



## RATIONAL THOUGHTS

Actor Mrunal Thakur says women play an important role in men's lives and it should be presented that way

LEISURE P2



## OMICRON SCARE

The WHO warns the global risk from the omicron variant is "very high" based on the early evidence

INTERNATIONAL P10



## CRUCIAL MATCH

The Indian colts face Belgium for a place in the semifinals of the Junior WC hockey event

SPORTS P12

# GDP up by 8.4% in Q2 against 20.1% in Q1

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 30: Higher central fiscal spending as well as consumption recovery and healthy monsoon season accelerated India's Q2FY22 GDP growth rate to 8.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis. Besides, pent-up demand, higher exports along with a rise in service activity amid further improve-

ment in mobility supported the uptrend. The accelerated vaccination drive also played a role in this YoY rise as it brightened consumer sentiments. On a YoY basis, India's GDP growth rate had fallen by 7.4 per cent during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. On a sequential basis, the GDP growth rate during Q2FY22 was lower than the rise of 20.1

per cent recorded for Q1FY22. India's GDP at constant 2011-12 prices has been estimated at ₹35.73 lakh crore in Q2FY22, as against ₹32.97 lakh crore in Q2FY21. "GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 2021-22 is estimated at ₹35.73 lakh crore, as against ₹32.97 lakh crore in Q2 2020-21, showing a growth of 8.4 per cent as compared to 7.4

per cent contraction in Q2 2020-21," the National Statistical Office (NSO) said in its Q2FY22 GDP estimates. "Quarterly GVA at Basic Prices at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 2021-22 is estimated at ₹32.89 lakh crore, as against ₹30.32 lakh crore in Q2 2020-21, showing a growth of 8.5 per cent," it added. The GVA includes taxes, but excludes subsidies.

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

# MSP panel: Centre seeks names of farmer leaders

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 30: To constitute a committee for discussion on MSP and other issues, the Centre has sought five names from the Samyukt 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 have been protesting for a year. "Today, the Centre has asked for five names from SKM for the committee that will deliberate on the issue of minimum support price (MSP) for crops. We have not yet decided on the names. We will decide this in our December 4 meeting," Pal told PTI.



The SKM, an umbrella body of over 40 farm unions, has been spearheading the farmers' movement against the three farm laws and their other demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that a committee would be formed to take decisions on the subjects of promoting zero budgeting-

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

# Cyclonic storm to hit state Saturday morn

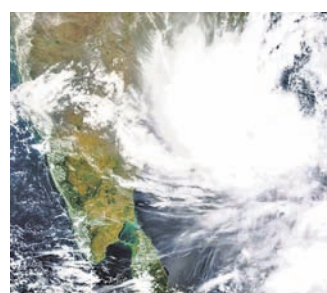
Met office predicts very heavy to extremely heavy rain at many places in state from Dec 3 to Dec 5

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday said the low pressure area formed over South Thailand would convert into a cyclonic storm by December 3 and cross the Odisha and Andhra coast by December 4 morning.

In a special bulletin, the Met office said the low pressure area, which now lies over South Thailand & its neighbourhood, is likely to move west northward and concentrate 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 morning of December 4.

Under its influence, rainfall activities will commence from the evening of December 3 and heavy to very heavy rain with extremely heavy rain is likely during



December 4 and 5 over coastal and interior Odisha.

The weather office said heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri and Jagatsinghpur December 3 and issued a yellow warning for these districts.

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

Mayurbhanj districts for December 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 from 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.

# Night curfew to stay, no zero night revelry

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 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,

## CURBS ON INT'L PASSENGERS

**NEW DELHI:** Strict norms for arriving international passengers, especially from 'at-risk' 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 test results come.

2021 and January 1, 2022.

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

# Retd dist judge to supervise Mamita probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 30: Retired district judge ABS Naidu will supervise the investigation into the murder of teacher Mamita Meher in Kalahandi district. Judge Naidu was entrusted 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 Bharatiya 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 DJG 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.

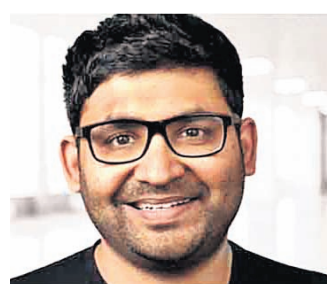
AGENCIES

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 leadership 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 forced 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 "May-ish" when he will also leave that position.

# NAVEEN ANNOUNCES SOPS FOR NEWSPAPER HAWKERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 hawkers at the state and district levels, and provide them with identity cards.

# leisure



## 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 knife-point 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 knife-point."

## 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

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**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. Ganesh 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 uncomfortable firm decisions on your own. Ganesh 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 successfully pay attention to your work post noon, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Early today, you may spend a great deal of time thinking about your career and future, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you will device a plan on how to go about it, and by evening, you may even put the plan into action. You will spend some time with the near and dear ones.

**LEO**  
The tiny voice inside us always tells us a lot of things. If only we were more in sync with ourselves, we could avoid so many troubles, says a retrospective Ganesh. Well, today it seems you are going to have no qualms 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 Ganesh. Your better half will try spicing up the relationship in the afternoon sometime. So keep fuelling the fires of love – a wildfire isn't always bad now, is it?

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will think twice before spending today. You shall try to save your money by bargaining too. The afternoon 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. Ganesh 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! Ganesh 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 Ganesh.

**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.

**AQUARIUS**  
Your creativity will come to the fore today. Music will give an outlet to your emotions and creativity, says Ganesh. 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; however, some unforeseen events in the evenings may spoil your mood, and may even create some confusion.

**PISCES**  
Your cauldron of conflicts boils over, says Ganesh. 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.

### 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.



Maggie 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. 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 Kathleen Collins with the Gotham's first Icon Tribute. IANS

## Sanju now Arunachal's brand ambassador

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 Mitra 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 Sonam Dorjee at a packed function in the presence of both Sanjay and Mitra, who arrived from Mumbai by a chartered flight to Dibrugarh and then by helicopter to the picturesque valley of Mechuka on the afternoon. A campaign executed by Rahul Mitra Films and

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



shot by ad filmmaker Shiraz Bhattacharya was kick-started on this occasion, featuring Sanjay catering to the target audience for



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

Mumbai: After making her debut opposite Hrithik Roshan in Ashutosh Gowariker's *Mohenjo-Daro*, Pooja Hegde took the pan-India approach and worked in various regional film industries. The actress always wanted to be recognised as an Indian actor rather than an actor limited to just one particular industry. Talking about being a part of different film industries across India, Pooja said, "God has been really kind to have given me the opportunity to showcase my talent in different film industries and be given so much love by the audience. I always wanted to be known as an Indian actor and not let the bar-

rier of language restrict my work. The idea is to do good work, work hard and prove your credibility." 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 my acting career." Pooja will soon be seen in Hindi films with *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali*, *Cirkus*, the multi-lingual *Radheshyam* and Kollywood film *Beast*. IANS

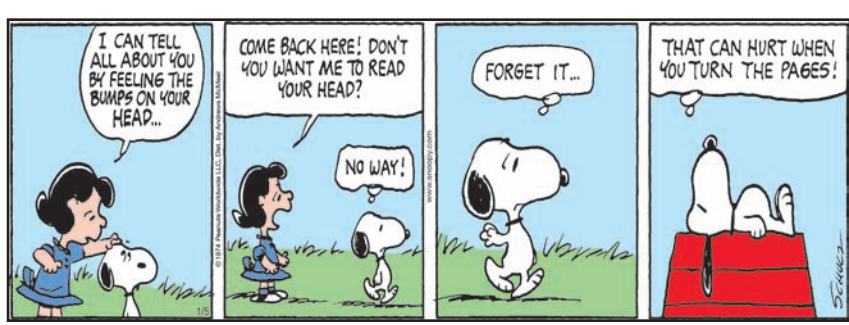


Pooja Hegde

## 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. "I 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 are firm and 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

### PEANUTS



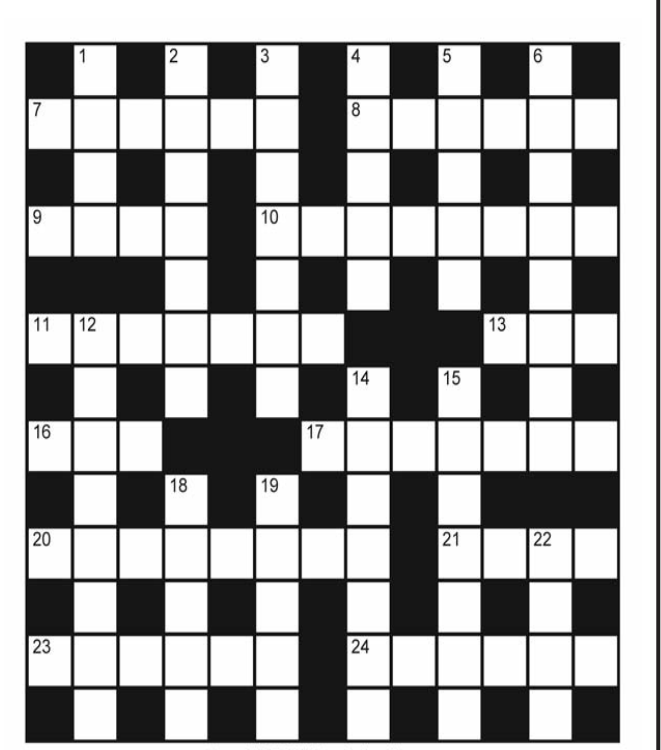
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



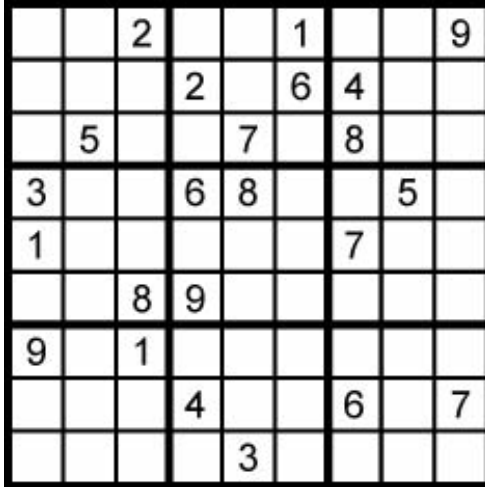
### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**  
7 Protect  
8 Tree droppings  
9 Blue-pencil  
10 Large jellyfish (3-2-3)  
11 Like some fans  
13 Foxy  
16 Female hare  
17 Chewy candy  
20 Snail dish
- Down**  
1 Garden intruder  
2 Sermon  
3 Unyielding  
4 Not very exciting
- Across**  
21 Chess piece  
23 Kind of artist  
24 Show the way
- Down**  
5 Faux pas  
6 Former French president (2,6)  
12 Armageddon finale  
14 Classifieds (4,3)  
15 Dracula, for one  
18 Small sample  
19 Ice house  
22 Taper

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



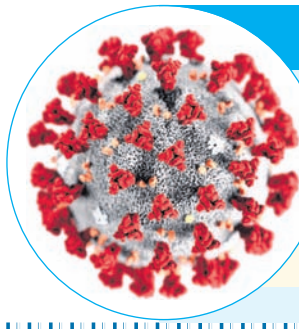
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## 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
World	26,26,56,063	23,71,86,853	52,28,963
India	3,45,87,822	3,40,18,299	4,68,980
Odisha	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 from 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.

The ministry also said in its reply that the average monthly paid out expenditure for crop production in Odisha was ₹1,587 and for farming of animals was ₹392.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

## 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 designated as 'honorary' and are provided with monthly honorariums and hence are not eligible to avail minimum wages. Despite the 7th Pay Commission mandating the monthly wage to be fixed at ₹18,000 for skilled workers, they barely receive this," Singh said.

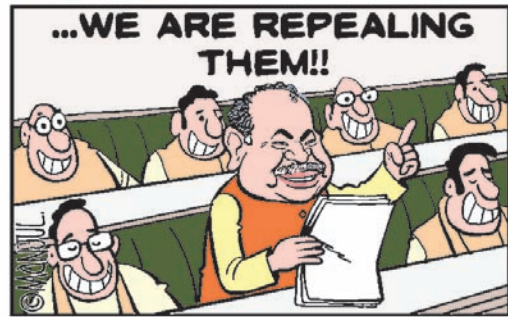
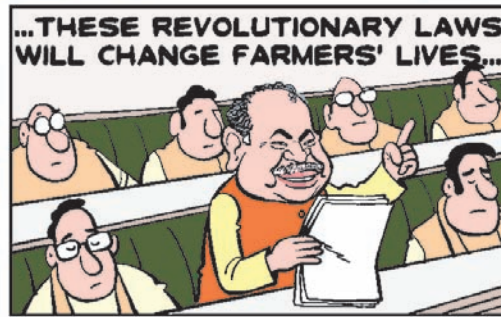
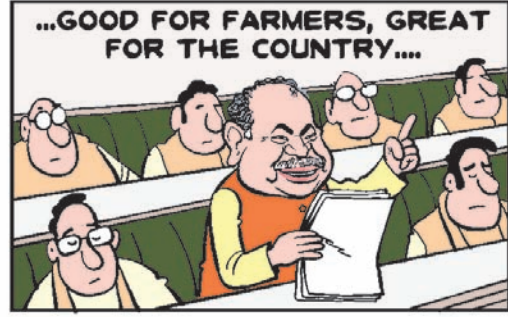
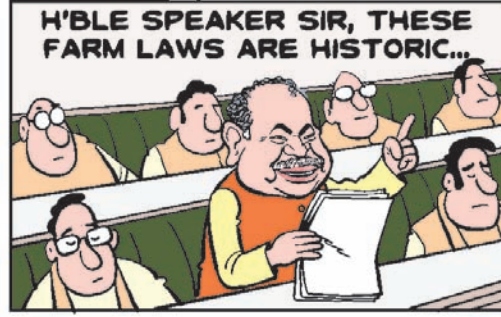
Highlighting the hardship faced by the Anganwadi workers, the

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 devaluing 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.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Oppn to corner govt over Mamita case

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 Ditya 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 decided 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-days under NREGA: Amar

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-

omy recovery is taking shape, the fact remains that pressure on rural jobs has increased all over the country. He asserted that the people's demand for jobs under NREGA has increased manifold.

"In Odisha, we have seen that as compared to 2019-20, in 2020-21, the increase is to the extent of 81 per

cent, so much so that we have been able to create about 20 lakh crore person-days of jobs in 2020-21," Patnaik said.

He also said the Odisha Chief Minister has made a request to the Union government to grant 25 lakh crore person-days for labour budget to Odisha for 2021-22.

"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," Patnaik said.

## 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 the 60 Years of Lok Seva 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.

# CM flags off 7 industrial projects, lays stone for 10



POST NEWS NETWORK

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 ₹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

his government has taken up 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.

## 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 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) secretary 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 Abhiyan.

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.

DSPL - 291

# KONARK FESTIVAL

1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 | OPEN AIR AUDITORIUM  
6.00 pm to 8.30 pm | Konark, India

**1<sup>st</sup> December**

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

**KATHAK**  
Dhwani  
Vaswati Misra  
& Group, New Delhi

**3<sup>rd</sup> December**

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

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**SATRIYA**  
Abhinaya Dance Academy  
Anita Sharma,  
& Group, Guwahati

**ODISSI**  
Nupur  
Niranjan Rout  
& Group, Bhubaneswar

**4<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**ODISSI**  
Suravi  
Pitambar Biswal  
& Group, Bhubaneswar

**5<sup>th</sup> December**

**ODISSI**  
GKCM Odissi Research Centre  
Bhubaneswar

**KUCHIPUDI**  
Shivamohanam  
Jaikishore Mosalikanti  
& Group, Chennai

Also Enjoy!

## INTERNATIONAL SAND ART FESTIVAL

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
CHANDRABHAGA BEACH, KONARK, ODISHA

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# national



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



### of the day quote

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 LEADER

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

## 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 COVID-19 being reported across various countries

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

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

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 (INSACOG) Guidance Document.

## 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 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 violation 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

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 "confidential and as such no details are getting disclosed".

"What we wish to do is, we will list this matter for disposal in second 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 during the hearing.

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.

In its order, the top court said Mallya is at liberty to advance the submissions and if for any reason, he is not present before the court, lawyer on his behalf can advance submissions.

The bench noted that Mallya was held guilty of contempt in 2017 but because of certain proceedings, 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.

### 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 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 Emeifele, Bright Odor, and Alex Oseh, are natives of Nigeria. "After verification of their credentials, it was found they were overstaying 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.

#### 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.

## VOICING CONCERN



Medical students and resident doctors hold placards and raise slogans during a protest demanding restructuring of academic fees, payment of COVID-risk allowance and timely payment of stipend to postgraduates and interns, at Victoria Hospital in Bangalore

## 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-in-law 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 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 lynching of All Assam Students' Union (AASU) leader Animesh Bhuyan in Jorhat city.

The students' body has announced to continue their protests until the perpetrators were given "exemplary punishment". 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 Police, Law and Order G. P.



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.

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.

## Omicron fear ups stress woes as India returns to normal

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

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 'KIRAN' 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 pandemic 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 guessing on alliance

INDO-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 (PSP), 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 PSP 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



**The clock is ticking away and I cannot endlessly wait for a decision. The SP chief should start talks at the earliest**

SHIVPAL YADAV | PSP CHIEF

Khan. I just want to reassure him that we are with him."

He said that he did discuss politics with Azam Khan and the latter also said that all Samajwadis should unite and contest elections.

Shivpal said that time was running 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 al-

liance. But things have changed 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 a winning position on a particular seat and then give the ticket. The winnability factor must be above everything else," he said.

The PSP leader said that he was ready for an alliance or merger, but there was no offer for talks from the SP president.

"The clock is ticking away and I cannot endlessly wait for a decision. The SP chief should start talks at the earliest," he added.

## Raj reinforces its health infra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, Nov 30:** Warning people that Covid-19 has not gone yet and is returning in new variant forms, Rajasthan Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena Tuesday said that health infrastructure is being ramped up in the state as there is a possibility of third wave hitting children.

The health minister said, "According to experts, a possible third wave of Covid can impact children. In such a situation, the basic infrastructure of all children 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," he added.

He also urged people to get vaccinated with both the doses as soon as possible.

People who have got the first dose of vaccine should not be careless in getting the second dose. Their carelessness can prove dangerous for their family, society, state and even the country. All district collectors have been instructed to vaccinate those who have not taken the second jab, by running a campaign, he informed.

In view of the shortage of oxygen 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-



**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

Two ministers in the Rajasthan 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 Ajay 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 lived with his grandparents in a

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 Ajmer.

After the resignation of Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Twitter announced Parag Agrawal as the new CEO of the company.

## LAW & ORDER



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

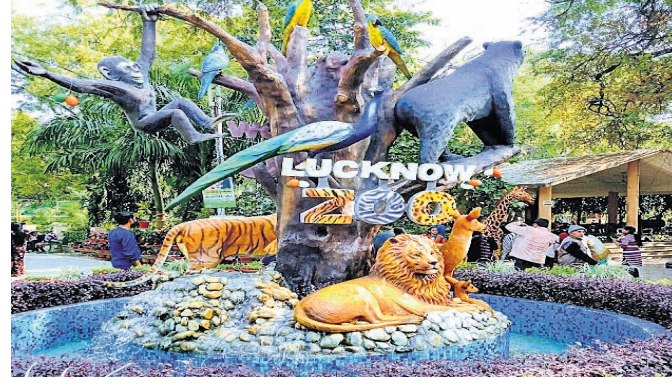
Minister was likely to be done on the birth anniversary of Vajpayee December 25.

The zoo completed 100 years Monday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed the centenary celebrations of the Nawab Wajid Ali Shah 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.



## Rajasthan's jobless protest in UP to meet Priyanka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Nov 30:** After carrying out shirtless agitations, offering 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 Eklitrat 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 government jobs for which recruitment exams have already been conducted,

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

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



"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.

Jain is a member of the Culture and History Association, an organisation comprising historians from western Uttar Pradesh.

KK Sharma, head of the department of history, Multinational Modi College, Modinagar, con-

firmed the antiquity of the coins. "This is an interesting find as the area remained with the Rajput 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 is not a surprise. In fact, close to two 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.

In 2006, Sinauli had revealed Harappan-era burial grounds where several discoveries were made such as that of painted grey ware pottery, skeletons, bronze swords, and copper vessels.

## Judge paves Dalit student's way to IIT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Nov 30:** In a heart-warming 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 (five-year, 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



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 (five-year, 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 admission in the IIT (BHU) within the next three days.







We're not going back to lockdowns. None of us want that

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



of the day quote

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 Quartet



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.

NYC okays 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.

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.

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.

Russia fines Google

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.

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

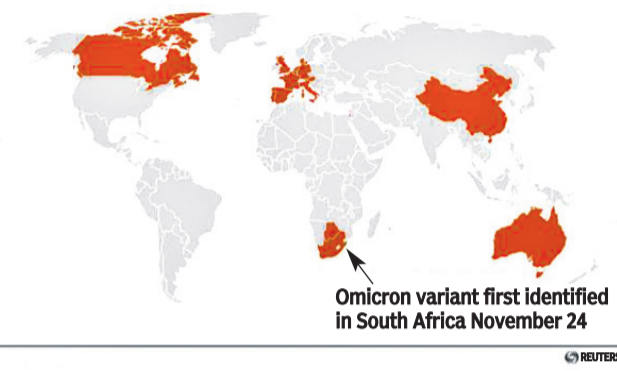
AGENCIES

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.

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



Omicron variant first identified in South Africa November 24

first reported 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 yet 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.

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.

The WHO warned Monday that the global risk from omicron is "very high" and that early evidence 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.

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.

Zemmour, French far-right pundit, launches Prez run

AGENCIES

Paris, Nov 30: A far-right former TV pundit with multiple hate-speech convictions officially entered the race for France's presidency Tuesday and warned his supporters that they will likely be called racists for backing his anti-immigration 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 pre-recorded video, reading from notes and speaking into a large microphone.

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



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tehran, Nov 30: Iran struck a hard line Tuesday after just one day 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.

America's willing to re-enter the deal, though the negotiations continue with US Officials not in the room as in previous rounds of talks since Washington's withdrawal.

"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 represents 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.

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

Overconfident China could make miscalculations: British spy chief

REUTERS

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 had stripped Hong Kong citizens of rights, carried out abuses

in its western Xinjiang province and was trying "to distort public discourse and political decision making across the globe", Moore said.

"Beijing believes its own propaganda about Western frailties and underestimates Washington's resolve," he said. "The risk of Chinese miscalculation through over-confidence is real."

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 out of poverty.



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 SQUARE WHERE THE STATUE OF A WELL-KNOWN BRITISH LORD WAS REMOVED LAST YEAR AMID A WORLDWIDE PUSH TO ERASE SYMBOLS OF OPPRESSION

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 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.

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 Trinidad-based 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

## of the day quote

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

We are excited to announce the launch of Zomato Wings, a platform to connect investors with restaurants. Just like ambitious restaurant entrepreneurs look for investors, investors also hunt for brands and teams that have the potential to become the next big chain

DEEPIKA GOYAL | ZOMATO FOUNDER & CEO

The rise of online learning, further fuelled by the pandemic-induced restrictions, has allowed 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



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 January-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).



## Sensex, Nifty end in the red as Omicron worries haunt markets

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.

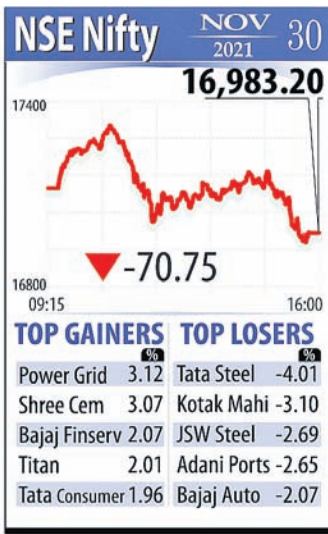
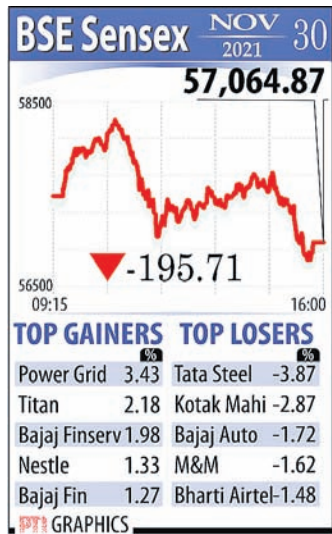
A depreciating rupee and unabated foreign fund outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

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 17,000-mark 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 Infosys 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.

## '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



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 than expected demand in China

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

## Go Fashion shares jump over 81 pc in debut trade

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 lakh shares of the company were traded at the BSE and over 1.75 crore shares at the NSE during



the day. The company commanded a market valuation of ₹6,765.17 crore on the BSE. The initial public offer of Go Fashion (India) Limited last week received a whopping 135.46 times subscription.

The ₹1,013.6-crore IPO had a price range of ₹655-690 per share. The company is engaged in the development, design, sourcing, marketing and retailing of a range of women's bottom-wear products under the brand 'Go Colors'.

## EU set to unveil massive worldwide infrastructure plan

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 project as an attempt to counter China's massive infrastructure initiative seeking to connect Asia with Africa and Europe, the German ambassador 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-values-based 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.



"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

## ₹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 co-operative 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.

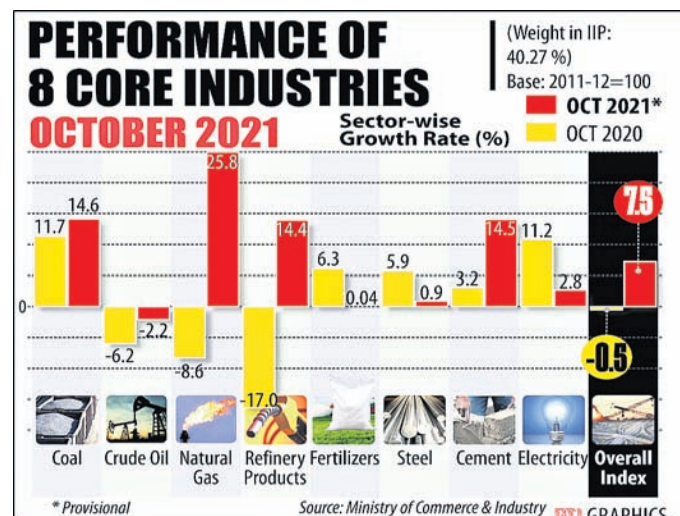
As per information received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as on December 31, 2020, the total number of such accounts in Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) was 8,13,34,849 and the amount of deposits in such accounts was ₹24,356 crore, Sitharaman said in a reply.

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 ₹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

## 8 core industries output up 7.5 pc

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 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, ice-creams clarifying that higher GST rates are applicable, have paved the way for consistently increased GST collections going forward too," Jalan 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.

