagre amount initially and

even arrange foreign tours for some

of the investors to win their trust.

Mishra, like many other vic-

The EOW initiated an enquiry

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 30: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Tuesday carried out raids at different places including the premises of some businessman in Cuttack in a case of loan fraud to the tune of around Rs 21 crore.

A case has been registered against eight persons including some bankers on the charges of cheating a public sector bank of Rs 20.99 crore. Recently, central agency sleuths had carried out raids at different places in Cuttack in a Rs 140-crore bank fraud case.

The current case was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Nikhil Ranjan Pati, the AGM of Bank of Baroda's Zonal Stressed Asset Recovery Branch (ZOSARB) at Cuttack



he accused individuals availed a loan to the tune of ₹8.50 crore and two working capital loans of ₹4.90 crore each from Nayapalli here and Mahatab Road (Cuttack) branches of BoB between 2011 and 2017

owever, they did not repay any Installments and misappropriat ed the loan amount sanctioned to them. Some officials of the bank were also involved in the conspiracy to cheat the bank

Shreeram Enterprises availed a

and Mahatab Road (Cuttack) branches of Bank of Baroda between 2011 and 2017.

However, they did not repay any installments and misappropriated the loan amount sanctioned to them. Some officials of the bank were also involved in the conspiracy to cheat the bank.

"It was alleged that the accused had availed various credit limits including FBWC limit from Bank of Baroda in collusion with others and cheated the bank, causing loss from 2011 to 2017 and diverted/siphoned off the funds disbursed to the respective loan accounts and misappropriated public money in the form of loan amount sanctioned/disbursed to them. It was further alleged that the said accused had caused undue loss to the BoB to the tune of Rs



EXHIBITING READINESS



OP PHOTO

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

State-level summit by Gandhi Peace Foundation, State Scouts & Guides office, near Capital High School,

CUTTACK SADAR

 Foundation Day celebration of Kandarapur College, Kandarapur,

KONARK

- Marathon by Basanta Maniari library, Majhipur Square, 7am
- Konark Festival and International Sand Art Festival, Chandrabhaga, 6pm

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

The three DK Whaler boats of Naval Unit NCC, Cuttack Group, sailing on Chilika as the six-day expedition concludes OP PHOTO Tuesday

The owners and partners of M/s Shree Krushna Enterprises, M/s

loan to the tune of Rs 8.50 crore and two working capital loans of Rs Laxmi Narayan Store and M/s 4.90 crore each from Nayapalli here 20, 99,26,859.95 (approx) with interest as on 31.08.2021." claimed CBI sources.

ARTs can bestow parenthood upon HIV couples: Expert **OUAT students'**

he immense joy and satis-faction of parenthood should not be denied to anybody. But in some couples, ethical concerns pop up and kill the desire to have a biological child. In the case of couples who are seroconcordant (both the partners are HIV positive) or serodiscordant (one partner is HIV positive and the other is not), the yearning for a child gets laden with guilt. fear. uncertainty and hopelessness. Parenthood dream gets overpowered by the fears of women getting infected during the process of conception or vertical transmission(transfer of HIV from mother to child) either during the time of delivery or during the breastfeeding period. So, should couples with HIV infection give up their dreams

of having a biological child? The

answer is 'No'. Newer treatments

and Assisted Reproductive

Techniques (ARTs) can help these

couples in becoming happy par-

Globally, about 37 million are in-

fected with HIV and almost 80 per

cent of them are of reproductive

age. HIV-positive women are prone

to gynaecological diseases like

pelvic inflammatory disease and

ents with healthy children.

Does HIV impact fertility?

cervical dysplasia which can impact fertility or increase the risk of complications during pregnancy. Sperm motility and morphology are affected in case of HIV-positive men. Also, hypogonadism, impotence, erectile dysfunction are observed more commonly in these men. **Can HIV couples conceive** naturally?

Of course, yes. Preconception counselling plays a crucial role as it helps the couple get a clear picture of the risks involved and also the possible outcomes. If the male partner is HIV-positive while the female partner is unaffected, the male partner would be advised to take up antiretroviral therapy to reduce the viral load, and the female partner can go for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to protect herself from the transmission. The couple is advised to have unprotected intercourse only around the time of ovulation. This method will help many couples who have normal ovarian reserve with no tubal pathology and normal semen parameters to conceive naturally. Not only that, children born to them have a very high chance of being HIVnegative. PrEP is another new



Dr Durga G Rao

treatment process that can be beneficial but we have to wait and watch. If only the woman is HIV-positive and her husband is HIV-negative with her viral load being undetectable, she can try for pregnancy through self-insemination during the time of ovulation. Elective Caesarean delivery, neonatal prophylaxis and avoidance of breastfeeding are shown to reduce the transmission from mother to child. If pregnancy is not achieved, the couple can go in for ARTs.

WORLD AIDS DAY

GLOBALLY, ABOUT 37 MILLION ARE INFECTED WITH HIV AND ALMOST 80% OF THEM ARE OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

SPERM MOTILITY AND MORPHOLOGY ARE AFFECTED IN CASE OF HIV-POSITIVE MEN

Fertility treatment options for HIV couples

Medical advancements have resulted in a significant increase in the life expectancy of HIV patients and hence their desire for a child has to be supported.

ART is the best and safest method that can avoid sexual transmission of the disease. If a male is HIV-positive, sperm washing technique is used that eliminates the risk of transmission to a great extent after which IUI (Intra-uterine Insemination) or IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation)/ICSI (Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection) is performed. Seroconversion was

not observed in the female partner and neonatal transmission was absent when the viral loads in HIVpositive men were undetectable. HIV-1 RNA testing on the semen sample helps in detecting very low viral loads also. The significance of the presence of viral RNA in semen sample on the risk of transmission is not very clear.

Fertility treatments help in minimising the risk of HIV transmission thereby helping the couples achieve parenthood. But several barriers prevent HIV couples from accessing the technologies for reproductive health. The major intention of advanced fertility treatment is to offer safer pregnancy and delivery options to HIV couples.

Fertility centres need to follow strict guidelines while handling the samples of HIV couples through the way of decontamination of labs, proper waste disposal, and taking all necessary precautions like processing and storing specimens from infected individuals in a dedicated area.

As the saying "Information is Power", HIV-infected individuals have the right to know the possible treatment options, risks involved and other things that can help them in making informed decisions regarding their reproductive desires.

Dr Durga G Rao, Co-founder & Medical Director, Oasis Fertility

stir for promotion POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students of College of Basic Science and Humanities here Tuesday staged a demonstration at OUAT campus demanding promotion of second semester and fourth semester students.

The students locked the main gate of the university and insisted on meeting the Vice Chancellor, Pawan Kumar Agarwal.

Soumya Ranjan Samantray, a second year UG student, said, "Our exam is scheduled to be held from December 7 to 22. After the exams. the fifth semester would start in mid-January which will surely ruin our plan of sitting in several other entrance exams. We complained about this and wanted to talk to the VC. After repeated attempts, we sat on protest today to meet the VC.'

After a few hours, the VC met the students and assured them of promoting the students and issuing a notice regarding the same in two days. After assurance from VC the students called off their protest.

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SHORT TAKES

Train services disrupted

Rupsa: Train services were disrupted for long hours at Rupsa railway station in Balasore district when a 25-KV overhead transmission wire snapped after a pick-up van crashed into the railway gate near the north cabin of the station, Tuesday. A railway gangman was closing the gate for a train to pass when a puffed rice-laden pick-up van tried to speed away and crashed into the gate. Consequently, the gate broke down and the overhead transmission got snapped and fell on the track. As a result. train services were disrupted for long hours on the route. Panicked, the driver fled with vehicle from the spot. Notably, Rupsa railway station is under Kharagpur division of South-Eastern Railways Locals have demanded construction of a fly-over bridge at the railway station to avoid overcrowding of vehicles at the rail gates during arrival and departure

Humiliated, boy consumes poison

.

of trains

Sambalpur: A 16-year-old student tried to die by suicide in Sambalpur district after being allegedly slapped by a retired lecturer from whom he had borrowed ₹10,000 but was not being able to repay, police said Tuesday. The boy, a student of BRG Plus-II College in Bhojpur, also runs a paan shop in the area, they said. He borrowed ₹10,000 from the retired lecturer of Jamankira College, which, he was supposed to pay back with interest, they added. As he was unable to repay the loan, the retired lecturer Monday went to BRG College, where the boy studies and slapped him in a classroom full of students, police said. Humiliated in front of his classmates, the boy bought pesticide from the market and consumed it, they said. The boy is currently undergoing treatment at the Kuchinda sub-divisional hospital and his condition is stated to be critical, police said. The matter is being probed and a case will be registered, said Sobhakara Seth, the inspector-in-charge of Kuchinda police station.

- Couple seeks CM's help for son's treatment

Phulbani: Parents of an 18

WORLD AIDS DAY

HIV prevention among pregnant women still a concern in Ganjam

48 children born to HIV+ parents have been struggling for life in the dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

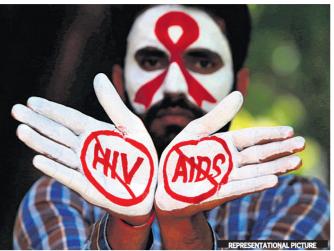
Berhampur, Nov 30: AIDS has been a major cause of concern for the Health department as well as the administration in Ganjam despite a plethora of preventive and awareness measures being undertaken. The district has the highest number of HIV positive patients in the state, according to government records.

World AIDS Day, designated December 1 every year since 1988, is dedicated to raising awareness about the disease. What is shocking is that 48 chil-

dren born to HIV positive parents have been struggling for life in the district. It was learnt that 960 expectant mothers were found to be HIV positive in the district between 2000 and 2021. Till October this year, 24 pregnant women have tested positive for HIV, according to the district AIDS cell.

Experts have ascribed migration of workers as one of the major reasons for the rise of HIV cases in this southern district. Thousands of people migrate to other states in search of work every year. At their work places, they indulge in unsafe sex and contract the deadly virus. They return home infected. In most cases, the infected persons are not aware of their HIV status for lack of awareness. They get married and start their conjugal life, but it unknowingly brings disaster for their spouses and unborn children. During pregnancy, babies too get infected with HIV

Advanced treatment has been developed to save the unborn babies from contracting the virus from their mothers. For healthcare of HIV patients, ART facility is available at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. Besides, various health centres have also been linked with the ART Centre of the MKCG Medical College and



Hospital.

National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) working under the Union Health Ministry has taken up a host of measures for prevention, control of HIV and treatment of the infected people, apart from taking up awareness campaigns. Crores of rupees are being spent towards prevention and eradication of the deadly disease. Odisha Aids Control Society has made provision of free medicines for the HIV patients. The Health department has also undertaken a host of measures to save children from contracting the virus from parents.

As per reports, 7,63,223 pregnant women have been counselled regarding prevention of AIDS between 2000 and 2021 in the district. Of them, 7,41,408 had given their blood samples for tests. Among them, 960 were found to be HIV pos-

itive The healthcare authorities and the AIDS cell have increased the blood sample testing over years. The number of the positive cases has come down, compared to previous years in the district.

In case of pregnant women get-

Teachers' posts lying vacant

in Balasore smart schools

ting infected with the virus, they are administered medicines for six months. If they take medicines regularly for six months, the chances of their babies getting infected with the virus will be less than five per cent after delivery.

The Health officials concerned usually advise women to go through HIV tests and take medicines according to their infection status to prevent passage of infection from mother to child.

According to reports, 13,95,314 people in the district have gone through HIV tests between 2000 and October, 2021. Of them, 16,921 have been found to be HIV positive.

More than 500 HIV patients have been identified in 17 blocks of the district. Polsara block has the highest number of people having tested HIV positive (1,254) till October, 2021.

Aska has 1,157 HIV positive cases; Beguniapada 1,143; Purusottampur 1,082; Khallikote 898; Hinjilicut 811; Kabisuryanagar 776; Belaguntha 724;Sheragada 680; Bhanjanagar 629; Rangeilunda 601; Buguda 575; Chhatrapur 561; Digapahandi 563; Dharakote 522; Sankhemundi 544 and Kukudakhandi 504.

City bus services in all Ganjam towns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Nov 30: People in all towns of Ganjam district will soon avail of city bus services like that in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. This decision was taken at a meeting of the management committee of the Ganjam District Urban Area Transport Services Limited. Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange, who is the chairperson of the Ganjam District Urban Area Transport Services Limited, discussed various issues relating to the city bus services.

It was learnt that the permit of 26 city buses has expired. These buses have been operating for over

Officials take mule rides to visit Swabhiman Anchal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 30: This may seem incredible but the fact is that senior government officials rode mules to reach the remote areas of Swabhiman Anchal in this district due to lack of motorable roads to oversee a string of developmental works being implemented in the area, Tuesday.

The area is prone to Maoist menace where lack of development is stated to be the key factor contributing to insurgency



The officials included Trilochan Mohanty, deputy secretary of Panchayati Raj Department, Balamukunda Bhuyan, PD, DRDA, Rahul Mandal, BDO, Chitrakonda, Chandan Gamang, Forest ranger, SDPO, and Anshuman Dwivedy, SDPO. Chitrakonda

They visited the Rajalkonda farm near Chitrakonda and cashew plantation in Badapada panchayat and took stock of the ongoing developmental works in the area. They also inspected housing schemes of the Centre and the state. In addition, the officials visited some villages in the Swabhiman Anchal which do not have motorable roads.

seven years. The Transport department has vetted the fitness of these buses. New buses will run replacing the old ones. Significantly, a decision was taken to deploy electric buses

Initially, these electric vehicles will run on the Berhmapur route. All the towns in the district will have city bus services. These buses will have CCTV cameras and special facilities for the elderly and women.

A special App will be launched for common people to know about the routes and timings of these city buses. Besides, a special bus, to be named as 'Ganjam Darshan' will transport people to various major tourists places in the district like Taratarini, Taptapani, Narayani, Sunapur, Gopalpur, Tampara, Potagada, Buddhakhol, Bhanjanagar and Nirmaljhar. A high-tech bus worth ₹30 lakh will be pressed into service for Ganjam Darshan. Another high-tech bus will come soon for this purpose. There will be a package for passengers visiting the tourist spots in the district. They will be provided snacks, water bottles, biscuits and some other facilities.

Four special buses will operate for Taratarini hilltop. Three buses will always be on move while one will be a backup. Passengers will have to pay ₹30 each for to and fro trips to the hilltop shrine.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNABEDA

e-mail: eerw_sunabeda@yahoo.co.ir e-Procurement Notice for Road, Bridge & Building Works

Sandip Kumar Khatua, district coordinator, Mo School Abhiyan assured that the posts of teachers lying vacant in the smart schools will be filled up soon.

The certificate verification of aplicants for the posts of PET. Hindi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that by a letter dated 19th Novemmber'2021 M/s. Forum Projects Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at 4/1, Red Cross Place, Kolkata-700 001, have cancelled / terminated the Agreement for Sub Lease dated 12th August' 2020 entered into with one Mr Rajesh Agarwal, of Ward No. 2, Azad Road, Rajgangpur, Sundergarh, Odisha – 770017, for Space being Unit No. Fine Dine-2 admeasuring 5190 Sq. Feet SBA on Third floor of project building

Unit No. Fine Direz admeasung 5190 Sq. Feet SBA on Third floor of project building called "Forum Galleria" at Rourkela Town Unit 42, Tahasil – Panposh, District – Sundargarh, Mouza- Rupatola, Khatian No – 111, P.S.-Raghunathpalli No. 8, Odisha. Upon such termination all right title and interest

of the above unit resumed to us and we are now

entitled to deal with the said unit to our sole

discretion in the manner deemed appropriate.

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Note: The prospective tend

evisit the website 15 (fifteen of closing of tender to a corrigenda issued for this ten

PR-588/M/21-22

No. O-1032

Divisional Railwa

OFFICE

RURAL V

from a rare illness called spinal muscular atrophy (SMA Type 2) in Kandhamal district have sought help from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the treatment of their son. The couple, Kulamani Rana and Tamlika Das, have also started a campaign to raise funds for their son Rajveer's gene therapy treatment. Rajveer urgently requires an injection that will cost ₹16 crore and it has to be imported from the United States to save his life The doctors have set a fourmonth deadline for administering the life-saving injection. The injection loses its efficacy 2 to 2.5 years after it is administered to a child patient."My child's life depends on this medication. Doctors said that if he is not treated immediately, the child won't survive for more than four months," Rajveer's mother said.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Nov 30: Eighty posts of teachers are lying vacant in 24 smarts schools developed under 5T high school transformation scheme in Balasore district.

According to reports, these schools have smart classrooms where students are imparted learning through smart boards and digital medium with an aim to achieve 100 per cent results and higher A1 grades. However, these smart schools lack adequate number of teachers to teach the students.

The matter came to the fore during a meeting attended by Roopa Roshan

PhD scholar teaches kids for free

Sahoo, Additional Secretary 5T and Amarjit Jena, chief operating officer, Mo School Abhiyan with headmasters of smart high schools, members of school managing committees and members of alumni society of Balasore, Nabarangpur and Cuttack districts, Sunday.

The meeting was held in a virtual mode where the participants stressed on appointment of teachers and night watchmen for proper teaching as well as proper upkeep and security of these smart high schools.

Joining this virtual meeting, Bishnu Charan Sutar, district education officer (DEO). Dharanidhar Patra, nodal officer: Mo School Abhivan and ADEO.

Sanskrit, PCM, CBZ and Arts teachers have concluded and the vacant posts will be filled up soon. They also assured that the state government has also drawn up a plan to appoint peons and night watchmen in these schools for maintenance and security purposes.

Reports said that in the first phase, 24 high schools in the district were dedicated to the public as smart schools after they underwent transformation under the 5T initiative. These schools have smart classrooms, ultramodern computer laboratories, science laboratories, e-libraries, facilities for teaching in digital mode through audio-visual medium and developed playgrounds.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik declared these high schools as smart schools, November 11. Parents said that only bringing cosmetic changes will not bring good name to these schools but the state government should equally lay stress on quality education by appointing more teachers.

Maoists urge people to attack excise officials

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boiparaiguda, Nov 30: A PhD scholar on public health from this block in Koraput district has been teaching tribal children in his area without charging any fee.

According to reports, the youth is Ghenu Khil, 28, son of Dambaru Khil in Similipadar village under this block. He has been doing this noble work since last year after he returned home due to Covid restrictions imposed in the country. His behaviour and way of teaching has endeared him to the children as well as their parents and has made him an example for others to emulate. Khil, had done his M Phil on public health from Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) in Mumbai and is currently pursuing his PhD at the same institute

Despite being highly educated. he has not shied away from doing



his bit for the children and people of his village and discharging his duties for them with enthusiasm. Khil got a break from his studies and returned home last year after Covid restrictions were imposed in the country.

He, instead of sitting idle at home, thought of spending his spare time to educate the children. The village where he resides is inhabited by 40 families of traditional Gadaba tribe and is deprived of basic facilities. Their

socio-economic life comprises working in farm land as daily labourers. He is not only teaching the children but contributing his bit in making various essential services available to the villagers. He has helped in bringing water from a stream atop a nearby hill to the village with the assistance of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department.

He has also made available power supply to the village. which until now was reeling under darkness. Khil, who is also into research on tribal culture and their health, is teaching the children at his home with great care. As a result, children who were earlier shying away from education have started taking interest in their studies.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, Nov 30: Amid the ongoing crackdown by police on *gania* farming in the hilly pockets, Maoists pressed the panic button in Baliguda area of Kandhamal district by pasting posters urging people to carry out organised attacks on the excise and Forest officials preventing ganja cultivation.

The posters were found at Barkhama, Rebingia, Bataguda and Midiapadagan, Tuesday morning. The posters issued by CPI(Maoist) KKBN Division warned the people against venturing into some forested areas to collect minor forest produce, because land mines have been laid in these forests. The red rebels have also alleged that, on the pretext of combing operations, security forces have been resorting to repressive measures against the common people and committing rapes. The Left wing ultras have also exhorted people to boycott the upcoming panchayat elections and oppose the government-run liquor outlets.

For Forum Projects Pvt. Ltd.		n No. Online Ten	der/04/RWD-SB	
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power post

S President Joe Biden's

ambitious 'Build Back

Better' plan has been stalled and pared by two

Democratic senators, Kyrsten

Sinema of Arizona and Joe

Manchin of West Virginia, who are

regularly described as 'centrists.'

Plenty of observers have won-

dered what this label actually

means in 2021. It is not only cyn-

ics who suspect that these figures

are not so much centrist as self-cen-

tered, guided only by the impera-

FOCUS IDEOLOGY

MEANINGLESS CENTRISM

A God who cannot smile, could not have created this humorous universe

Agarwal @ Twitter

SRI AUROBINDO

7-year-old Parag Agarwal is the talk of the town and the toast of the world. After Agarwal took over the reins of Twitter Inc from Co-Founder and CEO Jack Dorsey 29 November 2021, Tesla Founder Elon Musk tweeted that USA benefits greatly from Indian talent. It needs to be mentioned that Dorsey had been under pressure from the Board of Directors at Twitter for sometime past to step away from the lead role. In response, Dorsey has said that he was leaving Twitter because he felt Twitter was now ready to move on from its founders

For many in India, it is a matter of great pride that leading global tech companies like Google headed by Sundar Pichai, Microsoft by Satya Nadella, Adobe led by Shantanu Narayen, IBM by Arvind Krishna, Palo Alto Networks by Nikesh Arora and now Twitter CEO Parag Agarwal all migrated from India. It is undoubtedly the Indian education system that manages to produce laborious and study oriented students who eventually succeed as outstanding executives. It must also be admitted that the education imparted in India kills initiative and imagination. Therefore, it is unable to produce a Steve Jobs or a Jack Dorsey type innovator from the Indian crowd. The talent pool is thickly populated but it succeeds only when the individuals leave the Indian shores. The reasons for failure of talent in corporate India could be many. Unlike the West, Indian companies are generally family run and talent has a glass ceiling within that space. New ideas and infusion of new blood is generally not tolerated. A great example of this is seen in the spat between Ratan Tata and Cyrus Mistry in the matter of control of Tata Sons. Cyrus was unceremoniously booted out after a prolonged drama. In the whole play, the shareholders seemed to have had very little say. Similarly, it is unimaginable to visualise a non-Birla taking over the Birla empire or a non-Ambani becoming the Chief of Reliance. It must be remembered that all these empires are built on public money. Corporates of similar size with equal or less retail investments would be more professional at the leadership level and therefore with a better corporate culture in the Western world. Family driven companies in India seem to discourage the drive that modern young minds would introduce in the operations. This results in talent getting neglected by Corporate India. All those young Indians with high technical knowledge mixed with business acumen, obviously, find no scope of growth at home. This forces them to migrate to the West. Interestingly, a country like China that claims to have become the richest nation of the world does not attract global talent. Thus, it is the West and West alone that is attracting not only Indians but people with abilities from all over the world. However, observing the line-up of giant global tech companies, it is evi-

dent that Indians are the best.

WISDOM CORNER

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it. **GEORGE SANTAYANA**

The pine stays green in winter... wisdom in hardship. NORMAN DOUGLAS

WORDS**WORTH**

Presenteeism

he opposite of absenteeism, in which employees are so scared of losing their jobs through downsizing, delayering or just simple redundancy that they work excessive hours or remain at work in the evenings in order to be seen to be there even when there is nothing to do. The result is high levels of stress, unhappiness and poor performance, ironically increasing the risk of the very disaster they are hoping to avoid. It is a problem that has become recognised as grave in the USA, though rarely so in Britain as yet. The better employers are now insisting that workers stick to their proper hours and take their holiday entitlements; they also provide flexible working hours, social and sporting activities, informal dress codes (or days on which one can dress informally: dress-down Fridays is one name for them), and other

TODAY, THERE IS

POLITICAL **ORIENTATION TO ITS ADHERENTS**



Jan-Werner Mueller IN MANY **COUNTRIES**

A KIND OF ZOMBIE **CENTRISM – A LEFTOVER OF THE COLD WAR** THAT NO LONGER **PROVIDES A GENUINE**

tive of getting re-elected. By what criteria are centrists to be judged? That question has become urgent not only in the United States but also in France, where President Emmanuel Macron, having promised to build a new center in French politics, will seek re-election next spring. As with the two US senators, critics see Macron's centrism as a smokescreen for a politician who effectively does the bidding of the right, warranting the label "the president of the rich.' The question, then, is no longer whether the center can hold; it is whether centrism holds any mean-

ing in today's politics. The term made much sense in the twentieth century, which many understood to be an age of ideological extremes. Being in the center entailed a commitment to the fight against anti-democratic parties and movements. But even then, self-described centrists were often accused of bad faith. With characteristic irony, Isaiah Berlin, a liberal par excellence, counted himself among "the miserable centrists, the contemptible moderates, the crypto-reactionary skeptical intellectuals."

Whereas these earlier self-described centrists could live off the credit amassed in the fight against fascism and Stalinism, the legacy of self-consciously moderate politics has since worn thin. In many countries today, there is a kind of zombie centrism - a leftover of the Cold War that no longer provides a genuine political orientation to its adherents.

German Christian Democrats recently learned this the hard way. In September's federal election, they failed spectacularly in their effort to claim the center against a potential coalition between the Social Democrats and the postcommunist Left Party. The party's anti-communist campaign, seemingly lifted straight out of the 1950s, obviously did not address



During the twentieth-century 'age of ideological extremes,' political centrism had an obvious role to play in preserving democracy. But once democracy itself is in jeopardy, as it is in countries like the United States today. centrism becomes meaningless – or even dangerous

twenty-first-century challenges. The notion that Olaf Scholz, the outgoing government's studiously responsible finance minister (and now chancellor-to-be), would be waving red flags in the Reichstag appeared positively bizarre.

Still, there remain two forms of centrism that are not reducible to zombie Cold War liberalism. One is procedural: in systems with separated powers, such as the US, politicians are compelled to engage in the art of compromise: this is even more true in an age when clear majorities in legislative chambers have become rare.

A similar imperative applies in increasingly fragmented European party systems. The Dutch parliament currently features no less than 17 parties (or even more, depending on how one counts). And, after weeks of negotiations, Germany will soon have a government in which the left-wing Social Democrats and Greens are in a 'traffic-light coalition' with the business-friendly Free Democrats.

Fragmentation - be it institu-

tional or political-forces politicians to adopt what the Dutch philosopher Frank Ankersmit called 'principled unprincipledness' for the sake of making democracy work. After all, most people are not keen on compromise for its own sake, because nobody thinks secondbest is ever the best.

The exceptions are those who subscribe to the second plausible form of centrism: the positional kind. Seeing equidistance between political poles as proof of their pragmatism and 'nonideological' credentials, positional centrists often try to cash in on the premium that still attaches to bipartisanship (especially in the US). They benefit from seeming reasonable when the left and right are dominated by firebrands. In his first election campaign, Macron routinely emphasised the radicalism of his opponents, the farright Marine Le Pen and the farleft Jean-Luc Mélenchon, to show that he alone represented a re-

sponsible position. Appealing to the 'horseshoe theory' - highly popular among anti-

The writer is Professor of **Politics at Princeton** University. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

But centrism is not automatically democratic. Macron, who has been dubbed a 'liberal strongman,' is a case in point. His 'neither left nor right' posture implies a baldly technocratic form of government. The assumption is that there is always some uniquely rational response to any policy challenge. By definition, critics can be dismissed as irrational. As Macron discovered with the gilets jaunes (vellow vests) revolt in 2018. the denial of democratic pluralism implied by this approach can provoke an intense backlash.

Both procedural and positional centrism are premised on there being a properly functioning democracy in place, and they can actually become dangerous when a country suffers from asymmetrical political polarisation. This is the situation in the US today, where the Republican Party no longer recognises basic features of democracy. Today's Republicans are engaged in a vast project of extreme gerrymandering, voter suppression, election subversion, and legislative obstruction, showing no interest in compromise. Now that Biden is in the White House, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Donald Trump's grudging but reliable enabler; is following the same playbook that he perfected during Barack Obama's presidency.

Procedural centrism makes no sense when one's political adversaries no longer respect procedures, as is now the case with the Republicans. But the situation is even worse for positional centrism. If one party rejects democracy, equidistance is complicity. If Sinema and Manchin have nothing to say for themselves beyond zombie centrism, procedural centrism, or positional centrism, even their own voters might eventually punish them for obstructing policy initiatives that are in fact highly popular.

de-stressing techniques.

Prestidigitator

tymologically speaking, a prestidigitator is a person with nimble fingers, an entertainer for whom in the cry of the old-time three-card-trick men, "the quickness of the hand deceives the eye". The word was created in 1823 in French as prestidigitateur from preste, an adjective meaning guickly that had been borrowed four centuries before from the Italian presto. To this the unidentified inventor added the Latin digitus, finger. He may not have known of the classical Latin praestigia, a trick or hocus-pocus, nor of praestigiator, a juggler or trickster. English was well ahead of him, since prestigiator had been in the language since about 1595. Though prestidigitator appears in an uncompleted work by the third Lord Shaftsbury dated 1712, it wasn't published until 1914, so our word has definitely been borrowed from French. Mildly exotic and not a little grandiose, it's hardly suited to the banalities of everyday speech. It demands to be said in exaggerated Gallic fashion, accompanied by an eloquent gesture and the swirl of an imaginary cloak.

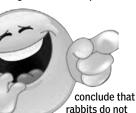
Prevent

he action of the PD James detective novel Death in Holy Orders takes place in a theological college. Coming across the well-known collect or short prayer from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer was not therefore so surprising: Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings," since it was a deliberate authorial marker for the old-fashioned ways of the college. The prayer is actually older than the 1662 praver book - it appears in the same wording in the 1549 version. It is still used at the beginning of each daily session of the British House of Commons and House of Lords. In Isaak Walton's book The Compleat Angler of 1653 there appears: "First let's pay our reckoning, for I will have nothing to hinder me in the morning; for my purpose is to prevent the sun-rising." He seems to have succeeded: he got up while it was still dark. The word is a good example of the many that have significantly shifted their meanings down the centuries. Isaak Walton and the writers of the 1549 prayer book were both using it in a sense that was then standard, of acting in anticipation of something, or preceding it. The specifically religious sense, which appears also in Tyndale's translation of the New Testament of 1531, and in the later Articles of Religion, as well as the Authorised Version of 1611, refers to God's grace anticipating human actions or needs, or of worshippers going forth with spiritual guidance and help.

LOL

Try to catch the rabbit

he Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the FBI, and the CIA are all trying to prove that they are the best at apprehending criminals. The President decides to give them a test. He releases a rabbit into a forest and each of them has to catch it. The CIA goes in. They place animal informants throughout the forest. They guestion all plant and mineral witnesses. After three months of extensive investigations they



exist. The FBI goes in. After two weeks with no leads they burn the forest, killing everything in it, including the rabbit, and they make no apologies. The rabbit had it coming.

The LAPD goes in. They come out two hours later with a badly beaten bear. The bear is yelling: "Okay! Okay! I'm a rabbit! I'm a rabbit!"





IN JEST THIS

Melvin Durai

A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN BRITAIN A FEW YEARS AGO FOUND THAT THE AVERAGE MAN SPENDS THREE WEEKS OF HIS LIFE **WAITING FOR HIS** WIFE OR GIRLFRIEND **TO FINISH SHOPPING**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Orissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

(O)

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250

don't know about you, but I'm tired of waiting. I've spent too much of my life waiting: waiting for the doctor, waiting for the traffic light to turn green, waiting for my wife to finish shopping.

A survey conducted in Britain a few years ago found that the average man spends three weeks of his life waiting for his wife or girlfriend to finish shopping. I don't know who this 'average man' is, but he's lucky. I've spent at least three months of my life waiting for my wife to finish shopping, and another three months waiting for my wife to return items she purchased.

The survey found that men wait in a variety of ways: some follow their significant others around as they browse in a store, others find a spot where they can sit and look at their phones, and a lucky few step away for a drink or snack, escaping from relationship-threatening questions such as, "Does this dress

make me look fat?" (Spare a thought for the poor man who tried to be honest and answered, "No more than usual, dear."

Another British survey found that the average person spends a total of 47 days standing in queues in their lifetimes. I don't know who this 'average person' is, but they obviously don't visit the post office much. Long lines can be found in many places these days: at checkout lanes in grocery stores, at sporting events and concerts, and at Bill Gates' house ever since he put up the 'single again' sign.

If you're a driver, you won't be surprised to learn that you spend about two weeks of your life waiting for traffic lights to turn green. And another week waiting for the driver ahead of you to notice the green light.

Some of the longest waiting times occur in hospitals. A woman in the US state of Tennessee recently waited 50 hours in a hospi-

tal emergency room before receiving treatment. An elderly man in British Columbia, Canada, spent three days in an ER waiting room before being admitted. It's never a good sign when you enter a waiting room and see people lying around in their pajamas, eating noodles from a cup and asking what day it is.

I've probably spent a few weeks of my life waiting for a doctor to see me. After arriving promptly at my appointment time, I usually sit in the waiting room for 30 minutes, until my name is called. Then I am taken to another room, which I like to call 'Waiting Room 2.' It is here that I am told, "The doctor will be with you in a minute." This is a lie, of course. The doctor has NEVER appeared in a minute.

If I am lucky, the doctor appears in 10 minutes. If I am unlucky, the doctor never appears. "We're so sorry, but the doctor has to attend to an emergency. Would you like to

re-schedule or would you like to be seen by someone else, such as a nurse, nurse's aide or janitor?'

"Janitor?" I ask. "Does he have any medical training?

'No, but he has watched the doctor many times.

At this point, I have no choice but to re-schedule. Thankfully, this is a rare occurrence. More commonly, the doctor shows up after about 20 to 30 minutes. It's clear to me that the doctor's time is more valuable than mine. That's why doctors don't wait for patients—patients wait for doctors. A patient is expected to be patient. If I were an important person such as a president or a prime minister, I would not have to wait much. But as an ordinary person, I have to do a lot of waiting. By the time I die, I will have spent hundreds of days waiting.

And then I will have to wait a few more days for my funeral. No more waiting, please! Just put me in the ground already!

Time for a new deal

Sir, This refers to "Parl repeals farm laws sans debate," Orissa POST, November 30. The repeal of the three contentious farm laws by the Parliament may be a victory for farm unions and Opposition parties, but it is important to understand that scrapping of laws doesn't leave farmers any better off. The agrarian crisis in the country continues. The unremunerative nature of farming has seen once-dominant land holding agrarian communities take to the streets demanding quotas in admission to educational institutions and government jobs. Indian agriculture remains uncompetitive and the minimum support price (MSP) regime has wreaked havoc with cropping patterns and destroyed water tables. Agriculture needed a new deal before the farm laws were passed, and while the arguments over contours of the three laws the government had passed can continue, the fact remains that it still needs a new deal. A return to the status quo is no cause for celebration. It's a deal that needs to factor in economic realities, environmental concerns, the climate crisis, and most importantly, political considerations, and it is a deal that needs to be supported by the states, not the Centre. A new deal will mean radical change - in what farmers grow, how and when, and the extent to which the state regulates every part of the agri-supply chain, from input to output. It will be difficult to get all stakeholders on the same page when there are political considerations at play, but it is important that the Centre and states create a window for farm reforms. The country and its farmers need it.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Save our students

Sir, Students are the pillars of our society. They are the future citizens. Parents have high expectations from their wards. It is disheartening to learn that, many students these days are under the grip of narcotics. Use of gutkha, pan masala, bidi and nicotine based cigarettes is on the rise among college students. Liquor consumption also goes unabated among young students. An educational institution is a temple of learning. It is a character developing organisation. Use of narcotics spoils the purity and holiness of the campus. Many precious lives have been wasted by use of such banned substances. If left unchecked, it may destroy the future of our students. The department of higher education is urged to make our campuses narcotics free. This is the demand of the day.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR







The number of farmers who committed suicide dropped to 5,579 in 2020 as compared to 5,957 in the previous year NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR AGRICULTURE MINISTER

HORNBILL FESTIVAL TO BEGIN TODAY

The Nagaland government Tuesday said elaborate arrangements have been made to check the spread of coronavirus during the 10-day Hornbill Festival in the state. The famed carnival will begin Wednesday



Justices S R Bhat and Bela M

Trivedi, noted that the November

30 office memorandum also refers

to proceedings pending in the UK

which are stated to be "confiden-

tial and as such no details are get-

list this matter for disposal in sec-

ond week of January because we

have waited sufficiently long

enough, we can't be waiting any

longer now. It has to see the light

of the day at some stage or the

other and the process must also get over," the bench observed dur-

It said it will list the matter in

January for disposal and at that

juncture, if Mallya want to take

part personally, he will be here

through the extradition proceedings

and in case, he is not, the bench will

hear the submissions of his lawyer.

Mallya is at liberty to advance the

submissions and if for any rea-

son, he is not present before the

court, lawyer on his behalf can

The bench noted that Mallya

was held guilty of contempt in

2017 but because of certain pro-

ceedings, which at the relevant

time were going on in courts of

law in the UK, his presence could

not be secured despite directions

issued by the apex court.

advance submissions.

In its order, the top court said

What we wish to do is, we will

ting disclosed".

ing the hearing.

uote 77

We have started a fight for Jammu and Kashmir and its people following the changes which were

forced on us - the changes which were possible because the National Conference was weak. If we have not lost the (assembly) seats in 2014 elections and formed the government, neither would they have removed Article 370 or Article 35A nor taken away land transferred to the people under Roshni Act or given jobs and contractors to outsiders

OMAR ABDULLAH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The ministry has been making constant efforts to increase forest and tree cover and has taken several initiatives towards tree plantation activities in the country ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT

In every municipal ward we will be able to prepare 100 oxygen beds at a notice of two weeks. There are 270 municipal wards which means we will be able to prepare 27,000 beds at a short notice ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CM

SHORT TAKES

Soldier ends life

Jammu: A soldier reportedly shot himself dead with his service rifle in J&K's Ramban district on Tuesday, police said. The incident occurred in the Chamalwas camp in Banihal area of Ramban. "It is being ascertained as to what forced the soldier to take the extreme step. Inquest proceedings have been started," a police official said.

4 Nigerians held

New Delhi: Delhi Police have apprehended four more foreign nationals who were illegally residing in India with an expired visa. an official said here Tuesday. According

Centre asks states to ramp up testing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: Amidst a heightened level of concern over the Omicron variant, the Centre Tuesday advised states and UTs to ramp up testing and undertake effective surveillance of international passengers, asserting that the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 does not escape RT-PCR and RAT tests as it extended the nationwide COVID-19 containment measures till December 31.

Also on Tuesday, Union Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya told Parliament that the new COVID-19 variant -- Omicron-- has not been reported in India yet and asserted that the government has taken measures to ensure that it does not reach the country and has issued an advisory after looking at developments globally.

The strict norms for international passengers arriving in the country, especially from 'at-risk' countries, will also come into effect from December 1 as part of the government's efforts to keep the spread of the new variant at bay.



Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan chaired a high-level virtual meeting with states and UTs to review COVID-19 public health response measures and preparedness amid cases of Omicron variant of COVID19 being reported across various countries

More than a dozen countries have reported cases of the Omicron, dubbed as a "variant of concern' by the World Health Organisation. Chairing a high-level meeting with states and UTs to review public health preparedness in the country, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan advised states

India has so far not reported any case of the new COVID-19 variant **Omicron, Union Health Minister** Mansukh Mandaviya informed Parliament Tuesday, noting that the government has taken measures to ensure that it does not reach the country

and UTs not to let their guard down and keep a strict vigil on the international passengers coming to the country through various airports, ports and land border crossings and stressed on strict monitoring of hotspots.

He also noted that the revised guidelines and international travel

advisories have been shared with the states. During the meeting, DG. ICMR Dr Balram Bhargava informed the participants that the Omicron variant doesn't escape RT-PCR and RAT and hence, states and UTs were advised to ramp up testing for prompt and early identification of cases, an official statement said.

The Centre also extended the nationwide COVID-19 containment measures till December 31 and Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla wrote to state and UTs, asking them to strictly adhere to the November 25 advisory issued by the Union Health Ministry, recommending rigorous screening and testing of all international arrivals.

Bhalla also said the contacts of the international travellers must be closely tracked and tested as per the health ministry guidelines, and the samples of travellers turning positive sent to the designated Genome Sequencing Laboratories promptly, as per the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (IN-SACOG) Guidance Document.

Family robbed on pretext of giving Omicron vaccine INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 30: In a shocking case, miscreants entered a house in Bangalore on the pretext of giving a jab for the new virus Omicron and robbed the inmates of gold jewellery, the police said Tuesday. According to police, three robbers

came in a car and one of the accused wearing hand gloves went inside the home posing as a medical staff on vaccination duty.

He inquired about Covid-19 vaccination with Sampath Singh's wife, Pista Devi and daughter-inlaw Raksha. He had told them that he is on the job for a vaccination drive for the new Covid variant 'Omicron'.

When Pista Devi tried to call her husband, the accused placed a pistol on her forehead and the other two accused locked her and daughter-in-law Raksha into a room and robbed 50 grams of gold jewellery from the house.

Pista Devi's elder son Vikram Singh, who came home and unaware of the happenings, was asked by the accused whether he got the vaccination done. As soon as he

SC to hear Mallya contempt case Jan 18



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: "We can't be waiting any longer now" and the sentencing aspect in the contempt matter against fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya, who is an accused in bank loan default case of over Rs 9.000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher Airlines, would be dealt with finally on January 18 next year, the Supreme Court said Tuesday.

Noting that Mallya, who is presently in the United Kingdom (UK), was held guilty of contempt in 2017 and the matter was thereafter to be listed to hear him on the proposed punishment to be awarded to him, a bench headed by Justice U U Lalit said the apex court has waited "sufficiently long".

The top court had last year dismissed Mallya's plea seeking review of its 2017 verdict which held him guilty of contempt for transferring USD 40 million to his children in violations of the court orders.

The apex court noted that as per an office memorandum, under the signature of Deputy Secretary (extradition) of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), placed before it, the proceedings for extradition have attained finality and Mallya has "exhausted all avenues for appeal" in the UK.

The bench, also comprising

Dhami scraps Chardham **Devasthanam Board**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Nov 30: The Uttarakhand government led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Tuesday ordered scrapping of the Chardham Devasthanam Board, reversing the 2019 decision of his prede-



VOICING CONCERN



to the official, a police team of the Dwarka district apprehended 4 Africans roaming in the area of Uttam Nagar police station. All of the foreigners, identified as Chidi Basil Odor, Frank Fred Emefiele, Bright Odor, and Alex Oseh, are natives of Nigeria, "After verification of their credentials, it was found they were overstaving in India without a valid visa," the official said.

Over 20 injured

Patna: More than 20 persons were injured when a bus collided with a truck in Bihar's West Champaran district Tuesday morning, police said. The mishap took place at Baikunthwa Devi located on Ram Nagar-Bettiah main state highway when a marriage party was returning with the bride from Khan Pipara. A majority of the injured were bus occupants. According to the police, the impact of the collision was such that the front side of both the vehicles were badly mangled trapping the drivers.

academic fees, payment of COVID-risk allowance and timely payment of stipend to postgraduates and interns, at Victoria Hospital in Bangalore

PTI PHOTO

said that he got both the doses, the accused fled from the spot.

13 arrested for lynching AASU leader

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Nov 30: Thirteen people, including the key accused, have been arrested in connection with the alleged lvnching of All Assam Students' Union (AASU) leader Animesh Bhuyan in Jorhat city.

Medical students and resident doctors hold placards and

The students' body has announced to continue their protests until the perpetrators were given "exemplary pun-ishment". Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday asked the police to file a charge-sheet within a month for a speedy trial of the case in a fast-track court and directed Special Director General of



Singh to personally supervise the case and take prompt actions against the attackers. A magisterial probe was also

ordered into Monday's horrific incident. On the instructions of the Chief Minister, Education

Minister Ranoj Pegu visited Bhuyan's house in Dergaon on Tuesday and assured the family of according strict punishment to the perpetrators.

protest demanding restructuring

The Chief Minister also announced an aid of Rs 5 lakh for

the family of the 30-year-old AASU leader. According to police, on Monday around 50 people following an argument attacked AASU leader Animesh Bhuyan, his associate Pranay Datta, and journalist Mridusmanta Baruah when they tried to assist an elderly accident victim while many people were onlookers, who did nothing to stop the lynching and others captured the incident on their mobile phones. Police said that the prime accused Neeraj Das and 12 others have so far been arrested and a probe is on. Das was earlier arrested in a drugs trading case and was out on bail while there are few other

cases pending against him.

cessor Trivendra Singh Rawat.

Dhami's decision led the Congress to term the scrapping of the Board as "defeat" of the saffron party's "arrogance" even as the Chardham priests hailed the decision, terming it as their "victory" and thanking Dhami for it while distributing sweets among themselves.

They also offered prayers at Gangotri and Yamunotri temples in the Himalayas praying for Dhami's long life. "After studying all aspects of the issue, we have decided to withdraw the Chardham Devasthanam Board Act," Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said.

Chardham priests had been demanding scrapping of the board ever since its creation in 2019 saving it was an infringement of their traditional rights over the temples. A high-level committee constituted by Dhami to look into the Devasthanam Board issue had submitted its recommendations to him in Rishikesh Sunday.

"We went through the details of the report submitted by the panel

Constituted during the tenure of former Chief **Minister Rawat, the** Chardham Devasthanam **Board managed the** affairs of 51 temples across the state

headed by Manohar Kant Dhyani. After considering all aspects of the issue, our government has decided to withdraw the Act," Chief Minister Dhami said.

Chardham priests described the scrapping of the Board a result of the sustained pressure they had mounted on the government to scrap it."It is a historic decision. A unique incident of Indian democracy where a government had to withdraw its own decision under the public pressure. Chardham Teerth Purohit Hak Hakookdhari Mahapanchayat spokesman Brajesh Sati said.

Omicron fear ups stress woes as India returns to normal

40 arrested

Thane: As many as 40 Bangladeshi nationals were arrested by the police for staying illegally in and around Bhiwandi city in Thane district of Maharashtra, an officer said Tuesday. DCP, Zone 2, Bhiwandi, Yogesh Chavan said that the arrested men were working as labourers at various locations. "They didn't possess any valid documents for staying in India," he said. A case was registered under the Indian Passport Act and the Foreign Nationals Act. The arrests were made after raids were conducted in various areas in and around the powerloom town, he said.

THE LOCKDOWN-**RELATED STRESS IN 2020** REPORTEDLY **CAUSED OVER 300 CASES OF SUICIDE FROM MARCH 19** TILL MAY 2

Police, Law and Order G. P.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 30: The growing fear over the new Covid variant called Omicron has left several people sleepless -- especially those under mental stress from the two earlier pandemic waves -- and are suffering from the obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), depression and anxiety, health experts warned Tuesday.

The fear is seen across age groups -- parents/teachers, traders, workers -- while human life limps back to normal after 18-20 months of job losses, disrupted school education, and health emergencies in the Covid-induced lockdowns.

According to Dr Vipul Rastogi consultant neuropsychiatrist at Medanta Hospital, Gurugram, the onset of Omicron variant is expected to increase anxiety and stress in people. "People had just started coming out of the Covid fatigue and this news can destabilise them again," Rastogi said.

The lockdown-related stress in 2020 reportedly caused over 300 cases of suicide from March 19 till May 2. As a result, in September 2020, the Ministry of



Social Justice and Empowerment introduced a 24X7 toll-free mental rehabilitation helpline 'KI RAN' in 13 languages.

The second wave of Covid-19 earlier this year turned more lethal, infecting more people and taking more lives. Besides causing financial and physical problems, it also affected people mentally, creating panic in their minds.

The uncertainty about their present and future, coupled with government mandates to stay at home, all exacerbated mental illness. The feeling of being cooped up at home, distant from their loved ones, devoid of social support and

fear about new variants increased mental illness, according to mental health experts.

Dr Samir Parikh, Director, Mental Health and Behavioural Sciences, at Fortis Healthcare, said that "when we talk about Covid-induced stress, and especially stress related to new variants, we need to understand that it's not necessary that stress will occur only to those who had contracted the Covid infection or faced it in their near and dear ones".

"As things have started reopening, the question that the next wave will bring change to my life can have an impact on people. We came out of it the last time as people helped each other, stayed positive, followed Covid-appropriate behaviour, and cared for each other. We need to remain positive this time too and remain stress-free," Parikh said.

A first-ever global estimate of Covid-19 impact on mental health, that came out in October, revealed that the pandemic has led to a significant rise in major depressive and anxiety disorders globally, affecting women and younger people more in 2020.

The study, published in The Lancet, suggested that additional 53 million cases of major depressive disorder and 76 million cases of anxiety disorders were due to the pandemic.

"Countries hit hardest by the pan- 🛁 demic in 2020 had the greatest increases in cases of major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders,' said the authors, calling for urgent action by governments and policy makers to strengthen mental health systems globally to meet increased demand due to the pandemic.











Akhilesh leaves Shivpal Raj reinforces its health infra guessing on alliance INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

NDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 30: Even as Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav is busy sewing up alliances with smaller parties, he is keeping his estranged uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav on tenterhooks.

Shivpal Yadav, 66, who heads the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSPL), is still waiting to hear from his nephew about the status of their relationship for

the upcoming 2022 Assembly polls. Shivpal has said that he is even prepared

to merge his PSPL in the Samajwadi Party provided Akhilesh assures that his supporters would get due respect.

Shivpal, who recently met SP MP Mohd Azam Khan in Sitapur jail, said, "Azam Khan and I have been together since the inception of Samajwadi Party. We have been together in political agitations and struggle. Today, he is in jail, with 102 cases lodged against him. All the cases against him are politically motivated. I believe that all Samajwadis should have taken to the streets in support of Azam



to reassure him should start talks at that we are with the earliest him.

SHIVPAL YADAV discuss politics with PSPL CHIEF Azam Khan and the latter also said that all Samajwadis should unite and con-

test elections Shivpal said that time was run-

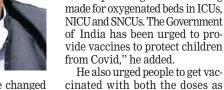
ning out and he was waiting for the SP president to respond. "Everything can be resolved through dialogue. Earlier, when

other smaller parties got together, we were looking at a total of 100 seats from the SP in case of an altalks at the earliest." he added.



He said that he did

from the SP president.



soon as possible.

People who have got the first

dose of vaccine should not be care-

less in getting the second dose.

Their carelessness can prove dan-

In view of the shortage of oxy-

gen during the second Covid wave,

over 475 oxygen plants have been

installed in the state, from which

oxygen production can be started

by the end of this month. The tar-

now. Many smaller parties have already joined hands with SP independently. I want that SP should get an independent survey done and find out if my candidate is in

gerous for their family, society, a winning position on a particular seat and then give the ticket. The state and even the country. All diswinnability factor must be above trict collectors have been instructed everything else," he said. to vaccinate those who have not The PSPL leader said that he taken the second jab, by running was ready for an alliance or merger, a campaign, he informed.

but there was no offer for talks 'The clock is ticking away and I cannot endlessly wait for a decision. The SP chief should start



According to experts, a possible third wave of Covid can impact children. In such a situation, the basic infrastructure of all children's hospitals in the state is being scaled up. Arrangements are being made for oxygenated beds in ICUs, NICU and SNCUs. The Government of India has been urged to provide vaccines to protect children from Covid PARSADI LAL MEENA | HEALTH MINISTER, RAJASTHAN

get of the state government is to produce 1,000 metric tonnes of medical oxygen. Along with this, more than 40,000 oxygen concentrators have been arranged by the state government to face any situation, he added.

The Health Minister said that in Covid management, Rajasthan has been a leader in the country. The Prime Minister has also ap-

preciated Rajasthan's Covid management. He said that Covid is not gone yet. It keeps coming back in the form of new variants. Appealing to the general public

not to forget to wear mask while going out, he asked all to include social distancing, frequent hand washing in Covid behaviour.

The state has a total of 187 active cases till Tuesday, out of

Public hearing thrice a week

wo ministers in the Raiasthan government will hold public hearing for three days every week at the Congress state headquarters here to redress the grievances of the people. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting held at the state Congress headquarters Tuesday. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, state Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra and the party's state in-charge Aiay Maken attended the meeting. "Every week Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, two ministers will remain in the state office and the rest of the ministers will hold public hearings at their residences." Dotasra told reporters after the meeting. He said if any minister does not stay in Jaipur during these three days, then he will have to inform the chief minister and the state office of the party. Dotasra said that the people would be informed in advance about which minister would hold the hearing at the party's state office on which day. A follow-up action would be taken on the issues raised during the public hearing, he said.

which 100 are in Jaipur. The numbers have risen after Diwali as the state has removed restrictions on number of guests in weddings and students in schools and colleges.

Parag's birthplace Ajmer erupts with celebrations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ajmer, Nov 30: There are gala celebrations going on in Ajmer ever since news came of Parag Agrawal becoming the new CEO of Twitter. Parag Agrawal was born in Ajmer in Rajasthan and his parents and grandparents lived here for years.

The Agrawal community was seen exchanging sweets and celebrating the success of Parag in the lanes of Ajmer Tuesday after they came to know that the boy from their city has become the top official of Twitter.

Parag's parents and grandparents lived in a rented house in Dhanmandi and Khazana Gali here

According to their neighbours in Ajmer, Parag's grandfather used to work as a book-keeper. His father rented house for many years.

Due to Parag's father's job, they shifted to Mumbai and started living there. The Agrawal community has organised a big programme to felicitate his parents December 4 who were reported to reach Ajmer Tuesday.

Shailendra Aggarwal, president of Agrawal Samaj Ajmer, said that Parag Agrawal was born May 21, 1984 in the Government Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital in Ajmer. Parag's father Ram Gopal Agrawal was working in BMRC in Mumbai, but his parents i.e. Parag's grandparents lived in a rented house here. Shailendra Aggarwal said that

December 4, Parag's parents will be given a grand welcome on their visit to Aimer. After the resignation of Twitter

CEO Jack Dorsey, Twitter announced Parag Agrawal as the



Security personnel conduct a flag march after some right-wing groups threatened to install an idol of Lord Krishna inside the Shahi Idgah mosque Dec 6, the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition, in Mathura, Tuesday

Century-old Lucknow zoo may be named after Atal

The Lucknow zoo, earlier known as Prince of Wales Zoological Garden, was renamed as Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Park by the Akhilesh government in 2015

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 30: Continuing its name changing spree, the Yogi Adityanath government is now mulling a proposal to name the Lucknow Zoo after former Prime Minister, late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Forest Minister Dara Singh Chouhan said that the government was considering the proposal and a decision would be taken at the right time. The Lucknow zoo, earlier known as Prince of Wales Zoological Garden, was renamed as Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Park by the Akhilesh government in 2015. Officials said that the naming of the zoo after the former Prime

Minister was likely to be done on the birth anniversary of Vajpayee December 25.

The zoo completed 100 years Monday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed the centenary celebrations of the Nawab Wajid Zoological Garden here and unveiled the centenary pillar, postal stamp and centenary souvenir on this occasion, the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement here.

He termed the postal stamp and centenary souvenir not only as "worth collecting" but also "inspiring for all of us". Six tigers were named on this occasion based on the suggestions of the children.

Attacking the rival political parties in Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said that in 70 years from 1947 to 2017, only two zoological gardens could be set up in Uttar Pradesh, while in the past five years, a zoological garden has been established in Gorakhpur. The chief minister termed the 100 years of the zoological garden as a "splendid innings", and said a detailed workplan should be made for its progress.

lived with his grandparents in a

new CEO of the company

Rajasthan's jobless protest in UP to meet Priyanka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 30: After carrying out shirtless agitations, offer ing roses to ministers as a mark of protest and going on hunger strikes, unemployed youth from Rajasthan are now staging a 'dharna' outside the Congress party headquarters in Lucknow, demanding an audience with Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The protests in Uttar Pradesh - organised under the banner of Rajasthan Berozgar Ekikrut Mahasangh (RBEM) - are aimed at



pressuring the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan to accept long-standing demands made by the unemployed in

Rajasthan. Their demands include appointments in several govern-

ment jobs for which recruitment exams have already been conducted,

firmed the antiquity of the coins.

area remained with the Rajput

is not a surprise. In fact, close to two

'This is an interesting find as the

increase in the number of vacancies for state government jobs and formulation of a non-bailable law against those who leak question papers in competitive examinations.

'We are sitting on 'dharna' outside the UP Congress Committee and have now started a hunger strike. For the past 47 days, we have been protesting in Jaipur. We want to meet Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The Congress has announced that they will give 20 lakh jobs in Uttar Pradesh. Before the 2018 Assembly elections we had lent support to the Congress. But

promises made to us have not been fulfilled," said Upen Yadav, president of RBEM Monday.

Earlier, the RBEM had said that it will oppose the Congress in the Uttar Pradesh elections at rallies of its leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The Congress has a government in Rajasthan. Despite this, they are not fulfilling the promises made to the unemployed youth and instead making tall promises to the people of Uttar Pradesh. First the party should fulfil their promises made in Rajasthan, said Yadav.



Ancient coins found in UP's Baghpat Judge paves Dalit student's way to IIT

Baghpat is well-known for the discovery of interesting historical artifacts, the most sensational being three chariots unearthed during the ASI excavation in Sinauli

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Meerut, Nov 30: Amit Rai Jain, a Baghpat-based businessman, has found 16 coins made of silver and copper which have a bull and a horseman engraved on them.

He found the coins from a mound, known locally as the 'Katha mound' in Khekhra, close to the Delhi-Saharanpur highway, Sunday. Jain told reporters that some of the coins are from the late 12th century AD, which is the era of Rajput king Prithviraj Chauhan.



"I keep frequenting the area, which is rich in archaeological finds. This time, it revealed something considered fascinating in Indian numismatics. The coins which I found belong to a series of Rajput rulers who remained dominant in the region comprising Rajasthan, Haryana, and the western Gangetic plains from the eighth century to 12th

century AD," he said.

kings for a couple of centuries. Horse and bull inscriptions on coins were quite common in those days. Horses used to be the primary vehicle of soldiers during battles and their depiction on coins

dozen rulers between the seventh and 17th centuries used horses in some form or the other on their coins," he said.

Baghpat is well-known for the discovery of interesting historical artifacts, the most sensational being three chariots unearthed during the Archaeological Survey of India excavation held in Sinauli in June 2018, which marked the 'first-ever' physical evidence of Bronze Age chariots in India.

Jain is a member of the Culture and History Association, an or-In 2006, Sinauli had revealed Harappan-era burial grounds where ganisation comprising historians several discoveries were made such KK Sharma, head of the deas that of painted grey ware pottery, partment of history, Multanimal skeletons, bronze swords, and cop-Modi College, Modinagar, conper vessels.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 30: In a heartwarming gesture, a judge of the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court gave Rs 15,000 to a poor Dalit student who could not deposit the fees for allotment of a seat in IIT(BHU) after cracking it through joint entrance examination (JEE) advanced

The bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh directed the Joint Seat Allocation Authority and IIT(BHU) to admit the student in mathematics and computing (fiveyear, bachelor and master of technology, dual degree) course.

The bench also directed the BHU to create a supernumerary seat for the Dalit student if there is no seat vacant. The bench asked the student to report at BHU within three days along with the necessary documents for admission.

The bench passed the above order on a petition moved by the student, Sanskriti Ranjan, in person Monday. She had requested the bench that the Joint Seat Allocation Authority and IIT (BHU) may be directed to grant her time to deposit Rs 15,000 fees

She pleaded in the petition that she belonged to the Scheduled Caste category. She had secured 95.6 per cent marks in high school and 94

per cent in intermediate.

She appeared in the JEE for selection in IITs. She was successful in clearing the exam. She secured 92.77 per cent marks in JEE mains examination and secured her rank at 2062 as SC category candidate. Thereafter, the petitioner had applied for JEE advanced

The bench also directed the BHU to create a supernumerary seat for the Dalit student if there is no seat vacant

September 16, 2021 and cleared it October 15, 2021, with 1,469 rank in Scheduled Caste category.

The petitioner was allotted a seat at IIT (BHU) Varanasi for mathematics and computing (fiveyear, bachelor and master of technology dual degree) in the counselling. However, she could not arrange Rs 15,000 fees to be paid before the scheduled date.

Considering the peculiar circumstances of the matter, the judge himself volunteered to hand over Rs 15,000 to the student after court's hour and ensured in his order that she is given admissionin the IIT (BHU) within the next three days.

from western Uttar Pradesh.



national



The Prime **Minister offered** to debate "any issue", and on the first day and on the first item of business, the farm bills were repealed without a debate P CHIDAMBARAM CONGRESS LEADER

FRESH REVELATION

People with blood groups A, B and Rh+ are more susceptible to Covid-19 infection whereas O, AB and Rh- are at lower risk of infection, according to a study released Tuesday by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

TRIBUTE TO HEROES





A total of 348 security personnel and 195 civilians were killed in Jammu and Kashmir in last five years in terror related incidents

NITYANAND RAI UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME

The legislators decision to join the party was not an overnight decision and they had deliberated for long how to protect the interests of the people of the state, which was not possible under

the central Congress leadership MUKUL SANGMA FORMER MEGHALAYA CM

BSP supports the demand of OBC community for caste census. Due to 'iatiwadi mansikta' (casteiest mentality), the Centre is ignoring the demand

MAYAWATI BSP SUPREMO

SHORT TAKES

Gold seized

Hyderabad: Customs officials at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here seized 472.8 grams gold in paste form from seat pockets of a flight that arrived from Guwahati. Acting on specific intelligence, Customs sleuths recovered in gold paste form worth Rs. 23.33 lakh. The Customs department booked a case for smuggling of gold against an unknown passenger arriving by 6E187 from Guwahati on Monday. An official said on Tuesday that efforts were on to track down the passenger.

Boy rescued

New Delhi: A minor boy, who was kidnapped from the national capital five days back, has been rescued by the Delhi Police from Mumbai, an official said here Tuesday. According to the official, the missing complaint about the 10-year-old boy was lodged by his mother on November 25 at station, after which the cops swung into action and registered an FIR under Section 363 of the Indian Penal Code. "We launched a massive manhunt at various shelter homes, railway stations and bus stands, but to no avail," DCP R. Sathiyasundaram said.

No revoking suspension of 12 MPs, says Naidu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: Members of Congress and other opposition parties Tuesday staged a walkout from Rajya Sabha after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu justified the suspension of 12 MPs for the entire winter session of Parliament, saying they haven't shown any remorse for their act of sacrilege of the House in the previous session in August.



12 opposition MPs) was moved, it was approved, action is taken, it is final," Naidu said as he rejected an appeal by the Leader of the **Opposition and senior Congress** leader M Mallikarjun Kharge to revoke the suspension.

Naidu said he was not considering Kharge's appeal as the suspended MPs have not shown any remorse, but on the contrary, justified their acts."You try to mislead the House, you disturb the House, you ransacked the table, you also threw papers on the chair and also some of them have got on to the table and then you are giving me lessons.

This is not the way," he said. "I don't think the appeal of the Leader of the Opposition is worth considering. I am not considering it at all," he added. Raising the issue when the House met for the day, Kharge said the motion for suspension moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi was in gross violation of the rules and action was taken in the current winter session of Parliament for alleged "unruly" conduct in the last session.

Also, the rules require the chair to name the members before a mo-

THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS NOT CONSIDERING KHARGE'S APPEAL AS THE SUSPENDED MPs HAVE NOT SHOWN ANY REMORSE, BUT ON THE CONTRARY, JUSTIFIED THEIR ACTS

SIX OF THE SUSPENDED MPs ARE FROM THE CONGRESS, TWO EACH FROM TRINAMOOL CONGRESS AND SHIV SENA, AND ONE EACH FROM CPI AND CPM

tion of suspension is moved, which did not happen when the 12 MPs were suspended on a government motion on November 29, he said, adding that the chair had on Monday not even allowed him to raise of point of order, which according to the well-settled conventions of Rajya Sabha is always permitted. A member named by the chair has to withdraw from the proceedings of the House.

Six of the suspended MPs are from the Congress, two each from Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena. and one each from CPI and CPM. Naidu also rejected Kharge's contentions of action being taken on deeds done in the last session, saying the Rajya Sabha is a "continuing institution" and the Chairman of the House is empowered to suspend members for unruly conduct

under rules 256, 259, 266 and other residuary powers. He said the chair had on August 10. when the opposition members cre-

ated a ruckus in the House demanding discussion on certain issues, named the members. "Chairman can take action and also the House can take action. What happened yesterday (November 29) is not chairman taking action, it is the house, after a resolution moved, that has taken action," he said.

Opposition MPs, however, objected to his comment that the House took the action by passing the resolution by voice vote as they felt only the treasury benches had given affirmative response to the motion moved by Joshi. "Not the House. except some opposition parties. I agree," Naidu remarked.



pears that the doctors of the hospital had not followed the operation protocols," Sharma said.

"We will take strict action against the hospital and doctors for such serious negligence," Sharma said. Ram Murti Singh, a native of Sonversha village in Sheohar district and a victim who is suffering from a severe infection in the left eye, said: "We learnt that a mega eye check up camp was being organized by the hospital on November 22. Accordingly, I came to the hospital where doctors said

The incident took place at an eye hospital in Juran Chapra locality of the city November 22. **Muzaffarpur civil** surgeon Vinay Kumar Sharma confirmed the incident

that I have cataract. They conducted an operation on one eye. After four hours, my eye started paining. When I contacted the doctors, they gave me a painkiller tablet and also an injection."

"The painkiller injection gave me temporary relief. After a few hours, pain again started in my eye," Singh said. Meena Devi, a resident of Mushari locality in Muzaffarpur said: "After the operation, I felt immense pain in my eye. When I contacted the doctors, they gave me a painkiller injection. They discharged me the next

day." "When I went to the hospital the next day (November 24), the doctor rebuked me for negligence. When I strongly protested, they suggested the removal of the infected eye. As there is no one in my family, I permitted them to proceed which they did," Meena Devi said.

Harendra Rajak, a relative of Ram Murti Sharma said: "Nine patients who got severe infection went to Patna for check up. The doctors in Patna informed us that the severe infection was due to wrong operation procedure. They also suggested removal of the operated eye otherwise it would create further complications in the other eve or brain.

20 students Covid positive INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

1,678 Kashmiri migrants returned to J&K: Govt

Newly-appointed Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar pays tribute to martyrs at National War Memorial in New Delhi **25 LOSE EYESIGHT IN BIHA**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Nov 30: At least 25 persons got severe infection in their eyes and eventually lost their eyesight after they underwent a cataract operation at a hospital in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, an official said Tuesday.

The incident took place at an

eye hospital in Juran Chapra lo-

cality of the city on November 22. Muzaffarpur civil surgeon Vinay Kumar Sharma confirmed the incident. "We learnt that 25 persons, who underwent cataract operations, are suffering from severe infection in one eye. The doctors have now suggested the removal of the infected eye. We have constituted a three-member committee headed by the blindness control in-charge of the district to probe the incident in a time bound manner and submit a report. Prima facie, it ap-

151 custodial deaths this year, says Centre

Bodies found

Unnao: The bodies of a voung couple were found hanging from a tree in an orchard in Mishri Gani village under Ajgain police circle in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh Tuesday. The police identified the bodies as that of Saurabh. 21 and Kishori. The two were in love but their respective families were against the relationship. According to police reports, Saurabh went to Kanpur on Monday and took Kishori with him. On Tuesday, their bodies were found hanging in the orchard and the police spokesman said that it appears to be a case of a suicide pact.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: As many as 1,678 Kashmiri migrants have returned to Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 for taking up jobs under the Prime Minister's Development Package-2015, the government told parliament Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said that as per information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, the land of 150 applicants has been restored.

'As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, after abrogation of Article 370, a total of 1,678 migrants have returned to Kashmir for taking up the jobs under the Prime Minister's

Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated by the central government on August 5, 2019

Development Package-2015," he said in a written reply to a question.

Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated by the central government on August 5, 2019. The state was also divided into two Union Territories. The minister said the govern-

ment has taken various measures to restore ancestral properties to

migrant Hindus. Under the Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Property Immovable (Preservation, Protection & Restraint on Distress Sales) Act, 1997, District Magistrates (DMs) of concerned Districts in Jammu and Kashmir are the legal custodians of the immovable properties of migrants, who take suo motto action on eviction proceedings in cases of encroachment.

He said the migrants can also request DMs in such cases. The DMs are further empowered to take all steps for the preservation and protection of such properties. The government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched a portal on September 7, 2021 to address the grievances of Kashmiri migrants in this regard, he said.

OMICRON CONCERNS

Mumbai, Pune, Nashik postpone schools' reopening

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 30: A total of 151 custodial deaths have been reported in the country this year with Maharashtra reporting the highest at 26, the Lok Sabha was informed Tuesday.

Maharashtra reported maximum 26 deaths in police custody followed by Gujarat (21) and Bihar (18). About 11 deaths each in police custody were reported from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Responding to BJP MP Varun Gandhi's question, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said that according to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), 151 cases of death in police custody were reported November till 15.

As per the seventh Schedule of the Constitution, police and public order are state subjects. "It is primarily the responsibility of the



state government concerned to appropriately prevent and ensure non-occurrence of police atrocities and protect the human rights of the citizens," Rai said.

Underlining that the custodial deaths or violations involving the state police and jail authorities also fall within the jurisdiction of the state governments, he said: "In view of this, the Central Government does not intervene directly in the matters of custodial deaths. The Centre has issued advisories and the NHRC has issued guidelines and recommendations to be followed by the states/UTs in all cases of custodial deaths," the minister said.

ternational airports in the state

in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur, be-

sides those arriving from other

states, by flights originating from

The BMC has already an-

nounced that a 14-day institu-

tional quarantine regime will be

compulsory for all such passengers

and home isolation will not be

permitted under any circum-

stances. The state, major cities

and district health authorities

are gearing up to face the challenge

of Omicron by readying hospi-

tals, beds, ICUs, liquid medical

oxygen stocks, medicines, doc-

tors, para-medical and non-med-

ical staff, and other health infra-

structure to cater to a possible

patient rush in the coming weeks,

even as Covid-19 vaccination drive

has gained momentum.

the 12 nations.

Bangalore, Nov 30: The district administrations are on high alert after 13 students of a government-run residential hostel in Hassan and seven medical college students, including an internee, tested positive for Covid-19, the health department officials said Tuesday

Following the detection of positive cases at the Morarji Desai hostel of Guramaranahalli village in Channarayapatna taluk of Hassan and Chamarajanagar Medical Sciences Institute have been sealed off by the authorities. All infected students of the hos-

tel have been shifted to a Covid Care Centre. All are asymptomatic and recovering well according to the health department. It has been decided to conduct tests on primary contacts of the infected students.

The infections were found in the routine RT-PCR tests conducted by the health department for every 15 days. The hostel students affected with Covid-19 are studying in Class 6 to 10. All of them have been isolated and are being treated. The Covid tests were conducted

on 325 students of the Chamarajanagar Medical Sciences Institute in which seven tested positive. About 500 primary contacts of the students and staff were tested and their results are negative. The tests were conducted on further 150 students and their test results are awaited.

The district administrations have initiated strict monitoring of the situation and are trying to contain the infection within the clusters. Fortunately, the infectious disease has not spread to residential localities.

Recently, More than 280 persons were tested positive for 🔫 Covid in Dharwad's SDM Medical College. The infections were also reported from Bengaluru International Boarding school. However, the authorities have successfully handled the situa-tion and the infection has not spread so far.

New Delhi: Four people, including two children, were found dead at a house in northern Delhi's Siraspur village, an official said here Tuesday. According to police, the man was identified as Amit(30), his wife(25), and two kids aged six and three years. The cause of death is yet to be ascertained, however, prima facie it appears to be a case of suicide, the official said. "We are looking at all possibilities and even if it is a case of suicide, circumstances that prompted them to take the extreme step needs to be probed. An investigation has been initiated into the case," he said.

Four of family found dead

Mumbai, Nov 30: Amid concerns of the Covid-19 variant Omicron, the reopening of schools from Class 1 to 7 has been postponed by 10-15 days in Mumbai, Pune and Nashik, officials said here Tuesday.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation Commissioner I.S. Chahal and Pune Municipal Corporation Mayor Murlidhar have said that schools in the two cities -- both among the worst-hit in the Covid-19 two waves in 2020 and 2021 -- will now reopen from December 15.

Similarly, the Nashik Municipal Corporation, which was also among the badly-hit cities in the past two years of the pandemic, has also postponed the schools reopening plan to December 10.



However, all schools in the rest of Maharashtra are likely to reopen from December 1, for Class 1 to 5 in the rural areas and 1-7 in the

urban areas with full Covid protocols, as announced earlier by School Education Minister Prof. Varsha E. Gaikwad.

However, all schools in the rest of Maharashtra are likely to reopen from December 1, for Class 1 to 5 in the rural areas and 1-7 in the urban areas with full Covid protocols

Taking precautions, the BMC is currently tracking all passengers who have arrived in the city from the 12 Omicron-hit nations since November 10 to detect if any of them are infected by the new strain.

The state government has also sought information on all passengers landing at the three in-









International



We're not going back to lockdowns. None of us want that SCOTT MORRISON | AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

UK WATCHDOG ORDERS FB OWNER META TO SELL GIPHY

The UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) Tuesday ordered Facebook's parent company Meta to sell online database and search engine Giphy, as the \$315 million acquisition could harm social media users and UK advertisers



uote

We're throwing everything we have at this virus, tracking it from every angle. This variant is a cause for concern, not a cause for panic

JOE BIDEN US PRESIDENT

Moscow is equally worried about NATO drills near its borders. The emergence of such threats represents a

red line' for us VLADIMIR PUTIN RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

The Palestinian side is still extending its hands to achieve a just and

comprehensive peace in accordance with the two-state solution and the international resolution under the

auspices of the international Ouartet

MAHMOUD ABBAS PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Court convicts ex-IS member

Berlin: A former member of the Islamic State group was convicted by a German court Tuesday of genocide and committing a war crime over the death of a 5-year-old girl he had purchased as a slave and then chained up in the hot sun to die. The Frankfurt regional court sentenced Taha Al-J., an Iraqi citizen whose full last name wasn't released because of privacy rules, to life imprisonment and ordered him to pay the girl's mother 50,000 euros (\$57,000).

NYC okavs safe sites for drug use

New York: The first officially authorised safe havens for people to use heroin and other narcotics have been cleared to open in New York City in hopes of curbing overdoses, the mayor and health commissioner said Tuesday. The "overdose prevention ce

New variant poses 'very high' risk

The world is already unnerved by the more contagious Delta variant that filled hospitals again in many places, even in some highly vaccinated nations, the latest developments underscored the need for the whole globe to get their hands on vaccines

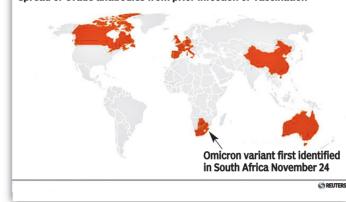
AGENCIES

Brussels, Nov 30: The World Health Organisation warned that the global risk from the omicron variant is "very high" based on the early evidence, saying the mutated coronavirus could lead to surges with "severe consequences." The assessment from the UN Health agency, contained in a technical paper issued to member states. amounted to WHO's strongest, most explicit warning yet about the new version that was first identified days ago by researchers in South Africa. New findings about the coronavirus's omicron variant made it clear Tuesday that the emerging threat slipped into countries well before their defenses were up, as two distant nations announced their first cases and a third reported its presence before South African officials sounded the alarm. Netherlands' RIVM health institute found omicron in samples dating from November 19 and 23. The World Health

Organization said South Africa

Omicron variant detected around the world

The World Health Organisation classified Omicron as a "variant of concern," due to the number of mutations that might help it spread or evade antibodies from prior infection or vaccination



first reported the the variant to the UN health agency November 24. Meanwhile, Japan and France reported their first cases of the new variant that has forced the world once again to pinball between hopes of returning to normal and fears that the worst is vet to come. It re-

mains unclear where or when the variant first emerged or how contagious it might be — but that hasn't stopped wary nations from rushing to impose travel restrictions, especially on visitors coming from southern Africa. Those moves have been criticized by South Africa

Omicron brings vax inequity 'home to roost'

London: The emergence of the new omicron variant and the world's desperate and likely futile attempts to keep it at bay are reminders of what scientists have warned for months: The coronavirus will thrive as long as vast parts of the world lack vaccines. The hoarding of limited Covid-19 shots by rich countries — creating virtual vaccine deserts in many poorer ones - doesn't just mean risk for the parts of the world seeing shortages; it threatens the entire globe. That's because the more the disease spreads among unvaccinated populations, the more possibilities it has to mutate and potentially be come more dangerous, prolonging the pandemic for everyone.

and the WHO has urged against them, noting their limited effect.

The latest news though made it increasingly clear that travel bans would struggle to stop the spread of the variant German authorities said they had an omicron infection in a man who had neither been abroad nor had contact with anyone who was.

The WHO warned Monday that the global risk from omicron is 'very high" and that early evi dence suggests it may be more contagious. Others sent more reassuring messages, like European Medicines Agency chief Emer Cooke, who insisted that the 27-nation European Union was well prepared for the variant. While it is not known how effective current vaccines are against omicron. Cooke said the shots could be adapted within three or four

Overconfident China could make

months if need be. But nearly two years after the virus first held the world in its grip, the current response echoed in many ways the chaos of the early days, including haphazard travel bans and a poor understanding of

who was at risk and where. Face coverings are mandatory in shops and public transport from Tuesday as part of "targeted measures" to slow the spread of the Omicron variant, 22 cases of which have now been detected in the UK after Scotland and England reported further infections.

Individuals linked with all new cases, identified in the East Midlands, the East of England, London and the North West, are all isolating and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said work is underway to identify any links to travel to southern Africa.

in its western Xinjiang province and

was trying "to distort public dis-

course and political decision mak-

ing across the globe", Moore said.

aganda about Western frailties and

underestimates Washington's

resolve," he said. "The risk of

Chinese miscalculation through

The Chinese embassy in London

did not immediately respond to a

request for comment on Moore's

remarks. China has repeatedly hit

back at Western criticism of its

actions, saying that the path set

by its Communist Party has lifted

hundreds of millions of people

over-confidence is real.

"Beijing believes its own prop-

Zemmour, French far-right pundit, **launches Prez run**

AGENCIES

Paris, Nov 30: A far-right former TV pundit with multiple hatespeech convictions officially entered the race for France's presidency Tuesday and warned his supporters that they will likely be called racists for backing his antiimmigration and anti-Islam views that have already shaken up the election campaign.

The launch of Eric Zemmour's run for the presidency made official a candidacy that had been gathering steam for months before it then stumbled of late - notably after the 63-year-old raised a middle finger at a woman who did likewise to him over the weekend.



That flash of temper — which Zemmour later acknowledged on Twitter was "very inelegant" cast fresh doubt on the temperament and electability of the author and former journalist who has polled in low double digits since September despite having no hands-on political experience.

Zemmour has drawn comparisons in France to former US President Donald Trump because of his rabble-rousing populism and ambitions of making the jump from the small screen to national leadership.

Name-dropping Joan of Arc, Napoleon Bonaparte, Gen Charles de Gaulle and others who shaped France's history, Zemmour announced his candidacy in a prerecorded video, reading from notes and speaking into a large microphone. The pose evoked imagery of radio addresses that De Gaulle famously delivered during World War II as he urged France to rally to his call against Nazi Germany.

Iran strikes hard line as talks over N-deal resume

The US has imposed a slew of sanctions on Iran since the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran



Tehran, Nov 30: Iran struck a

lesday after just one day

miscalculations: British spy chief

London, Nov 30: An overconfident and assertive China under President Xi Jinping and Communist Party rule risks making miscalculations on the international stage, including underestimating the resolve of the United States, Britain's spy chief said Tuesday.

In his first major public speech as chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) known as MI6, Richard Moore said China and Russia were racing to master technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

The world's spy masters, from Langley to Moscow, are grappling

with the transformation of China into a superpower challenging the post-Cold War dominance of the United States militarily, economically and increasingly in espionage.

"Adapting to a world affected by the rise of China is the single greatest priority for MI6," Moore, 58, said in a speech in London.

Listing areas where Beijing has become more assertive, he singled out China's desire to "resolve the Taiwan issue, by force if necessary" as "a serious challenge to global stability and peace". China considers the democratically-ruled island to be part of its territory.

China had stripped Hong Kong citizens of rights, carried out abuses

RA(GIN(GINFERN())

out of poverty.

commonly known as supervised injection sites have been discussed for years in New York and some other US Cities and already exist in Canada, Australia and Europe

14 killed in military chopper crash

Baku (Azerbaijan): A

military helicopter crashed in Azerbaijan during a training flight Tuesday, killing 14 people and wounding two more, Azerbaijani authorities said. The helicopter of Azerbaijan's State Border Guard service crashed Tuesday morning during a flight over the Garaeybat training ground in the east of Azerbaijan, according to a ioint statement of the border guard service and Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General's office.

Blast rocks Kabul

Kabul: A blast, obviously a roadside bomb rocked Darul Aman road on the western edge of the Afghan capital Kabul Tuesday morning, leaving no casualties. spokesman for Interior Ministry Qari Sayed Khosti said.

of restarted talks in Vienna over its tattered nuclear deal, suggesting everything discussed in previous rounds of diplomacy could

be renegotiated. Speaking to Iranian state television, Ali Bagheri, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, referred to everything discussed thus far as merely a "draft.'

It remained unclear whether that represented an opening gambit by Iran's new president or signalled serious trouble for those hoping to restore the 2015 deal that saw Tehran strictly limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. The United States left the deal under then-President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran in 2018. Since the deal's collapse, Iran now enriches small amounts of uranium up to 60 per cent purity — a short step from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. Iran also spins advanced centrifuges barred by the accord, and its uranium stockpile now far exceeds the accord's lim-

room as in previous rounds of talks since Washington's withdrawal.

deal, though the negotiations con-

tinue with US Officials not in the

"Drafts are subject to negotiation. Therefore nothing is agreed on unless everything has been agreed on," Bagheri said. "On that basis, all discussions that took place in the six rounds are summarised and are subject to negotiations. This was admitted by all parties in today's meeting as well." That directly contradicted comments Monday by the European Union diplomat leading the talks. "The Iranian delegation rep-

resents a new administration in Tehran with new understandable political sensibilities, but they have accepted that the work done over the six first rounds is a good basis to build our work ahead, so no point in going back," Enrique Mora said. Another state TV segment saw Bagheri in Vienna saying Iran demanded a "guarantee by America not to impose new sanctions" or not re-impose previously lifted sanctions. Mohammed Eslami, the country's

civilian nuclear chief, reiterated that demand in comments to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency.



Lava flows as volcano continues to erupt on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain

PTI PHOTO

Barbados says goodbye to Queen, transforms into republic

SEVERAL LEADERS AND DIGNITARIES. INCLUDING PRINCE CHARLES. ATTENDED THE CEREMONY THAT BEGAN LATE MONDAY IN A POPULAR SOUARE WHERE THE STATUE OF A WELL-KNOWN BRITISH LORD WAS REMOVED LAST YEAR AMID A WORLDWIDE PUSH TO ERASE SYMBOLS OF OPPRESSION

Moscow: A Moscow court fined Alphabet Inc.'s Google 3 million roubles (\$40,400) Monday for not deleting content that it deemed illegal, part of a wider dispute between Russia and the US tech giant. Russia in October threatened to fine Google a percentage of its annual Russian turnover for repeatedly failing to delete banned content on its search engine and YouTube, in Moscow's strongest move yet to rein in foreign tech firms

Russia fines Google

San Juan (Puerto Rico), Nov 30: Barbados stopped pledging allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II Tuesday as it shed another vestige of its colonial past and became a republic for the first time in history. Fireworks peppered the sky at midnight as Barbados officially became a republic, with screens set up across the island so people could watch the event that featured an orchestra with more than 100 steel pan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

its. President Joe Biden has said

players and numerous artists. It was also broadcast online. prompting a flurry of excited mes-

sages from Bajans living in the US, Canada and beyond. "Happy Independence Day and freedom to all." wrote one viewer.

The drive to become a republic began more than two decades ago and culminated with the island's Parliament electing its first ever president last month in a two-thirds majority vote.

Barbados Governor General Sandra Mason was scheduled to be sworn in before dawn Tuesday as the island marked its 55th independence from Britain, Mason, 72, is an attorney and judge who also has served as ambassador to



Prince Charles, right, receives the Order of Freedom of Barbados from Governor General Sandra Mason during the ceremony to declare Barbados a Republic in Bridgetown. (AFP)

Venezuela, Colombia, Chile and Brazil. She will help Prime Minister Mia Mottley lead the wealthy Caribbean island of more than 300,000 people that is dependent on tourism, manufacturing and finance. Barbados did not need permission from the UK to become a republic, although the island will remain a member of the Commonwealth Realm. It's an event that the Caribbean has not experienced since the 1970s, when Guyana, Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago became republics.

Barbados became independent from the United Kingdom in November 1966, more than three centuries after English settlers arrived and turned the island into a wealthy sugar colony based on the work of hundreds of thousands of African slaves.

In recent decades, the island has begun distancing itself from its colonial past. In 2005. Barbados dropped the London-based Privy Council and chose the Trinidadbased Caribbean Court of Justice as its final court of appeal. Then in 2008, it proposed a referendum on the issue of becoming a republic, but it was pushed back indefinitely.





business



Let us extend a cautious welcome. It is NOT yet a 'V' shaped recovery. The fine print will bear that out P CHIDAMBARAM | FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 9.3 PC IN JAN-MAR 2021: NSO SURVEY

Unemployment rate for all ages in urban areas rose to 9.3 per cent in Januarv-March 2021 from 9.1 per cent in the same month of the previous year, showed a periodic labour force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO).





We felt that the management of the Shriram Group cannot be entrusted only to one individual however talented he may be.

It would be beneficial if the responsibility of guiding the organization and building it more and more, as we go along, is handled by a few people who are really talented in different areas

R THYAGARAJAN FOUNDER SHRIRAM GROUP



ambitious restaurant entrepreneurs look for investors, investors also hunt for brands and teams that have the potential to become the next big chain

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thousands of knowledge creators like teachers, fitness instructors and digital marketing professionals to monetize their expertise and connect digitally

with interested learners AARTHI ELIZABETH CHIEF BRAND EVANGELIST, TRAINERCENTRAL



Extramarks unveils new brand identity

New Delhi: Extramarks, India's most trusted EdTech giant, announced the launch of its new logo, visual identity, and category positioning. The latest version of the learning app is available for both iOS and Android device users. As a part of this launch, the company's flagship product -Extramarks, the Learning App has undergone a complete experiential overhaul. Extramarks has integrated all its applications in the K-12, JEE, NEET segments and its school-based solutions like assessment center and live class into a single platform.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 30: Equity indices surrendered early gains to close in the red Tuesday, mirroring the nervousness in world markets about the impact of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus on global economic recovery.

A depreciating rupee and unabated foreign fund outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

After rallying over 900 points in intra-day trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared all gains to settle 195.71 points or 0.34 per cent lower at 57,064.87.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty declined 70.75 points or 0.41 per cent to 16,983.20 -- closing below the 17,000mark for the first time in three months

Tata Steel was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, tumbling 3.87 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Bajaj Auto, M&M, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank and Maruti. On the other hand, PowerGrid, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle India, Bajaj Finance and Infosvs were among the gainers, jumping up to 3.43 per cent.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said domestic indices started the session on a strong footing amid optimism in global markets follow-



Global markets spiralled lower after Moderna's **CEO Stephane Bancel** warned that vaccines are unlikely to be as effective against **Omicron as they have** been against Delta

ing the US President's announcement that lockdowns are currently off the table.



"However, the optimism was quickly substituted with a sudden sell-off in the domestic market as global equities slipped into negative territory following Omicron experts' advice to be cautious. Defying the market trend, IT and healthcare stocks along with mid and small caps traded with gains," he noted. Global markets spiralled lower after drugmaker Moderna's CEO

Stephane Bancel warned that COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to be as effective against Omicron as they have been against the Delta variant.

₹26,697cr lying in dormant accounts of banks, says FM PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

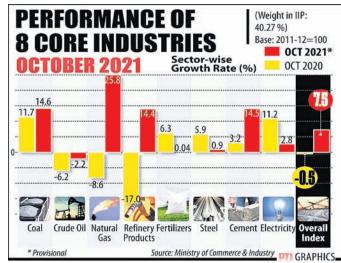
New Delhi, Nov 30: As much as ₹26,697 crore was lying in dormant accounts of banks, including cooperative banks, as on December 31, 2020, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha Tuesday.

This money is lying in nearly 9 crore accounts which have not been operated for 10 years.

As per information received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as on December 31, 2020, the total number of such accounts in Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) was 8,13,34,849 and the amount of deposits in such accounts was ₹24,356 crore, Sitharaman said in a reply.

Similarly, she said, the number of accounts not operated for more than 10 years and the amount in such accounts with Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) was 77.03.819 and ₹2.341 crore. respectively, as on December 31, 2020. "The number of deposit accounts (Public deposits matured but remaining unclaimed for 7 years including the year in which they have matured) and the amount in such accounts with Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) was 64 and ₹0.71 crore, respectively as on March 31, 2021," she said. As per the instructions issued by the RBI to banks vide their Master Circular on "Customer Service in Banks", banks are required to make an annual review of accounts in which there are no operations for more than one year.

Centre's fiscal deficit at 36pc of FY22 estimate



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Union government's fiscal deficit works out to be ₹5.47 lakh crore or 36.3 per cent of the budget estimates at the end of October 2021 on the back of improvement in revenue collection. according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) Tuesday.

The deficit figures in the current fiscal appear better than the previous financial year when the gap between expenditure and revenue had soared to 119.7 per cent of the last year's Budget Estimates (BE) mainly on account of a jump in expenditure to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit was ₹5,47,026 crore at the end of October, the CGA said. For the current financial year, the

government expects the deficit at 6.8 per cent of GDP or ₹15.06 lakh crore. Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA Limited, said despite the likely revenue foregone from the excise and customs duty relief, the gross tax revenue of the central government is likely to exceed the 2021-22 BE by a significant ₹1.8 lakh crore, of which around ₹60,000 crore would

be shared with the states. "Adding the higher than budgeted surplus transfer by the RBI to the extra net tax revenues, we expect the Government of India's net revenue receipts to exceed the 2021-22 BE by ₹1.7 lakh crore," she said. According to the CGA, the Government of India received about ₹12.79 lakh crore (64.8 per cent of corresponding BE 2021-22 of total receipts) up to October, 2021 comprising ₹10.53 lakh crore tax

8 core industries output up 7.5 pc

New Delhi: The output of eight core sectors rose by 7.5 per cent in October on healthy performance by coal, natural gas, refinery products and cement segments, official data released Tuesday showed. The production of eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity had contracted by 0.5 per cent in October 2020, according to the data released by the commerce and industry ministry. Core sectors' growth stood at 4.5 per cent in September this year. The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). During April-October this fiscal, the sectors' output rose by 15.1 per cent as compared to a contraction of 12.6 per cent in the same period of the previous year.

revenue (net to centre), ₹2.06 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and ₹19,722 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory, a multidisciplinary tax consultancy firm, said the budgeted GST collection was almost ₹1 lakh crore a month and already in seven months in this fiscal the mop-up has reached ₹8 lakh crore.

"Increase in GST rates of textiles, solar panels, footwear, job work in alcohol industry, packaging materials, including various circulars on supplies like mining, icecreams clarifying that higher GST rates are applicable, have paved the way for consistently increased GST collections going forward too." Jalan added

'India to have 500mn 5G subscriptions by 2027-end'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: 5G is on track to become the dominant mobile access technology in terms of subscriptions globally by 2027 with 5G representing around 39 per cent of mobile subscriptions or 500 million users at the end of 2027 in India, telecom gear maker Ericsson said Tuesday

5G is expected to account for around 50 per cent of all mobile subscriptions at a global level – covering 75 per cent of the world's population and carrying 62 per cent of the global smartphone traffic by the same time period.

Sharing the insights from its latest Mobility Report, Patrik Cerwall, Executive Editor of Ericsson Mobility Report, said there has been a 300-fold increase than expected demand in China



in mobile data traffic since 2011 the year in which the report was first published.

"5G will become the fastest deployed mobile generation to date ... Enhanced with an updated estimate of close to 660 million 5G subscriptions by the end of this year. The increase is due to stronger and North America, driven partly by decreasing prices of 5G devices," he said.

Cerwall added that there was also a net addition of 98 million 5G subscriptions globally in the third quarter of 2021, compared to 48 million new 4G subscriptions. At the end of 2021, it is estimated that 5G networks will cover more than

two billion people.

Since 2011, the deployment of 4G LTE networks has been pivotal in generating 5.5 billion new smartphone connections worldwide, contributing to the market availability of more than 20,000 different 4G device models. Also, mobile network data traffic was up 42 per cent, year-on-year, in the third quarter of 2021 accounting for approximately 78 exabytes (EB), including traffic generated by Fixed Wireless

Access (FWA) services. An exabyte is about one billion gigabytes.

In the September 2021 quarter alone, mobile data traffic was more than all mobile traffic ever generated up until the end of 2016. New forecasts reveal that total mobile network data traffic is likely to reach 370EB by the end of 2027

i në app ieverages tr proven pedagogy of learn-practice-test which encourages students towards wholesome learning.

Samsung launches Galaxy A32, 8GB

Bhubaneswar: Samsung India launched 8GB storage variant of Galaxy A32 that comes with RAM Plus feature for enhanced multitasking. The intelligent memory expansion provides 4GB additional virtual RAM, expanding Galaxy A32's 8GB memory to 12GB. Galaxy A32 comes with 64MP guad rear camera along with 20MP front camera. Galaxy A32 has 6.4" FHD+ sAMOLED Infinity-U screen with 90Hz refresh rate for smooth scrolling. browsing and gaming. Galaxy A32 delivers big on performance with its advanced Octa-Core Mediatek Helio G80 processor. It packs 5000mAh battery and comes with 15W adaptive fast charging. Galaxy A32 8GB+128GB is priced at ₹23,499.

Go Fashion shares jump STATE GOVT TO SET UP over 81 pc in debut trade **9MW SHEP IN BARGARH**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: Shares of Go Fashion, which owns women's clothing brand Go Colors, Tuesday listed with a huge premium and settled with over 81 per cent gains against its issue price of ₹690.

It listed at ₹1,316, reflecting a steep jump of 90.72 per cent on the BSE. The stock further surged 94.34 per cent to ₹1,341 during the day. It zoomed 81.53 per cent to close at ₹1.252.60.

On the NSE, it made its debut at ₹1,310, jumping 89.85 per cent. The stock rallied 81.20 per cent to close at ₹1.250.30.

In traded volume terms, 10.39 development, design, sourcing, lakh shares of the company were marketing and retailing of a range traded at the BSE and over 1.75 of women's bottom-wear products crore shares at the NSE during under the brand 'Go Colors'.



the day. The company commanded

a market valuation of ₹6.765.17

crore on the BSE. The initial pub-

lic offer of Go Fashion (India)

Limited last week received a whop-

The ₹1,013.6-crore IPO had a

The company is engaged in the

price range of ₹655-690 per share.

ping 135.46 times subscription.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: State Energy Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra said that one more 9 MW Small Hydro Electric Project (SHEP) will come up in Bargarh district by January, 2022.

Mishra reviewed the development of Small Hydro Electric projects (SHEP) in the state. He laid emphasis on facing the challenges from climate change and on increasing green power in the state. 'SHEPs are of great contribution after solar to meet the need for green power of the state. As of now, the state has achieved to realise potential of 99 MW from 5 SHEPs," the minister said.

Mishra advised the department

to expedite the other SHEPs in the pipeline. Citing the example of development of small, mini, micro hydro projects in Himachal Pradesh, the minister insisted on exploration of mini, micro category hydro projects in the state. Principal Secretary, Energy Department, Nikunja Bihari Dhal advised to expedite the preparation of Detail

Project Report (DPR) of the other potential sites.

It was revealed that two SHEPs of 18 MW and 20 MW on Machkund River will be implemented soon after the clearance of Joint Committee of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh governments.

The minister also insisted on spreading safety and energy conservation messages among the common people to prevent electrical accidents and create awareness about the efficient use of energy. He expressed satisfaction over the revenue collections from the industries towards Electricity Duty (ED) compared to last year. Industries are performing well as indicated from the electricity consumption of industries, he added.

UCO Bank's walkathon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 30: UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar organised a walkathon recently to mark the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Zonal Manager Arupananda Jena inaugurated the programme. All the staff members of Zonal Office, RTC, Field Inspectorate and Ashoka Market branch participated in the event. Customer meet and walkathon were also organised by other branches of the bank



On day-1, Star Health **IPO subscribed 12 pc**

New Delhi: The initial public offer of Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited was subscribed 12 per cent on the first day of subscription Tuesday. The three-day IPO received bids for 53,19,008 shares against 4,49,08,947 shares on offer, according to NSE data. The category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 64 per cent subscription and those for non-institutional investors 1 per cent. The initial public . offer (IPO) has a fresh issue of up to ₹2,000 crore and an offer for sale of up to 58,324,225 equity shares. Price range for the offer has been set at ₹870-900 per share.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Nov 30: The European Union Wednesday is set to unveil a multibillion-euro plan aimed at bolstering the 27-nation bloc's worldwide infrastructure and influence.

The programme is expected to mobilize up to 300 billion euros (USD 341 billion) in public and private funds by 2027. Although the European Commission, the EU's executive

branch, does not present the proj-

ect as an attempt to counter China's

massive infrastructure initiative

seeking to connect Asia with Africa

and Europe, the German ambas-

sador to the EU said the so-called

Global Gateway "has the potential

to turn the EU into a more effective geopolitical player.'

'For many partner countries, the offer of a rules-and-valuesbased cooperation at eye level will be an attractive alternative to the Chinese Belt and Road initiative. Michael Clauß said.

China's programme aims to develop markets and new trade routes connecting China with the rest of the world by weaving a network of ports, bridges and power plants that will yield diplomatic clout and global power.

Asked whether the 27-nation EU is trying to counter China's influence with its plan, commission chief spokesman Eric Mamer dodged the question.



EU set to unveil massive worldwide infrastructure plan

"We know that infrastructure communications are essential elements of modern life, and the commission is therefore intent on ensuring that we can cooperate with our partners across the globe in this

area constructively," Mamer said. The EU is China's biggest trading partner, but they are also economic competitors and strategic rivals. As Beijing has become more assertive in recent years, the bloc

For many partner countries, the offer of a rules-and-values-based cooperation at eye level will be an attractive alternative to the **Chinese BRI**

has struggled to balance its commercial interests with a country that it has human rights concerns about and sees as "a systemic rival."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in September that the goal is to invest in quality infrastructure, citing a new underwater fiberoptic cable connecting Brazil to Portugal and future investment in Africa to create a market for green hydrogen.

The plan also will favour investment in the health, education, climate and digitalization sectors.

Von der Leyen also pledged that the Global Gateway will be in line with high labor and environmental standards.

There are 25 million people out there, who are threatened or coerced into forced labour," she said. "We can never accept that they are forced to make products - and that these products then end up for sale in shops here in Europe. So we will propose a ban on productsin our market that have been made by forced labour."











SHORT TAKES

4 Indian officials chosen for 2023 WC

Bhubaneswar: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has appointed four Indian officials in various capacities for the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, Bhubaneswar - Rourkela. The FIH gave out this information late Monday night. The officials are Sonia Bathla (technical official), Col (Dr) Bibhu Nayak, Raghu Prasad and Javed Shaikh (both umpires). Congratulating the Indian officials on their appointment, Gyanendro Nigombam, president, Hockey India said, "It is a matter of great pride for Hockey India that our officials will represent at the marquee tournament in 2023. I wish all the four, my best wishes on their endeavours."

Eves remain static in ICC ODI rankings

Dubai: India batters Mithali Rai and Smriti Mandhana held on to their third and sixth spots respectively while all-rounder Deepti Sharma was also steady at fifth position in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings released Tuesday. Mithali had 738 points and Smriti 710 points in her kitty in the batting rankings. South Africa's Lizelle Lee topped the list with 761 points. Deepti with 299 points was behind West Indian all-rounder Hayley Matthews (319 points).

Bangladesh lose

Chattogram: Opener Abid Ali (91, 148b, 12x4) missed out on back-to-back centuries by nine runs but Pakistan comfortably chased down a 202-run target to beat Bangladesh by eight wickets in the first Test which ended here Tuesday. Abid and Abdullah Shafique (73, 129b, 8x4, 1x6)) put on 151 runs for the first wicket to set up the platform for the emphatic victory. After their departure, skipper Babar Azam (13 n o) and Azhar Ali (24 n o) completed the formalities. Mehidy Hasan and Taijul Hasan took a wicket apiece for Bangladesh.

China worried

Beijing: China has said that

the Omicron variant of the

organisers of the Beijing

coronavirus is a concern for

Winter Olympics. However, it

is confident that the Games

will be held as scheduled in

February. At a daily briefing

Tuesday, Foreign Ministry

BELGIUM HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHALLENGE THE INDIAN JUNIORS IN CRUCIAL GAME

Crunch time for colts



READY TO ROAR: The Indian colts go through their training drill Tuesday ahead of their quarterfinal encounter Wednesday against Belgium

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Their mojo back after two resounding wins, defending champions India would bank on their attacking instinct and drag-flicking prowess to outwit European giants Belgium in the quarterfinal of the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup here Wednesday. India had beaten the same opponent 2-1 in the finals of the last edition of the tournament to emerge champions.

India however, will have to play without committing too many errors, particularly in defence, as they will not get a second chance, this being the knockout stage of the tournament. So the Boys in Blue will have to play out of their skins.

India boast of a fiery attacking line-up with the likes of Uttam Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Sudeep Chirmako and Maninder

INDIA BELGIUN lost to France beat South Africa 4-5 beat Canada 13-1 drew with Malavsia beat Poland beat Chile 8-2

ROAD TO QUARTERFINALS

Singh. Uttam and Maninder, in particular, have been brilliant inside the opponents' circle. But the Belgian defence will also be stronger in comparison to the teams that India have played against so far. To add to India's strength is the

presence of penalty corner options in vice-captain Sanjay Kumar, Hundal, Shardanand Tiwari and Abhishek Lakra, and all of whom have scored in the tournament so far. Sanjay, in particular, has been in ominous form with set pieces and has registered back-to-back hattricks against France and Canada,

while Hundal also scored three

3-0 goals against Poland. The backline, however, remains

5-1

1-1

a concern and the likes of Sanjay, Tiwari, Lakra and Yashdeep Siwach will have to be on their toes to keep

who is in charge of the junior side for this tournament, sounded confident ahead of the crucial tie. However, he was quick to point out Belgium are a quality opponent.

from the senior team, and the senior team are the World no 1," the Australian said about Belgium. "You also saw some vulnerability

which the Malaysians exploited and we will look to do the same. The team that can come out and play their natural game will be the winners," Reid added.

OP PHOTO

Reid however, warned his boys to guard against complacency if they wish to secure a third Junior World Cup title and second on the trot.

"I don't really think that should be a problem, as far as taking these guys easy. Add to that the fact that we played them in the final. They (Belgium) do have a history of being really good...For the last 10 years, Belgium have been performing at that level. Hopefully, our guys can stay switched on, Reid stated.

In a big blow for India, striker Maninder Singh has been ruled out of the tournament with a hamstring injury and has been replaced by Bobby Singh in the squad.

Odisha FC players celebrate after a goal against SCEB, Tuesday

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY IN KOREA **POSITIVE INTENT** "Definitely the players are ex-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 30: With an eye on the Asian Champions Trophy title, the Indian women's hockey team left Tuesday for Donghae, Korea from here. The tournament. scheduled to be held December 5 -12. will see India up against China. Korea, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia in the single-pool competition. The eves will open their campaign December 5 against Thailand followed by matches against Malaysia (Dec 6), Korea (Dec 8), China (Dec 9) and Japan (Dec 11). The two top teams in the pool will play for the title, December 12. The eves will have a new captain in goalkeeper Savita, as regular captain Rani Rampal is undergoing rehab. Before the team's departure Savita said that the players are very positive and confident of doing well.

Odisha FC pip SCEB in 10-goal thriller quick to nod in a free-kick by Javi. The same pair then linked up again

2ND WIN ON THE TROT FOR KIKO'S SIDE

AGENCIES

Vasco, Nov 30: Hector Rodas and Aridai Suarez scored a brace each as Odisha FC came from behind to beat SC East Bengal (SCEB) 6-4 in a thrilling ISL match here Tuesday. Darren Sidoel (13th) opened the scoring for the Kolkata side with Semboi Haokip (80th) and Daniel Chima (90th, 90+2 added on time) also getting into the scoresheet.

However, goals from Rodas (33rd, 40th), Javi Hernandez (45th), Suarez (71st, 90+4') and Isak Vanlalruatfela (82nd) helped the Bhubaneswarbased side notched up a thrilling win and equal ATK Mohun Bagan with six points on top of the table. This was Odisha FC's second successive win.

SCEB started proceedings in a lively manner. Veteran Raju Gaikwad in one of his signature long throw-ins delivered the ball into the box. A mistimed clearance from the Odisha defence saw the ball finding Sidoel, who banged it into the top-right corner of the net.

Odisha FC then came into their own and took control of proceedings. An unmarked Rodas was

for Odisha to take the lead. Javi's corner-kick was headed into the goal by Rodas who left Gaikwad for dead inside the box. Then Javi curled the ball into the East Bengal net from a corner to make it 3-1 for Odisha FC just before the interval. Aridai's ballistic free-kick gave Suvam Sen in the SCEB goal no

chance as the former started the second-half goal show. Haokip nodded in a second-half consolation, heading in a swerving delivery from Mohd Rafique, but by then the match was in Odisha FC's grasp. Isak, who came on as a substitute, also joined the party with a sharp strike.

Chima too got his first two goals in SCEB colours in the dving minutes of the game, but Aridai delivered the final blow in a 10-goal thriller.

Odisha FC head coach Kiko Ramirez wasn't however, a very happy man despite the victory. He felt that the team have to improve their defensive qualities to challenge top teams in the ISL. "Our aim should be not to concede goals,' Ramirez said.



Franchises retain MSD, Kohli, Rohit; Hardik released

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: PRoyal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) retained their former captain Virat Kohli while Mumbai Indians predictably retained India's T20 captain Rohit Sharma and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah ahead of the IPL mega auction.

India's greatest white ball skip-

FEW MONTHS BACK, BOWLER WAS IN DOUBT ABOUT PLAYING TESTS AGAIN Ashwin thanks 'Bhajji Pa' EVES LEAVE WITH

AGENCIES

Kanpur, Nov 30: Basking in the glory of becoming India's third highest Test wicket-taker, senior offspinner Ravichandran Ashwin has revealed that he feared his career would not survive the chaos unleashed by the Covid-19 pandemic last year.

The 35-year-old Ashwin, who took Monday his 419th wicket in



the Belgians at bay. India's chief coach Graham Reid,

"You see the DNA comes down

spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Omicron would 'certainly bring some challenges in terms of prevention and control'. "However, I'm fully confident that the Winter Olympics will be held as scheduled, smoothly and successfully," Zhao asserted. China which maintains some of the world's strictest antivirus travel restrictions also said it will not allow overseas spectators at the Games.

Croatia in semis

Turin: Croatia became the first team to reach the Davis Cup semifinals after seeing off Italy 2-1. Going into the doubles tie Monday with the score reading 1-1, the Croatian doubles pair of Mate Pavic and Nikola Mektic had no problems in subduing the Italian duo of Fabio Fognini and Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-4. Borna Gojo set up Croatia's win by surprisingly beating higherranked Lorenzo Sonego 7-6 (7-2), 2-6, 6-2. Sinner evened the score for Italy when he beat former US Open champion Marin Cilic 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

his 80th Test to surpass Harbhajan Singh (417 in 103 Tests), said he thought his career was at 'crossroads' after India's New Zealand tour early last year. Incidentally Ashwin dismissed Tom Latham in New Zealand's second innings to go past Harbhajan's tally.

"To be verv modest about what is happening in my life and my career over the last couple of years, I did not know if I would go on to play Test cricket when we were in the pandemic, in the lockdown,' Ashwin said in an interview by India teammate Shreyas Iyer for the BCCI website

"I had not played (India's) last

Test in Christchurch (which began

February 29 2020) I was standing

at the crossroads thinking whether

the Test team which is the only

format I am playing. But God has

been kind and I have been able to

turn things around," Ashwin

JU'S

Ravichandran Ashwin talks to Shreyas Iyer during the interview BCCI PHOTO



Probably I never wished to surpass any of the legends but I am doing it. I am lucky and honoured to have done it

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

Ashwin said Harbhajan Singh in-Australia in 2001.

me," Ashwin stated

pointed out.

I would play Tests again, where is my future headed, do I get in to spired him to take up off-spin after he saw the veteran's exploits during the historic Test series against "When he (Harbhajan) was bowling that wonderful spell against Australia in 2001, I never thought I would even be an off-spinner (one day) on that particular day. But, inspired by him, I picked up the ball to bowl off-spin and here I am. Thank you Bhajji pa for inspiring

"It is a wonderful milestone. It is a matter of pride. I got my 200th wicket on the same ground and now I surpassed Harbhajan's tally on this very same ground again," Ashwin added.

Ashwin is now behind Anil Kumble (619) and Kapil Dev (434) in India's all-time list of highest Test wicket-takers.



"No doubt, we go in as a top ranked team but we don't want that reputation to create any added pressure. We just want to stick to our basics and ensure whatever we have planned is executed properly," Savita added.

Vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka too stated that the team can't rest on their laurels of doing well in the Olympics. She emphasised that this will be a fresh start to their season ahead. "We can't be complacent about exceeding expectations in Tokyo," the veteran defender said.

cited. This is our first tournament

after the Olympics and we have a

responsibility to do well. We have

quite a few youngsters who are

part of the team and will be mak-

ing their International debut, they

are also looking forward to this

exposure." Savita said.

per and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) talisman Mahendra Singh Dhoni is his team's second retention behind all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja while Ruturaj Gaikwad is the fourth name in the list. Moeen Ali has also been retained by CSK.

The major names to be released are out of form all-rounder Hardik Pandya and dashing keeper batter Ishan Kishan, who have been a part of Mumbai Indians (MI) core while leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and Purple Cap winner Harshal Patel have been released by RCB.

Punjab Kings released their last year's skipper KL Rahul, while SRH retained Kane Williamson and released star spinner Rashid Khan.

MI's decision not to retain Pandya did not come as a surprise as the all-rounder is struggling with injury and poor form. His inability to bowl must have prompted MI to take the decision. However, Chahal's release by the RCB must have come as a surprise to many.

Moin Shakeel (36th), Abdul

andManan (37th), Mohsin Hasan

(39th), Ali Ghazanfar (42nd), Muhib

Ullah (43rd), and Muhammad

Hammadudin (56th) were the other

Harendra Singh, scored both their

goals through penalty corner con-

versions by Finlay Quaile (30th,

40th). Pakistan will next play

South Africa in the ninth to 12th

Africa beat Canada 7-3 in another

ninth to 16th place match.

Incidentally, Harendra was the

coach of the side when India won

classification tie Thursday. South 🛁

USA, who are being mentored by former India player and coach

goal scorers for Pakistan.

PSG AND ARGENTINA STAR WINS AWARD FOR A RECORD-EXTENDING 7TH TIME Classification match of Jr World Cup hockey tourney Messi's hold over Ballon d'Or continues Pak hammer USA

Winning start

Kuala Lumpur: The topseeded Indian men's team won their first two matches in the 20th Asian Squash Championships here Tuesday. The women's team, seeded third, also began well, beating the Philippines 3-0 without dropping a game. In the men's section, the Indian team led by Saurav Ghosal, routed the Philippines 3-0. Ghosal, Mahesh Mangaonkar and Velavan Senthilkumar scored straight game wins over their respective opponents. Earlier, Ramit Tandon, Mangaonkar and Senthilkumar posted comfortable wins over their Iraqi opponents to get the team off to a flying start in the first match. AGENCIES

Paris, Nov 30: Lionel Messi won the men's Ballon d'Or award for a record-extending seventh time at a ceremony here Monday night. Incidentally he had won the last edition of the Ballon d'Or in 2019 before last year's awards were cancelled due to the pandemic. So now Messi is well ahead of arch rival Cristiano Ronaldo who has won the award five times. Between them they have won 12 of the last 13 editions with the exception coming in 2018 when Luka Modric claimed the prize. Alexia Putellas became the third

AGENCIES

winner of the women's award for an outstanding season with Barcelona and Spain. Messi had also bagged the Ballon



IN 7TH HEAVEN: Lionel Messi poses with the Ballon d'Or trophy

d'Or in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and in 2015. The 34-year-old scored 38 goals in 48 games last season for Barcelona and was part of the squad that won the Copa del Rey. Messi then led Argentina to Copa America glory in July which was the first major international title of his glittering career.

Messi had a tearful departure from the Camp Nou in August and joined Paris Saint-Germain. He has played just 11 games for PSG so far, scoring four goals.

Prolific Bayern Munich and Poland striker Robert Lewandowski finished second and Chelsea and Italy midfielder Jorginho was third in the voting by a jury of journalists from around the world. Ronaldo. meanwhile, came in sixth.

"I'm very happy to be here, happy

to keep fighting for new trophies, Messi said through a translator Monday. "I don't know how many years I have left, but I hope I win many more. I'd like to thank all my (former) teammates at Barcelona and Argentina.'

Messi finished with 613 points to top Lewandowski on 580. "I would like to say to Robert that it's an honor to be your rival, and everyone would say you deserved to win it last year," Messi said.

Jorginho was third with 460 points after helping the London club win the Champions League and his nation win the European Championship

Awarded by 'France Football' magazine, the Ballon d'Or has been given out to men every year since 1956 when Stanley Matthews won.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Abdul Rana scored four goals including a hat-trick while Abuzar found the net thrice as erstwhile Asian powerhouse Pakistan thrashed USA 18-2 to qualify for the ninth to 12th place classification match of

the FIH Junior hockey World cup here Tuesday. Already out of the knockout stage, it turned out to be a goal-

fest for Pakistan as Rana (27th. 33rd, 35th, 54th minutes) found the net four times, while Abuzar (14th, 28th, 57th) struck three field goals to toy with the USA defence. Rizwan Ali (20th, 46th) also scored two goals for the Asian side.

Meanwhile, in another classification match of the day, Poland eked out a close 2-1 win over Chile.

the trophy in 2016.

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