



SARA'S NOTE
Actor Sara Ali Khan expresses gratitude to film directors Aanand L Rai and Rohit Shetty for giving her opportunity
LEISURE P2



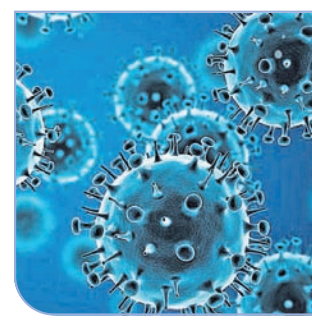
BOOSTING CONNECTIVITY
China Friday launched the first USD 6 billion cross-border train of its multi-billion-dollar BRI from Laos
INTERNATIONAL P10



MAYANK SCORES TON
Mayank Agarwal scores an unbeaten century to help India reach 221/4 at stumps on Day 1 of the 2nd NZ Test
SPORTS P12



Gita Gopinath to take No. 2 role at IMF
Washington: Gita Gopinath, IMF's chief economist has been promoted as its First Deputy Managing Director, recognising her exceptional intellectual leadership in helping the global economy and the Fund to navigate the 'twists and turns' of the 'worst economic crisis of our lives.' Gopinath would replace Geoffrey Okamoto who plans to leave the IMF early next year, Kristalina Georgieva, IMF's MD announced. Gopinath, 49, who was scheduled to return to her academic position at Harvard University in January 2022, has decided to stay, she said.

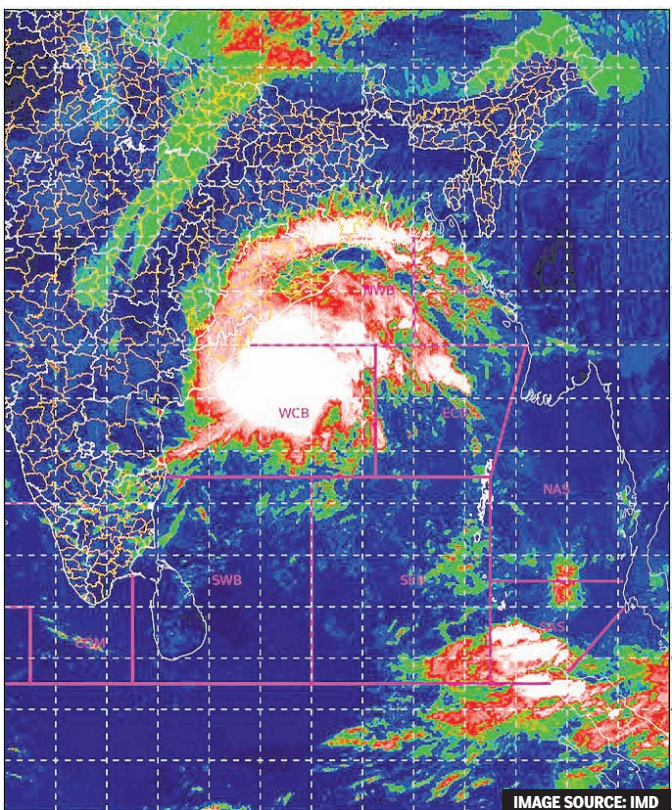


Covid hits Jr Hockey WC, 1 tests positive
Bhubaneswar: COVID-19 hit the ongoing FIH Junior Hockey World Cup here after an incident-free week with one positive case being reported Friday. Despite being held inside a bio-bubble and all media persons covering the event subjected to RT-PCR tests every 48 hours, one person, who has been accessing the media centre at Kalinga Stadium, tested positive in RT-PCR test conducted Thursday. The person who tested positive is a social media team member of Department of Sports and Youth Services (DSYS), government of Odisha.

JSW Cement
The Leaders' Choice
1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

Jawad landfall near Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Cyclonic storm 'Jawad' is likely to make landfall near Puri Sunday, the IMD said Friday.
The cyclonic storm is likely to reach the west-central Bay of Bengal off the coast of north Andhra Pradesh and Odisha by Saturday morning, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during a media briefing.
Thereafter, it is likely to recurve north-northeastwards, move along the coast of Odisha and adjoining Andhra Pradesh and touch the coast around Puri by December 5 noon, he said. The name of the cyclone - 'Jawad' - has been proposed by Saudi Arabia.
Heavy rainfall which started in parts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south coastal Odisha by Friday evening, was likely to increase in intensity Saturday.
A red warning has been issued for Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur districts.
The wind speed will increase up to 100 kmph from Saturday evening for the subsequent 12 hours, the central MeT office said. The cyclonic storm will intensify into a severe cyclonic storm in the sea for a temporary period, with wind gusting to 110 kmph, Mohapatra said.
Speaking to reporters here, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said, cyclonic storm Jawad is likely to make landfall somewhere in Puri district before heading out to the Bay of Bengal



"There's also a possibility of the cyclonic system changing its course, thus avoiding a landfall in Odisha. It could just pass along the coastline, with Puri experiencing a rub-off effect," the SRC said.
Jena said the state government is making necessary preparations to deal with eventualities in all coastal districts, with focus on Ganjam, Puri and Jagatsinghpur.
It has ordered the district administrations to start evacuating people from the low-lying areas.
"I spoke to director general, IMD, and he indicated that the landfall is expected to take place on Sunday. It will have more impact on the districts of Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara," Jena said.
The government has rushed re-

- STATE ON ALERT**
- Wind speed to increase up to 100 kmph from Saturday evening for subsequent 12 hours
 - No Sunday holiday for government employees of districts likely to be affected by Jawad
 - Schools in 19 districts to remain closed Saturday
 - There's a possibility that the cyclonic storm could just pass along the coastline, with Puri experiencing a rub-off effect
 - Red warning for Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur
 - NDRF earmarks 64 teams to tackle the situation

lief and rescue teams to the districts, which are more likely to get affected by the cyclone and accompanying rain. The SRC, however, said that there is no possibility of flood due to heavy rainfall, but streets might get waterlogged, both in urban and rural areas of the coastal districts.
Meanwhile, Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra held a video conference with collectors of the vulnerable districts and suggested measures to tackle the effects of the approaching cyclone.
Sunday has been declared a working day for state government employees in the districts which are likely to be affected by the cyclonic storm, while schools in 19 districts will remain closed Saturday. **MORE ON P3 & P7**

CHIEF MINISTER BREAKS SILENCE 'My govt committed to give justice to Mamita'

With proceedings of the Odisha Assembly remaining paralysed for the third consecutive day Friday over the Mamita Meher case, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asserted that the case is being 'politicised', and urged the Opposition to cooperate for the smooth functioning of the House



POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Following continuous attack by the Opposition over the sensational Mamita Meher kidnap and murder case, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday broke his silence over the issue and slammed the Opposition for politicising the crime.
Making a statement in the Assembly, Patnaik said his government is fully committed to ensure justice to Mamita Meher.
"The death of Mamita Meher was a very sad and unfortunate incident and we are all deeply anguished and pained by this heinous crime. She was a young and bright daughter of Odisha, having a brilliant future. Her death is a terrible and irreparable loss. My heart goes out to the family of the victim," he said.
"My government will ensure that no stone is left unturned to

see that the perpetrators of the crime are brought to justice as per law in the shortest possible time," Patnaik said.
"In the aftermath of this terrible incident, the manner in which this very sensitive and heinous crime has been politicised shocked me as well as the people of Odisha," he said.
"I, as the Chief Minister of Odisha have always worked to ensure justice for all especially for women and vulnerable sections of the society. Similarly, in this case we will move the competent court for fast track trial so that the perpetrators of the crime are brought to justice in the quickest possible time," Patnaik assured the House.
"To bring about transparency in the investigation of this case my government had written to the Orissa High Court to appoint a sitting judge, or a retired judge of the court or a district & sessions judge to monitor the investigation of the

Govt files probe status report in HC
CUTTACK: The state government Friday submitted the status report on the probe into the murder of teacher Mamita Meher. The government submitted the status report in a sealed envelope before a bench of Justice Bishwajit Mohanty. The HC had earlier nominated former district judge ABS Naidu to monitor the investigation. Mamita's family had approached HC to fast-track the hearing. **MORE P4**
"The HC has been pleased to appoint a retired district judge to monitor the investigation of the case. Now the entire police investigation will be subjected to judicial scrutiny, he pointed out.
Rejecting CBI probe demand of BJP, the CM said, "In the past there have been such sensitive crimes against women. These cases were later either investigated by CBI, or were subject to HC scrutiny or judicial inquiry. In no case were the state agencies found to be lacking in professionalism."
"Now, that this investigation is being monitored by the judiciary, if there is even an iota of evidence against anybody let it be brought to the notice of the court," Patnaik dared the Opposition leaders. **MORE ON P3**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why are the sessions so long if it takes only a couple of minutes to pass a bill?

Centre won't lift surplus parboiled rice from state

POST NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi, Dec 3: The Union government Friday expressed difficulty in lifting surplus parboiled rice from Odisha stating that this category of rice is not in demand in other states.
While responding to a question by BJD MP Sammit Patra in the Rajya Sabha, Union Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal said that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) can only procure what is in demand. He said parboiled rice is not in demand in other states.
"We can only distribute the kind of rice that people want to eat. We cannot force people to eat a particular type of rice. The Food Corporation of India can only procure the kind of rice that is in requirement in other states. Since parboiled rice is not a requirement in other states, the FCI cannot procure the excess rice under the central pool," the Union minister said.
He also informed the House that the state can produce parboiled rice as much as it is in demand in Odisha and the FCI will make reimbursement against that but excess parboiled rice will not be procured under the Central pool.
Earlier, the BJD MP had requested the Union government to direct the FCI to lift surplus parboiled rice from the state.
BJD MP Prasanna Acharya had also stated that the surplus parboiled rice in Odisha this year will be around 28 lakh tonnes. He urged the Union government to ask the FCI to lift the surplus parboiled rice from the state.



MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	57696.46	↓ 764.83
NIFTY	17196.70	↓ 205.00
DOLLAR	75.17	↑ ₹0.19
EURO	84.93	↑ ₹0.22
GOLD	₹47,718	↑ ₹317
SILVER	₹61,323	↑ ₹200

Lockdown should be 'last resort' to curb Omicron: WHO

Blanket travel bans will not prevent the international spread, and instead, they place a heavy burden on lives and livelihoods, the WHO said
AGENCIES
New Delhi, Dec 3: Imposing lockdown to curtail transmission of Omicron could prove to be very costly and should be used as a last resort, according to the World Health Organisation.
The new super mutant Covid variant, which contains more than 30 mutations on the spike protein



that the virus uses to infect human cells, has rapidly spread in South Africa and some other countries.
"Strengthening surveillance to rapidly detect importation of any new variant and transmission of existing virus and its variants, implementing calibrated public health and social measures and scaling up vaccination coverage, should continue to be our focus," WHO South-East Asia Regional Director, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, said in a statement.
While studies are underway to evaluate Omicron's transmissibility, severity, reinfection risk, and immune escape potential, preliminary evidence suggest higher transmissibility and potential immune escape that could lead to surge in cases.
However, "it is reasonable to assume that currently available vaccines offer protection against severe disease and death," Singh said.
She called for intensifying efforts to accelerate Covid-19 vacci-

nation coverage, and applying a multi-layered risk mitigation approach to potentially delay export or import of the new variant.
Following the news about the Omicron variant from South Africa and Botswana, many countries including the US, and the UK, moved to bring in travel bans or quarantines for travellers from a number of African countries.
But, according to Singh, blanket travel bans will not prevent the international spread, and instead, they place a heavy burden on lives and livelihoods. In addition, such bans can adversely impact global health efforts during a pan-

dem by disincentivising countries to report and share epidemiological and sequencing data.
"The option of imposing lockdown to curtail virus transmission, though effective, is a very costly measure and should be used as a last resort."
"We cannot and should not let the virus and its variants spread and mutate further and continue to challenge us. We need to do everything we can to curtail their spread. We know what to do. The pandemic has lasted just too long and is draining our precious human and other resources. We need to stop this," the Regional Director said.

INDIA GO DOWN IN SEMIS



Germany, Friday, ended India's title defense with a 4-2 victory in the second semifinal of the FIH Men's Junior World Cup as they set up summit clash with Argentina at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (REPORT ON P12)
PHOTO BIKASH NAYAK

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	26.3°C	26.6°C
MIN	17.6°C	17.0°C
Humidity	75%	73%
Rainfall	3mm	Nil

Forecast: Heavy rainfall very likely

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or other paranormal things. However, Ganesh warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

TAURUS
There is a strong likelihood of some dispute or misunderstanding cropping up between you and your parents. This, Ganesh assures, could easily be resolved through a positive, meaningful dialogue. You will be clear, coherent and persuasive in your communications.

GEMINI
Today, you will decide to become a bit more conscious about your health. You may or may not join a gym or measure your calories, but you will definitely sit up and take notice of your lifestyle and unhealthy food habits, predicts Ganesh.

CANCER
Today, you will be extremely impulsive and spontaneous, feels Ganesh. You better get rid of your negative thoughts and beliefs and start taking charge of things at hand. Also, stop focussing so much on the pitfalls, and start working.

LEO
If one were to put an earnest spirit and a frank attitude together, the result would be a Leo; it's like your hallmark. And with qualities like these in your kitty, don't be surprised if you happen to reach a milestone or two today. Will it be marital bliss or career success? No matter what the area is, be assured that your societal standing shall get a heady boost today, assures Ganesh. Just don't let the success go to your head.

VIRGO
The booster rockets of your ambitions and spirit to work will kick in at the maximum today. Seek recreation after a hard day's work and look to relax at private parties, social-dos and even weddings, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Expect some annoyance from the 'man in the chair', or people in charge who may be looking towards throwing a wench in your way. But know that it is just a blip on the radar. Your fortune is too powerful for anyone to affect it negatively.

SCORPIO
The crown jewel of your character will be your supreme confidence today. Try to pick up tasks that require Herculean efforts, and you shall come close to achieving them, predicts Ganesh. Your nerves and buoyant nature will be infective and also leave people awestruck.

SAGITTARIUS
The day may pan out to be more challenging than you had anticipated. An independent free bird as you Archers are, you may find really irritating to find your hands tied up in unpleasant money matters. But, then that's a part of life; put in your best to overcome any situation you come across.

CAPRICORN
You are armed with good communication skills, it helps you convince the most adamant of those around you. But, you'll need to hone this talent once again, says Ganesh. You'll look into heart of the matter and find the answers you have been searching for. As the day progresses, your creativity will come to the fore, impressing the people around.

AQUARIUS
Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a quicksand, and there is none out there to pull you out. But, the independent Aquarius is capable of dealing with adversities alone. And, that tendency shall hold you in a good stead even today.

PISCES
The mundane routine of daily life will finally catch up with you, and you will feel the urge to take a break and travel somewhere. And a break is well deserved considering the number of hours you have slaved over your current projects.



DANIEL RADCLIFFE HAS AN 'ODD' RELATIONSHIP WITH ROBERT

Actor Daniel Radcliffe has shared that he has an 'odd' relationship with former co-star Robert Pattinson and says that the two only communicate through the press.

KELLY ONCE STABBED HIMSELF WHILE TRYING TO WOO MEGAN

Musician Machine Gun Kelly, whose real name is Colson Baker, has revealed that he once accidentally stabbed himself while trying to impress actress Megan Fox, as he was trying to do cool tricks with a knife.



Stop persecuting the film industry: Siddharth

brings in, a simple example of how much money he had spent on watching a movie, when he watched a movie abroad, for the first time. "The first time I saw a movie abroad was 25 years ago. I used my student I-card and saw a movie for 8 dollars. That was Rs. 200 at the time. Today our films match all countries in technology, talent and employment... #SaveCinema", Siddharth's Tweet reads. Going on, about the same issue, the actor wrote: "A film's budget and scale is not decided by the consumer... It is decided by the creator and the investor. No individual has the right to decide how much anyone earns from cinema."

"Why is it that the film industry has to constantly be seen as a problem area by governments intent on telling them how to recover their investment?" the *Rang De Basanti* star questioned. Siddharth opined that the Government orders for ticket rates and limits on the number of shows, which comes under the violation of the MRTPA Act. "Give cinema and cinema halls a chance to survive. Please," he appealed. **WNS**

Hyderabad: Actor Siddharth, who recently appeared in the movie *Maha Samudram* alongside Sharwanand, had written a series of tweets Thursday questioning the government on low cap of movie ticket prices.

Siddharth suggested the Andhra Pradesh government, to calculate the average house rent and per capita consumer spending on durables, and then decide the prices of movie tickets. He also



Taapsee-starrer Shabaash Mithu gets release date

Mumbai: Celebrated cricketer Mithali Raj has received a special birthday surprise as the release date of her biopic, Taapsee Pannu starrer *Shabaash Mithu*, has been announced. The film is set for a grand theatrical release February 4, 2022. The film chronicles the highs and lows, setbacks and moments of euphoria of Mithali's life with Taapsee Pannu essaying the part on the silver screen.

Excited to step into the shoes of Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj, Taapsee had previously shared, "It's going to be a tough project because of two reasons. Firstly, I will have to pick up the game of cricket, and second, I will have to enact Mithali on screen. It is tough to play her because she is absolutely the opposite of how I am. She is extremely calm, reserved, well-poised and speaks her mind eloquently. I am more of an impulsive person, I say things without processing them well enough." Directed by Srijit Mukherji, this sports drama will also stars Vijay Raaz in a key role.

Interestingly, arriving on the same date is Rajkummar Rao and Bhumi Pednekar's entertaining drama *Badhaai Do*. Directed by Harshvardhan Kulkarni, *Badhaai Do* is a sequel to the National Award winning comedy drama, *Badhaai Ho*. This film stars Rajkummar Rao in the role of a Delhi cop named Shardul. While Bhumi Pednekar essays the role of a PT teacher by the name of Sumi. **WNS**

Sara's heartfelt note for her directors

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan, who will soon be seen in *Atrangi Re* along with Akshay Kumar and Dhanush, has expressed her gratitude to her upcoming film director Aanand L Rai and her *Simmba* maker Rohit Shetty for giving her the opportunity to be a part of their films.

The actress took to her Instagram and shared a collage of their photographs in her story where the three can be seen indulging in a funny conversation. Using her rhyming skills to portray her love for the directors, Sara wrote: "Only love, respect, gratitude and a little masti (fun). *Aapki bacchi always hasi* (your kiddo is always smiling)."

Earlier, during the wrap of *Simmba*, Sara also thanked Rohit Shetty for his warmth, guidance, patience during the shoot. The actress is now awaiting the release of *Atrangi Re*, which has been produced by T-Series, Cape Of Good Films and Colour Yellow Productions. The film directed by Aanand L Rai and written by his long time collaborator, Himanshu Sharma, is all set to stream on Disney+ Hotstar from December 24. **WNS**

Ali joins Gerard Butler in Kandahar

Mumbai: Actor Ali Fazal is all set to star in an action thriller titled *Kandahar* alongside Gerard Butler.

Kandahar, is being directed by Ric Roman Waugh, who has directed films like *Angel Has Fallen*, *Felon*, *Greenland* and an upcoming film with JK Simmons *National Champions* among many others.

Commenting on being a part of the project, an excited Ali said: "I always look forward to new and exciting ventures. We are all set to begin production soon".

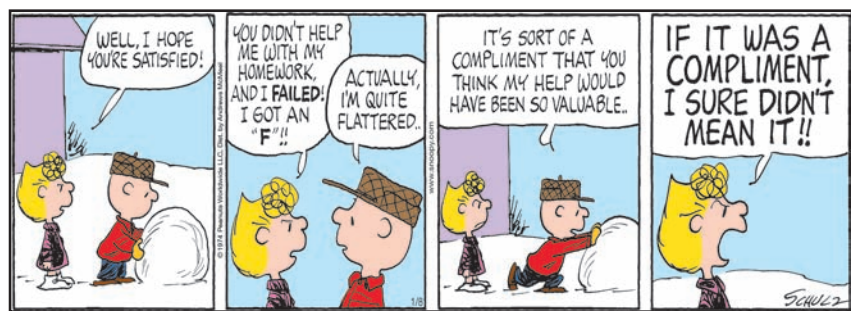
Kandahar is based on the screenplay which the director developed in tandem with former military intelligence officer Mitchell LaFortune. Mitchell's experiences at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Afghanistan have shaped up the story and the principal photography of the film is expected to begin soon in Saudi Arabia. The film is being produced by Thunder Road Films, the producers of the *John Wick* and *Sicario*, G-BASE and Capstone Group.

Back at home, Ali will be soon seen in an untitled Arati Kadav film. The actor took to his Instagram a few days back to share the first look of the futuristic space film. **WNS**



FUN post

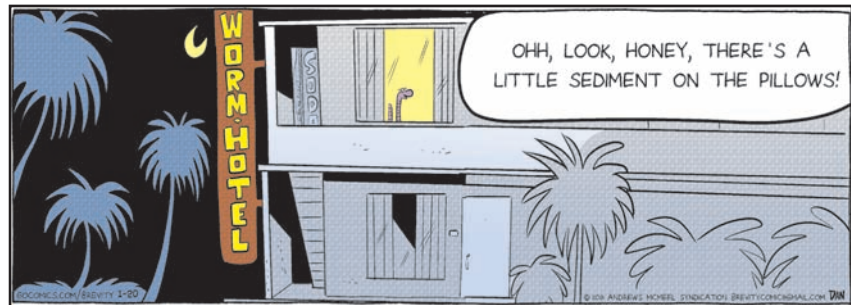
PEANUTS



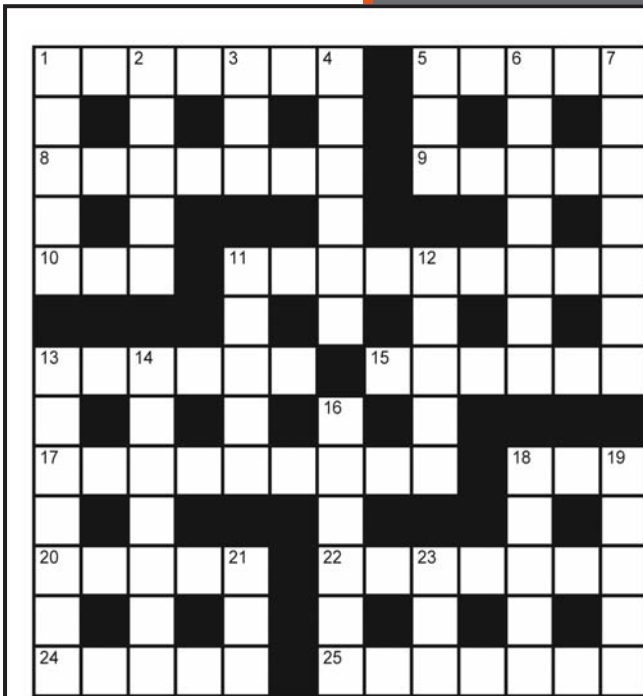
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



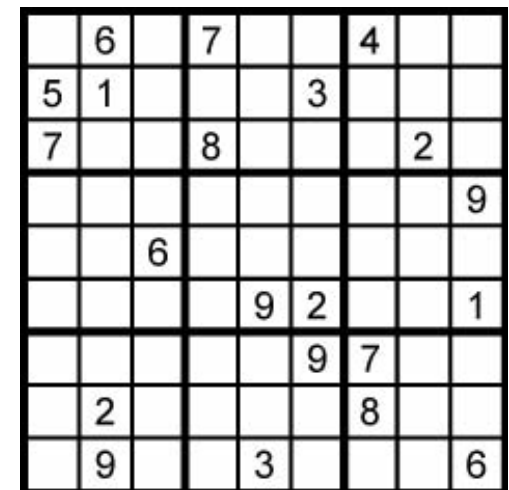
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Distended
 - 5 Childhood disease
 - 8 Perfumed
 - 9 Really big fiddle
 - 10 Jacuzzi
 - 11 Run into
 - 13 Era
 - 15 The prince in "The Prince and the Pauper"
 - 17 Guardrail
 - 18 Milk source
 - 20 Ancient Mexican
 - 22 Raise
 - 24 Divided land
 - 25 Small bag
 - 7 Scrubbed
 - 11 Irregularly notched
 - 12 Below
 - 13 Coach's exhortation (3,4)
 - 14 Nature's alarm clock
 - 16 Tension
 - 18 Motor accident
 - 19 Cart part
 - 21 Chinese tea
 - 23 Break bread

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

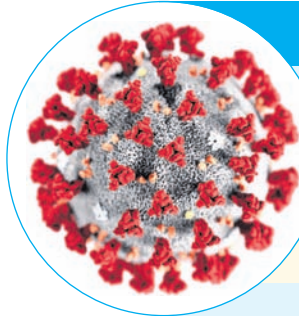


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



GST EXEMPTION PLEA

Kendu leaf workers hold a demonstration at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday, seeking GST exemption among other demands



COVID-19 TRACKER

Table with 4 columns: Category, Infected, Recovered, Dead. Rows include World, India, and Odisha.

Should we dump surplus rice in Bay of Bengal: BJD to Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 3: Cautioning over countrywide farmers' agitations, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Prasanna Acharya Friday urged the Union government to start procuring parboiled rice from Odisha and other states and not create more problems for farmers.



When the entire country is in turmoil and farmers are agitating over their problems, you are adding another problem for them

PRASANNA ACHARYA | BJD MP

parboiled rice, should we throw all our surplus rice into the Bay of Bengal?" asked the BJD MP.

assurance in February that all surplus parboiled rice from Odisha will be procured by the Centre. "Unfortunately the Union government has taken a U-turn. This is going to hamper the procurement severely. We are going to face a cyclone. There is every possibility of heavy rain in the next 2-3 days. The rice and paddy is in the field. So, it is going to hamper the interest of the farmers and put the state government in turmoil," Acharya added.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

Open Aawaas+ app for a month: BJD

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra Friday urged the Union government to open the Aawaas + mobile app for a month in order to ensure that people of Western Odisha, scheduled areas and KBK regions are prioritised and six lakh houses are provided to them at the earliest.

CM appeals for cooperation in smooth conduct of House



BJP MLAs sprinkle 'Ganga Jal' in front of the Assembly building and sweep the place as part of their protest over Mamita Meher murder case, Friday OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Amid relentless protests by the opposition parties over Kalahandi teacher Mamita Meher murder case, leading to frequent disruptions in the House, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday appealed to the agitating members to cooperate in the smooth conduct of the Assembly.

It will be a travesty if the members of the House are not allowed to discharge their Constitutional duties. This is also setting a wrong precedent and such attempts can be misused anytime

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

The state is bracing for a winter cyclone in the next 48 hours. Worldwide the Covid crisis is assuming serious proportions and we have issues of farmers, non-lifting of paddy by FCI, stopping of rural housing scheme in KBK and tribal districts, sharp cut in central funds for the state, doubling of LPG price, inflation and other issues affecting the common man, he pointed out.

The Chief Minister's statement came in the wake of pandemonium that continued to prevail in the Assembly over the issue for the third consecutive day as opposition BJP and Congress members created ruckus in the House demanding removal of MoS, Home

Odisha MPs pose 162 queries during 1st week in Parl

Mid frequent adjournments in both Houses of Parliament due to Opposition protests over farmers' issues and inflation, Lok Sabha MPs from Odisha posed as many as 162 questions in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the first week of the Winter Session.

While Lok Sabha MPs from Odisha posed 99 questions on various state and national issues, the Rajya Sabha MPs asked 63 questions

railway connectivity in his constituency. BJD Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik sought an increase in pension days under MGNREGS for Odisha while Subhash Singh of the Upper House urged the government to provide minimum wages to Anganwadi workers as per the recommendation of 7th Pay Commission.

He asked the Centre to direct the FCI to lift surplus rice from Odisha. Patra also urged the government to open Aawaas + portal to include around 6 lakh houses of Odisha under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

MSP and inflation. As many as 12 Opposition MPs were suspended from Rajya Sabha for 'unprecedented acts of misconduct', 'unruly and violent behaviour' and 'intentional attacks on security personnel on the last day of Monsoon Session in August.

Puri admin shifts people to safety as storm comes closer



Fishermen making arrangements for safe keeping of their boats on Puri beach

Puri, Dec 3: As many as 170 multipurpose cyclone/flood shelters and 400 community halls have been kept ready to accommodate people in case of emergency, said Puri Collector Samarthy Verma while chairing a preparatory meet on digital mode Friday.

"Dry food, drinking water, cattle feed, gensets and medicines have been stored adequately in a bid to curb chances of Covid spread among the evacuees, the shelters have been provided with adequate hand sanitizers and facemasks," said the Collector.

have been activated. So far, around 152 pregnant women from Krushnaprasad, Brahmagiri, Puri Sadar, Gop, Kakatpur, Astaranga and Kanas areas have been shifted to their nearest healthcare facilities. Many elderly and children in the low-lying areas have been evacuated to safety, said the Collector. He added that the regulated market committee has been asked to keep ready adequate quantity of tarpaulins. Block-level officials have been asked to ensure speedy assessment and reporting of cyclone damage, if any.

EXHIBITING READINESS



NDRF personnel conduct a mock drill at Netaji Birthplace Museum in Cuttack, Friday, to deal with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear disasters

Jawad: 36 vulnerable points in Capital city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday identified 36 vulnerable points that are prone to waterlogging ahead of impending winter storm 'Jawad' that would hit Odisha coast Sunday.



Civic body officials taking stock of arrangements at a cyclone shelter

This was revealed during a review meeting for smooth rescue, relief and restoration works in the Capital city. BMC Commissioner Sanjay Singh held discussions with officials and field staffers from all 67 wards here and instructed them to identify potentially hazardous and low-lying settlements in their wards and evacuate citizens to nearby schools, cyclone shelters or safer places. Special focus was given on rescue of homeless and beggars who are spending nights under

the open sky. "All officials must ensure that sufficient stock of dry foods like rice, chuda (flattened rice), guda (sugar molasses) and candles are in readiness. Arrangements should be made for providing cooked meals at all cyclone shelters. All essential workers should be provided with

necessary resources to carry out the work efficiently. Leaves of all officials have been cancelled and instructions have been made to be prepared for any eventuality between December 3 and 6," Singh said. There are 29 cyclone shelters in South-East Zone while South-West and North Zones have 21 and

22 each. These shelters include schools, colleges and community centres under BMC jurisdiction. Sources said concerned officers of District Education Office and District Welfare Office have been asked to remain alert. BMC's Engineering Division has identified 36 vulnerable low-lying areas including Garage Chhak, Sarada Matha Lane, Sriram Nagar, Ratna Villa, Rabindra Garden and Paikanagar, and it is set to deploy water pumps to avoid waterlogging during this period. Moreover, to meet any healthcare emergency, Additional District Urban Public Health Officer (ADUPHO) Antaryami Mishra has also been informed to keep power back up ready at Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres from their own fund. Chief Municipal Medical Officer (CMMO)

has been informed to ensure adequate stock of medicine, antivenom and halogen tablet. Beggars, homeless shifted to shelter homes. In a special drive to rescue and rehabilitation beggars, homeless and destitute were shifted to different Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUHs) in the City to ensure their safety. NGOs engaged in shifting the destitute and homeless beggars were engaged in rehabilitation works at Master Canteen Square, AG Square, Market Building, Jyadev Vihar, Achary Vihar, Vani Vihar, Raj Mahal, Ram Mandir and Naypalli. There are eight SUHs with a capacity of 368 while a rehabilitation centre for specially-abled beggars with an inmate capacity of 100 is in operation since May 5.

ED raids ex-IFS officer Abhay Pathak's house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out raid at the residence of former IFS officer Abhaykant Pathak at Vivekananda Marg here Friday morning.

Pathak was earlier grilled twice in the money laundering case at the office of Enforcement Directorate in Bhubaneswar

The raid conducted by the five-member team of the ED was continuing till 8pm in the evening. Sources revealed that the ED sleuths seized incriminating documents and cash during the raid. Earlier, Pathak was grilled twice in the money laundering case at the office of ED here. The central agency has been investigating the illegal money transactions between Pathak and his son Akash. The state Vigilance officials had earlier found several crores deposited

in the bank account of Akash by the former IFS officer. Pathak was later arrested by the Vigilance for amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income. Similarly, Akash, by posing himself as the Managing Director of Tata Motors, allegedly duped several job aspirants of crores. The ED also quizzed around 15 persons including Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahy and his daughter.

DCDFCs to sort out issues faced by colleges



Direct involvement of the Collectors and district administrations would resolve many ground level issues more easily as the government has given clear-cut guidelines on all important matters

SASWAT MISHRA | SECRETARY, HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The state government has asked all district Collectors to operationalise the District College Development Facilitation Committees (DCDFCs) constituted for development of higher education institutions. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has directed the Collectors of all districts to operationalise DCDFCs for addressing the problems encountered by the colleges. "Development of the colleges is a priority for the government. Collectors must be directly involved in the process," Mahapatra said. The Chief Secretary directed the Collectors to look into the issues of settlement of land in the name of the colleges, separation of Plus II wing from the degree colleges, expeditious implementation of the developmental projects in higher education institutions, proper utilisation of the funds sanctioned under different schemes and development of academic ecosystem in the campus. Mahapatra directed the Collectors to convene meetings with different colleges for having a firsthand assessment of their

problems and prioritise those as per the guidelines issued by the Higher Education department. "Direct involvement of the Collectors and district administrations would resolve many ground level issues more easily as the government has given clear-cut guidelines on all important matters," said Higher Education Secretary Saswat Mishra. Development Commissioner Pradeep Jena directed the Collectors to use the grants received from different sources in the most judicious way so that the expenditure yields the maximum value for qualitative improvement of the institutions. Mishra apprised that DCDFC would be chaired by the Collector while the regional director/deputy director of the regional directorate of Higher Education would function as the member-convenor. The principals of all government and aided degree colleges, district level officers of Works, Rural Development, Public Health and General Electricity departments would be members of the committee. The district Collector may nominate any other member as per the necessity from time to time. The ADM would function as member coordinator of the committee.

Konark Fest cancelled over Jawad threat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: An ongoing classical dance festival and a sand art event in Puri district were called off Friday following the formation of a cyclonic storm which is approaching the Odisha coast. The Konark Festival at Sun Temple, and the International Sand Art Festival at Chandrabhaga Beach were being held since Wednesday, and were scheduled to end Sunday. The festivals are being called off with immediate effect, the Tourism department said in a statement. The Konark Festival is being organised every year since 1986 at an open-air auditorium against the backdrop of the 13th-century monument. Leading exponents and dance enthusiasts of many Indian classical dance forms - Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kathakali, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Sattriya and Kathak - take part in the five-day event. Sand artists from across the world assemble to sculpt their unique creations on different themes at the International Sand Art Festival.

NZP gets new director

Barang: Senior Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Manoj V Nair has assumed office as the director of Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here, an official said Friday. The 2001-cadre IFS officer had served as NZP's deputy director for a year in 2013-14, sources said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Rima Kri Mishra, have changed my name to 'Rima Trivedi' vide affidavit No. 1180 dated 02.12.21, after my marriage to Vinod Kumar, which also reflects in my Aadhaar card bearing No. 5159 3865 3953. Henceforth, I shall be known as 'Rima Trivedi', for all purposes.

Intervention plea in HC over Mamita murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Dec 3: An intervention petition was filed in Orissa High Court in connection with the Kalahandi school teacher murder case Friday alleging involvement of the Minister of State (MoS) for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra in it and seeking to be impleaded as an opposite party in the main petition. Claiming to be the working president of Kalahandi Meher Samaj, Santosh Kumar Meher, approached the High Court and questioned the fairness of police investigations made so far. Meher's counsel Pitambar Acharya told the HC that the incident has disturbed the conscience of the entire Meher community in the state. The intervener further alleged that the "story" advanced by the



prosecution is shrouded in mystery and the investigation is not being carried in accordance with law. "A deliberate attempt is being made by the police to suppress the crime and protect the offenders," he said and alleged that the murder was part of a conspiracy. "Serious allegations of conspiracy, though is evident from different circumstantial evidence with regard to the indulgence of the minister, no concrete and tangible effort is being made by the police to unearth the indulgence of Mishra in the alleged offence," the

Meher's counsel Pitambar Acharya told the HC that the incident has disturbed the conscience of the entire Meher community in the state

petition by Meher said. Mamita Meher, the 24-year-old teacher of a private school at Mahaling in Kalahandi district, was kidnapped and murdered in October 8 this year. The president of the school managing committee has been arrested as a prime accused in this connection and it is alleged that he is a close aide of the minister, who very frequently visited the school and took undue interest in its management. Meanwhile, the government counsel submitted a status report with the Registrar of the HC during the day in response to a petition filed by the victim's family for a time-bound impartial investigation. Earlier this week, the HC had appointed a retired District and Sessions Judge to supervise the police investigations. The accused, Gobinda Sahu, had confessed that after killing her, he carried the body in his car and disposed it of in a pit at Mahaling Stadium October 8 night. He set the victim's body on fire using cardboard and tyres, and got the pit covered the next morning. The HC had November 19 directed the state government to submit a status report on Mamita murder case by December 3, while hearing a petition seeking fast-tracking of the ongoing investigation into the case.

STF confiscates drug peddler's ₹2cr wealth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch has confiscated properties worth ₹2 crore acquired by dreaded peddler Sk. Samiruddin alias Taklu Raja of Jhadeswarpur area in Jaleswar of Balasore. Samiruddin had surrendered before a court at Balasore in March 2021 following a massive manhunt by Balasore police in connection with a Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) case. Subsequently, Samiruddin was remanded to CB that unearthed his links in a drug smuggling case (14/2020) registered at STF police station in Capital City. The STF sleuths had arrested two accomplices of Samiruddin -



Sk Saruk of Sahadevkhunta and Sanjib Kumar Dehuri of Sunhat area in Balasore - following a raid at Baramunda in Bhubaneswar February 23, 2020. The sleuths had seized 405 gram brown sugar worth

The STF found that Samiruddin had acquired moveable and immovable properties worth around ₹2 crore out of the profits earned through drug smuggling. Later, the properties including 11 plots along with bank deposits were seized by STF under the provision of Chapter VA of NDPS Act (Section A- Z) that contains a provision for seizing and forfeiture of ill-gotten properties (illegally acquired property from Narcotics business in last six years). The STF subsequently sought the permission of Competent Authority and Administrator of NDPS Act under the department of Revenue in Kolkata, a quasi-judicial authority, to forfeit the seized properties. The STF recently received the permission from the central agency for the forfeiture. Several cases under the NDPS Act have been pending against Samiruddin. During investigation, the STF found that Samiruddin had acquired moveable and immovable properties worth around ₹2 crore out of the profits earned through

Durato derails near Haridaspur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: At least two wheels of the parcel van of Duranto Express jumped off the tracks at Haridaspur Railway Station in Jajpur district Friday, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) said. There was no report of any injury due to the incident, it added. "Two front wheels of a high-capacity parcel van of 12246 YAS-VANTPUR-HOWRAH Duranto Express derailed while passing through Haridaspur Railway Station Yard at 11.14 hours today. All passengers are safe," ECoR said in a statement. The incident will not affect the movement of train services of the Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar mainline, it further said.

Two-day meet on good governance begins in City

More than 200 delegates are attending the conference physically whereas around 250 delegates are connected to the conference virtually from 15 states of Eastern and North-Eastern region of India



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: A two-day Regional Conference on the theme "Replication of Good Governance Practices", jointly organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and Government of Odisha, was inaugurated at the State Convention Centre here, Friday.

Addressing the inaugural session, Secretary of DARPG Sanjay Singh said, "This Regional Conference has a positive role to play in good governance. The objective of the conference is to know how to replicate best practices and innovation in governance and most importantly make it sustainable." Underlining the significance of the replication of good governance practices, Singh said that the replication of Good Governance

Practices across Centre, states, districts and panchayats would help in realising the citizen-centric administration with the ideal of Maximum Governance with Minimum Government. In his address at the inaugural session of the conference, state Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra thanked the DARPG for organising the regional conference in Odisha. He outlined some administrative innovations of the state. "Citizens now-a-days are expecting more from the Government, especially the younger generations. We need to live up to their expectations and ensure quality service delivery. Conferences like this are important in terms of knowledge sharing," said Mohapatra in his address. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan will address the valedictory session of the conference Saturday.

RD Women's Univ holds 7th foundation day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Rama Devi Women's University Friday observed its 7th foundation day in the presence of Governor Ganeshi Lal as the chief guest. On the occasion, Lal said that that universities need to strive for both academic and spiritual excellences. He said that here are two important aspects of human life. One is birth and the attempt to make this birth worthy. "In today's globalised and connected world, to realise oneself completely, human must stay away from prejudice, superstition and racism," Lal said. "Self-identification is the most difficult challenge and universities can help the new generation in that," he added. The Governor also added that women are the source of all energies in this world. In India, all rivers are named after women. Education needs to be facilitated to women for the development of this country, he added.

KV-1 awards winners of Sanskrit Olympiad 2021

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The prize distribution ceremony of All India Sanskrit Olympiad 2021 was held at Kendriya Vidyalaya No 1 (second shift). In this programme, Class X student Adyasha Diyarbarshi has emerged as the national topper, whereas Class VII students Rudranarayan Mishra and Akanksha Jena have become state toppers. More than 40 participants of the school have also won gold medals in this competition. In 2020, one student from Class VI and one from Class VII of the school were declared winners and 72 participants from the school had got gold medals. Students of Kendriya Vidyalaya No 1, under the guidance of Mahapatra Sabita Hota, are making the school proud by participating in huge numbers in the Sanskrit Olympiad for Class IV, V and VI. Principal (I/C) of the school Bhupendra Singh felicitated the winners with gold medals, certificates, laptops, tabs, pen drives and books.

The Governor also added that women are the source of all energies in this world. In India, all rivers are named after women. Education needs to be facilitated to women for the development of this country, he added.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

'Water, sanitation, hygiene vital for specially-abled'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Accessibility to water, sanitation and hygiene (Wash) is a fundamental right of persons with disabilities (PwDs) to live with dignity, said experts participating in a state-level programme on the eve of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) here Friday. The IDPD is observed December 3 to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. This year's theme is 'Fighting for rights in the post-Covid era'.

Three special elements for disability inclusion are: Safe water and sanitation, disaster preparedness and accessible sanitary toilets, according to Purna Chandra Mohanty, programme coordinator of Water Aid - an international NGO focused on Wash. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) state head Abha Mishra advised the state government to conduct mandatory audits in every school, office, hospital and public institution for Wash infrastructure. There should be skilled engineers to design disability-inclusive infrastructure like toilets and the government should fast-track im-



plementation of welfare schemes with periodic assessment and enhanced outreach, the UNDP official said. The consultation, focusing on 'sanitation for all, free from dis-

UNDP state head Abha Mishra advised the state govt to conduct mandatory audits in every school, office, hospital and public institution for Wash infra

crimination and bias', was jointly organised by the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR), Odisha Association for Blind and the Odisha Vikalang Manch. CFAR state leader Samir Ranjan

Dash said the major concern is to ensure proper estimation and counting of persons with disabilities, adding that otherwise "We cannot succeed in making Wash services truly inclusive". "When we went house by house to 62 households in two slums, we found 30 per cent struggling to access Wash because some could not see, some could not hear and some could not climb stairs and some could not follow instructions in public facilities," CFAR disability lead Swagat Jhankar Mallick said. In his keynote address, Housing and Urban Development additional secretary Kalyan Rath said the Odisha Association for the Blind

should be renamed as Odisha Association for Visually-Challenged Persons. "Water Sanitation and Hygiene is a fundamental right enabling persons with disabilities to live with dignity," said Sanyaashi Kumar Behera, District Social Security Officer of the Social Security and Empowerment of PwDs department. Xavier University professor Santanu Rath said behaviour change, increased awareness and empowerment of the PwDs needed an analysis of gaps in the existing policies and its mitigation jointly by the government, corporates and Wash experts.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9957481084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemana-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-977682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Mining at Parabhadhi hill for Puri facelift

LOCALS OPPOSE GOVT'S DECISION TO EXTRACT STONE FROM THE HILL HOUSING AN ANCIENT BUDDHIST STUPA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 3: The state government has decided to mine Parabhadhi hill at Bandaeswar and Kesaraipur areas under Darpan tehsil in Jajpur for stones required in Puri beautification project, a source said Friday.

Meanwhile, locals in Jajpur have vehemently opposed the government's decision in this regard as Parabhadhi hill is a historic site and has an ancient Buddhist stupa. It is on the verge of extinction due to lack of conservation and proper upkeep, they alleged.

"The historical stupa built in third century AD is the oldest of ancient Buddhist stupas in the Diamond Triangle of Jajpur district. The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has not spent a single pie on its maintenance since its discovery," Pradipta Kumar Bhuyan, a local, said.

According to sources, the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) will carry out mining and arrange to send the excavated stones to Puri for the purpose.

It has been also decided that a patch of the hill area of around 114 acres at Sukhuapada under Bandaeswar mouza and 47 acres under Kesaraipur mouza will be mined in the first phase.



The OMC has already applied for environment clearance to conduct mining activities. Puri beautification and development project was chalked out earlier under the Abadha Yojana, the source informed.

Darpan tehsildar Pradeep Kumar Sethi said, "Necessary steps are being taken after the government decided for mining of khandelite stones from the Parabhadhi hill. However, the mining activities will be conducted in the remaining

parts leaving apart the Buddhist stupa."

ASI took the Buddhist stupa of Jajpur in its custody in 1994. However, so far, it neither excavated the site nor worked for its conservation.

In 2005, the Parabhadhi hill was partly leased out, which was opposed by a local outfit named Buddhayan. The outfit had filed two public interest litigations (PILs) in the High Court in Cuttack February 23, 2005 and September

29, 2005 appealing the court to order the government for cancellation of the lease.

Based on a court order, erstwhile District Collector Saswat Mishra along with a team inspected the Parabhadhi hill and suggested that it should not be mined under any circumstances. Then the lease was cancelled.

Parabhadhi Buddhist stupa was discovered at the same time when historians discovered the world famous Lalitgiri shrine and undertook its excavation between 1975 and 1982. The ASI had then claimed the necessity for excavation and conservation of the Buddhist stupa. Subsequently, the excavation was forgotten.

The Parabhadhi stupa was 40-ft in height when the ASI took the site in its possession. Due to constant soil erosion and for several other reasons the height of the stupa dropped to 15-ft and is on the verge of extinction owing to lack of maintenance.

Noted historian and Buddhist researcher Harish Chandra Prusty said the Parabhadhi stupa came to be known when Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang had visited Odisha. He visited the site and conducted a review of the ancient stupa which finds mention in the 'Si-yu-ki' book written by the Chinese traveler.

Vig court sentences 2 officials after 31 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeyppore, Dec 3: After 31 years, the Jeyppore Vigilance court Friday pronounced its verdict in a case of fund misappropriation at an Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC)-run timber depot. Special Vigilance Judge Rakesh Ekka Ray, hearing the case, found two officials guilty in the case.

The two officials are Sudhansu Sekhar Mishra (a retired SDM of OFDC, Papadahandi, and Amar Kush Dukhi, retired as assistant supervisor of OFDC, Papadahandi.



The court sentenced the two to two-years of imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each.

As per the case diary, irregularities to the tune of ₹50,73,377 was committed at the timber depot of the OFDC at Papadahandi. The two had embezzled the fund after selling the timber.

Following a complaint, the Vigilance department had filed a case against the two in 1990-91.

Turtle mating begins near Rushikulya river



POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Dec 3: Mass mating of Olive Ridelys has started in the sea of Rushikulya rookery near Purunabandh village in Ganjam district. However, environmentalists claimed that the mating of the turtles had got delayed in the current year.

It started in the second week of November, but the mating has been sporadically spotted 20 km from the coast during the patrolling, said Ranger Abinash Choudhry.

He, however, expected that towards the end of the month and the beginning of December, mating of turtles will happen in hordes.

When southern wind will start blowing, the turtles will move

ashore for laying eggs.

For mating and nesting of Ridelys, the forest department has declared the area from Prayogtil Aryapalli along the coast as prohibitory area.

All the nesting spots of the turtles have been barricaded while coast guards have been deployed along the coast to ensure smooth mating and nesting of the endangered turtles. The department said patrolling has been intensified around the river mouth.

Environmentalists expect that the turtles will come ashore to lay eggs towards the last week of January or the first week of February.

However, they said high tidal waves are affecting the egg-laying process every year.

149 shelters ready for Jawad in Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur

CHHATRAPUR/JAGATSINGHPUR: Ahead of cyclone Jawad, the Ganjam and Jagatsinghpur administrations have made 149 multi-purpose cyclone shelters ready for evacuation of people. According to reports, the Ganjam administration has sounded alerts for the officials of the block administration in coastal and

riparian areas where the cyclone is likely to make its impact. As many as 104 multiple cyclone shelters were kept ready for people. The officials were asked to ensure provision of electricity, drinking water and toilets in the cyclone shelters. The officials have been asked not to leave headquarters till further order. A 24X7

control room has been opened in Ganjam to coordinate the relief and rescue operations in the cyclone-hit areas. Meanwhile, the Jagatsinghpur administration has readied 45 multi-purpose cyclone shelters, schools, Anganwadi centres and kalyan mandaps for accommodation of people.

NGT imposes ₹5-cr penalty over illegal stone mining



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 3: The administration in the neighbouring Dhenkanal district has been in the soup over illegal mining and ecological damage to Jhilli hill under Kankadahah tehsil.

Hearing a case about illegal stone mining November 29, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed ₹5 crore penalty as interim compensation on the lease holder, a stone crushing unit owner and the district administration.

The NGT had directed the lease holder, the stone crushing unit owner and the district administration to deposit the amount at the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) within a month.

In the order, the green court said the penalty amount will be spent for regener-

ating forests towards the loss of greenery due to wanton mining in the hill.

A five-member committee will look after the utilisation of the fund. Officials of the regional office of the Ministry of the Forest and Environment, Bhubaneswar, regional office (Kolkata) of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority and the Collector will be the members of the committee.

The SPCB will act as a nodal agency in this matter. The NGT also stated that if the penalty was not collected, the Collector would have to take legal action in this regard. The penalty amount will be utilised for environment conservation, welfare of the labourers working in the mining of minor minerals and local people. The committee is to decide on how the fund will be utilised.

In September, 2020, some local people affected by the stone mining in the hill had approached the NGT. Thereafter, the regional officer of OSPCB, Angul, had served show cause notices on the lease holder and the local tehsildar on the issue of air and water pollution. Locals then alleged sal trees had been chopped off for mining while regular explosions in quarries caused cracks in the houses in the area.

BOATS SECURED



Ahead of cyclone Jawad, fishermen have safely anchored their mechanised boats and trawlers ashore at Bhograi in Balasore, Friday

DOCTOR'S DEGREE IN HINDI LITERATURE



Shri Chittaranjan Nahak has been selected for PhD degree in Comparative Literature under Sambalpur University. Shri Nahak has done research work under the auspices of Professor (Dr.) Damodar Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Hindi University (West Bengal) on the topic of comparative study of humanistic tendencies of the poems of Sumitranandan Pant and Sachchidanand Rautrai. The said research test essay has been forwarded for the said degree after inspection by the Head and Senior Professor (Dr.) Pawan Agarwal of the Hindi Department of Lucknow University (Uttar Pradesh) and Senior Professor (Dr.) Mohan of the Hindi Department of Delhi University. Dr. Chittaranjan Nahak is the eldest son of late Budhia Nahak and Mrs. Dhubini Nahak of Fulta village near Brahmampur in Ganjam district and son-in-law of Mr. Nabghan Nahak and Mrs. Sarojini Nahak. Dr. Nahak is working as a Senior Hindi Translator in the Public Relations Department of Miniratna Company Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). He credits this achievement to his mentor Professor (Dr.) Damodar Mishra, Deputy General Manager (Finance) of MCL. Mr. Deacon Mehra, all the members of the Public Relations Department and his parents and his wife Mrs. Tapaswini Nahak, brother and sister. Along with Lord Shiva-Shankar and all the gods and goddesses.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. PCMM/E2021-22/52, Date: 02.12.2021

SL.NO.01 TENDER NO.06211075B, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: ENGINE LUBRICATING OIL, QTY: 46620 LTR.

SL.NO.02 TENDER NO. 06211091A, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: STAINLESS STEEL FEED PIPE, QTY: 2723 MTR.

SL.NO.03 TENDER NO.07215115, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: CUTTING CHAIN, LOCK WASHER & FIXING PIN, QTY: AS PER T.S.

SL.NO.04 TENDER NO.07211007A, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: PU BASED TOP COAT COLOUR-GRAY, QTY: 31660 SET.

SL.NO.05 TENDER NO.02211359, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: LUBRICATING PIN ARRANGEMENT, QTY: 66 SET.

SL.NO.06 TENDER NO.03211646A, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: SIDE BUFFER ENHANCED CAPACITY, QTY: 480 NOS.

SL.NO.07 TENDER NO.03205034, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: AXLE LOAD BOGIE, QTY: 30 SET.

SL.NO.08 TENDER NO.03210566A, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: POLY URETHANE SIDE BEARER PAD ASSLY, QTY: 695 NOS.

Tender Opening Date: for Sl.No. 01 & 2: 20.12.2021, for Sl.No. 03 & 04: 27.12.2021, for Sl.No. 05: 29.12.2021, for Sl.No. 06: 30.12.2021, for Sl.No. 07: 31.12.2021 and for Sl.No. 08: 03.01.2022

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender condition, please visit Website www.ireps.gov.in and www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Bhubaneswar PR-607/M/21-22

8 SHGs roped in for procurement

SUNDARGARH: In a bid to economically empower women, the district level paddy procurement committee allowed 8 SHGs to procure paddy in Sundargarh. The members of the SHGs after receiving training were involved in the process on an experimental basis. The civil supplies and consumer welfare department, Odisha Livelihood Mission and Mission Shakti have picked up these SHGs having godowns, electricity, transportation and computers.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NUAPADA
e-mail: rwdnuapada@yahoo.com
National Competitive Bidding through e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. RWNPD-07/2021-22 (Online)

No. O-1154/- 1. Name of the work: Road, Bridges & Building works. 2. Total No. of work: 15 Nos. 3. Estimated cost: Please refer the DTNC. 4. EMD: The bidder has to be submitted bid security declaration in lieu of bid security as per O.M. No. 8943 dtd. 18.03.2021 of Finance Department, Govt. of Odisha. 5. Cost of tender document: Please refer the DTNC. 6. Class of contractor: Please refer the DTNC. 7. Period of completion: 01 (One) calendar month as per Annexure. 8. Other details: As per DTNC.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of bid
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nuapada	RWNPD-07/2021-22 (Online)	04.12.2021 at 10.00 A.M.	12.12.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	10.12.2021 upto 05.00 P.M.	13.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nuapada
OIPR-25050/11/0003/2122

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, SORO, DIST.- BALASORE
Notice No. 2849 Dated: 03.12.21
SEALED LIMITED TENDER ENQUIRY NOTICE
Sealed Limited Tender Enquiry Quotations are invited from reputed Manufacturers/Suppliers/Agencies, their authorized dealers/GeM registered firms for supply of "Battery Powered Garbage Van Tri-Cycle" intended for 1 No. of GP of Soro PS. The detailed information of tender process are available <http://www.baleswar.nic.in>.
The date and time of receipt of Sealed quotations are from 03.12.2021 to 13.12.2021 upto 4.00 P.M. on working days only.
Sd./- Block Development Officer, Soro

DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, MAYURBHANJ
TENDER
Tender Call Notice No. 8972, Dt.01.12.2021
No. CAD-2122: Sealed tenders are invited for registered or reputed Manpower Service Provider Agency to provide staff for DPMU and BPMU under Rural Housing Scheme in DRDA, Mayurbhanj.
Last date of submission : 20.12.2021 (5.00 P.M.)
Details are available in the district website www.mayurbhanj.nic.in.
Sd./- Project Director DRDA, Mayurbhanj
OIPR-19082/11/0002/2122

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, RANPUR, NAYAGARH (ODISHA), PIN - 752026
No. C-1465 e-Mail: eoranpurnac.ranpur@gmail.com
Tender Call Notice No. 1730 Dt.02.12.2021
E-Procurement Notice No. RNP NAC - 02/2021-22

1 Name of the Work	Individual Civil Construction Works as per DTCN
2 No. of Works	14 Nos.
3 Value of Work	Rs.6,42,857/- to Rs.17,85,714/-
4 Class of Contractor	"D" & "C"
5 Period of Completion	As per DTCN
6 Date of Publication	05.12.2021
7 availability of document in the portal	From Dt.06.12.2021 at 10 A.M. to Dt.16.12.2021 upto 5 P.M.
8 Last date/time for receipt of bids in portal	Dt.16.12.2021 upto 5 P.M.
9 Date and time of opening Bid	Dt.17.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Sd./- Executive Officer, NAC, Ranpur

Further details can be seen from e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Officer NAC, Ranpur
OIPR-13196/11/0002/2122

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, BALUGAON, KHORDHA
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION No. BLN. 07/2021-22, Date: 05.11.2021
No. 2295 Date: 05.11.2021
No. C-1466: The Executive Officer on behalf of NAC, Balugaon invites percentage Bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

- Type of works : Civil Construction works as in the D.T.C.N.
- Total no. of works : 22 Nos.
- Tender Amount Cost : Rs.84,749.00 to Rs.19,77,129.00
- Period of Completion : 30 days to 90 days
- Date and time of availability of Bid documents in the portal : From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.08.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M. of Dt.16.11.2021
- Original Bid documents submission in Tender Box : Dt.17.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date & time of Opening of Tender : Dt.18.11.2021 at 12.30 P.M.

Further, the details of e-tender documents can be had from the E-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Corrigendum if any shall only be published in above website.
Sd./- Executive Officer N.A.C., Balugaon
OIPR-13173/11/0005/2122

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR
ADVERTISEMENT No. Rectt/01/Non-Teaching/2021 dt. 29/11/2021
Online applications are invited for 2 (two) Resident Doctors/Doctors (On contract) on consolidated pay. These positions are purely temporary in nature. The last date of submission of online application is 15.12.2021. For details, please visit <http://www.iitbbs.ac.in>
Sd/- Registrar

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY
SU/REG/Estt/F-2/08/2018/Vol III/ Date: 03.12.2021
Special Recruitment Drive for various Teaching Positions of ST Category
Online applications are invited from eligible Indian citizen in the prescribed format through Website www.cus.ac.in for recruitment on the post of Professor & Associate Professor in Department of Bhutia, Lepcha & Limbu as under:

Name of the Department	Professor	Associate Professor
Bhutia	1 (ST-1)	1 (ST-1)
Lepcha	1 (ST-1)	1 (ST-1)
Limbu		1 (ST-1)

Minimum qualification, Experience, Reservation, Relaxation in Age, Service Conditions, Emoluments, Age of Superannuation, etc. will be as prescribed by the University/UGC/Gol, which are available at university website www.cus.ac.in. The last date for receiving online application is 03.01.2022.
davp 21318/11/0005/2122 Sd./- Registrar

Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
(Appointment of a whole-time Member in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India)
Advertisement No.10-03/2020-Restg. Dated: 26th November, 2021
Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, New Delhi invites applications from Indian Nationals for one post of whole-time Member in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
TRAI is mandated to regulate the telecommunication services, to protect the interest of consumers and service providers of the telecom sector and to promote and ensure an orderly growth of the telecom industry.
Eligibility conditions and other details may be seen on www.dot.gov.in or <http://www.dopt.gov.in> or <http://www.trai.gov.in>
Last date of receipt of Applications is 05.01.2022, 05.30 P.M.
Sd./- (Naveen Kumar) Director
davp 06201/11/0009/2122

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN AYURVEDIC SCIENCES
Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India
J.L.N.B.C.E.H. Anusadhan Bhawan, No.61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. "D" Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.
Email: dg-ccras@nic.in, Website: www.ccraa.nic.in
Tel: 011-28525852, Fax: 28520748

ADVERTISEMENT - 2021
PANCHAKARMA TECHNICIAN COURSE
The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India invites applications for One year, full time and self financed Panchakarma Technician Course conducted by CCRAA, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, New Delhi at the following Training Centre affiliated to Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) - National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC):
Training Centre: Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI) Borsojal (Bhetapara), Beltola Guwahati-781028, Assam Ph. 0361-2303714, 2132180, E-mail: neiari-guwahati@gov.in
Duration: 1 year (January, 2022 - December, 2022)
Total Seats: 10 Seats (extendable as per need) at CARI, Guwahati, Assam (50% each for male and female candidates at the centre)
Eligibility: 12th standard pass candidates from all over India.
Age Limit: Minimum 18 years should be completed on the date of final assessment at the end of training.
Reservation: As per rules of the Government of India, reservation policy is 15% for SC, 7.5% for ST & 27% for OBC (Non Creamy Layer). Horizontal reservation of 4% for PH (Only lower locomotive disorders) and 10% for EWS category will be applicable.
Last date for receipt of applications at above centre: On or before 24th December, 2021
Per candidate Fee: Application Fee- Rs.500/- and Course Fee- Total Rs.30,000/- (in 3 instalments).
Mode of application: Duly filled in application form along with all requisite documents and demand draft of Application Fee is to be sent to the Institute by registered or speed post. Please visit Council's website www.ccraa.nic.in for Information Brochure (details of Training Programme & Submission Process), Syllabus and for downloading Application Form.
Applications received after the last date will not be considered.
davp 17216/11/0011/2122 Assistant Director (Coord.)

In silence, the consciousness grows. It aspires to know You more and more perfectly.
THE MOTHER



Govt changed mind after repatriation order?

As hinted earlier in this column (November 16), there is something strange about the repatriation of Union Defence Production Secretary Raj Kumar to his parent state of Gujarat. The general view is that Kumar is most likely to replace Pankaj Kumar as the state's new Chief Secretary when the latter retires in May 2022, and until then the babu can 'acclimatise' to the state after having been away since 2015. But oddly, even 10 days after the announcement, there is no sign that the Centre is letting him go or the state is showing any urgency in getting him back.

Some now wonder whether the repatriation order was issued in haste, and now both the Centre and the state government have developed cold feet. Apparently, Kumar finds favour with both governments, and the move to Gujarat was probably planned to get him in place to steer the state through the crucial months leading up to the Lok Sabha elections in May 2024. What may have stopped the authorities from making him Chief Secretary of Gujarat straightaway is that three senior 1986 batch babus would need to be reassigned to desirable slots since Kumar would supersede them. Likely then, that the Gujarat government will sort out this issue first before giving Kumar the green light. If that is so, there was no need for the announcement now.

Cadre choice is not a right

The Supreme Court has ruled that successful UPSC aspirants do not have the right to be allocated the cadre of their choice. The court order came on the appeal of the Centre against a verdict of the Kerala High Court, which directed the Centre to grant home cadre to A Shainamol, a woman IAS officer, who was posted in Himachal Pradesh.

The apex court has further stated that the procedure for cadre allocation for the IAS is a "mechanical process and admits to no exception" except in terms of the recruitment rules.

Shainamol had cleared the UPSC civil services exam in 2006 and despite belonging to the Muslim OBC category, she was selected in the general category and allocated Himachal cadre in 2007. The Supreme Court has now clarified that since Shainamol did not take benefit of the quota and entered as general category she was not entitled to OBC reserved seat in her state. Consultation with the Kerala government was not required in this instance.

The ruling obviously has implications for IAS aspirants who hail from SC/ST or Other Backward Classes and do not take benefit of quota and get selected in the general category. These individuals cannot take recourse of reservation after their selection and cadre allocation.

MP to ditch 'dual control' police system

Madhya Pradesh will join states like Maharashtra, Delhi and Rajasthan, among others, in replacing the 'dual control' system with the Police Commissionerate system. Though Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan hasn't a specific date for implementing the new system, Director General of Police VK Johri has indicated that the government is likely to effect the new rule from April 2022.

Though the new system was first suggested several years ago, the move gained momentum after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent interaction with IPS probationers praised it saying that 16 states had adopted it and others should do so too. Under the current system, the police are required to take permission from district magistrates before taking any action. The new system will confer some magisterial powers to police commissioners, which will help the police to curb crime more effectively and also make it more accountable to the people.

The reason this proposal was hanging fire for so long, sources say, is due to the stiff resistance from the powerful IAS lobby, which is reluctant to hand over more power to the police department. They managed to scuttle the earlier moves, but this time the commissionerate system has got the green light from the PMO itself, leaving the IAS lobby with no choice.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

- Everything you can imagine is real. **PABLO PICASSO**
- Do one thing every day that scares you. **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT**
- Whatever you are, be a good one. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

WORDSWORTH

Cantankerous

I was looking at this word in some book or other a while ago — my ageing memory fails to remind me which — and wondered how such a collection of letters could have come together to make an adjective that meant bad-tempered, argumentative or uncooperative. A curiosity of this passage is that it appears in numerous places as "bitter cantankerous road", an unfortunate error that led the late Ivor Brown to base a molehill of discursiveness on this pimple of misinformation by reasoning falsely that it could apply to things as well as people. The fault is traceable to a misprint in volume two of Farmer and Henley's Slang and its Analogues of 1891, which quotes only the last part of the excerpt, so denuding it of the context that would expose the error. (We may forgive the absence of the second c from cantankerous, which modern editions of the play also omit.) The error has been perpetuated by writers who borrow the quote without troubling themselves to check the original. It must indeed have been new in Goldsmith's day, for the good Doctor Johnson didn't give it house room in his Dictionary of 1755. It may be that he felt it was too slangy for him — Farmer and Henley called it "colloquial" more than two centuries later. But for Goldsmith it already had the sense we know today, of a person with a quarrelsome, cross-grained, ill-natured personality. One proposal is that it was a blend of two words, each of which by itself suggested its sense: contentious and rancorous. But it's also argued that it can be traced to the Middle English conteke, contention or quarrelling, via its compound conteckour, a person who causes strife. The latter word may have later changed spelling under the influence of these other words.

Cantrev

Cantrev — the word has been spelled in numerous ways, including cantref and canthrif — turns out upon enquiry to have been a medieval legal division of Wales (from the Welsh cant, a hundred, plus tref, a town or place). It's closely similar in sense to the English hundred, a division of a county or shire for administrative purposes. In fact, in medieval England yet another form of the word, cantred, was used almost synonymously with hundred. The word has long had only historical interest. But it has enjoyed a minor revival in SF and fantasy — as in Lloyd Alexander's Prydain Chronicles — as an unfamiliar term with which to communicate a quality of being different or elsewhere. The revival is most probably due to modern interest in the medieval Welsh epic The Mabinogion, in which cantrev often appears.



Simon Johnson

MOST POLICYMAKERS HAVE BY NOW GRASPED THE KEY IMPORTANCE OF DEFENDING THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE AGAINST THE VIRUS

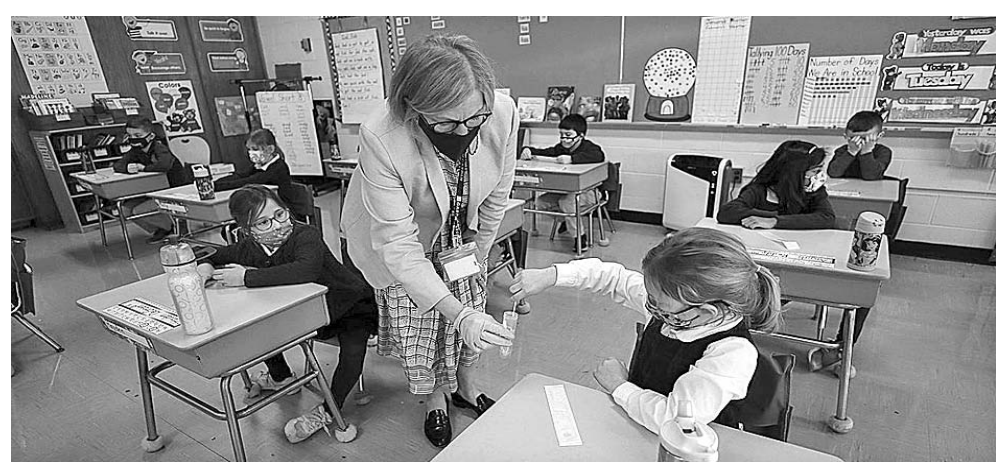
There is an adage that you cannot have back-to-back financial crises. The implication is that a financial crisis causes people to be more careful — so any bank, investment firm, or investor who survives one crisis will not be taking big risks anytime soon. But two years after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic forced lockdowns, quarantines, and other restrictions, the arrival of the Omicron variant is forcing people to ask: Are we about to go through it all again?

Many governments' initial reaction — attempting to ban travel from South Africa and neighbouring countries, even though Omicron had already spread far and wide — seems a bit desperate. In fact, there are three reasons why governments may be much better prepared than they think for whatever comes next.

First, most policymakers have by now grasped the key importance of defending the most vulnerable people against the virus. This means, whatever happens, better protections for nursing homes and other congregate care settings. Many lives were lost in 2020 because politicians in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere struggled to understand the importance of this point. One hopes that level of miscomprehension is never repeated.

Second, vaccines work. On this issue, there was widespread political consensus in 2020, and the vaccine development programmes stand out as a historic success for public-private science partnership. Unfortunately, in 2021, people have become confused — or perhaps deliberately misled. Still, over 68% of Americans have now had at least one shot, and boosters are widely available. The US goal remains to vaccinate as many people around the world as possible, and it should step up the pace. Omicron has shown once again that no one country can hold COVID-19 at bay by itself.

Third, governments have a considerable amount of COVID testing capacity. When this capacity was developed in 2020, some people expressed concern that there would be no long-term need. But



Many governments' initial reaction to the appearance of the new COVID-19 variant — attempting to ban travel from South Africa and neighbouring countries, even though it had already spread far and wide — seems a bit desperate. In fact, governments may be better prepared than they think for whatever comes next

while there is still some debate about exactly which tests to use when, epidemiologists and public-health experts have made a great deal of progress on what works for various populations. We just need to keep at it, for example through the federal government's Expanded Testing programme.

Ideally, any community — child-care facilities, schools, universities, and companies — would be protected as much as possible by vaccination, backed up by a regular testing program and thoughtful use of masks (and other mitigants). These tiers of protection improve the odds that school and work will continue in as normal a fashion as possible, even in the face of new variants.

The US, however, is still struggling to overcome the problems posed by former President Donald Trump's persistent denial that COVID-19 posed a genuine threat. The work of public health officials was disrupted for political purposes, resulting in a great deal of confusion (and myths) in the communication of everything that matters when it comes to fighting the pandemic.

The legacy of Trump's mixed messages has become the main

weakness in US pandemic defenses, including against Omicron. Without it, the US would have more people vaccinated, more willingness to be tested, and less fighting about masks. It is a terrible irony of contemporary America that many of the people who are least protected against new variants are those who take Trump and his public health views more seriously.

In 2020, Trump and his allies claimed that fighting COVID-19 undermined the economy — for example, because it involved lockdowns. That logic was always flawed. Local economies shut down on the order of governors only when hospitals were flooded with infected patients and unable to cope. Hospital overload is the ultimate circuit breaker and still what must be avoided at all costs. If emergency services cannot function, people die from heart attacks and accidents at much higher rates. If cancer care and other more routine procedures are disrupted, more people die.

The bottom line is that fighting harder against COVID-19 is exactly what we need to do if we want to avoid economic turmoil. Closing and reopening economies

is costly for everyone. In addition to all the obvious direct costs, supply-chain disruptions fuel large price movements and appear to be contributing to inflation. Higher inflation, in turn, makes it harder (or riskier) for the central bank to support the economy, should that be necessary.

Unfortunately, Trump's legacy has left President Joe Biden's administration little option but to stay the course: keep the nursing homes strong, persuade as many people as possible to get vaccinated, and continue to improve the availability of high-quality testing. At the same time, however, the administration must confront that legacy head-on. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy's campaign against health misinformation is one promising initiative. To protect themselves and the economy, Americans — and the world — need many more.

Simon Johnson, a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, is a professor at MIT's Sloan School of Management and a co-chair of the COVID-19 Policy Alliance.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE

High value crops can substitute for MSP



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

THE GOVERNMENT COULD TRANSFER ₹1,00,000 PER FAMILY PER YEAR AND ASSURE THEM OF A BASIC MINIMUM INCOME. HAVING DONE THIS, THE GOVERNMENT CAN DISMANTLE THE MSP

The first solution to the minimum support price (MSP) imbroglio is that the government should try to shift the farmers from low-value MSP-supported crops like wheat and paddy to high-value crops. Our farmers produce pepper in Kerala, silk and areca in Karnataka, mango in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, palm in Andhra and pan leaves in Bihar. Farmers producing these high-value crops generally do not agitate for MSP. They are already getting good income from these crops. The situation at the global level is even more dramatic. Tunisia produces olives, France produces grapes, Netherland produces tulip flowers, the United States produces walnuts, and Saudi Arabia produces dates. These countries sell these crops at a high price in the global market. The farm worker in the Netherlands earns about ₹10,000 per day by producing tulip flowers. We should be able to pay our farm workers a wage of ₹10,000 per day if we can also produce tulip flowers. Our special advantage is that we have a variety of climates from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. We could produce tulip flowers in winters in the south and in summers

in the north. We can supply specialised agricultural produce to the entire world at a very high price throughout the year — something that France and Netherlands cannot do. They would not be inclined to spend their time in demanding MSP if they can make money from tulip flowers. Like the pepper farmers of Kerala.

The second solution is to increase the level of cash transfer already being done. There are about three crore farmer families in the country. The government could transfer ₹1,00,000 per family per year and assure them of a basic minimum income. Having done this, the government can dismantle the MSP and also scrap all the subsidies being given on fertilizers, electricity, water, food grains and exports. The price of wheat and paddy in the market would then reduce and the farmers would produce more mango and pan leaves. The farmers would have no reason to complain because their minimum incomes are assured by cash transfers. In my reckoning, the Centre and state governments would save about ₹6,00,000 crore if they scrap MSP and all the subsidies. One

half of this, or ₹3,00,000 crore can be given to the farmers as direct cash transfer of ₹1 lakh per family per year. Then the farmers would have no argument to agitate because their basic incomes would be assured.

The difficulty in implementing these solutions is that the research bureaucracy of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research laboratories and our universities are just not interested in undertaking any research. Their salaries are secure. They continue to get the salaries irrespective of whether they do any research or not. They make a good bio data by publishing cut-and-paste academic papers in fake journals. Therefore, the government should dismantle this entire research bureaucracy and give research contracts to these government laboratories as well as private institutions to undertake mission-based research and produce specialized crops that can provide high income in every part of the country.

The second difficulty in implementing this solution is that the bureaucracies of the Food Corporation and the Public Distribution System thrive on the

purchase, storing, transport and sale of food grains. They will get no income if the government dismantles the MSP. Therefore, they do not allow the politicians to implement these solutions.

A problem in this solution is that the production of specific crops can oscillate. There may be excess production of wheat and paddy in some years and there may be shortage in other years. The solution is that the government should convert the Food Corporation of India into a "Food Trading Corporation." This corporation should make future contracts for supplies of various crops such that the price stability is maintained within reasonable band. This corporation can also import and export as the situation may warrant. In this manner we can get a secured supply of food grains without having to pay huge wasteful subsidies on fertilizer, electricity, water, food grains and exports.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore. Views expressed are personal.

Vaccine vacillators

Sir, Amid declining number of Covid-19 patients, all spheres of life have opened. People using self-protection measures are few and far between. Most Indians believe that the Covid-19 pandemic is a thing of the past irrespective of emergence of a new strain of the virus. Nothing can be further from the truth. It is preposterous to lower one's guard before the picture is absolutely clear. States have added or modified many regulations only for namesake. Both the people and the authorities have lost the motivation and necessity to maintain and regulate the all important personnel protection. This is one side of the coin, the other, of course, is the vaccination drive that has lost its steam. Recently, the Centre patted its own back while releasing the vaccination numbers. Even now, the country continues to record a positive number of cases in excess of 10,000 per day, and now we have the Omicron variant of the virus. Indians who have received their first dose of vaccine are completing the course. But what about those who are yet to receive their first dose? Past examples have shown how a sustained vaccination campaign, driven by priority and transparency, can do wonders to people's health and morale. The authorities have to eschew their complacency; they have to act swiftly and decisively to target every individual in the society.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Vaccine equity

Sir, India resumed the supply of vaccines to other countries before the Prime Minister's visit to the United Nations in September. That Covax, the international mechanism aimed at providing equitable access to vaccines, was proving ineffective; China-made vaccines were often a tool of geopolitical leverage; the WTO hasn't yet waived intellectual property requirements for vaccine manufacturing as proposed by India and South Africa; and the Western world has largely hoarded vaccines have deepened this inequity. It is in this backdrop that India's solidarity with African countries as a new variant of Sars-CoV-2, Omicron, makes its impact felt in the southern part of the continent, is important. India said it has supplied 25 million vaccines to 41 African countries; it has cleared all orders of vaccine supplies under Covax; any new requirement will be considered promptly; and India would also be willing to partner with African institutions on genome surveillance. At a time when many in the continent feel resentful at the West's hypocrisy, India must be a steady and reliable partner to African countries.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

After holding the vaccine export to cater to the domestic demand first, in the last few weeks India has supplied vaccines to several countries including Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Iran, Paraguay and Indonesia

V MURALEEDHARAN
MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

As a mark of gratitude to the specially-abled people, we have decided to upgrade Deaf and Dumb School at Kahilipara and Blind School at Basistha (both in Guwahati) to Higher Secondary level. Moreover, in line with Indian Sign Language, an Assamese Sign Language will be developed for the benefits of the specially-abled people

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA
ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

Efforts are also on to bring crimes like smuggling of fake currency, arms and narcotics under the heinous crime category

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Moosewala joins Cong

Chandigarh: Popular Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, booked last year for allegedly promoting gun culture through his songs, joined the Congress party Friday. The singer joined the party in presence of state Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and the party's state chief Navjot Singh Sidhu here and may contest the upcoming Punjab assembly elections. The 28-year-old singer, whose real name is Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu and who has a fan following among youths, had been booked last year for allegedly promoting violence and gun culture through his song "Sanju".

3 cops among 5 killed in accident

Mathura: Five people, including three police personnel, were killed and three others injured when their car hit a divider on the Yamuna Expressway here, an official said Friday. They were going to Haryana from Madhya Pradesh to bring back a girl who was kidnapped earlier.

Driver dies during ride

Mangalore: A 46-year-old autorickshaw driver died after he suffered a heart attack near Nethravati bridge here while he was on his way to drop a passenger at nearby Kallappa Friday, police sources said. The deceased has been identified as Muhammad Haneef, a resident of Katipalla in the city, they said. Sources said the driver felt dizzy as the autorickshaw approached Jeppinamogaru.

NDRF in readiness to tackle challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Kolkata, Dec 3: As cyclonic storm 'Jawad' rolled towards the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh coast on Friday, a day before landfall in Odisha's Puri district, the NDRF kept in readiness its 64 teams to meet any eventuality in the aftermath of the tempest which is likely to also affect West Bengal, officials said.

NDRF Director General (DG) Atul Karwal told reporters in New Delhi while 46 teams have been deployed or pre-positioned in the vulnerable states, 18 teams have been kept in reserve.

According to the deployment map shared by him at the press conference, out of the 46 teams, 19 are based in West Bengal, 17 in Odisha, 19 in Andhra Pradesh, apart from seven in Tamil Nadu and two in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. All teams have been made available as desired by the various state governments and they will be deployed in consultation with local authorities, the NDRF DG said. A single NDRF team has about 30 personnel who are equipped with pole cutters, electric saws to clear uprooted trees, inflatable boats and some other relief and rescue gadgets.

"We are confident of taking care of the situation in the best possible manner," Karwal said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had Thursday reviewed the preparedness to deal with the situation and directed officials to take every

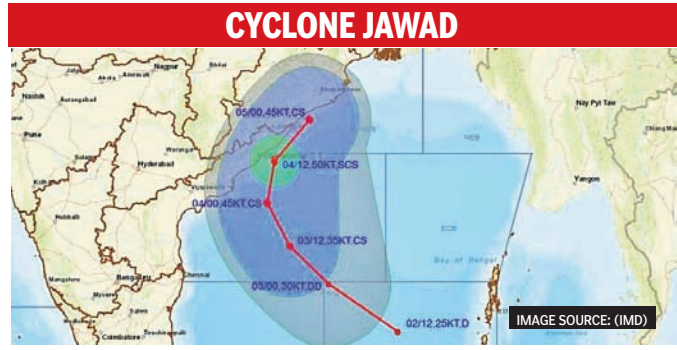
possible measure to ensure people are safely evacuated.

According to the PMO, Modi also directed officials to take every possible measure to ensure maintenance of all essential services such as power, telecommunication, health and drinking water supply, and see to it that they are restored promptly in the event of disruption.

Modi also asked them for adequate storage of essential medicines and supplies, and to plan for unhindered movement, apart from round-the-clock functioning of control rooms. The cyclonic storm is likely to recur thereafter north-northeastwards, move along the coast of Odisha and adjoining Andhra Pradesh and touch the coast around Puri by December 5 noon, according to the weather department. Southern parts of West Bengal, meanwhile, are also bracing for heavy to very heavy down-pour and gusty winds.

Teams of the NDRF and state disaster response force have been positioned at vulnerable places in the coastal areas for timely rescue and relief operations, a West Bengal government official said in Kolkata.

The Indian Coast Guard has tasked ships and aircraft to relay weather warning to mariners and guided hundreds of fishing boats back to harbour as a precautionary measure to ensure safety of fishermen, a military official said. Disaster management teams of the Coast Guard have been kept on standby to provide assistance to local administration, he said.



CYCLONE JAWAD

OMICRON CONCERN

K'taka tracking 10 missing passengers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Dec 3: With the Karnataka capital on alert after accounting for the first two cases of the Omicron variant of coronavirus in the country, state Revenue Minister R Ashok said that the missing 10 South African nationals from Bengaluru will be tracked by Friday midnight.

Talking to reporters after the high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, he said: "They will be tracked and tested. The authorities have been given directions in this regard," he underlined.

Following detection of the two

cases of Omicron infection in Bangalore, 10 South African nationals Abecame untraceable in Bengaluru causing worry for the state Health Department.

These South African nationals had arrived in Bangalore between November 12 and 22. The Health Department, which is on high alert after detection of Omicron cases, wanted to get these persons tested, but they have gone missing.

They were not found at the address given at the airport and their mobile phones were switched off. As many as 57 persons have arrived from high risk countries including these 10. The Health Department has already approached

CHILLING OUT



People visit a beach in Visakhapatnam

Pb's border districts on high alert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Dec 3: Two days after the police seized a kilogram of RDX from Punjab's Dinanagar, a tiffin bomb and four hand grenades were recovered in Gurdaspur district, officials said Friday.

Earlier this week, two terror modules sponsored by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence were busted in Gurdaspur, they said.

During a check at T-Point near Salempur Arayan village Thursday, Station House Officer Sadar Gurdaspur found a suspicious sack in the bushes on the side of a road. On checking, he found hand grenades and a tiffin bomb concealed in it, Director General of Police (DGP) Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota said, adding the bomb detection and disposal teams were asked to diffuse the explosives.

"Strong static and shifting 'Nakas' have been laid in the entire district by all SHOs under the supervision of gazetted officers," Sahota said.

Top court asks Centre, NCR states to implement panel's order to curb air pollution



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Supreme Court Friday said the government should continue to implement concrete measures to curb air pollution and also allowed the Delhi government to continue with construction activities of hospitals.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana and comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said: "For the time being in view of particular measures by the government of India and notification dated December 2, we direct the government of India and GNCTD to implement those measures. We'll keep the matter pending and list it (the matter) next Friday."

The construction activities in Delhi were shut after air quality deteriorated to alarming levels. However, November 22, the construction activity was resumed by the Delhi government, in the backdrop of improved air quality. On November 24, the top court re-imposed the ban in Delhi-NCR.

The Delhi government had informed the apex court that it had started to revamp the hospitals and the construction of 7 new hospitals is underway to prepare for the third wave of the coronavirus.

The Delhi government said the work is being carried out in 19 government hospitals to provide better health infrastructure in the national capital for the benefit of patients.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, cited various decisions taken by the commission, which include the constitution of an "emergency task

The Delhi government counsel requested the SC to grant relaxations and to allow the construction of government hospitals. The bench allowed the government to go ahead with the construction activities of hospitals

force" and "flying squads" to take action against defaulting entities, to combat the menace of air pollution in the capital.

The commission has also decided to restrict the operations of industries, which are not using PNG or cleaner fuels, by 8 hours on weekdays and remain closed on weekends.

The Delhi government informed the top court that it has decided to close the physical classes in schools until further order.

Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar representing the Uttar Pradesh government, submitted that closing the industries will impact the sugarcane and milk industries.

The bench permitted the UP government to raise its grievances before the air quality commission.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court put the Centre and the Delhi government on a 24-hour deadline to devise a concrete mechanism to control air pollution in Delhi-NCR. Indicating at setting up a task force, the top court said nothing is really happening on the ground to control pollution and all authorities have failed.

RELIEF FOR DISABLED PERSONS AT AIRPORT

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Supreme Court has directed the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to ensure that differently-abled persons are not asked to remove prosthetic limbs/calipers to maintain human dignity while ensuring the requirement of security checks.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Justice V Ramasubramanian also said that lifting a person with disability during air travel or security checkup is inhumane, and held that it should not be done without his or her consent.

"Another aspect we want to mention is about some of the differently-abled person use prosthetic limbs/calipers. Sometimes, they are directed to remove their prosthetic limbs/calipers as a part of the security check.

"In the draft guidelines circulated, it has been mentioned that scanning of prosthetic limbs/calipers though full body scanner but to what extent differently-abled persons with prosthetic limbs/calipers are required to be checked for the purpose of security should be in a manner where, no such person is asked to remove prosthetic limbs/calipers to maintain human dignity while ensuring the requirement of security checks," the bench said.



The apex court was hearing a plea filed by Jeeja Ghosh, suffering from cerebral palsy, who was off-loaded by Spicejet while she was on her way from Kolkata to Goa to attend a conference in 2012.

The top court was apprised that Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) guidelines were revised on July 2, 2021 and now the draft guidelines regarding 'Carriage by Air of Persons with Disability and/or Persons with Reduced Mobility' have been put in public domain in the year 2021.

Parties spent big in elections: Study

THE BJP RECEIVED THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF ₹611.692CR AND SPENT ₹252CR DURING THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN ASSAM, KERALA, TAMIL NADU, WEST BENGAL AND PONDICHERRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: Nineteen political parties, including the BJP and the Congress, received over ₹1,100 crore during assembly polls in five states and union territories in 2021 and spent over ₹500 crore, a big chunk of which went towards advertisements and travel expenses for star campaigners, a study said Friday.

The Congress received the second-highest amount of ₹193.77 crore and spent ₹85.625 crore, including ₹31.451 crore on publicity and ₹20.40 towards travel expenses, it said.

The DMK, which received the third-highest amount of ₹134 crore, incurred a total expenditure of ₹114.14 crore, with the party spending ₹52.144 crore on publicity and ₹2.414 crore towards travel expenses of its star campaigners and other leaders. The report noted that the CPI(M) received a total fund of ₹79.244 crore, TMC ₹56.328 crore, AIADMK ₹14.46 crore and the CPI ₹8.05 crore during the elections.

While the CPI(M) incurred an expenditure of ₹32.74 crore, spending ₹21.509 crore towards publicity and ₹1.173 crore on travel ex-

penses, the TMC spent ₹154.282 crore, incurring an expenditure of ₹27.009 crore on publicity and ₹33.02 towards travel expenses, according to the report.

The AIADMK's total expenditure during the elections stood at ₹57.33 crore, and of that, ₹56.756 crore went towards publicity. The CPI spent ₹5.68 crore in elections, incurring an expenditure of ₹3.506 crore on publicity, according to the report.

The ADR-National Election Watch analysed funds received and expenditure incurred by a total of 19 political

during the assembly polls in the five states and union territories in 2021. The BJP, Congress, BSP, NCP, TMC, CPI(M), CPI, DMK, AIMIM, CPI(ML)(L), AIFB, AGP, AIADMK, AIUDF, PMK, JD-S, KC-M, SP and the AINRC are the parties whose funds and expenditures were analysed.

"Total funds collected by 19 political parties during Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry Assembly Elections held in 2021 was ₹1,116.81 crore and total expenditure incurred was ₹514.30 crore," the non-government election watchdog said in its report.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-1190
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NIMAPARA
Mail ID- ee_nimapara@yahoo.co.in
No.- Tender Online-Divn.NPR-08/2021-22 Date:- 01.12.2021

e-Procurement NOTICE

- Name of the work : **Road Works for the year 2021-22.**
- Total No. of Projects : **15 (Fifteen) Nos. of projects.**
- Estimated cost of projects : **Varies from 9.81 lakh to Rs. 49.95 lakh**
- Class of Contractor : **"B" Class & "A" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.**
A) Estimated Cost more than Rs. 40.00 lakhs and upto Rs.300.00 lakhs. : **"C" Class & "B" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.**
B) Estimated Cost more than Rs. 20.00 lakhs upto Rs. 40.00 lakhs. : **"D" Class & "C" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.**
C) Estimated Cost upto Rs. 20.00 lakhs
- Mode of Submission of tender : **Tender should be submitted online only in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
- Period of Completion : **As per TCN**
- Other Details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date, time & venue of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nimapara	Tender On-line-Divn. NPR-08/2021-22	04.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	10.12.2021 upto 2.00 P.M.	09.12.2021 upto 5.00 P.M. Office of the E.E. R.W. Division, Nimapara

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-25099/11/0008/2122 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nimapara



Vibrant Gujarat by scraping Mumbai, asks Sena MP Sanjay Raut

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, Dec 3: Shiv Sena MP and its spokesperson Sanjay Raut Thursday asked the BJP that if it was accusing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of 'diverting' business from Maharashtra to her state, why was the Maharashtra BJP silent during Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's visit to Mumbai Thursday.



Sanjay Raut asked the BJP that if it was accusing Mamata Banerjee of 'diverting' business from Maharashtra to her state, why was the Maharashtra BJP silent during Gujarat CM Minister Bhupendra Patel's visit to Mumbai

Maharashtra after she met industrialists in Mumbai Wednesday. They accused her of trying to rob the state of its industries by taking

show here. But the Maharashtra BJP leadership is conspicuously silent about this, why," he asked. The Rajya Sabha member from the Shiv Sena in Marathi and English tweets expressed his anguish over Bhupendra Patel's roadshow in Mumbai. In his Marathi tweet, he asked 'did the Chief Minister of Gujarat come to Mumbai to become self-reliant?' Raut also attached the photograph of an advertisement in a newspaper featuring Patel's roadshow in Mumbai. In his English tweet, Raut said: "When West Bengal CM met industrialists in Mumbai, BJP's stomach got upset; it alleged that she is here to rob industries from Maharashtra. Now, Gujarat CM is meeting the industrialists with half of his Cabinet and organising roadshow in Mumbai. Vibrant Gujarat by scraping Mumbai?" BJP leader Ashish Shelar had some time ago demanded that the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra should announce the official details of the meeting between Banerjee and

Shiv Sena Minister Aditya Thackeray. "There seems to be some conspiracy over Banerjee's Mumbai visit. Is the ruling Shiv Sena facilitating the migration of industries from Maharashtra to West Bengal?" Shelar asked. Accusing the Sena of "betraying Maharashtra's interests", he alleged that Banerjee and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray were joining forces to allegedly 'destabilise' both the states. "The Shiv Sena has proved to be a traitor to Maharashtra. While we have no objection to employment opportunities being generated across India or Banerjee being welcomed here, but how can the Sena, a ruling party, 'help' in taking away businesses and industries in Maharashtra and West Bengal. Why was Banerjee's meeting with the Sena held in secret? Is this the same person who was responsible for driving the 'Tatas out of her state (Tata Nano-Singur controversy)?" asked Shelar.

BJP moves SC for CAPF deployment in civic polls

The BJP had earlier asked WBSEC to deploy CAPF for civic polls – an appeal the poll panel is yet to consider



AGENCIES

Kolkata, Dec 3: The BJP has moved the Supreme Court with a prayer to deploy the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) for the December 19 Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) election.

West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said that a "free, fair and peaceful" election was not possible under the state police. "We had made a deputation to Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and told him that a free, fair and peaceful election in West Bengal is not possible with the state police force. We had appealed to the Governor to look into our demand for deployment of the Central Armed Police Force for the KMC election. Now, we have decided to move the Supreme Court to press the same demand. We have already filed a petition before the apex court, seeking its directives to West Bengal State Election Commission (WBSEC) to deploy central force," said Majumdar in a video message. Currently in Delhi, Majumdar led a delegation of party MPs from West Bengal for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday. The BJP had earlier asked WBSEC to deploy CAPF for civic polls – an appeal the poll panel is yet to consider. Majumdar's reaction came hours after Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar Thursday met State Election Commissioner Saurav Das on upcoming KMC election, at the Raj Bhavan. Sources said the Governor asked Das why elections to over 100 civic bodies were not being held in a single phase. Dhankhar also sought the SEC view on CAPF deployment. "SEC @MamataOfficial indicated to Governor Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar that as regards deployment #CAPF he would revert by December 04 and assured that all steps for fair, impartial and free elections will be diligently taken," tweeted the Governor. Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Suwendu Adhikari Thursday likened the state police to TMC cadre. "The Governor has rightly asked the state election commissioner to share his views on deployment of CAPF as the law and order situation in the state is deteriorating every day. Post-poll violence is still continuing here. Police have become the ruling party's cadre. "Therefore free and fair polls cannot be held here without CAPF," said Adhikari. Later in the day, a BJP delegation met the state election commissioner and reiterated its demand for CAPF deployment. "We draw your attention to our letter dated November 29, 2021 on the subject of deployment of Central Forces. Since then we have announced our list of 144 candidates for Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections. No sooner this was done our candidates have been receiving threatening calls, warning the candidates with dire consequences, including threat to life," read the BJP memorandum submitted to commissioner Das. "We once again call upon the Commission to deploy Central Forces for area domination, confidence building and conducting of polls, failing which we will have no option but to hold the Commission responsible for any untoward incident that may happen," it added.

Congress in 'deep freezer': TMC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 3: Amid the ongoing war of words between the TMC and the Congress, the ruling camp in West Bengal Friday launched a fresh attack on the grand old party, stating that it has gone into a "deep freezer" with opposition forces now looking up to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to fill the vacuum. The TMC, which had been inducting disgruntled Congress leaders in its fold, iterated in its mouth-piece 'Jago Bangla' that it was committed to fight the BJP. Referring to Prashant Kishor's latest tweet against the Congress, the article said it's not just the poll strategist but also Congress lead-

ers themselves who are criticising the party leadership. "The TMC has been saying this for a long time that the Congress is a spent force. They don't have the zeal to fight the BJP. The party is so bogged down by infighting that it hardly has time or energy to build an opposition. The UPA does not exist," the article titled 'Congress in deep freezer' said. "The country currently needs an alternative front and Opposition parties have given that responsibility to Mamata Banerjee. They are looking up to her to fill the vacuum. She is presently the most popular opposition face in the country," it said. Kishor, Thursday, took to Twitter and said that Congress' leadership is not the "divine right" of an individual, especially when the party has "lost more than 90% elections in last 10 years", in an apparent dig at senior leader Rahul Gandhi. Banerjee during her recent visit to Mumbai had said that "UPA doesn't exist". The ruling camp of West Bengal, which is trying to expand its footprint nationally, has been up in arms against the grand old party over its alleged failure to counter the BJP. In a massive jolt to the opposition Congress in Meghalaya, 12 of its 17 MLAs, led by former Chief Minister Mukul Sangma, joined the TMC last week. The TMC, in its bid to enter Tripura's political arena in a big way, recently engaged in a bitter battle with the BJP during the municipal elections there. It is also gearing up to contest the assembly elections in Goa to pitch Banerjee firmly as the foremost anti-BJP opposition voice. Earlier, the TMC, in its mouth-piece, had termed the Congress as an "incapable and incompetent" party, and maintained that the Mamata Banerjee-led camp cannot be blamed for Congress leaders jumping ship.

SUNNY MORN



Village women walk through a mustard field in Nadia, West Bengal Friday

Bengal to soon conduct trials of Covid-19 booster

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 3: The West Bengal government is planning to soon conduct trials of COVID-19 booster shots in the metropolis, and has started feasibility tests at different medical establishments, a senior official of the health department said Friday.



Six hospitals have come forward so far, expressing their willingness to be part of the trials, he said. "We are conducting feasibility tests in the city, where we are planning to have trials of the booster dose," the official said. School of Tropical Medicine, College of Medicine & Sagore Dutta Hospital, Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College & Hospital are the three government medical facilities that have evinced interest in this regard. "We have also written to the Drugs Controller General of India, and hope to get a positive reply," he said. Priority would be given to those in the healthcare sector for trials of the booster shots. Around 600 people will be chosen primarily from the sector, the official added.

Gujarat displaces Maha to become largest manufacturing hub

Maharashtra, however, continues to lead as the nation's biggest services hub

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, Dec 3: Gujarat has pipped Maharashtra to emerge the largest manufacturing hub in the country, with the former's Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing growing 15.9 per cent annually on average between FY12 and FY20 to touch ₹5.11 lakh crore, according to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Maharashtra's annual growth

rate during the period was 7.5 per cent per annum, taking the state's total manufacturing GVA to ₹4.34 lakh crore in FY20. It continues to lead as the nation's biggest services hub. The worst performers among states, which were already among the top 10 manufacturing ones during the period, were Rajasthan, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, with average annual growth rates of 3.8 per cent, 5.5 per cent and 6.9

per cent, respectively. GVA is essentially GDP minus net product taxes and reflects growth in supply of goods and services. The other states with the highest manufacturing GVA were Tamil Nadu at ₹3.43 lakh crore, Karnataka at ₹2.1 lakh crore and Uttar Pradesh at ₹1.87 lakh crore. India's manufacturing GVA grew to ₹16.9 lakh crore in FY20 at an average growth rate of 9.7 per cent since FY12. Higher investment in Gujarat during the period likely played a key role in allowing the state to outpace the rest of the country in manufacturing growth. Gujarat witnessed the highest level of capital investment in terms of gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) – a measure of investments – between FY12 and FY19 at a total of ₹5.85 lakh crore, ahead of Maharashtra which saw investment of ₹4.07 lakh crore during the period, and Andhra Pradesh, which witnessed cumulative GFCF of ₹1.49 lakh crore. A report by KPMG said key reforms by Gujarat, including the introduction of a single window for business clearances, easing of labour norms as well as smoother administration of incentive



schemes, contributed to boosting ease of doing business in the state and making it one of most attractive destinations for Foreign Direct Investment. Maharashtra, however, retained its spot as the leading provider of services in the country, with the state's services GVA growing at 12.6 per cent per annum hitting ₹15.1 lakh crore in FY20. Karnataka posted the fastest growth in services GVA at 15.1 per cent per annum during the period, achieving the second highest services GVA in the country at ₹9.72 lakh crore in FY20.

Thakor has his task cut out as Guj Cong chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Dec 3: Jagdish Thakor, who emerged as a consensus candidate for the post of president of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), is facing a formidable task of defeating the ruling BJP in the next year's Assembly elections. Congress President Sonia Gandhi has appointed Thakor as new president of the Gujarat Congress, replacing Amit Chavda, the party announced earlier in the day. An OBC leader, Thakor, who has good oratory skills, will have to take along all factions in the state unit while taking on the well-organized BJP which has been in power in the state from 1998. Congress sources said Thakor was a consensus candidate as former state unit chiefs Bharatsinh Solanki and Arjun Modhwadia were also in the race. The party high command also toyed with the idea of picking young Patidar leader Hardik Patel for the post, but he faced considerable opposition from within the



state unit, they said. Rajya Sabha member Shaktisinh Gohil was asked to take the responsibility but he declined saying he would like to contribute at the national level, sources said. "Thakor does not belong to any faction and that was the reason he has been given the responsibility," said a state Congress leader. Solanki, Modhwadia and Hardik Patel congratulated Thakor after his name was announced and expressed hope that Congress will defeat the BJP under his leadership in the 2022 elections. With Thakor's appointment, the party seems to be sticking to its traditional Kshatriya-tribal-Muslim-Dalit vote base. In the 2017 elections the party had tried to woo the Patels.

Gujarat accuses Setalvad of 'orchestrating' larger conspiracy

2002 RIOTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: There is a larger conspiracy "orchestrated" by social activist Teesta Setalvad to defame Gujarat for almost two decades, the state government told the Supreme Court Thursday while arguing on a petition relating to the 2002 riots. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Gujarat, told a bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar that he has nothing to say against Zakia Jafri as she lost her near and dear ones but there has to be a "limit of exploiting" the miseries of a widow. Zakia Jafri, the wife of Congress leader Ehsan Jafri who was killed at the Gulberg Society in Ahmedabad February 28, 2002, during the violence, has challenged the clean chit by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to 64 people including Narendra Modi, then



entire state for almost 20 years," Tushar Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar. "I have nothing against petitioner number one (Zakia Jafri), she is wounded, and she has lost her near and dear ones. I can have nothing to say against her. But, and I am choosing my words very carefully, there has to be a limit of exploiting the miseries of a widow," he said. Mehta told the bench that the

SIT had periodically filed status reports before the top court and in the last one; it was "at pains" to point out that Ms Setalvad was "tutoring witnesses, was preparing pre-typed computerised statements and sending them". "And it has remained my complaint from the beginning why the SIT did not prosecute her for fabricating false evidence. This is nothing but fabricating false evidence," he said during the arguments, which will now continue December 7. This is nothing but fabrication of evidence to involve "innocent persons" in the offence, Mehta said. "What is the cause, what is the reason, what is the motivation, what is that larger conspiracy which compels them to still keep the pot boiling," he said. Tushar Mehta also referred to the Gujarat HC order passed in a separate matter dealing with allegations of misappropriation of funds received by the NGOs of Setalvad for the 2002 riot victims.

national

of the day quote

Steps are being taken to create legal awareness, provide legal aid and ensure that people in rural areas need not have to really struggle to get basic minimum justice

KIREN RIJU | LAW MINISTER

The central government is not even listening to the countrymen, whether it is inflation or farmers issue. They are full of ego and pride and this pride will teach them a lesson in the future

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

This government (BJP) has left behind the British in terms of atrocities. Farmers are crushed to death by vehicles for opposing the government and no concrete action has been taken in the (Lakhimpur Kheri) matter so far. Those who oppose are being put in jail. Their policy is 'maro aur raj karo' (kill and rule)

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Man stabbed to death in Delhi

New Delhi: Two people were arrested for allegedly stabbing to death a 26-year-old man over personal enmity in the national capital, an official said Friday. According to the official, the incident took place Tuesday in the city's Rajouri Garden area. "A call was received at Rajouri Garden police station from Guru Gobind Singh Hospital regarding a Medico-Legal Case (MLC) in which a man identified as Dablu Singh was injured and admitted to the hospital," the official said.

Five killed in road mishap

Gurugram: Five people were killed after a car crashed into a roadside wall and overturned on Sadhrana road near Gadhi village here on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. According to police, the deceased have been identified as Sagar, Jibech, Niaz Khan, Prince and Jagbir. One person, identified as Hardik Tiwari, was injured in the incident.

Elephants fall into pond in Assam

Goalpara: Six elephants were trapped in the same muddy pond Thursday night in Assam's Goalpara district where five other pachyderms had been struck a day before, an official said. All the elephants were rescued successfully and chased back into nearby forested areas, he said. In the latest case, six elephants of a herd fell into the pond late Thursday night and the Forest Department was alerted by the locals this morning after they found the jumbos unable to come out of the waterbody, the official said.

Accused jumps into river, drowns

Thodupuzha (Idukki): An accused, who was in the custody of the police at Thodupuzha station here, escaped from the lock-up Friday, jumped into the adjacent river and drowned. The accused was Shafi (35), a history-sheeter, said the police. He escaped when he was about to be taken to court. The lock-up was apparently not fastened properly, so the accused managed to run away, they said. "He swam almost one kilometre with the police and locals chasing him through the shore," statement said.



The central probe agency, CBI is still looking into the information leak case. An inquiry by the Navy is also ongoing. It is premature to comment on these matters

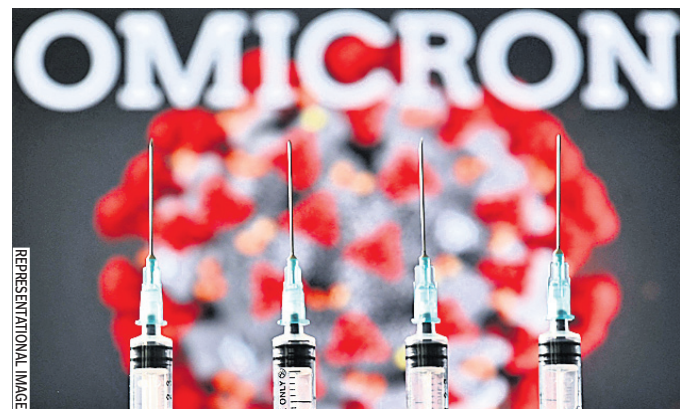
R HARI KUMAR | NAVY CHIEF, ADMIRAL

MORE EYES ON DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Friday that 1,40,000 additional CCTV cameras will be set up in the national capital soon. His government had earlier installed 2,75,000 CCTV cameras across the state



'Omicron may be less severe due to inoculation'



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Centre Friday said it anticipates the severity of the Omicron variant of coronavirus to be low in the country given the fast pace of vaccination and high exposure to the Delta variant, a day after the first two cases of the new variant was reported in Karnataka, and that a decision on a Covid vaccine booster dose will be on the basis of scientific guidance from experts.

The Union Health Ministry, however, said the scientific evidence for the expected severity of the disease is still evolving, as debates about the booster jabs heat up and several states ramp up testing and step up surveillance for the potentially more contagious variant.

It also noted there is no evidence to suggest that existing vaccines do not work on the new variant that was reported by South Africa to the World Health Organisation (WHO) November 24.

In a written reply, Mandaviya said the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) and the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) are deliberating and considering scientific evidences related to this aspect.

The minister's remarks came

VARIANT OF CONCERN

INDIA REPORTED FIRST OMICRON CASES THURSDAY

VACCINATIONS, HIGH DELTA EXPOSURE MAY LIMIT IMPACT

JUNIOR DOCTORS PROTEST TO DEMAND ADDITION OF STAFF

against the backdrop of the assessment by the country's top genome scientists that a booster dose "may be considered" for people above 40 years.

"Vaccination of all remaining unvaccinated at-risk people and consideration of a booster dose for those 40 years of age and over; first targeting the most high-risk / high-exposure may be considered," the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Sequencing Consortium (INSACOG) said in its weekly bulletin dated November 29.

The INSACOG is a network of national testing labs set up by the government to monitor genomic variations of Covid-19.

The country's first two cases of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 were recorded in Karnataka—in a 66-year-old South African flyer and a 46-year-old Bangalore doctor with no travel history and both men fully vaccinated. The Karnataka government, meanwhile, ordered a probe into test reports of the for-

18 from 'at-risk' nations test +ve

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Friday informed Parliament that RTPCR tests of 16,000 passengers from 'at-risk' countries have been conducted so far, of whom 18 have tested positive for Covid-19. He also said that genome sequencing for Omicron detection is underway for such passengers.

eign national that allowed him to leave India. The Health Ministry also issued a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the Omicron variant and said while there is no evidence to suggest that existing vaccines do not work on the variant some of the mutations reported may decrease the efficacy of the jabs.

It, however, underscored that definitive evidence for the new variant's increased remission and immune evasion is awaited.

Omicron cases are increasingly being reported from countries outside of South Africa and given its characteristics, it is likely to spread to more countries, including India, it said.

From the list of FAQs, the ministry, answering whether the existing vaccines work against the Omicron variant, said, "While, there is no evidence to suggest that existing vaccines do not work on Omicron, some of the mutations reported on spike gene may decrease the efficacy of existing vaccines. "However, vaccine protection is also by antibodies as well as by cellular immunity, which is expected to be relatively better preserved."

Hence, vaccines are expected to still offer protection against severe disease and vaccination is crucial. If eligible one should get vaccinated, it added.

WHITE BLANKET



A neighbourhood of Sissu village covered in snow after a fresh spell of snowfall in Lahual and Spiti district in Himachal

Navy to induct women across spectrum

Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said women officers have been appointed on board in almost all major warships



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Indian Navy has deployed 28 women officers on board around 15 frontline warships, including aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, and the number is set to go up with more such appointments being planned.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of Navy Day, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar said Friday that women officers have been appointed on board all major warships of the force.

He said the Navy is fully prepared to "induct and absorb" women across a wide spectrum of roles and responsibilities in the force. "In consonance with the gov-

ernment of India's objective to empower women, we have taken measures towards providing additional opportunities for women officers in the Navy. Women officers have been appointed on board almost all major warships," the newly-appointed Navy chief said.

Separately, officials said 28 women officers have been deployed so far in 15 major warships and the number is going to go up soon as more such appointments are coming up. Admiral Kumar said the modalities for downstream training of women as cadet entry at the National Defence Academy are being worked out.

"The Navy is fully prepared in all aspects to induct and absorb women across the wide spectrum of roles and responsibilities," the Navy chief said.

He also said that the induction of women officers into the information technology branch will commence from June next year. The officials cited above said women officers have been deployed on a number of stealth frigates, guided missile destroyers and tankers.

The Navy also plans to deploy women officers on board India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant when it is commissioned in August next year.

Oppn, BJP face-off on Parl premises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The BJP Friday mounted counter-protests outside Parliament where 12 suspended opposition members of Rajya Sabha were on a sit-in demonstration against the action on them.

There were some tense moments as BJP members, carrying placards, marched towards the opposition members near the Gandhi statue in Parliament premises to condemn their "undemocratic actions" inside the House.

"We are here to highlight the duplicity of the opposition parties," BJP member G V L Narsimha Rao said. The issue also figured in both houses of Parliament when opposition leaders complained about "hooting" by BJP members to the presiding officers.

In Rajya Sabha, RJD MP Manoj Jha said BJP members "gate-crashed" the site in Parliament complex where the 12 suspended members were staging a demonstration.

In Lok Sabha, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury claimed the BJP members hooted the opposition members near the Gandhi statue.

Farmers stop Kangana's car, seek apology

EARLIER, THE ACTOR WAS ACCUSED OF COMPARING PROTESTING FARMERS WITH 'KHALISTANI TERRORISTS'. IN THE PAST, FIRs HAVE ALSO BEEN REGISTERED AGAINST HER OVER HER REMARKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Dec 3: Actor Kangana Ranaut's car was on Friday briefly stopped at Kiratpur Sahib in Punjab's Rupnagar district by a group of people, demanding an apology from her over her alleged remarks on the farmers' protest against the Centre's farm laws.

In a video message on her Instagram account, the actor alleged she was "attacked" by a mob, who "abused" and "threatened to kill her".



Ranaut was on her way from Himachal Pradesh to the Chandigarh airport when the incident took place.

Police said when her car reached the Bunga Sahib gurdwara near Kiratpur Sahib in Rupnagar, a group of men and women carrying flags of a farmer outfit, did not allow the car to move forward. They were demanding an apology from the actor for her comments against farmers protesting the Centre's three farm laws, they said. Her car was stopped for over

half an hour. Heavy police force from Rupnagar reached the spot. Ranaut also spoke to some protesting women, said police.

After police persuaded them, the protesters allowed the actor's car to proceed. The actor, while sitting in her car, made a video of the incident. "A mob surrounded me as I entered Punjab. They are calling themselves farmers. They are attacking me, abusing me and threatening to kill me," she said in the video posted on her Instagram account.

"In this country, this kind of mob lynching is happening openly. If I would not be having security with me, what situation would be there, what would happen? The situation here is unbelievable," she said.

"There is so much police presence, still my car is not being allowed to go. Am I a politician, do I run a party, what is this behaviour. Unbelievable," the actor said.

The actor said the incident is the result of the politics being played over her name. "See how the mob has surrounded my car. There would have been lynching openly had police not been here. Shame on these people," she said. The actor while sitting in her car also spoke to some women protesters and compared one of them to her mother.

"I studied in Punjab. You are like my mother," she could be heard saying this to a protester. The woman protester later alleged that Ranaut made some objectionable remark last year against an elderly woman, who had joined the protest against the farm laws.

The woman protester claimed that Ranaut regretted her comments though there was no confirmation from the actor's side.

500 eateries in Delhi to sell herbal hookah

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Delhi High Court has allowed sale of herbal flavoured hookahs in 500 restaurants in the national capital on the assurance that they will use disposable pipes and will strictly follow Covid guidelines.

A bench of Justice Prateek Jalan granted interim relief to the National Restaurant Association of India, an association of around 500 members who have establishments in the city according to the High Court's order dated December 1. Senior Advocate VK Garg along with advocates PS Singal and Satender Kumar, who represented the restaurant owners, said similar petitions at the instances of various individual restaurants have been considered by this Court and an interim order dated November 16 has been passed in those matters.



UN to expand plastic waste management in India

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 3: The United Nations Development Programme aims to almost triple its plastic waste management to 100 cities in India by 2024. A UNDP executive said, to combat the damaging effects of plastic pollution.

Across India's many towns and cities, which are often ranked among the world's most polluted, the absence of an organised management of plastic waste leads to widespread littering and pollution.

The UNDP programme, which began in 2018, has so far collected 83,000 metric tonne of plastic waste.

India generates about 3.4 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, according to official estimates.

In India although about 60% of plastic is recycled, we are still seeing the damage that plastic pollution is causing, Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India, said in an interview.

The UNDP is working with federal think tank, NITI Aayog and have jointly developed a 'handbook' model for local municipalities as well as the private sector.

In a country like India with nearly fifth of the world's population, a key challenge is how do we make these models scalable,



Workers push a bundle of crushed plastic bottles at a recycling factory in Ahmedabad

Rasheed said in an interview recorded November 22.

The government needs stricter enforcement on controls around dumping of plastic waste and has a long way to go to raise awareness among households, Rasheed said, adding there was a need for investment into research for alternatives.

The programme suffered a setback after the Covid-19 pandemic led to widespread increase in waste, including medical plastic waste, and hit livelihoods of collectors, who often work in hazardous conditions.

There was a real need to expand waste collection efforts

and that was coming at the same time as lot of (Covid-19 related) restrictions were disrupting the normal waste collection, Rasheed said.

Plastic pollution is set to triple by 2040, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has predicted, adding 23-37 million metric tons of waste into the world's oceans each year.

India, also the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the United States, has set 2070 as a target to reach net-zero carbon emissions, much later than those set by others and twenty years after the UN's global recommendation.

international

of the day quote

Centuries of division and separation have made us assimilate, even involuntarily, hostility and prejudice with regard to one another, preconceptions often based on scarce and distorted information, and spread by an aggressive and polemical literature

POPE FRANCIS

Experts say the COVID-19 cases will continue to rise in the weeks ahead this winter, so we need to be ready

JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

In 2021, the US administration, Congress, industry, diaspora and the American people at large came out to support India, when the COVID-19 second wave hit the country in summer

TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU | INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US

SHORT TAKES

UN HQ lockdown ends 'calmly'

United Nations: A nearly three-hour lockdown of the UN headquarters ended peacefully when an apparently mentally distraught mystery man holding a gun to his throat in front of the complex surrendered to police. The incident on Thursday "ended calmly" and the man was taken into custody by New York police, said Stephane Dujarric, the spokesperson for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The man, who was from Florida and had no criminal record according to police, did not make any political demands or shout slogans and was apparently seeking the proverbial 15 minutes of fame.

12 killed

Irbil (Iraq): An attack by Islamic State militants on a village in northern Iraq killed at least 12 people, including a number of Kurdish forces, Kurdish media reported Friday. The attack took place late Thursday in a village in the Makhmour region, triggering a confrontation with Kurdish peshmerga forces. Among the dead were nine peshmerga and three civilians, private broadcaster Rudaw said on its website. There was no claim by Islamic State militants for the attack and details were not immediately available.

15 injured

Manila: At least five persons were killed and 15 others injured Friday in an accident on a busy road in the central Philippine Cebu province, according to police, and local media reports. Police said the crash occurred at around 9.30 a.m. (local time) in Talisay City when a dump truck hit a car, triggering a domino effect as the car hit other cars and four motorcycles, Xinhua news agency reported.

Student arrested

Parkland (US): A South Florida teenager has been arrested after investigators learned he made a threat against Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the site of a mass shooting that killed 17 people on Valentine's Day in 2018. A caller reported seeing the threat late Wednesday night, according to the Broward Sheriff's Office. Officials said the 17-year-old high school junior had sent a text message to his classmates in a social media chat room just after 9 pm Wednesday. "I feel like school shooting tmrw (tomorrow). When I sneeze it's a signal go to the bathroom OK. I hope y'all aren't snitches," the text message said, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Measures against Delta work for Omicron too: WHO



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, Dec 3: Measures used to counter the delta variant should remain the foundation for fighting the coronavirus pandemic, even in the face of the new omicron version of the virus, World Health Organisation officials said Friday, while acknowledging that the travel restrictions imposed by some countries may buy time.

While about three dozen countries worldwide have reported omicron infections, including India on Thursday, the numbers so far are small outside of South Africa, which is facing a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases and where the new variant may be becoming dominant. Still, much remains unclear about omicron, including whether it is more contagious, as some health authorities suspect, whether it makes people more seriously ill, or whether it can evade vaccine protection.

"Border control can delay the virus coming in and buy time. But every country and every community must prepare for new surges in cases," Dr. Takeshi Kasai, the WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, told reporters Friday during a virtual news conference from the Philippines. "The positive news in all of this is that none of the information we have currently about omicron suggests we need to change the directions of our response."

That means continuing to push for higher vaccination rates, abiding by social-distancing guidelines,

WHO rushes experts' team to South Africa

Johannesburg: The WHO has rushed a team of experts to South Africa's Gauteng province, the epicentre of the new Omicron variant of COVID-19, to ramp up surveillance and contact tracing efforts as the country grapples with rising cases of infections. Omicron, which was first identified in South Africa exactly a week ago, now has been detected in at least 24 countries around the world, including India. "We are deploying a surge team in Gauteng province to support surveillance and contact tracing," World Health Organisation's Regional Emergency Director for Africa Dr Salam Gueye said in a media briefing on Thursday. A team is already working in South Africa on genomic sequencing, he said. The Gauteng province, which is the economic hub of South Africa, has accounted for almost 80 per cent of the infections over the past week.

and wearing masks, among other measures, said WHO Regional Emergency Director Dr. Babatunde Olowokure.

He added that health systems must "ensure we are treating the right patients in the right place at the right time, and so therefore ensuring that ICU beds are available, particularly for those who need them."

Kasai warned: "We cannot be complacent." WHO has previously urged against border closures, noting they often have limited effect and can cause major disruptions.

Pak to let India transport wheat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Dec 3: Pakistan Friday agreed to let India transport 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat and life-saving drugs as humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan on Afghan trucks through the Wagah border crossing, after a row erupted between the two countries over the modalities of transportation.

Thursday, India said that discussions with Pakistan are going on to finalise the modalities of the transportation of its aid to Afghanistan through Pakistani soil and insisted that no conditionalities should be attached for sending the humanitarian assistance.

In New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that humanitarian assistance should not be subject to conditionalities. Pakistan last week formally informed India about its decision to allow the transportation of wheat and life-saving drugs to neighbouring Afghanistan through its territory on an "exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes". Thursday, Pakistan turned down India's wheat transit proposal. However, the Foreign Office said in a statement that the decision to let New Delhi send wheat and life-saving drugs to Afghanistan through Pakistan on Afghan trucks was formally conveyed to India.

China launches its first cross border BRI train from Laos

BOOSTING CONNECTIVITY

Besides China, Laos shares borders with Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia which offered Beijing to extend the train project to those countries



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing/Vientiane, Dec 3: China Friday launched the first USD 6 billion cross-border train of its multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) from Laos, which Beijing says will help the small and only landlocked country in South East Asia turn into a land-linked hub, boost regional connectivity and supply chain resilience.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Laos' counterpart Thongloun Sisoulith jointly witnessed the opening of the China-Laos railway via video link on Friday. The first train of the China-Laos Railway left Vientiane soon after the cross-border railway was officially put into operation, the

state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Besides China, Laos shares borders with Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia which offered Beijing to extend the train project to those countries. Laos is the only landlocked country in South East Asia. Like China, which is ruled by the Communist Party, it is a one-party socialist republic governed by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

The 1,035-km electrified passenger and cargo railway, connecting Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province with Laos' capital Vientiane, fully adopts Chinese technical standards and consists of two sections, the report said.

Construction of the section in Laos from the border town of Boten to Vientiane started in December 2016, and construction of the section in China from the city of Yuxi to the border town of Mohan started in December 2015.

As a docking project between the China-proposed BRI and Laos' strategy to convert itself from a landlocked country into a land-linked hub, the railway is of great significance to bilateral economic, social and cultural exchanges as well as the regional connectivity, the report said.

With a maximum operating speed of 160-km per hour; the travel time from Kunming to Vientiane takes about 10 hours, including customs clearance time.

MILITARY PREPAREDNESS



A military drill of Kuwaiti army in Jahra Governorate, Kuwait. Kuwait's armed forces remain prepared for any emergency, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has said. He made the remarks during a visit to the land troops of the Kuwaiti army at Al-Udaire training range in Jahra Governorate

FRANCE SIGNS MEGA DEAL WITH UAE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nice (France), Dec 3: France announced the signing Friday of a 16 billion-euro (USD 18 billion) armaments mega-contract for the sale of 80 of its upgraded Rafale warplanes to the United Arab Emirates.

The French Defense Ministry said the deal was France's largest-ever weapons contract for export. It came as French President Emmanuel Macron is in the Emirates on the first stop of a two-day visit to the Persian Gulf. There was no immediate confirmation of the signing from Emirati officials.

Manufacturer Dassault Aviation said the UAE is buying the upgraded F4 version of its multi-role combat aircraft. That will make the Emirates Air Force the first Rafale F4 user outside of France, it said. The deal offers a shot in the arm for France's defense industry after the collapse of a \$66 billion contract for Australia to buy 12 French submarines.

Dassault Aviation boss Eric Trappier called the sale "a French success story" and "excellent news for France and for its aeronautical industry."

The purchase marks a sizeable step up for the UAE's military capabilities in the oil- and gas-rich region. Charles Forrester, a senior analyst at Jane's, said the fighter "will significantly upgrade UAE's air-power capabilities in terms of strike, air-to-air warfare, and reconnaissance."

Dassault said the Rafale will give the UAE "a tool capable of guaranteeing sovereignty and operational independence." Macron and Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, were present at the contract signing, it said.

French defense officials were jubilant. The defense minister, Florence Parly, said the deal "directly contributes to regional stability."

Mob lynches Sri Lankan citizen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Dec 3: Angry supporters of a hardline Islamist party attacked a garment factory in Pakistan's Punjab province Friday, lynching a Sri Lankan national and burning his body over allegations of blasphemy, police said.

Priyantha Kumara, who was in his 40s, was working as the general manager of a factory in Sialkot district, some 100 kms from here, a Punjab police official said.

"Mr Kumara allegedly tore a poster of the hardline Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) in which Quranic verses were inscribed and threw it in the dustbin. The poster of the Islamist party was pasted on the wall adjoining the office of Kumara. A couple of factory workers saw him removing the poster and spread the word in the factory," the official said.

Hundreds of men, enraged

PAK SHOCKER



The situation in the area is tense while all factories are shut. No arrests have been made so far, the police said

over the "blasphemy" incident, started gathering outside the factory from adjoining areas. Most of them were activists and supporters of the TLP. The mob dragged the suspect (the Sri

Lankan national) from the factory and severely tortured him. After he succumbed to his wounds, the mob burnt his body before police reached there," the official said.

Several videos were circulated on social media showing hundreds of men gathered at the site surrounding the body of the Sri Lankan national. They were chanting slogans of the TLP.

China suspends project in SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Dec 3: China has suspended a project to install hybrid energy plants in three islands of Sri Lanka, citing "security concern" from a "third party", amid reports of India raising concern over its location.

In January, the Chinese firm, Sino Soar Hybrid Technology, was awarded the contract to install a hybrid renewable energy system in Delft, Nagadeepa and Analthivu islands, off the coast of Jaffna, according to a report in newfirst.lk news website published on Thursday.

The three islets are located close to Tamil Nadu. Without naming India, the Chinese embassy here in a tweet on Wednesday confirmed that "Sino Soar Hybrid Technology, being suspended to build Hybrid Energy system in 3 northern islands Flag of Sri Lanka due to 'security concern' from a third party".

SECURITY CONCERN



Instead, it added, Beijing has inked a contract with Male on November 29 to establish solar power plants at 12 islands in the Maldives. According to the news-first.lk report, in early 2021, India lodged a "strong protest" with Lanka on the award of the tender to the Chinese company for the construction of renewable energy power plants in Delft, Nagadeepa and Analthivu.

The contract was part of the Supporting Electricity Supply Reliability Improvement Project, which is implemented by the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), it said.

Fuel in tap water alarms Pearl Harbour military families

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Honolulu, Dec 3: Cheri Burness' dog was the first to signal something was wrong with their tap water. He stopped drinking it two weeks ago. Then Burness started feeling stomach cramps. Her 12-year-old daughter was nauseous.

"It was just getting worse every day," said Burness, whose husband is in the Navy. Their family is among hundreds of military families living near Pearl Harbour with similar complaints after the Navy's water system somehow became contaminated by petroleum.

The problems have afflicted one of the most important Navy bases in the world, home to submarines, ships and the commander of US forces in the Indo-Pacific region. The

issues may even threaten one of Honolulu's most important aquifers and water sources.

The Navy said Thursday that tests had identified petroleum in its Red Hill well which taps into an aquifer near the base. Rear Adm. Blake Converse, Pacific Fleet deputy commander, told a town hall meeting the Navy took this well offline on Sunday because it was nearest well to affected housing areas.

Converse said the Navy will flush clean water through its distribution system to clear residual petroleum products from the water. This process, followed by testing to make sure it the water meets Environmental Protection Agency drinking standards, could take four to ten days, he said.

The Navy will investigate how



contaminants got into the well and fix the well, he said. The crisis comes after the Navy on November 22 said a water and fuel mixture had leaked into a

fire suppression system drain line in a tunnel at a massive fuel storage facility 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) inland of Pearl Harbour. The Navy said it removed about

14,000 gallons (53 kiloliters) of the mixture, and said the liquid hadn't leaked into the environment. The Navy said so far it's received calls about a fuel odor or physical ailments from 680 homes in Navy housing and 270 in Army housing on the Navy's water system. The Navy water system serves 93,000 people.

In the days after Thanksgiving, Burness's daughter felt so sick she didn't want to eat any leftovers, including potatoes, turnips and carrots that had been boiled in water. "I don't want you to have to throw out food because I know it's expensive, but I can't eat this Mom," Burness said her daughter told her.

On Sunday, Burness started seeing comments on social media from

military families saying their tap water smelled like fuel. She didn't smell it, but people told her to turn on her hot water and check. She did and smelled it too.

She told her family not to drink the water and not to wash their hair and face with it. She ordered private water delivery for USD 120 a month. They family has mostly been eating off of plastic and paper plates and eating out.

On Monday, when she gave her dog some bottled water, he immediately drank a full liter's worth and then drank two more liters over the next 12 hours.

The Navy has since starting distributing bottled water. The Navy said Marines would set up showers and laundry facilities connected to clean water.

business

of the day quote

We provided about 10 per cent of the funding of all of the unicorns in India. I believe in the future of India. I believe in the passion of young entrepreneurs in India



MASAYOSHI SON | CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SOFTBANK

Based on the discussions last night with Minister Piyush Goyal and senior members of his team, I am confident that we can do a very good early harvest deal, which is larger rather than smaller, by the end of the year or very early in the new year



TONY ABBOTT | SPECIAL TRADE ENVOY, AUSTRALIA

The total budget allocation for chip design related activities / programmes in the current financial year is ₹100 crore



ASHWINI VAISHNAW | ELECTRONICS AND IT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

FDI in food making sector dip by 54%

New Delhi: Foreign direct investment (FDI) in food processing sector declined 54 per cent to ₹2,934.12 crore in 2020-21 as compared to the previous year, the government said Friday. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel informed that the FDI in the food processing sector stood at ₹4,430.44 crore in 2018-19, ₹6,414.67 crore during 2019-20 and ₹2,934.12 crore during the 2020-21 financial year.

Forex reserves down by \$2.7mln

Mumbai: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$2.713 billion to \$637.687 billion in the week to November 26, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended November 19, the reserves had increased by \$289 million to \$640.401 billion. It touched a lifetime high of \$642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021. In the reporting week ended November 26, the dip in the foreign exchange reserves was on account of a decline in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves and gold reserves.

Vodafone files for retro tax settlement

New Delhi: Vodafone has filed an application with the Indian government to settle its tax dispute under the retrospective law, agreeing to indemnify it against any future claims, a top government official told ET. "They have applied... After processing of the application, the company would be issued Form 2," the official said. Form 2 is the next step that signals acceptance of the application, setting the stage for the issue of refund of tax paid.

Patent for Lay's potatoes revoked

New Delhi: India has revoked a patent for a potato variety grown exclusively for PepsiCo Inc's popular Lay's potato chips, according to an order issued Friday by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Authority. In 2019, PepsiCo sued some Indian farmers based in the western state of Gujarat for cultivating the FC5 potato variety, which has a lower moisture content required to make snacks such as potato chips. Even at the global level, this is the first time that the multinational had to face such a defeat.



Even as we are thinking about at a national level, there should simultaneously be a global mechanism through which we are constantly monitoring the movement of technology, so that whether it is your cryptocurrency

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

MUSK SELLS TESLA SHARES WORTH \$1.01 BILLION

Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk has sold another 934,091 shares of the electric vehicle maker worth \$1.01 billion to meet his tax obligations related to the exercise of options to buy 2.1 million shares, regulatory filings showed Thursday



US largest trading partner of India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The government Friday said during the April-October period this fiscal, the US has once again emerged as the largest trading partner of India with bilateral merchandise trade of \$67.41 billion.

The US has been the largest trading partner of India with respect to merchandise trade since 2018-19, except in 2020-21, when trade with America declined marginally on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

In the current 2021-22 (April-October), the US has once again become the largest trading partner with bilateral merchandise trade of \$67.41 billion, accounting for 11.98 per cent of India's total merchandise trade, she said.

She also said that India's bilateral trade with Australia has increased to \$13.88 billion in 2021, from \$7.48 billion in the corresponding period of 2020. Similarly, the bilateral trade with UAE has



APRIL-OCTOBER 2021

MERCHANDISE TRADE BETWEEN US AND INDIA TOUCHED \$67.41 BILLION

BILATERAL TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA HAS INCREASED TO \$13.88 BILLION

TRADE WITH UAE HAS GROWN TO \$49.06 BILLION

BILATERAL TRADE WITH BELGIUM SOARS TO \$13.70 BILLION

grown to \$49.06 billion in 2021, from \$29.48 billion in 2020 for the same period. The bilateral trade with Belgium has also grown to \$13.70 billion in 2021, from \$7.63 billion in 2020 for the same period, she added.

In a separate reply, Patel said the share of export of goods and services in GDP has increased to 18.7 per cent during 2020-21, over 18.4 per cent in 2019-20, and 21.7 per cent in 2021-22 (April-September) over 19.4 per cent in 2020-21 (April-September).

In another reply, she said India's import of pulses dipped marginally

to 10,34,491 tonne during April-September this fiscal, as against 10,39,861 tonne in the same period last year. It was 24,66,156 tonne in 2020-21 as against 28,98,078 tonne in 2019-20.

In a question whether it is a fact that the ministry has prepared a plan to build a 5-star hotel at Pragati Maidan, Patel said "Yes". "The construction has not started yet," she said.

Replying to another question on exporters' refund, she said as November 25, out of all Merchandise Exports from India

Scheme (MEIS) claims applied for period 2020-21, duty credit scrips have been issued for 97.3 per cent of claims and 2.7 per cent claims are under various stages of approval process.

Completed MEIS applications are largely system driven except for certain applications which require manual examination such as for exports from non-EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) ports. Disposal of pending applications is also dependent on compliance of deficiencies by the applicant exporters, she added.

Centre seeks Parl's nod for additional ₹3.73L crore funds



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Government Friday sought Parliament's nod to infuse over ₹62,000 crore into the company that holds residual assets and liabilities of Air India after its privatisation, as part of over ₹3.73 lakh crore additional spending planned in the current financial year.

The extra spending would include ₹58,430 crore by way of additional fertiliser subsidy, ₹53,123 crore towards payment of pending export incentives and ₹22,039 crore to rural development ministry for transfer to National Rural Employment Guarantee Fund.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled the second batch of supplementary demands for grants tabled in Lok Sabha envisaging a net cash outflow of over ₹2.99 lakh crore and ₹74,517 crore extra expenditure would be matched by savings by different ministries.

As per the document, ₹62,057 crore would be given to the Civil Aviation Ministry for equity infusion in Air India Assets Holding Company (AAHL) for re-payment of past government guaranteed borrowing and past dues/liabilities of Air India. Besides, an additional ₹2,628 crore would be given towards loans and advances to Air India for recoupment of advance from

Contingency Fund of India. The additional fertiliser subsidy include ₹43,430 crore on account of payment towards indigenous and imported Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Subsidy and ₹15,000 crore towards urea subsidy scheme.

Besides, the Department of Food and Public Distribution would be given an additional ₹49,805 crore for meeting expenditure towards various schemes of food storage and warehousing.

About ₹2,400 crore would be given to Department of Commerce for meeting expenditure towards subsidies under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme', and Investment under the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) scheme, among others.

Another over ₹5,000 crore and over ₹4,000 crore has been earmarked for additional spending by the Ministries of Defence and Home, respectively.

The 2021-22 Budget had projected government's total expenditure at ₹34.83 lakh crore. But this is expected to overshoot considering the two batches of supplementary demands for grants presented by the government so far.

The government had in August received Parliament nod for net additional spending ₹23,675 crore in the first batch of supplementary demands for grants.

Central Bank's GM visits City for two days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Mukul N Dandige, General Manager, B/S & CFO, Central Office, Central Bank of India is on two day's visit to Bhubaneswar for meeting with chartered accountants, mega multi-purpose credit camp, customer meet and staff review meeting. During his visit he reviewed the overall performance of the region and also interacted with chartered accountants for business development, as per sources.



A mega multi-purpose credit camp was also organised at Central Bank of India, conference hall, regional office, today where loan sanction letters were distributed to customers by Dandige. Central Bank of India, Bhubaneswar region as a whole sanctioned loan proposal of around 100 crore to 150 customers in a single day in presence of the GM, bank officials said.

Pradeep Kumar Samanataray (Senior Regional Manager) presided over the meeting. Suresh Golani (Assistant General Manager), MK Tripathy (Chief Manager), Lokesh Bhagat (Chief Manager), SC Mohanty (Chief Manager) and other staff members of Central Bank of India participated in the meeting and Sandeep Satapathy, Senior Manager gave the vote of thanks.

BG of ₹9,200cr released to telcos

The move is part of a reform package announced by the government in September

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Department of Telecom (DoT) has released bank guarantees of around ₹9,200 crore of Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio deposited for licence fee and spectrum usage charges, official sources aware of the development said.

Bank guarantee (BG) of around ₹4,000 crore has been released for Bharti Airtel and ₹2,500 crore for Vodafone Idea (VIL). BG of around ₹2,700 crore of Reliance Jio was released last month, a source told PTI.

DoT slashed performance and fi-



nancial bank guarantee requirements of telecom operators by 80 per cent in October.

Under the amended norms, telecom operators will be required to provide a performance BG of up to ₹44 crore for each service for the tele-

com licence compared to ₹220 crore mandated under the old rule. Similarly, telecom operators will need to provide a financial BG of maximum ₹8.8 crore per circle now, against the previous requirement of ₹44 crore.

The rules will not be applicable in cases where BGs have been furnished due to any court order or are subject to any litigation, the licence amendment note said.

The rules will not apply to telecom operators currently going through the liquidation process. The move will unblock the cash of telecom operators that they keep with banks to furnish BGs.

IPO FRENZY

Star Health cuts IPO size

Mumbai: Star Health will cut the offer for sale portion of its IPO after the offering received a tepid response in its subscription period ending yesterday, according to a source. The IPO of the country's largest private health insurance firm was not fully subscribed by the close of bidding Thursday, signalling that demand for IPOs in India could be waning. It was subscribed at just 79 per cent, getting bids worth \$427.37 million, despite it extending the subscription period for its offering. The institutional investor and retail segments were fully subscribed, at 1.03 times and 1.1 times respectively, but bids for them were far lower than in previous offerings such as Nykaa.

Aether plans to file up to ₹1,000 crore IPO

New Delhi: Specialty chemical company Aether Industries plans to file preliminary documents for an initial public offering of as much as ₹1,000 crore next week, according to people familiar with the matter. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd have been appointed as merchant bankers to advise the company on the public issue, they added. The Surat-based company has recently raised over ₹100 crore from White Oak Capital and IIFL in the pre-IPO round.

Tega Industries IPO a huge hit

New Delhi: The initial public offer of Tega Industries Limited, manufacturer of consumables for the mining industry, received an overwhelming response from investors as it got subscribed a whopping 219.04 times on the last day of subscription Friday. The ₹619.22 crore IPO received bids for 2,09,58,69,600 shares against 95,68,636 shares on offer, according to data with the exchanges. The initial public offer was of up to 1,36,69,478 equity shares and had a price range of ₹443-453 a share. The initial public offer of Tega Industries was fully subscribed within one hour of opening Wednesday. Tega Industries Tuesday garnered ₹186 crore from anchor investors.

Services activity grew robustly in November

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Dec 3: Activity in India's dominant services sector continued to grow at a robust pace last month supported by a strong recovery in domestic demand, a private survey showed, but elevated price pressures remained a major concern.

Asia's third-largest economy expanded at the fastest pace among major economies last quarter, boosted by coronavirus vaccinations and stronger government spending. The economy grew 8.4% annually during the July-September quarter.

That positive momentum seems to have been largely sustained in the first two months of this quarter. The Services Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, eased to 58.1 in November from 58.4 in October, but last month's rate of growth was the second-best



in over a decade and well above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction for a fourth straight month. Excluding October, new business expanded at its quickest pace in nearly nine years in November, primarily driven by the robust recovery in domestic demand.

"The recovery of the Indian service sector was extended to November. Companies were somewhat convinced that output levels would continue to increase in the

year ahead, but worries regarding inflationary pressures weighed on confidence again," noted Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

Despite reporting the biggest jump in input costs since April, firms were only able to pass on some of costs to customers, pointing to further pressure on margins. Prices charged rose at a slower pace in November compared to October.

LARGEST SINCE 1997

Aggregate bank deposits slump in fortnight till Nov 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The massive fortnightly spike in bank deposits by a whopping ₹3.3 lakh crore - the fifth biggest rise in 24 years - for the fortnight to November 5, 2021, and a subsequent plunge of ₹2.7 lakh crore in the next fortnight can be due to the expected IPO boom and subsequent poor show in the later weeks, argues an SBI Research report.

Such a massive deposit accretion has never happened during a Diwali week as there is always a currency leakage and concomitant deposit decline, says an SBI Research report, adding this is also the fifth largest increase in any fortnight in the past 24 years since 1997 and the ₹2.69 lakh crore subsequent deposit slump for the fort-

night to November 19 is the largest since 1997.

Such a huge incremental addition has happened only a few times: during the fortnight to November 25, 2016 by ₹4.16 lakh crore after the note ban, for the fortnight to September 26, 2016 by ₹3.55 lakh crore, March 29 2019 by ₹3.46 lakh crore and April 1, 2016 by ₹3.41 lakh crore, said the report.

"While November 2016 was due to the demonetisation and the March and April of the same year could be attributed to seasonal year-end bulge," Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the chief economic adviser to the State Bank Group, said in a note Friday.

According to the provisional RBI data for the fortnight to November 19, the aggregate deposits of commercial banks have



slumped by ₹2.7 lakh crore. The slump in deposits follows an abrupt increase by ₹3.3 lakh crore in the previous fortnight ending November 5, 2021 - this was 36 per cent of the incremental deposit growth for the period to Rs 9.35 lakh crore.

In fact, the ₹3.3 lakh crore fortnightly deposit bulge is the fifth largest fortnightly increase since 1997 and the ₹2.69 lakh crore subsequent deposit slump (fortnight ended Nov 19) is the largest since 1997. Such an increase in deposits and subsequent slump is quite a con-

trarian trend, he said, adding while it is difficult to decipher the increase and subsequent decline, it does poses questions on liquidity management/financial stability or a shift in behavioural trend in customer payment habits through digitisation and hence lower currency leakage and concomitant deposit bulge or both.

On the fortnightly deposit slump in the subsequent days period, Ghosh said "it was possible that there was a large influx of deposits into banking system for the fortnight to November 5, 2021 in anticipation of a buildup in rally in stock markets post-primary issuances of new age companies and others. However, when such a rally did not materialise, deposits slumped and almost 80 per cent of incremental

deposit was withdrawn". On the possible reason of the IPO rush, Ghosh noted the massive influx of new investors that began since the lockdowns began in March 2020 and which got accelerated in the past few months even as bank deposits have decelerated.

According to NSE data, monthly investor registrations rose to record-high levels in September 2021 to the tune of 15.6 lakh. Almost 50 lakh additional new investors have been registered with brokerages between April and September 2021 over the same period in 2020.

If deposits and credit grew by ₹5 lakh crore during the rest of the FY22 (from November 19, 2021 to Mar 25, 2022), then the deposits growth will be around 12 per cent and credit growth around 8.5 per cent in 2021-22.

Opener makes statement with an unbeaten century as the hosts reach 221/4 on a rain-hit opening day of the second Test against New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium

MAYANK PROPS INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 3: Under pressure to prove his worth, Mayank Agarwal (120 batting, 246b, 14x4, 4x6) made the best statement possible with a superb hundred as India recovered from a sudden top-order collapse to reach 221/4 in two extended opening day sessions against New Zealand in the second Test here Friday.

Agarwal, who is all but certain to sit out once Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul come back during the next series (if South Africa then away, if West Indies then home), added to a happy headache for coach Rahul Dravid, on a day when vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane had to be 'dropped' because of a hamstring niggle.

Worse, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli failed to trouble the scorers and it was a hundred that came under pressure with India being 80/3 and 160/4 at different stages of the game.

Had the Indian team management been forced to play Rahane, the axe was likely to fall on Agarwal and it's never a great feeling to go out there in such a situation.

He was jittery to begin with as a streaky boundary through slips came early on but once he marched down the track to loft Ajaz Patel (4/73) for a straight six, his nerves had all but vanished.

The boundaries off Patel showed his class as he got his fourth hundred in Tests. In fact, Patel, who was by far the best New Zealand bowler in view, having reduced India from 80 for no loss to 80/3, did look pedestrian in front of Agarwal at times.

When an airborne Agarwal punched the air after a square driven boundary off part-time seamer Daryl Mitchell, one could sense that pressure weighing a thousand tonnes must have come off his chest.

Agarwal was the first choice



opener during the England series but before the first game, he got hit on the head and KL Rahul coming in his place, grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

With Rohit also having his best overseas series as Test opener, Agarwal was confined to the reserves. He could again be back in the reserves but he made a statement of intent with his strokeplay as he dominated the 80-run fourth wicket stand with Shreyas Iyer (18).

Along with another reserve player in Wriddhi Saha (25 batting, 53b, 3x4, 1x6), Agarwal

added another 61 runs before the close of play. New Zealand had erred in not playing Neil Wagner on a track where there was a lot of bounce on offer.

If Agarwal showed discretion, same couldn't be said about Shubman Gill (44, 71b, 7x4, 1x6), who was dazzling till he was around in their 80-run opening stand before Patel snuffed him out. Gill looked fluent before paying for his impetuosity which led to a mini collapse.

Mumbai-born left-arm spinner Patel also picked up Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli in quick

succession with both failing to trouble the scorers.

Patel became the second Mumbai-born cricketer after legendary England captain Douglas Jardine to play against India in his city of birth.

He had Gill on the mat when he flighted one to entice him to come out and the ball tuned and jumped with keeper Tom Blundell making a hash of a stumping. However, the very next ball saw him shorten the length as Gill tried jabbing at it and it turned enough to take the outside edge into Ross Taylor's palms.

Pujara's confidence has hit nadir after too many failures and he survived a DRS appeal from New Zealand before he jumped down the track to york himself. Patel, very wisely fired one with an angle straight into his toes and what happened with Pujara often happens with out-of-form batters.

For skipper Kohli, it was a delivery that straightened after pitching as the Indian skipper tried to play a forward defensive stroke. Straight umpire Anil Chaudhary gave him out and Kohli immediately asked for a review. The replay was inconclusive on whether it hit the bat first or pad and as per rule, TV umpire Virender Sharma went with his on-field colleague, leaving Kohli absolutely livid.

He had a word with leg umpire Nitin Menon and was seen expressing his displeasure. The TV cameras then caught him standing in the dressing room balcony, visibly upset with the decision, which was a touch and go one.

There was another 80-run stand between Agarwal and Shreyas Iyer (18) before Patel got rid of the latter to reduce India to 160/4.

BRIEF SCORES

India 221/4 (Mayank Agarwal 120 batting, Shubman Gill 44; Ajaz Patel 4/73) v New Zealand. Match to continue.

Indian dreams dashed



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Defending champions India's dream of a second consecutive FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup title was shattered Friday as six-time winners Germany defeated the hosts 2-4 here. Germany will meet Argentina in the summit clash of the premier tournament.

The Indians, who last won the Junior World Cup title in Lucknow in 2016, looked a pale shadow of themselves against Germany.

The Germans scored through Erik Kleinlein (15th minute), Aron Flatten (21st), skipper Hannes Muller (24th) and Christopher Kutter (25th). For India, Uttam Singh (25th) and Bobby Singh Dhani (60th) were the goal getters.

India will play France in the third-fourth place classification match Sunday, before the final. India had earlier lost 4-5 against France in the pool stages.



The Indians' game Friday was in stark contrast to the way they played against Belgium in the quarter-finals. While their defence was extraordinary in the last match, the backline was caught napping by the Germans.

There was no cohesion between the midfield and forwardline with Uttam showing his brilliance in patches. The Germans were the better side on display in the first quarter and pressed the Indian de-

fence from the word go. Instead of going full throttle, India preferred to play half-press and utilised the flanks to build their attacks, but they faltered in stopping and trapping the ball in wet pitch conditions.

Germany, instead, played better under the constant drizzle compared to the hosts and took the lead just 25 seconds from the end of first quarter. Six minutes into the second quarter Germany once again caught the Indian defence napping and doubled their lead through Flatten.

Minutes later the Germans surged 3-0 ahead. India responded immediately and pulled a goal back through Uttam. But India's joy was short-lived as they conceded another penalty corner seconds later, which resulted in a penalty stroke, and Kutter made no mistake from the spot as Germany led 4-1 at halftime.

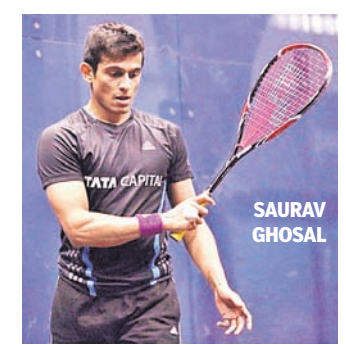
Dhani scored just seconds from the final hooter to reduce the margin but, by then, Germany had dashed India's hopes.

Tempers flare up after Argentina win

BHUBANESWAR: Former champions Argentina ended France's dream run in the FIH Junior Men's Junior Hockey World Cup by registering a hard-fought 3-1 win in penalty shoot-out of the first semifinal at the Kalinga Stadium here Friday. The display from both teams was not worthy of a semifinal but 2005 champions Argentina kept their composure in the shootout after the regulation 60 minutes ended goal-less. In the penalty shootout, Lucio Mendez, Bautista Capurro and Franco Agostini scored for Argentina while only skipper Timothee Clement found the target for France. The match ended on a bad note as tempers flared after Lucas Montecot missed France's fourth attempt, resulting in almost fistcuffs but officials of both teams and on-field umpires rushed quickly to handle the situation.



India men beat HK, enter Asian Squash meet final



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, Dec 3: The top-seeded Indian men booked a spot in the final of the 20th Asian squash Team Championship with a 2-0 win over Hong Kong in the semi-finals here Friday.

However, the women's team, seeded third, went down 1-2 to Hong Kong in the semifinals despite the No.1 player Joshna Chinappa giving them the lead.

In the men's match, Saurav Ghosal beat Yip Tsz Fung in four games after losing the first game after Ramit Tandon had given India the lead with a defeat of Henry Leung to set up a summit clash on Saturday against second-seeded Malaysia, a 2-0 winner over Japan.

Ghosal, the World No.15, bounced back after being a game down to Fung by winning the next three to win 10-12, 11-6, 11-6, 15-13 in a 55-minute match. Tandon had similarly hit back after losing the opening game to beat Leung in a four-game clash.

This is the third time the Indian men have entered the final after having previously done so in 1981 and 2012.

In the women's semifinal, Chinappa gave India the lead with a hard-fought win in four games over Liu Tsz Ling. However, Sunayna Kuruvilla and Urwashi Joshi proved no match for their opponents, going down in straight games to hand victory to Hong Kong.

RESULTS

Men's team event: Semifinal: India beat Hong Kong 2-0 (Saurav Ghosal beat Yip Tsz Fung 10-12, 11-6, 11-6, 15-13; Ramit Tandon beat Henry Leung 4-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-5).

Women's semifinal: Hong Kong beat India 2-1 (Liu Tsz Ling lost to Joshna Chinappa 11-9, 5-11, 7-11, 5-11; Ho Tze Lok beat Sunayna Kuruvilla 9-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-8; Tong Tsz Wing beat Urwashi Joshi 12-10, 11-4, 11-6).

Sindhu loses, Srikanth bows out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Dec 3: Already Assured of a semifinal berth at the BWF World Tour Finals, India's PV Sindhu Friday suffered a three-game defeat to top seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in her third and final group A women's singles match here Friday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, couldn't apply enough pressure on the world no. 10 Chochuwong to go down fighting 12-21, 21-19, 14-21 in a match that lasted an hour and 11 minutes.

This was Sindhu's third loss to the 2016 world junior champion Chochuwong in seven meetings. Sindhu thus finished in the second position in group A, behind Chochuwong and her opponent of the semifinal stage will be decided in a draw later in the day.

Earlier, Kidambi Srikanth bowed out of the season-ending tournament after losing to second seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jia 19-21, 14-21



in 37 minutes in his third and final group B match.

It was Srikanth's second loss to the World No.8 Malaysian, who had defeated the Indian at Hilo Open in straight games.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy too ended their campaign though they eked out a hard-fought 21-19, 9-21, 21-14 win over England's Chloe Birch and Lauren Smith in the inconsequential third and final group match.

Srikanth trailed 0-3 at the start but made his way to a slim 9-8 lead at one stage. An alert Lee, however, ensured a two-point advantage at the interval. A six-point burst helped the Indian to again grab a 17-15 lead but he let it slip as Lee pocketed the opening game.

Srikanth made a good start in the second game, moving to 7-3 advantage but Lee once again turned the tables, jumping to 13-9 and kept his nose ahead to eventually shut the doors on the Indian.

Belgium down Spain in penalties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Last edition runners-up Belgium made a valiant fight-back from two goals down to beat Spain 4-3 in the penalty shootout in a classification match of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup here Friday.

Belgium will face Netherlands, who thrashed Malaysia 9-3 in another classification match, in the fifth-sixth play-off.

Spain made a rollicking start, stunning Belgium as early as in the fourth minute of the game by taking the lead through a penalty corner conversion by Pau Cunill.

Cunill struck again in the 24th minute, this time from the spot to give Spain an unexpected 2-0 lead.

After the change of ends, Belgium meant business as they attacked in numbers and controlled the proceedings. Their efforts bore fruit in the 33rd minute when Jeremy Wilbers reduced the margin from a field effort.

Belgium continued to press hard and created a lot of scoring opportunities only to falter at the final hurdle. But just four minutes from the final hooter, Thibaut Stockbroekx (56th) scored a fine field goal to draw level and take the match into shoot-out.

In the shootout, Belgium scored through Roman Duvekot, Stockbroekx, Tobias Biekens and Wilbers, while Manuel Rodriguez and Borja Lacella missed for Spain.

In the second classification match of the day, Miles Bukkens (3rd, 38th and 60th) and Luke Dommershuijzen (4th, 14th, 34th) scored a hat-trick each while David Huussen (51st, 57th) struck a brace for the Netherlands. The other goal for the Dutch side was hit by Max de Bie in the 37th minute.

Spain and Malaysia will now lock horns against each other in the seventh-eighth place play-off match Sunday.



Title for Debasish



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Debasish Sahoo emerged champion in the AITA under-16 Super Series tennis tournament which concluded Friday at Ahmedabad. The student of Farhan Ali Tennis Academy in this city defeated Bharat Phulwaria of Rajasthan 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

In the final, Debasish was always the dominant player except in the second set. He lost the second set as he committed a number of unforced errors. However, he came back strongly in the third set to blow his opponent away.

A few days back, Debasish had also won the double crown in the under-18 category in another tournament at Ahmedabad. In the singles final he beat Omar Rehan Sumar of Maharashtra 6-2, 6-4. He then combined with Smit Patel of Gujarat to win the doubles title also.

Rahane, Ishant get honorable exit route

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 3: Ajinkya Rahane and Ishant Sharma's position in the Indian Test team had become untenable due to prolonged run of poor form and more than anyone else, the two cricketers knew about it.

However Friday, the BCCI and the team management found an "exit route" which was honourable for both the distinguished senior cricketers as everyone associated wanted to be subtle while taking a tough decision, at least for this Test.

Before the opening day of the second Test, the BCCI officially announced that Rahane, Ishant and, more importantly, Ravindra Jadeja are out of the match due to various injuries.

In case of Rahane, he sustained what was described as a "minor left hamstring strain" while fielding on the final day of the first Test match in Kanpur.

The Kanpur Test ended November 29 and on the final day, Rahane was on the field for the entire duration of 90 overs, and at times sprinted towards the boundary. Hamstring niggles are believed to be the most painful as it tends to hamper movement and batting becomes an issue with restricted feet movement.

Thursday, the Indian team were training indoors at the Bandra Kurla Complex facility and the BCCI's official twitter handle posted a picture of Rahane batting with a wide grin. Playing through pain as one might say.

Friday, before the game, Rahane had a nice little jog around Wankhede (with the hamstring niggle) and then gave catching practice to the slip cordon where

he would plonk his left foot and get power behind his throw for the catches.

When this agency got in touch with a state team physio, he said: "Hamstring tear is something that depends on the Grade and if it is grade 1, you will be out for two weeks minimum and grade two would be between four to six weeks. But in case of niggle, you need to rest and not exert yourself. But with niggle, it's best advised not to bat as it can aggravate and become a tear."

While nobody is saying it openly but both for the team management and the BCCI, it was a catch-22 situation where they had no option but to drop an out of form man but also at the same time make it look more dignified.

How can one drop a player on the basis of form after he was captaining in the previous game? Obviously, the team management had to find an escape route which doesn't make it awkward for a veteran of 80 Test matches.

This also gives them a chance to select Rahane for the South Africa tour despite failure in 12 successive matches.

In case of Ishant, everyone associated with Indian cricket knows that the "old workhorse" is past his prime. He had dislocated the little finger of his left-hand during the final day of the first Test in Kanpur.

Normally, a CT scan or MRI report comes instantly and for the last 72 hours, the Indian team is in Mumbai. Even when bowling coach Paras Mhambrey spoke about Ishant's bowling lacking a bit of rhythm due to lack of game time, there was no information on his dislocation which is believed to have been clear by then.

