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BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 2021



MT SEMERU VOLCANO ERUPTION KILLS 14

LUMAJANG (INDONESIA): Disaster officials in Indonesia raised the death toll in the eruption of Mount Semeru to 14 Sunday, as rescuers working through the night freed as many as 10 people from the debris. The sudden eruption of Java's biggest mountain caught locals by surprise Saturday, sending thousands fleeing its path of destruction and forcing hundreds of families into makeshift shelters. It left at least 11 villages of Lumajang district coated in volcanic ash, submerging houses, smothering livestock and leaving some evacuees seeking cover in mosques. Dramatic footage showed Semeru pumping a mushroom of ash into the sky, looming over screaming residents of a nearby village trying to escape. More P10



TRUMP'S MEDIA VENTURE GETS \$1BN INVESTMENT

NEW YORK: Donald Trump's fledgling social media venture and an investment vehicle it is partnering with said Saturday that institutional investors have pledged \$1 billion in funds for the former President's startup. This sum would be in addition to \$293 million that Digital World Acquisition Corp raised in an initial public offering in September, the companies said in a statement. Digital World is a special purpose acquisition company, sometimes called a "blank check" company because it is set up with the sole purpose of merging with another entity. It is set to merge with Trump's startup, Trump Media and Technology Group. The two companies say they plan to launch the social media platform "TRUTH Social" nationally early next year.





ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Argentina players celebrate with the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup trophy at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Argentina win 2nd Jr Hockey WC title 14 civilians killed by security forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Lautaro Domene struck a hat-trick as a determined Argentina stunned sixtime champions Germany 4-2 to clinch their second FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup title at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday.

Domene converted three penalty corners in the 10th, 25th and 50th minute, while Franco Agoistini (60th) scored a field goal just seconds from the final hooter to hand Argentina their second title, Julius

The incident took place between Oting and Tiru villages when some daily-wage labourers were returning home in a pick-up van from a coal mine Saturday evening

NAGALAND AMBUSH BLUNDER

he exact number of fatalities is yet to be ascertained as 14 people died on the spot, and several others succumbed to their injuries in hospitals in neighbouring Assam

Ordering a Court of Inquiry into the incident, Army said that one of its personnel was killed and several others were seriously injured

hief Minister Neiphiu Rio promised a high-level probe into the incident and appeal to all sections of the society to maintain peace

Remnants of 'Jawad' trigger heavy rain

Farmers in south, north and coastal belt of the state have incurred huge losses in the wake of cyclone-triggered rainfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The India Metrological Department Sunday stated the remnant of cyclonic storm 'Jawad' weakened further over the Bay of Bengal.

In a fresh weather update, the IMD mentioned the deep depression, which is a remnant of 'Jawad', has weakened into a depression over northwest of the sea.

The weathermen further predicted the system will move northnortheastwards and weaken further by Sunday midnight.

Since midnight, there was a heavy downpour in most parts of the coast districts under the influence of the weather system. Farmers have been the worst hit by the rain as harvested crop has been damaged or submerged in knee deep water at agriculture fields.

The situation triggered massive panic harvest in various parts of the state. However, due to late sowing; crop harvesting has been reportedly largely unsuccessful. As a result, farmers in south, north and coastal belt of the state have incurred huge losses in the wake of cyclone-trig-

gered rainfall. Rainfall was reported from most districts of the state, the weather office said.

While the cyclone Jawad weakened into a depression, incessant rainfall continued to lash several parts of the state disrupting normal lives. It is the farming community that is facing the brunt of the unseasonal rain. Ganjam, Khurda, Puri,

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur received heavy to very heavy rainfall. Khalikote in Ganiam district recorded 158 mm rainfall, followed by Nayagarh (107.5 mm), Chhatrapur (86.6 mm) and Bhubaneswar (42.3 mm), it said. Rainfall continued till Sunday

evening and gradually shifted to the northern region of the state as the remnants of the cyclone move towards West Bengal.

Ganjam district received the highest average rainfall of 47.8 mm. Jagatsinghpur received 38.3 mm rainfall, followed by Kendrapara (35.7), Khurda (33), Puri (25.5), Bhadrak (21.6), Nayagarh (21.6), Cuttack (20.5). The state's average rainfall was 11.8 mm, officials said.

21 Omicron cases confirmed in India

While Delhi reported its first case of Omicron Sunday, seven and nine cases were detected in Pune and Jaipur respectively taking the total number of patients to 21



Hayner (36th) and Mas Pfandt (47th) were the goal getters for Germany.

The Argentines were by far the better side on display in the first quarter as they dominated the game by pressing hard on the German defence.

But the Germans came out a completely different side after the change of ends and managed to reduce the margin in the 36th minute through a field strike by Hayner. the Germans continued to attack and drew level in 47th minute when Pfandt scored from a set piece.

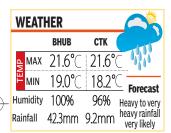
But it was not to be Germany's day as Domene struck again from a set piece in the 50th minute before Agostini scored from a field effort just at the stroke of the final hooter to shatter Germany's 7th title hopes.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and FIH president Narinder Batra were among the spectators.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I agree he performed poorly and dented country's image. But we can't arrest him under UAPA, he is just a sportsman!



AGENCIES Kohima/Guwahati/New Delhi, **Dec 5:** Security forces opened fire on civilians killing 14 and injuring

11 more in Nagaland's Mon district in two consecutive incidents of firing, police said Sunday. One soldier also died in rioting which followed.

The first firing occurred when Army personnel who mistook some coal mine workers were returning home in a pick-up van singing songs Saturday evening, to be insurgents belonging to the Yung Aung faction of proscribed outfit NSCN (K), killing six workers, about whose movements they had

been tipped off. As workers failed to reach their homes, local youth and villagers went in search of them and surrounded the Army vehicles. In the ensuing melee one soldier was killed and Army vehicles burnt down. Soldiers who fired in self-defence killed another eight civil-

ians, said police officials. Since Sunday afternoon, angry mobs have vandalised the offices of the Konyak Union and an Assam



Angry villagers burn vehicles belonging to security personnel after 14 civilians were killed by the security forces from Assam Rifles at Oting village under Mon district of Nagaland, Saturday night PTI PHOTO

Rifles camp.

The Nagaland government through a notification has banned mobile internet and data services as well as bulk SMS in the district to curb "circulation of inflammatory videos, pictures or text". Police said that the post-mortem

of the 14 killed is being conducted in Mon and feared that the number of fatalities may increase as at least two of those injured were critical and had to be evacuated to hospitals in Assam while the rest were being treated in Nagaland. Ordering a Court of Inquiry

into the incident, Army said one of its personnel was killed and several others were seriously injured. It said that the incident and its aftermath are "deeply regretted" and the unfortunate loss of lives is being investigated at the highest level.

The state government has constituted a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by IGP Nagaland, officials said, PRO Defence (Kohima) Lt Col Sumit K Sharma said, "Based on credible intelligence of likely movement of insurgents, a specific operation was planned to be conducted in the area of Tiru, Mon District, Nagaland. The incident and its aftermath is deeply regretted.'

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio promised a high-level probe into the incident and appealed to all sections of the society to maintain peace.

An investigation is underway to ascertain whether the incident was a case of mistaken identity, the officer said.

Official sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief Gen MM Naravane have been briefed about the incident.

"SIT shall investigate the incident from all angles while a court of inquiry has been instituted against the army personnel involved, Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam and Nagaland said in a statement, while appealing for peace.

Rio tweeted, "The unfortunate incident leading to killing of civilians at Oting, Mon, is highly condemnable. Condolences to the bereaved families & speedy recovery of those injured. High level SIT will investigate & justice delivered as per the law of the land. Appeal for peace from all sections.

Home Minister Amit Shah too tweeted his anguish and expressed "deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives". A high-level SIT constituted by the state government will thoroughly probe this incident to ensure justice to the bereaved families.

New Delhi, Dec 5: The new coron-

AGENCIES

avirus variant Omicron seems to be spreading fast in the country with Delhi reporting its first case Sunday, while seven more cases were reported from Maharashtra. Nine persons in Jaipur also tested positive for Omicron. Currently, the total number of Omicron cases in the country stands at 21.

According to reports, a 37-yearold fully vaccinated man who arrived in Delhi from Tanzania has tested positive for Omicron, making it the first case of the new COVID-19 variant in the national capital. Seven persons from Pune district have tested positive for Omicron variant of coronavirus. a health official said Sunday.

The Delhi patient, a resident of Ranchi, had travelled from Tanzania to Doha and from there to Delhi on a Qatar Airways flight December 2. He staved in Johannesburg, South Africa, for a week, officials said.

Meanwhile, of the seven people who tested positive to Omicron in Pune one is a woman who came from Nigeria along with her two

daughters to meet her brother in adjoining Pimpri Chinchwad area. Her brother and his two daughters have also tested positive for the variant, he added.

Another case is of a man from Pune who returned from Finland in the last week of November, the official said. The total number of confirmed Omicron cases in Maharashtra has gone up to eight, he said.

Another report said four members of a family and five others have tested positive for the Omicron variant of coronavirus in Jaipur, Rajasthan, Sunday, Health Secretary Vaibhav Galriya said the genome sequencing of their swab samples confirmed it.

He said the family members had recently returned from South Africa. The country reported the first two cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 Thursday in Karnataka -- a 66-year-old South African flyer and a 46-year-old Bangalore doctor with no travel history. Both men are fully vaccinated.

Will repeal of farm laws deter investment in agriculture?

With an eye on a critical election in Uttar Pradesh early next year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed to rescind the laws in November, hoping to smooth relations with the powerful farm lobby

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 5: Centre's repeal of agriculture laws aimed at deregulating produce markets will starve its vast farm sector of much-needed private investment and saddle the government with budget-sapping

subsidies for years, economists said. Late last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government introduced three laws meant to open up agriculture markets to companies and attract private investment, triggering India's longestrunning protest by farmers who said the reforms would allow corporations to exploit them. With an eye on a critical election

in populous Uttar Pradesh early next year, Modi agreed to rescind the laws in November, hoping to smooth relations with the powerful farm lobby which sustains nearly half the country's 1.3 billion

people and accounts for about 15% of the \$2.7 trillion economy. But by shelving the most ambitious overhaul in decades, Modi's



backtracking now seemingly rules out much-needed upgrades of the creaky post-harvest supply chain to cut wastage, spur crop diversification, and boost farmers' in-

comes, economists said. "This is not good for agricul-

ture; this is not good for India,' said Gautam Chikermane, a senior economist and vice-president at

New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation.

"All incentives to shift towards a more efficient, market-linked system (in agriculture) have been smothered.

The u-turn does allay farmers' fears of losing the minimum price system for basic crops, which growers say guarantees India's grain self-sufficiency.

"It appears the government realised that there's merit in the farmers' argument that opening up the sector would make them vulnerable to large companies, hammer commodities prices and hit farmers' income," said Devinder Sharma, a farm policy expert who has supported the growers' movement. But the gruelling year-long standoff also means no political party will attempt any similar reforms for at least a quarter-century, Chikermane said. And, in the absence of private investment, "inefficiencies in the system will continue to deliver wastage and food will continue to rot." he warned. India ranks 101 out of 116 coun-

tries on the Global Hunger Index, with malnutrition accounting for 68% of child deaths.

Yet it wastes around 67 million 🗎 tonnes of food every year, worth about \$12.25 billion - nearly five times that of most large economies - according to various studies. Inadequate cold-chain storage, shortages of refrigerated trucks and insufficient food processing facilities are the main causes of waste.







elsure

TRAILER OF *SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS* **THE SPIDER-VERSE RELEASED**

Sony Pictures have released the trailer of *Spider-Man*: Across the Spider-Verse (Part One), a sequel to the hugely successful Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse. It revolves around Miles Morales, who transcends to another universe, where Miguel O'Hara, known as Spider-Man 2099 comes in his contact.

GEORGE CLOONEY TURNED DOWN **\$35MN OFFER FOR A DAY'S WORK**

Hollywood star George Clooney has shared that he turned down a \$35 million offer to film a commercial after he consulted his wife Amal. The 60-year-old actor-filmmaker revealed the job offer when he was talking with The Guardian about his upcoming directorial feature The Tender Bar.



FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🎑 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You may be impetuous today, which may lead to unforeseen results. You may be in a hurry and complete work which has been pending for a long time You will find the time to make long-term plans. Ganesha says you will rectify your past mistakes.

TAURUS

This may be, health wise, a bad day for you. Ganesha

GEMINI

Along with your house, family and business matters. you will also be busy with your social obligations today. You will be afforded the co-operation of those around you. New ways of thinking will flourish within you. Make full use of the opportunies you get today, says Ganesha

are likely to have a heightened interest in the study of philosophy and the working of the metaphysical world. This may be mere curiosity or a part of your effort to improve your professional skills. You ability to read the human mind and understand human nature better than anyone else will help you take charge when needed.



urges you to take special care and not to do anything that invites illness or discomfort. The least you can do is to ensure that you do not over exert or get into situations that gener ate tension and anxiety. Be careful about the food you eat.

Ganesha believes that you

LEO

It's fun, fun and more fun on the horizon! Ganesha foresees you taking time out for some leisure and frolic today. Broaden your horizon with a bit of travel since you are very likely to be going on a small trip to recharge your batteries. When it comes to work - which you seem to have put on hold it is a matter of pride for you to play the role that you essay within your company



Ganesha says that you shall

future. New relationships will mark the road to progress. You easy-going nature will help you get along famously with people.



VICKY KAUSHAL AND KATRINA KAIF'S WEDDING HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST TALKED ABOUT CELEBRITY MARRIAGES DUE TO THEIR PRIVACY PROTOCOLS



I'm not rebellious

by nature:

New Delhi: Sara Ali Khan, who is recently in the capital

to promote her movie Atrangi Re, seemed quite confident

and her excitement reflected when she said: "Mai Atrangi

Sara is hopeful of attention from the audience that she

failed to get in Love Aaj Kal 2. She expressed her gratitude

for director Aanand L Rai, saying: "This opportunity came

to me at the right time. After ten days of *Kedarnath*, I was

on the sets of Atrangi Re. It was great because people did-

n't like Love Aaj Kal and I am working for the audience and

Sara further opened up about playing 'Rinku' and how

she related with her character. "We both are confident peo-

ple whose confidence even masks their inner vulnerability.

But at the same place we are different. I am not rebellious

by nature. I will not break the bottles or run away 21 times.

I have a very supportive family. I can never dance at my

husband's marriage. And of course, I can't speak in a

Akshay Kumar, shared that working with them is only

a learning process and there is no competition. "You

know Akshay Kumar is a superstar, Dhanush is a

National Award winner, so there is no competition ob-

The movie will be released December 24 on Disney-

I FINALLY FOUND THAT BOOK I'VE BEEN

WANTING TO

viously, there is only inspiration and learning."

The actress, who stars opposite actors Dhanush and

there was no point in getting depressed.'

hoon (I am Atrangi).

Bihari accent."

Hotstar

IANS

PEANUTS

Mumbai: Just a few days before their big fat Indian wedding, star couple

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif is hitting the gym to look their best on the

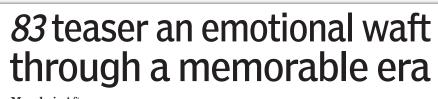
most important day of their life.

A few pictures taken Saturday night show Vicky dressed in an olive green T-shirt paired with basketball shorts. He completed his look with a cap, face mask and white slippers. The Uri: The Surgical Strike actor is seen holding a bag as he stands inside an elevator.

Another picture shows Katrina stepping out of a building dressed in a white tank top paired with black sunglasses and a face mask. She too has a bag hanging on her shoulder.

Vicky and Katrina's wedding has been one of the most talked about celebrity marriages due to their privacy protocols.

The KatVic wedding celebrations are taking place from December 7 to 12 at the Six Senses Fort Hotel in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district.



D(O)

TEASER

Mumbai: After treating the audience with an exhilarating trailer, the makers of the Ranveer Singhstarrer 83 have released the teaser of their first song titled Lehra Do.

The 35-second teaser features a mix of dressing room nervous energy, on field action with Ranveer's cracker

of a shot and celebrations. Crooned by Arijit Singh and composed by prolific composer Pritam, Lehra Do is a soulful song which is bound to stir emotions as it presents an insight into the emotional rollercoaster ride of the Indian cricket team's journey during the historic 1983 World Cup victory

83, which stars Ranveer Singh as Kapil Dev, documents India's 1983 World Cup win. In addition, the film also stars Tahir Raj Bhasin, Jiiva, Saqib Saleem, Jatin Sarna, Chirag Patil, Dinker Sharma, Nishant Dahiya, Harrdy Sandhu, Sahil Khattar, Ammy Virk, Addinath Kothare, Dhairya Karwa, R Badree and Pankaj Tripathi.

Deepika Padukone will be seen playing Romi, Kapil Dev's wife. The film is arriving in theatres December 24.

Celebs who failed to grab eyeballs in *Bigg Boss*

jgg Boss is India's most popular reality show hosted by superstar Salman Khan. Right now, its 15th season is on air. Each season has some famous celebrities as its contestants and among them few are able to make their place, while others fail to do so

Here is a glimpse of some popular stars from the entertainment industry, who were not up to the mark in terms of impressing the au-

Rupali Ganguly The Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai actress has become a household name for Shakti Kapoor

Boss 5 but his elimination came as a shock for him also. He was assumed to

be in the finale when

he entered the

house. But never ex-

pected he would get



evicted very soon. **Ratan Rajput** Kijo. Rajput participated in season 7 and failed to entertain the audience. She got

The actor who was known to play lead roles in Kutumb, Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi



Nehha Pendse Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain fame actress entered season 12. The actress who won hearts by

playing lead in popular TV sitcom May I Come In Madam? failed to entertain the audience in the show and was evicted in just 28 days.

Jay Bhanushali Bigg Boss is airing its 15th season currently, actor and anchor





HHH

"DARWIN AND THE BEAGLE"

NICE!

her character in the ilar fame in *Bigg Boss 1*.

Ratan Rajput is well known for her roles in Radhaa Ki Betiyaan Kuch Kar Dikhayengi and Agle Janam Mohe Bitiva Hi evicted in the 4th week itself. introduction. Hiten Tejwani He entered

the reality



show Anupamaa. But she somehow was not that successful in receiving the sim-

Shakti Kapoor needs no

show Bigg

completing all your remaining work today. Whatever work you undertake today you shall be able to do it to your best capability and successfully and your work ability will be praiseworthy

SCORPIO

House renovation is in the offing. You may furnish it with portraits and artefacts Today, you may also feel like playing the stock market game and stake your bets, says Ganesha. Have a great time at home by hosting friends over

SAGITTARIUS

The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. A small party at home may see a group of friends and relatives dine together. This may find you in a chatty mood. Ganesha says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN

Unless you be calm and patient, your tendency to act impulsively will get you into hot water, warns Ganesha. Your image on the minds of your colleagues and bosses will remain intact, though. You will keep on climbing up the ladder and come closer to success, but don't get too excited if everything is turning out as per the plan.

AQUARIUS

Most of the time it is your way or no other way, especially when you charging towards your goal. Today, you will push your limits to achieve what you have desired. You are talented, hard working, creative, and icing on the cake is your luck which is favouring you big time.

PISCES

There are indications you will be in hot pursuit of leisure today, says Ganesha This will probably be in the form of a short trip to recharge your batteries, and is probably fuelled by your satisfaction in the realisation that the role you play within vour organisation is consequential, satis fying as well as rewarding

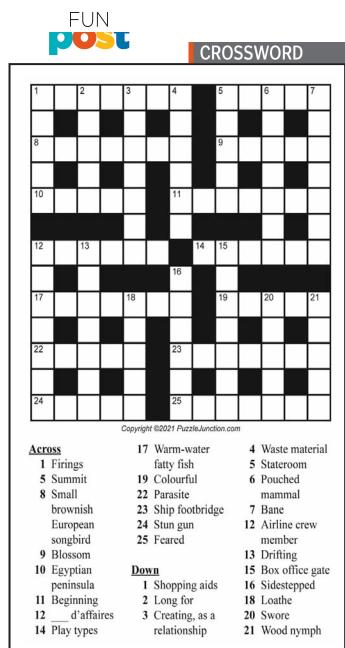
GET 400

CALVIN AND HOBBES









CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

soon. However even after the show the actor is seen in various TV shows and entertaining his audience.

said that he is more serious about his image rather the game inside the house. His eviction came as a surprise.

AGENCIES

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.

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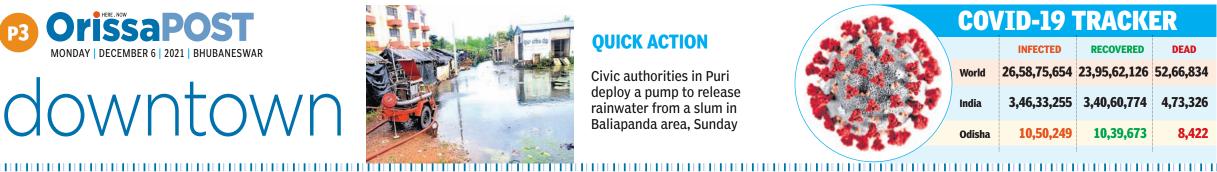


S





downtown



Rain triggered by Jawad

Panidola, Bharatipur, Hatasahi,

Teishipur, Mangalpur, Durgadaspur,

Rupadeipur and Chandradeipur

were submerged with the rain-

extensive damage to vegetable cul-

tivation in Pipli area. "This is the

time to harvest paddy crops. But, our

paddy fields have been submerged

with rainwater. The cyclonic storm

has shattered all our hopes," said a

The incessant rain has also caused

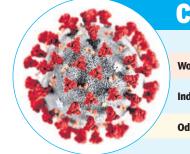
water, sources said.

farmer of Pipli.

dashes farmers' hope

OUICK ACTION

Civic authorities in Puri deploy a pump to release rainwater from a slum in Baliapanda area, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	26,58,75,654	23,95,62,126	52,66,834
lia	3,46,33,255	3,40,60,774	4,73,326
isha	10,50,249	10,39,673	8,422

State felicitates Sunita Lakra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The state government felicitated Sunita Lakra for her tremendous contribution to Indian women's hockey here Sunday.

On behalf of the state government, Chairman of Odisha Hockey Promotion Council, Dilip Tirkey fe licitated Lakra at the Kalinga Stadium on the last day of ongoing Junior Men's Hockey World Cup, in presence of Odisha Sports Secretary R Vineel Krishna.

Sunita Lakra who hails from Odisha has been an integral part of Indian Women's Hockey. She had captained India during the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy, leading her team to win a Silver medal.

She was also part of the Silver Medal winning Asian Games team in 2018 and Asian Games bronze medal team in 2014, making Odisha and her country very proud. Though she has retired from hockey, she continues to greatly inspire young women players from the state.

Congratulating the former ace defender, Dilip Tirkey, the former Indian hockey team captain, said, "Sunita has brought great laurels for the State and also our country, with her achievements. She has shown that with sincere dedication and perseverance one can reach the highest sporting platform and this is an inspiration for the young women who aspire to make it to national teams.

Sunita Lakra thanked the Odisha government for backing sportspersons and recognising their hard work.

OMICRON THREAT

Int'l travellers under stricter scrutiny at Jharsuguda airport

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Dec 5: Amid growing concerns over Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19, international travellers arriving at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar as well as Veer Surendra Sai Airport in Jharsuguda are being strictly monitored under the new guidelines of the Airports Authority of India and the Health department's

A submerged paddy field at Konark

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri. Dec 5: Hundreds of acres of ready-to-harvest paddy fields in Puri district were submerged with rainwater as heavy rains triggered by the remnants of cyclone Jawad lashed several parts of Odisha, Sunday.

As per the preliminary reports, paddy fields of Pipli and Konark areas of Puri district witnessed extensive waterlogging due to two days of continuous rain.

Meanwhile, Pipli Tehsildar Sapan Paddy fields of at least 25 pan-Kumar Nanda and BDO Rashmita chayats of Pipli block including Nath have directed officials of the Laxminarayanpur, Pubasashan, Agriculture department to assess Orakala, Poparanga, Pamasara, the damage caused to paddy crops Govindpur, Jagannathpur, Kanti, in the locality.

As per the preliminary reports, paddy fields of Pipli and Konark areas of Puri district witnessed extensive waterlogging due to two days of continuous rain

"We will soon assess the damage and send our report to the administration," said Pipli block agriculture officer Jaylaxmi Sahu.

in Konark area of Puri district. The paddy fields of at least 20 panchayats in Konark were submerged with rainwater. The untimely showers have damaged paddy crops of Kaduanuagaon, Simili, Mahalpada, Banakhandi, Kurujang, Abadan, Achyutpur and many other villages in the locality, sources said.

"The paddy fields of at least 10 panchayats of Konark area have been damaged by the heavy rain triggered by the cyclonic storm. The district administration should assess the situation at the earliest and take appropriate measures to compensate the affected farmers," farmer leader Manoranjan Parida. Parida also urged the district

administration to arrange cooked food for the villagers who have taken shelter at school buildings and other safer places.

The situation is no way better

RAIN PAIN





1) The Grand Road in Puri wears a deserted look due to incessant rain caused by the remnants of cyclonic storm Jawad, Sunday. 2) The inclement weather affects normal life in the Capital city of Bhubaneswar. 3) Bus services from Cuttack to several districts get affected by the bad weather

Flight cancellation irks passengers at BPIA Conman held for stealing phone, cash

POST NEWS NETWORK

The a

flight services

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Unannounced flight cancellation due to bad weather irked several passengers at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here, Sunday.

A few of the aggrieved passengers entered into heated arguments with the authorities of the airport, sources said.

According to sources, private airline IndiGo cancelled all its flights in the afternoon between 2pm and 5pm without any prior notice.

irline had also suspended

Bhubaneswar and Varanasi

between

BIJU PATNAIK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Saturday causing inconveniences to at least 72 passengers, sources said ched the airport tv

hours prior to our departure time

but at the last moment we were

told that all flights have been cancelled. This is really frustrating as we had faced a lot of difficulties to reach the airport amid bad weather," rued a passenger at BPIA.

Some passengers entered into

According to sources, private airline IndiGo cancelled all its flights in the afternoon between 2pm and 5pm without any prior notice to the passengers

heated exchanges with the officials of IndiGo and the CISF personnel deployed at the airport.

Notably, IndiGo airline operates more than 20 flights between Bhubaneswar and cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai,

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The Commissionerate Police Sunday arrested a conman for duping several young women including prospective brides by pretending to be a gynae-cologist of MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur in Ganjam.

The fraudster was identified as Pravash Das of Baramba area in Cuttack district. Police sources claimed that Das,

(489/21) lodged by one of the victim's November 26. Das allegedly decamped with the complainant's originally a 6th class pass out, used to befriend young women on varmobile in similar fashion from ious social media platforms by Esplanade One mall here.

The accused was produced

prospective brides. He has men-

tioned his name as Pravash Raj in

After befriending women, Das

The accused would decamp with the women's mobile phone, bags

Das was arrested Sunday by

Saheed Nagar police in a case

when they were in the washrooms

would call them to cinema halls and shopping malls to hang

the social media accounts.

around with.

or trial rooms.

pandemic protocols.

Informing about the measures taken by the district administration, Jharsuguda Collector Saroj Samal said, "We are collecting details about the fliers coming to the district from foreign countries especially from high-risk African nations which have been identified by the state and the Centre during last 14 days.

"In case any passenger manages to evade Covid tests at international airports and arrives at Veer Surendra Sai Airport, we have a system in place to collect his/her address. Once identified, our functionaries are alerted to take immediate steps to collect their swabs," Samal added

In addition to this, fliers directly coming to Odisha from foreign countries are being thoroughly screened on a regular basis.

'We are sharing data regarding the passengers coming from foreign countries with the respective district authorities. They have been directed to trace such travellers and take steps to keep them in quarantine,' informed Public Health Director Niranian Mishra.





Process on to preserve, digitise HC records

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 5: The Orissa High Court has initiated measures to preserve and digitise old records.

Some of these records are around 200 years old. "The court has around 10 lakh records of criminal and civil matters in its possession. Some of these documents date back to the early 19th century," said Orissa High Court Registrar General Chitta Ranjan Dash

According to Dash, the old documents of Orissa High Court, including copies of petitions and verdicts, are being digitised as per the direction



The record room of Orissa HC has several documents of Madras, Patna and Calcutta High Courts. Even, some documents are in Persian languages

of Supreme Court. "The Apex Court has put emphasis on paperless legal system. around 10 lakh records of criminal and civil matters in its possession. Some of these

Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud had inaugurated the digitisation centre of Orissa HC September 11 this year

Documents which were generated prior to 1950 are being preserved safely while steps are being taken to digitise all records of the subsequent years," Dash said.

According to Dash, the record room of Orissa HC has several documents of Madras, Patna and Calcutta High Courts. Even, some documents are in Persian languages, he said.

'The records of Orissa HC and those of all lower courts in Cuttack, Balsore, Sambalpur and Ganjam districts are being digitised with due care. Digitisation of records will solve all issues related to their safe storage," Dash said.

Notably, Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud had inaugurated the digitisation centre of Orissa HC September 11 this year.

Kolkata, Bangalore, Varanasi, Pravagrai and Jaipur.

Das had also opened accounts on different matrimonial sites to trap

falsely claiming to be a doctor.

fore the court that sent him to judicial custody.

Seaweed may help shield human cells from coronavirus: Study

recent study suggested that a particular substance extracted from edible marine algae may help stop the spread of coronavirus.

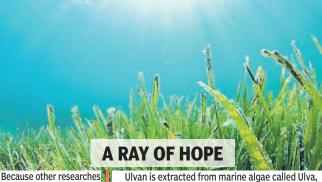
Researchers from Tel Aviv University (TAU) said that Ulvan, the major water-soluble polysaccharide extracted from the cell wall of green seaweed, could help stop coronavirus from infecting human cells, Jerusalem Post reported.

"The lack of access to vaccines takes the lives of many victims and even accelerates the creation of new variants," said TAU's Alexander Golberg.

"The study is still in its early stages, but we hope that the discovery will be used in the future to develop an accessible and effective drug, preventing infection with the coronavirus. Our findings at this stage arouse cautious optimism," he added in the study published in PeerJ, a peer-reviewed science journal.

Because other researches showed that certain seaweed compounds had antiviral properties, the team decided they wanted to evaluate them against Covid. They then decided to test Ulvan because it could be extracted from common seaweed.

"Ulvan is extracted from marine algae called Ulva, which is also called 'sea lettuce', and is food in places like Japan, New Zealand and Hawaii," Golberg said. "It has previously been reported that Ulvan is effective against viruses in agriculture and also against some of the viruses affecting humans - and when coronavirus arrived, we



Ulvan is extracted from marine algae called Ulva which is also called 'sea lettuce', and is food in places like Japan, New Zealand and Hawaii

The team grew Ulva algae, extracted the Ulvan from it and sent it to the Southern Research Institute in Alabama

There, a US team built a cellular model to assess the activity of the substance produced in Golberg's lab

as quickly as required

avirus and to Ul nat in the presence of Ulvan, the cor

asked to test its activity," he added. The researchers grew Ulva algae, extracted the Ulvan from it and sent it to the Southern Research Institute in Alabama. There, a US team built a cellular model to assess the activity of the substance produced in Golberg's laboratory. The cells were exposed to both the coronavirus and to Ulvan. It was found that, in the presence of Ulvan,

showed that certain

seaweed compounds had

researchers decided they

wanted to evaluate them

to test Ulvan because it

could be extracted from

common seaweed

against Covid, and decided

antiviral properties, the

the coronavirus did not infect cells. "In other words," he said, "Ulvan prevents the cells from being infected with coronavirus.

He stressed that the best thing would be to vaccinate the world.

"As long as billions in the low-income world do not have access to the vaccines, the virus is expected to develop more and more variants, which may then become resistant to vaccines - and the war against the coronavirus will continue," Golberg said. "For this rea-

However, it has become clear that

this is unlikely to happen - at least

son, it is very important, for the sake of all mankind, to find a cheap and accessible solution that will suit even economically weak people indeveloping countries," the researcher added. IANS

downtown

NCC Cuttack Group honours 1971 Indo-Pak war heroes



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 5: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Cuttack Group Sunday felicitated the next of kin of two of the martyrs of the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war at an event organised at Ravenshaw University here. The year 2021 has a special sig-

OrissaPOST

MONDAY | DECEMBER 6 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

nificance as it marks not only the 75 years of Indian Independence, but also 50 years of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, leading to the creation of Bangladesh, said a

statement from NCC Cuttack Group. 'Smt Rebati Rout, wife of Saheed Naib Subedar Gopa Bandhu Rout and Shri Pazi Naik, son of Saheed Sepoy Bhaskar Naik of 6 Bihar Regiment who had made supreme sacrifice for the nation in 1971 Indo-Pak war were felicitated by NCC,' added the statement.

The Cuttack event is one of the 75 events being organised by the NCC across the nation as 'Vijay

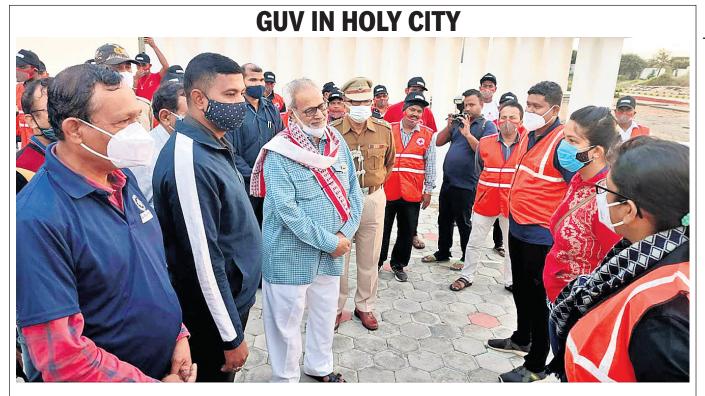
Shrinkhala' to pay homage to the 1971 war heroes

Ravenshaw University Vice Chancellor SK Nayak graced the event as chief guest. Paying respect to the martyrs and their families, Nayak called upon the cadetsthe future citizens-to get inspiration from the sacrifices made to uphold the national dignity. Officer Commanding, Lieutenant

Colonel SP Otta extended warm welcome to the guests and dignitaries on behalf of Colonel Rajinish Kapoor, Group Commander of NCC. **Cuttack Additional District**

Magistrate Bijay Kumar Khandayatray felicitated martyrs' relatives as guest of honour. Group Commander of Cuttack Group NCC extended hearty thanks

to the family members of the martyrs and other distinguished guests for their valuable presence and inspiring thoughts for the cadets.



On a three-day visit to Puri, Governor Ganeshi Lal holds discussion with volunteers at Raj Bhawan in the Pilgrim City, Sunday

OP PHOTO

State logs 189 fresh Covid cases, 2 deaths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha Sunday reported 189 new Covid-19 cases, four less than the previous day, with the tally rising to 10,50,249, a Health department bulletin said.

Two more fatalities from Khurda and Cuttack raised the coronavirus death toll to 8,422, it added. Fiftythree other Covid patients have so far died due to comorbidities, the Health bulletin said. Twenty-five children were among

new patients, and 11 of 30 districts of the state did not report any fresh case.

Khurda district recorded the highest number of new cases at 83, followed by Sambalpur and Sundargarh at 12 each, the bulletin said.

The coastal state currently has 2,313 active cases, while 10,39,461 people, including 257 in the last 24 hours, have recuperated from the contagion.

Virtual tour shows Kutia Kondh way of comb making

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The ST & SC Development department, in a virtual tour of State Tribal Museum Sunday showcased the comb making skills of Kutia Kondh tribe. Director of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 5: Stating that marine minerals from coastal and ocean resources will be key to India's future economy, Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh Sunday said that metals such as nickel and cobalt play an important role in promoting renewable energy technologies needed to fight the climate change

challenges Steps are being taken for close coordination and collaboration between Institute of Minerals & Materials Technology (IIMT) and National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai (NIOT) for

Efforts are on for

development of suitable technologies for effective mining of some of the deep-sea mineral resources and exploitation of gas hydrate resources JITENDRA SINGH UNION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

ing India's blue economy and harnessing its ocean resources, he said after inaugurating the new building facilities at the CSIR-IMMT at Bhubaneswar.

"Efforts are on for development of suitable technologies for effective mining of some of the deep-sea



tion of gas hydrate resources," he said, according to a release from the Ministry of Science & Technology. Asserting that India has emerged as one of the frontline nations in

Ocean resources key to future economy: Jitendra Singh

now actively engaged in exploring the resourceful ocean bed for meeting the country's future energy and metal demands, he said, "The 'Deep Ocean Mission' initiated by

another horizon to various resources to enrich the 'Blue

The Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) has been established at CSIR-IMMT by the joint effort of the CSIR-IMMT and the Ministry's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in order to provide technological solution to mentor entrepreneurs/startups, alongside facilitating incubation of start-ups.

Its primary objective is to nurture and promote innovations in MSMEs and provide them R&D or knowledge-based support in the area of new materials and chemical processes, the release added.

lakhs from City shop POST NEWS NETWORK Economy'.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Unknown miscreants decamped with jewellery and cash worth Rs 60 lakh from a jewellery shop at Delta Square under Khandagiri police limits in the state Capital late Saturday night.

Miscreants loot gold

ornaments worth

The miscreants allegedly broke into the shop and robbed gold ornaments weighing around 1 kilogram worth over Rs 45 lakh, silver ornaments of 10 kilogram worth Rs 6.16 lakh and cash over Rs 1.5 lakh.

Police has registered a case in this regard and launched a manhunt to arrest the robbers.

Nayagarh ACSO held for DA worth ₹1.6cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 5: Vigilance sleuths Sunday claimed to have arrested Jayanta Kumar Das, assistant civil supplies officer of Nayagarh, on charges of possessing disproportionate assets (DA) worth ₹1.6 crore, around 137 per cent of his known sources of income.

On the allegation of possession of ill-gotten wealth, five Vigilance teams, comprising four Deputy Superintendents of Police, eight Inspectors, one Sub-Inspector and four Assistant Sub-Inspectors, carried out simultaneous raids at five places related to Das on the basis of search warrants issued by the Special Vigilance Court in Bhubaneswar December 4, said a Vigilance Directorate statement. 'Following the raids, Das was found in possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources

formula anywhere in the world,

which tells that a person will develop

heart ailments. "Nothing has hap-

pened, but people are working in

many ways. Your genetic back-

will help in prediction," he noted.

The conference, which saw par-

ticipation of specialists in AI and

ML, discussed how the cardiol-

ogists can amalgamate newer

knowledge of digitisation. "We

are going to assimilate all that is

happening and try to give the

benefit of exponential informa-

tion for the benefit of better heart

care for the patients," the cardiol-

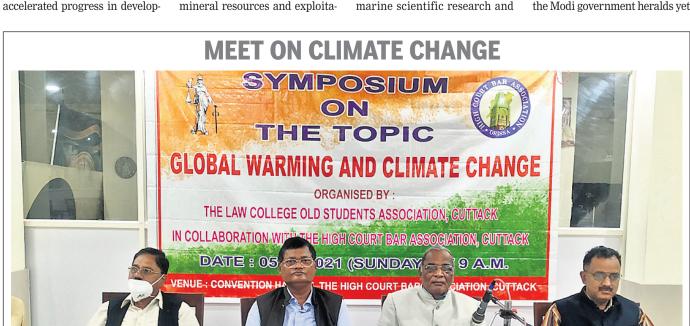
Mohanan pointed out that the av-

Amid the growing concern

ogist said.

Jayanta Kumar Das was arrested for possessing disproportionate assets (DA) worth ₹1.6 crore, around 137 per cent of his known sources of income

of income to the tune of ₹1,60,16,216, around 137 per cent of his known sources of income,' said the statement. A case (41/2021) has been registered with the Bhubaneswar Vigilance police station against Das and his spouse under section of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Das was arrested and produced before the special Vigilance Court in Bhubaneswar that remanded the official to judicial custody till December 18.



and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) AB Ota said that the Kutia Kondhs are skilled in fashioning beautiful combs from bamboo splits. Their women like to adorn their hair with these combs.

The combs are used not just to untangle the hair, but also as gifts of courtship in the community Combs are presented by boys to the girls as a sign of affection. These are made by cutting bamboo splits into equal lengths and tying them together.

Earlier, Siali fibre was used to tie the splits which have now been replaced by cotton threads to hold the splits in place.

A newly married daughter returning to her maternal home for the first time gifts a comb to each of her female relatives which are made by her new brother-in-laws.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

7th Chilika Shelduck Folk Carnival by Society for Development of Rural Literature and Odi Art Centre Excellency Resorts, Ashok Nagar, 5:30pm

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

A meeting on global warming and climate change by 'The Law College Old Students Association' in progress at Orissa High Court Bar Association convention hall in Cuttack, Sunday

India needs its own data to detect heart diseases in advance

AMID THE GROWING CONCERN OVER MORE YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOPING CARDIAC PROBLEMS. THE CSI IS FOCUSING ON PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY

ndia needs to have its own data sionals deliberated modern adof heart diseases to amalgamate vancements in heart care

We have to have big data. CSI has started efforts in this direction. This will not happen in a year or two, as it is a continuous process. We have to accrue big data and then go step by step. In the years to come, all these will help us formulate a method, and identify people who can potentially develop a heart disease in the future. This will not happen tomorrow or day after, it will take time." he said.

Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) The CSI, along with scientists and to detect heart ailments well in adengineers, will be working towards vance was one of the key subjects developing 'Deep Neural Networks'; discussed during the just-concluded and achieving the target of accu-73rd annual conference of the rately predicting heart risks in advance by 2030. It is keen to work with Cardiological Society of India (CSI). The four-day event attended by the government to reach the goal 1,000 cardiologists, scientists, en-

efficiently. However, Mohanan clarified that



this is the CSI's vision. "People are trying to involve Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in prediction of heart diseases. We still have a long way to go, but the process is on," he said.

Mohanan believes that the technological tools will merely aug ment the cardiologist's capability. "Essentially, it is the clinician, the cardiologist who is going to do all those things. He gets some aug-

mented knowledge from Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning. Nothing

Around 30 per cent of ground and your risk factor profile deaths across the world occur due to cardiovascular diseases. Unfortunately, in India the rate is higher. We presume it may be 35 per cent or even inching on to 38 per cent. Heart disease is the numbe one killer in the world. Eighteen million people die every year because of heart diseases PP MOHANAN | PRESIDENT, CARDIOLOGICAL

SOCIETY OF INDIA

taking over more young people developing away his own clinical importance cardiac problems, the CSI is foor clinical integrity," he added. cusing on preventive cardiology. Mohanan said there is no magic

erage age of developing heart attack in India is 10 years prior to any body in the rest of the world.

Mohanan attributed this trend to the amount of stress the young generation is taking, lack of physical activity and air pollution. Thirty per cent of deaths across the world occur due to cardiovascular diseases. "Unfortunately, in India the rate is higher. We presume it may be 35 per cent or even inching on to 38 per cent. Heart disease is the number one killer in the world. Eighteen million people die every year because of heart diseases," he said.

Mohanan pointed out that 80 per cent of heart diseases can be prevented provided people understand better. The CSI is trying to focus on creating awareness.

IANS

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the same with latest technolog-

ical tools, which will ultimately

help identify people who can po-

tentially develop a heart disease in

future, eminent cardiologists said.

India (CSI), the apex body of car-

diologists, is trying to gather more

data on every heart disease preva-

lent in India, CSI President PP

gineers and healthcare profes-

Mohanan told media.

The Cardiological Society of







state

SHORT TAKES

University field as bus stand decried

Bhawanipatana: Various outfits have opposed the district administration's plan to use the playground of Kalahandi University as bus stand on a temporary basis. According to reports. groundwork was started to pull down the old bus stand in Bhawanipatna and to build a new one there. The administration has, meanwhile, requested the university authorities to use the varsity playground as a makeshift bus stand till the new one is completed. The state government has sanctioned funds for the new bus stand proposed at Kali Mandir. However, the problem is that students of the university have been using the playground and the university is also going to hold interuniversity athletic and sports meet in January. Senior citizens are also using the playground. If the playground is used as bus stand, then the athletic meet would not be possible, it was said. Students and the alumni association of the university have opposed it.

Farmer couple killed in mishap

Sundargarh: In a road mishap that took place early Sunday morning, a farmer couple died on the spot after a tractor they were travelling on skidded off and turned turtle. The fatal incident took place near Khairakhaman village under Sadar police limits in Sundargarh district. According to an eyewitness, both were on their way to their farmland for harvesting paddy in view of cyclone Jawad. The husband, who was driving the tractor, lost control over the vehicle on the way. The tractor skidded off the road and overturned leading to the deaths. The farmer couple got crushed under the tractor and succumbed to injuries on the spot. Police seized the vehicle and initiated a probe.

Tribal woman shot at by poachers

Phulbani: A tribal woman was shot at in a forest in Kandhamal district Saturday when she was collecting firewood, police said. Jayanti Kanhar, a resident of Chandarupadar village in Khajuripada block, was suspected to have been shot at by poachers, they said. Kanhar and her husband were collecting firewood



Local people, traders and workers of various political parties staging a rail roko at Laxmipur Road railway station in Koraput, demanding halt of all passenger trains and ticket reservation facility at the station, Sunday

Work on 22 NHs stuck, courtesy CALA's apathy



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 5: Work on 22 National Highways has been stuck at different stages due to delay in clearing compensation to the land losers. As land acquisition for the NHs in various districts gets delayed, expansion of these projects has been affected,

a report said. According to the report, the state government's Competent Authority of Land Acquisition (CALA) is the agency which is supposed to facilitate land acquisition and ensure clearance of compensation to the land losers

It was alleged that due to CALA's apathy, land acquisition for the NH expansion has been delayed. Special secretary of the works department HK Padhi has taken note of the slow pace of land acquisition. Expressing concern over the issue, Padhi November 29 directed Collectors of

Jajpur, Balasore, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Sambalpur and Sundargarh to intervene in the matter of land acquisition.

He has asked the Collectors to direct officials concerned to remove bottlenecks in the land acquisition process, expedite the work and carry forward the compensation clearing process

Padhi had also directed the Collectors to remove bottlenecks in the NH expansion. It was alleged that due to indifference of the CALA. District Collectors of the above districts have to face awkward situation. This is evident from the repeated reminders from the works depart ment.

Since 2017, expansion of 22 NHs whose total length adds up to 1,162 km is moving in slow pace. According to reports. 2.412 hectares of private land

Since 2017, construction and expansion of 22 NHs whose total length adds up to 1.162 km is moving in slow pace

The NHAI has deposited ₹2,340 crore at the CALA to pay compensation to the land losers

Due to negligence of the CALA. land losers have not vet received their compensation to the tune of ₹242.955 crore till Sept 20

Besides, work of 22 more projects as decided in 2021-22 and 2022-23 has failed to make much headway

are being acquired in Jajpur, Angul, Balasore, Cuttack, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts.

The NHAI has deposited ₹2,340 crore at the CALA to pay compensation to the land losers

Due to alleged negligence of the CALA, the land losers have not yet received their compensation to the tune of ₹242.955 crore till September 20. As compensation clearance gets delayed, people are creating problems.

Besides, work of 22 more NH projects as decided in 2021-22 and 2022-23 has failed to make much headway. NHAI chairperson Giridhar

Armane had written to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra in September to ensure smooth progress of the NH works in the state.

Two leopards on prowl in Nuapada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Dec 5: Locals have claimed to have sighted two leopards moving about in Tarboda area under Komna block of Nuapada district. The big cats on the prowl have pressed the panic button in the area, prompting the forest officials to look for the animals, a report said.

According to reports, some locals had seen two leopards moving along NH-353 Saturday morning. Later, the animals had scaled across the boundary wall of the grass and seeds production farm here. Hundreds of locals rushed to the spot to catch a glimpse of the animals.

On being informed, ranger Debadutta Sutar and wildlife ranger Prafulla Kumar Duria along with a group of forest officials rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation. The forest officials and locals mounted a search operation inside the 120-acre farm. The farm was full of bushes and wild creepers. However, the search operation failed to trace the animals. Later. drone camera was used to locate the animals. The big cats might have holed up amid bushes while the forest officials were still on the lookout of the animals.

Lone doctor runs



Workers held the Department

of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) responsible for such development. Kalinganagar Shramik Sangha (KSS), a leading trade union in the area, alleged that due to whimsical attitude of these two organisations, their pay revision has not been done.

The trade union leaders have submitted a memorandum to Tuhinkanta Pandey, secretary, finance of the Union Government. In the memorandum, the trade union leaders have alleged that the DIPAM and MMTC in connivance with some private firms have jointly stopped the longstanding pay revision and promotion of the workers and officials of the NINL.

necessarily interfering in the

Man dies of severe cold wave; saline water flows into farmland

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, Dec 5: The incessant rainfall triggered by cyclonic storm Jawad has played havoc with life and livelihood of residents under this block in Kendrapara district, Sunday.

An elderly man died due to alleged cold wave at waterlogged Badapal village under Kansar Badadandua panchayat. The deceased was identified as Kalipada Mandal, 87. It is alleged that he died of severe cold wave prevailing in the area following the incessant rainfall arising out of the cyclonic storm.

Farmers faced crop damage Mahakalapara Press Club urged as tidal waves crossed the saline MLA Atananu Sabyasachi Navak to ensure survey on crop embankment and submerged the standing crops on farmlands loss and provision of financial in various low-lying areas under aid to the affected farmers.

Pvt college raided for ____ flouting Covid norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Dec 5: Saikrupa Plus

Workers agitate, goods transport from NINL hit

DIPAM INTERFERENCE CONDEMNED

port of stocked goods from the plant premises, protesting the long-pending pay revision and promotion, Sunday.

claimed that the NINL is a separate firm where its managing committee looks after the wellbeing of the company officials and workers.

They alleged that DIPAM is un-

It has been confirmed from a reply given by Union Minister of State (Finance) Bhagawat Kishan Rao Karad in the Parliament to a starred question of MP Manoj Kumar Jha. The minister has said that the NINL managing committee is only authorised to look into the

management of the NINL. They

problems of workers and find solution to them. However, the DIPAM which is under the Union Finance Ministry is unnecessarily interfering in the affairs of the

NINL. The workers have alleged the Finance Ministry has not given the NINL even a rupee, but it is interfering in its day-today affairs on the insistence of

this block. Over two-foot deep

saline water was found flowing

Reports of crop damage has

Ramnagar,

Gagua,

emerged from Batighar,

Baulakani, Jambu, Suniti,

Nanjura, Baadhi, Kansar,

Barakandha, Petchhela,

Mangalpur and Baradanga pan-

chayats of the block. Locals have

demanded that the state gov-

ernment should immediately

intervene and provide financial

assistance to the affected farm-

members

ers for their crop damage.

over the standing crops.

Kharinasi,

Badadandua,

The

some private firms.

from the Ranjaguda forest in the morning, Phulbani Subdivisional Police Officer NC Murmu said. She was shot at on her forehead suddenly, Murmu said. The woman's husband rescued her from a pool of blood and admitted her to the district hospital, he said. She was later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

.....

One dead in elephant attack

Dhenkanal: Amid continued elephant menace in parts of Dhenkanal district, an elderly man died in an elephant attack in Sadangi range Sunday. The deceased was identified as Raghunath Barik (71). Raghunath was returning to his village from a relative's house. It was said that a tusker attacked him on Dandeibereni-Talapada road. Another person was critically injured in an elephant attack in Kapilash range late Saturday night. As his condition was critical, he was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack

Free milk for AP kids on sale for a premium in Kandhamal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Dec 5: In a surprising development, milk packets of Andhra Pradesh meant for free distribution among poor children are allegedly being smuggled to markets under Kotgarh block in Kandhamal district for sale among the locals, a report said.

Vendors in Kotgarh market are selling these milk packets for ₹45 per litre. The tea sellers in the area are purchasing the milk and preparing tea to sell it among the locals. As a result, the local vendors who are selling locally manufactured milk packets are finding it difficult to sustain against the flooding of AP milk in the local markets.

The milk packets sold in the name of 'Vijay Vajra' carries the image of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. The packets are available in vari-

obscruity and was bereft of

any development as the district

administration was unaware

of its existence within the ter-

ritorial boundary of the dis-

trict. The matter came to the

fore after someone tipped off



ous shops in the Kotgarh market while it has been mentioned on the packets that the milk is meant for free distribution only.

However, what has surprised many is that no one knows how the milk packets are being transported to Kotgarh block for sale.

Even no government official has any information about it. The milk pouches are also available in Durgapanga, Bondapipili and Tumudibandha areas of the district. It is suspected that some middlemen are pushing the milk packets into the Odisha villages with help of some local vendors. Locals have expressed concern

over such development. "Despite regular police patrolling in place, how come these milk packets have gained access to the areas," they questioned.

Reports said that over 1,000 litres of milk packets are being illegally transported to the district from Andhra Pradesh on a regular basis and delivered to the vendors for sale among people.

Some locals alleged that these milk packets are transported to Kotgarh via Rayagada district which is on its borders.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Dec 5: Healthcare services in the gastroenterology department of MKCG Medical College and Hospital here has been severely affected as a lone doctor is struggling to manage the gastro-medicine wing of the department with several posts lying vacant. As no doctor is there in the surgery wing, many patients needing surgery have to return disappointed, a report said.

The gastroenterology department comprises gastro-medicine and gastro-surgery units.

Various schemes like Niramava. Nidan and health cards have been launched by the state government to ensure quality treatment to patients.

The state government is also working to equip the hospitals in the state with better infrastructure so that no patient will be deprived of necessary and quality treatment. As part of this move, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced for establishment of a gastroenterology department comprising gastro-medicine and gastro-surgery at MKCG Medical



College and Hospital in Berhampur in March

The government had then sanctioned 19 posts of doctors and non-teaching staff for both the units which include 10 for gastrosurgery and nine for the gastromedicine department. However, not a single doctor has been appointed in the department since then. A doctor of the general medicine department is in dual charge of the two units.

The outdoor service of the department is available once in a week. However, healthcare services have been severely hit in the department due to lack of adequate number of doctors.

Locals alleged, it is unfortunate that a lone doctor shoulders the responsibilities of the whole department while patients have been deprived of proper healthcare services here.

II Residential College at Kunjakanta under ward No-2 of Dhenkanal, which was sealed December 2 and declared a Containment Zone, was raided Saturday night by Town Police for conducting classes in violation of Covid-19 norms.

"As many as 57 students of Saikrupa College including a few staffers had recently tested positive for Covid-19. However, authorities of the educational institution had been conducting classes every night till Saturday when the police raided the college," a senior official in Town Police Station said.

"Kunjakanta area is to remain under restriction till December 10. Acting on a tip-off that another educational institution in the containment zone was conducting night classes for its students and after considering the seriousness of the matter; a team of Town Police personnel conducted raids on two colleges in Kunjakanta," the senior official added.

Some staff members of the Saikrupa College managed to give the raiding team a slip while a few more staffers did not allow Town Police to enter the institution by locking its gate from inside. After waiting for a long time, the police personnel had to return, the source informed.

Village missing in Malkangiri dist map traced

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Dec 5: A village which had not figured in the district map of Malkangiri and had long remained elusive from the sight of the district administration was finally traced by Khairaput tehsildar, a report said.

The newly identified Ghasingbeda village is under Rasabeda panchayat and Khairput block of the district and is inhabited by over 70 primitive Didayi tribals.

The village had remained in



about the presence of the village to Rama Krushna Nayak, tehsildar of Khairput block. Nayak personally decided to verify the claim and visited the village Friday. Accompanied by the tehsil officials, Nayak trekked over a 14-kilometre-long hilly terrain and set his foot at the Ghasingbeda village.

The joy of the villagers knew no bounds when they saw the government officials for the first time in their village. They gathered together and welcomed the tehsildar and tehsil officials according to their traditional rituals.

The tehsildar interacted with the villagers when the latter informed that they do not have a road to their village. Moreover, no government assistance has ever reached them. Observers pointed out that the state government has launched several schemes for the development of primitive and Didayi Bonda tribals. However, development continues to remain a distant dream for this village inhabited by Didayi tribals as the village has not yet figured in the district map.

After the visit of the tehsildar, the villagers are hopeful that the district administration will definitely work on development of the village.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER R.W. DIVISION, ANANDAPUR, SALAPADA, KEONJHAR e-Procurment Notice for Road Works Identification No. Online 11/EERW/AND/2020-21 E-mail address: eerw_anandapur@yahoo.co.in No.8377 / Dt.02.12.21

No.0-1198:- 1. Name of the work: Annual Maintenance Plan for the year 2021-22 for completed Bridges (For Minor Repair Painting Installation of asset board, other sign board, repair of bridge & approach road etc.) for Administrative Expenditure & Annual Maintenance Plan of RD road under Periodical Maintenance for the year 2021-22. 2. Total No. of works: 10 (Ten) No. (Percentage rate tender). 3. Estimated cost: Approx. estimate cost 5.00 lakhs to 92.00 lakhs. 4. Class of contractor: Class 'A', Class 'B', Class 'C' & 'D' Class. 5. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification	Availability of for bid		Last date & time of	Date & time of opening of	Date & place of receipt of bid cost & bid security	
	No.	From	То	seeking tender clarification	tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Anandapur		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Ananadapur	Online 11/ EERW/AND/ 2020-21	7.12.2021 at 10.00 A.M.	14.12.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	13.12.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	15.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	The bidder shall transfer online the cost of bid and EMD in column No4 & 6 in Annexure-I, respectively through a process as mention in DTCN.	

power post

FOCUS ECONOMY

Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so. THE MOTHER



Weakening Opposition

It should be music to the BJP's ears the way Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee denied outright the existence of the Opposition alliance – the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) – and lambasted the Congress. Pouring water on the Opposition's efforts to unite under the banner of the UPA in which the Congress has been playing a pivotal role, she even abrasively asked a rhetorical question to say the talk about the UPA is meaningless. The media sought to know from her, in the presence of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai last week, if the latter could be the UPA chairperson. Mamata in her audacious best wondered what Pawar could do in that position since the UPA is non-existent. She not only sent shockwaves to Opposition parties trying to put up a united front against the BJP in the 2024 general elections, but also caused huge embarrassment to Pawar who soon distanced himself from her remarks.

Explaining his position on the issue Pawar said "All those opposed to the BJP are welcome to join us and there is no question of excluding anyone." His clarification came as the media asked him if an alliance without the Congress was on the cards. Pawar further underscored the need for all like-minded parties to come together and provide a strong alternative to the BJP. It is only understandable that Pawar would not countenance Mamata's attack on the UPA and the Congress since the NCP is part of a triumvirate that makes up the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra along with the Congress and the Shiv Sena.

The Shiv Sena too sought to dismiss Mamata's narrative that strikes at the root of Opposition unity against the BJP. It did not waste time and used its mouthpiece, Saamana of December 4, to criticise her attempt to sideline the Congress and project herself as the key face of the Opposition. It wrote that pushing the Congress away from national politics and creating an Opposition grouping parallel to the UPA would be tantamount to strengthening the BJP and 'fascist' forces. Defending the Congress, the Sena said if those fighting the BJP feel that the Congress should cease to exist, then this attitude is the 'biggest threat.' It asserted that if there is no unity among the Opposition parties, then the talk of creating a political alternative to the ruling BJP should end. It even asserted the NDA does not virtually exist as the BJP no longer needs its allies in the NDA with the numbers it has. However, the Opposition needs the UPA and any attempt to form a parallel alliance to it would only help the BJP, the Sena has argued.

The question is why Mamata has started torpedoing the Opposition alliance in which the Congress is a key constituent. For some time, she has been ridiculing the Congress and poaching on the grand old party. Earlier, it was the BJP which was engineering defection in the Congress and forming state governments with the help of deserters from the Congress, the most glaring cases happening in MP, Goa and Karnataka. But, now, the mantle seems to have fallen on Mamata and her party which is weaning Congress MLAs and leaders away from their party in Assam, Goa and Tripura. In Meghalaya, 12 out of 17 Congress MLAs recently defected to the Trinamool making it the principal Opposition party in the state. Mamata's ambition seems to be to possibly shed the status of a regional party and project TMC as a national outfit with presence in several states. Her efforts faced an early setback in Tripura where the Trinamool could win only one civic body seat against the BJP's landslide victory in several municipalities comprising, in all, over 300 seats. The ignominious defeat appears to have prompted her to weaken the Congress and unite disgruntled Congress leaders in different states under the Trinamool's banner so as to project it as a replacement of the Congress. This explains why she targeted Rahul Gandhi and levelled against him the charge the BJP has been making all these years that he spends more time staying abroad rather than working for his party. Her intention seems to send the message to Congress leaders that they and others like her who quit the Congress can work together jumping from the Congress' sinking ship.

The Congress and several top leaders, including some who have aired their differences with the high command, criticised Mamata's remarks and 'posturing' to replace the Congress. The timing of Mamata's frenetic efforts to dismember the Congress is also significant. The BJP is on the back foot following the farmers' agitation that forced it to repeal the three farm laws. This is sending wrong signals to the electorate especially in UP, Uttarakhand and Punjab where Assembly elections will be held in the next few months. At this stage any impression that the Opposition is crumbling or there is infighting among its allies will be a boon for the BJP.

Political observers are also pointing out that Mamata's tirade against

BEYOND FARM LAWS

ndia's GDP is rising, large corporates are aiding recovery and popular decisions are helping the people have an ease of living, but consumer spending and Omicron remain concerns.

The GDP growth of 8.4 per cent in the September quarter is higher than RBI's Monetary Policy projections of 8.1 per cent though even IT sector seems to lag. An interesting aspect is that agriculture has sustained the growth during the most critical pandemic period. It remains neglected despite the farm agitation.

Some of the decisions that cheered the masses were bringing down the price of railway platform tickets to Rs 10 from Rs 50, cut in petrol prices, bid to bring down edible oil prices and Uttarakhand repealing the Char Dham Devasthanam Management Act (CDDMA) restoring the 51 temples back to the priests. Populism, politics and economic courses seem extremely intertwined.

The actions demonstrate that popular concerns and real informal economy decide the final outcome. For the last two years, Uttarakhand priests and temples were protesting against the CDDMA. It has shifted the popular vote base. The other actions also reflect the mood of the people – the government should interfere less.

Simultaneously, the employment figures show construction and food product manufacturing increase, some say more sustainable but hope it is not a sign of the real-estate driven problems of Asian tigers sometime back. The tigers had gone on similar extravaganza and they found their economy collapsed in a short while. The apprehensions are not imaginary. The fast-paced road constructions have pushed NHAI to a whopping debt of Rs 3.38 lakh crore, up from Rs 1.22 lakh crore in March 2018 and Rs 2.49 lakh crore a year back.

The PMO has called upon the Union Finance Ministry to work out a rescue plan. Such high debt impacts banks. The sustainability for the spree of constructing roads comes into question. Even private companies like the JP's Agra Expressway are in difficult times.



The government has to change focus from a construction-oriented expensive and questionable development model. If the farm sector is developed all other sectors would also prosper

Road construction all across dren under five and 59 per cent of the country projecting a country girls in the age group of 15 to 19 on fast-development path may bewere anaemic. Experts agree that come a questionable financial de-India's demographic dividend will cision. It reveals that of late most last for another two decades, and private companies collecting toll possibly for a third. But we should are in losses. This apart, tolls are aim to cash in on it sooner rather increasing costs and prices. Some than later. And in that context. states have started building roads time is fast running out for India. parallel to the toll roads. This has

So India is at crossroads. It is a peculiar mix of changing politics driven economics. The free food dole for 80 crore people that was decided to be scrapped from November 30, is extended till March 31 considering India's nutritional concerns.

So, the question is whether the changing politics and economy have to look for new solutions. The corporate results tell us about the nature of economic recovery. It indicates that the recovery is driven by large firms. Not all companies have had the fortune of a V-shaped recovery. Companies with revenue of Rs 100 crore have actually seen a fall in their September revenues compared to the same period in 2020 and 2019. The fall in sales of smaller companies that started before the pandemic is vet to recover.

The data reveals that 1,295 of the 1,369 manufacturing firms in inflation adjusted raw material expenses are showing negative 13 per cent growth.

So for all these changes, fiscal policy support would remain indispensable for growth. It means with consumer demand lagging, private companies lack the incentive to invest. Unless that situation is restored the government would have to resort to unsustainable debt leading to high costs, inflation and concomitant problems. Thus, despite understanding the problem of infrastructure development it is in a vortex and now must desist for real recovery.

The Central government's capital expenditure between April and October stood at Rs 2.53 trillion, which is higher than 2020-21 – Rs 1.97 trillion. Most of these expenses are in public administration, defence and other services even as output of employment intensive non-farm sectors such as construction, trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting lag below pre-pandemic level.

Agriculture, though still lacks attention, has been an important cushion in softening the pandemic's blow to the Indian economy. It escaped contraction in 2020-21, a phenomenon common to all industries and other activities Agriculture alone has contributed 4.5 per cent of the total growth. Overall agricultural income remains low. This, with the rising fertilizer shortages in various parts of the country will have the twin effects of the rise in cultivation cost, drop in yield and does not bode well for agriculture.

The country has to go beyond the farm bills. Farming itself needs sustenance for overall economic growth and reduction of government's expenses. The government has to change focus from construction-oriented expensive and questionable development model. If the farm sector is developed all other sectors would also prosper. The better the farm income, the better will be India's development. Let India change its paradigm and chart out a course for long-term low-cost expansive development model. Yes, agriculture has to be the pivot for innate development process.

INFA

SPECTRUM BANKING

What ails India's public sector banks?

drawn the ire of the NHAI.

The roads are being built to

serve the increasing population.

But the latest trends suggest that

the projections made may require

fast review. Expensive roads are im-

pacting travel, transportation and

freight costs making life dearer. Its

sustainability depends on the ris-

ing existing population growth.

This has now become doubtful in

the light of falling fertility rate

to below the replacement level

and the recent NITI Aayog study

on high poverty across the coun-

try. This indicates that the nation

has to shift its stress from fast to

to be discussed more seriously

and should call for a full review. But

Professor K Srinath Reddy,

President of the Public Health

Foundation of India, says a sig-

nificant importance must be given

to nutrition as the NFHS survey

revealed that 67 per cent of chil-

The falling fertility rate needs

sustainable development.



AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT

CUSHION IN SOFTENING THE PANDEMIC'S BLOW TO THE INDIAN ECONOMY

the Congress acquired a new pitch since her nephew MP, Abhishek Banerjee, was grilled by Central agencies in cases of alleged corruption in allocation of coal blocks and some other irregularities. Using these agencies to make regional parties do its bidding has been a known tactic of the BJP. Mamata has been shifting her loyalty from the Congress to the BJP and vice versa to suit her interests since the inception of her party. This time she appears to be on a mission to discredit the Congress and form its parallel with old Congress hands while protecting her nephew. This will help her party spread its wings and the BJP fulfil its stated policy of "freeing India from the Congress."

WISDOM CORNER

My favourite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time.

STEVE JOBS

11 Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

OPRAH WINFREY

b Be grateful for what you have and stop complaining - it bores everybody else, does you no good, and doesn't solve any problems. ZIG ZIGLAR

WORDS**WORTH**

Probiotic

his word has been around since the beginning of the nineties. but has only slowly started to appear outside technical contexts. It refers to the use of microorganisms in a positive way to benefit health. They are usually consumed in specially designed foods that are variously called nutraceuticals, functional foods or FoSHUs ("Foods for Specified Health Uses"). An example is the way some people ingest bacteria in live voghurt to enhance their intestinal flora and so aid digestion. Such harmless bacteria colonies are also being introduced into various environments to take up available resources and prevent harmful ones multiplying, a technique known as competitive exclusion. For example, a recent proposal to maintain healthy teeth involves populating the mouth with harmless bacteria that prevent those which cause decay from gaining a hold. A similar technique has been used in fish farming to prevent bacteria that cause disease from attacking stocks. Probiotic is not entirely new, as it has appeared on occasion in the past as another word for prebiotic, but that sense seems to be obsolete. The value of "competitive exclusion" is becoming widely accepted, and [one] company is now marketing a product that farmers can use to ensure the development of a protective flora of microbes in their chickens' intestines ... Several so-called probiotics, consisting of individual strains of lactobacilli, are now available for this purpose (Bernard Dixon, Power Unseen, 1994). Probiotics have been reported to enhance the digestion and absorption of protein, fat, calcium and phosphorus. They produce their own lactase and may help overcome lactose intolerance (Pharmacy Post, May 1997).



Bikash Narayan Mishra

ANY POLICY SHOULD RECOGNISE THE FACT THAT BANKERS ARE INTO THE BUSINESS OF RISK TAKING. SO IT'S UNLIKELY THAT ALL DECISIONS WILL END UP WITH GOOD RESULTS The arrest of former chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) in the recent past has once again brought to fore one of the key challenges that continues to plague state-run banks – fear of the unknown. While some may dismiss it as an operational hazard, the fact remains that this fear gets reflected in the losing market share of state-run banks in the Indian banking space.

In 1991, state-run lenders had 87% of the total deposits and their credit share was 85%. Since then, this share has come down to 61% and 57% respectively by end-March $2021. The PS\bar{B}s$ have lost nearly 30%of their business share in as many vears i.e. 30 years. However, fear of undue scrutiny cannot be alone held as the reason for this declining market share. There needs to be a systemic overhaul to reverse this declining trend, which needs to be focussed around three key factors -- human resource, business strategy and accountability.

The lacklustre approach towards strengthening the human resource (HR) of nationalised banks is evident from the fact that the country's second largest PSB, Punjab National Bank had five managing directors in seven years. A PSB might get away with such changes at its top management level. But if it was for a private lender, it would have been near impossible to escape market scrutiny Such short tenures have often led to each successor trying to abandon the predecessor's policies and trying to get his/her own ideas implemented.

At present, only SBI has a proper governance structure in place. Unlike other PSBs their entire management is from within the bank, which ensures consistency in policy implementation. While in other PSBs, top management (whole time directors including the MD) comes on back of a promotion from other banks. They take time to understand the organisation and often find themselves at crosshairs. So, there is an urgent need to completely overhaul the HR structure in nationalised banks.

SBI was the first to make serious efforts to keep pace with time. It embraced disruption and started to focus on retail loan, consumer products and digitisation. This along with a consistency in strategic policy formulation in implementation was the differentiator. Other nationalised banks did join the

bandwagon but couldn't keep pace
with the new developments in the
banking space. As a result, they
have lost 25% of their market share
in the last three decades, whereas
SBI continues to maintain its share
at 23-25%. It's time nationalised
banks once again looked at disruption which can only be achieved
if you have the best technology, a
robust risk management system
and focus on digitisation.

The government has recently come out with guidelines on accountability for NPA accounts up to Rs 50 crore other than fraud accounts. This will provide some respite to bankers. But a lot of changes are required at operational level. These new guidelines are aimed at protecting bank employees taking bonafide commercial decisions and faster dispensation of vigilance cases. Employees' past track record will also be taken into consideration. In order to instil more confidence in bankers, fare, uniform and transparent DAC practices should be put in place by all banks. Any policy should recognise the fact that bankers are into the business of risk taking. So it's unlikely that all decisions will end up with good results. Indian Banks'

Association has also noted that there is a need to protect the people taking bonafide business decisions in this competitive environment. A growing economy depends heavily on bank credit. This is possible if the credit delivery ecosystem is free from the fear of unknown. The new guidelines will surely boost the morale of the PSB employees immensely. But more needs to be done on HR and leadership issues.

Today, out of the 11 nationalised banks at least six are of the size of SBI after their merger with the associates. Although private banks and PSBs must grow together in a mixed economy such as ours, if the 11 PSBs, other than SBI, lose 1% of their market share every year they will be extinct in the next three decades. Consistency of the right leadership has helped not only SBI to maintain its market share and grow but even private banks to have a similar track record; best example is HDFC Bank which is India's most valuable bank now. Leadership matters in every field.

> The writer is a senior advisor, Indian Banks' Association. Views are personal.

etters

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**



Cyclone-proof infra

Sir, The people from states exposed to the Bay of Bengal are familiar with cyclones. Cyclones cause a lot of damage every year to these coastal states. Crores of rupees are spent to recover from the devastation caused by cyclones. Even sometimes the people and administration have to deal with two cyclones a year. Cyclones cause damage to agriculture, infrastructure, and businesses. No one can check the Acts of God, but science and technology we have these days can minimise the damage at least. All the stakeholders involved should focus on building infrastructure that is cyclone-proof and which can last more days. A special fund should be kept ready at the Central level for the states vulnerable to cyclones. Union and state governments should promote trade and crops that are less damaged during cyclones and need to change the cropping pattern of the states with the help of science and proper technical guidance.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Modi-Putin meeting

Sir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin are scheduled to meet in New Delhi December 6 for the first time since the BRICS Summit in Brasilia in 2019. Putin had stressed upon the significance of Russia-India Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership in the fast-changing global scenario. There has been a mechanism between the two countries under which India's Prime Minister and Russian President hold a summit annually to review the status of ties. The two leaders will review the state and prospect of bilateral relations and discuss ways to strengthen the strategic partnership. The summit is likely to produce specific outcomes in further expanding ties in areas of defence, trade and energy. The summit will produce opportunities to exchange views on regional, multilateral and international issues of mutual interest. A framework for military-technical cooperation is expected to be renewed for future. Besides, announcement of a joint commission on technology and science will be made. Furthermore, the two countries have reached the final phase of negotiation for a logistic support agreement. The agreement will facilitate the use of each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies. It will facilitate scaling up of overall defence cooperation as well. Russia has always been a trustworthy partner for India. The country plays a significant role in India's foreign policy.

Venu GS, KOLLAM







India has exported defence items worth more than ₹38,000 crore in the past seven years and the country hopes to become an overall net exporter soon RAJNATH SINGH DEFENCE MINISTER

CONTROLLING POLLUTION

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has pressed 14 Anti Smog Guns into service to combat air pollution at the sites where it is constructing infrastructure for the metro rails



uote

If today anyone thinks that he or she won't be affected by these kinds of laws, then let me remind you that Kashmir is a laboratory for them. UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act) was abused first in Kashmir and now it is being followed in the rest of the country

MEHBOOBA MUFTI FORMER CM OF J&K

The Narendra Modi government is working to ensure better healthcare facilities and increased housing

satisfaction and family time for nersonnel of the Central Armed Police Forces, who are guarding India's fronts under very difficult conditions

AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER



SHORT TAKES

ED stops Jacqueline from flying abroad

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Sunday stopped actor Jacqueline Fernandez from flying abroad as she may be required to join an ongoing money laundering investigation against alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar, officials said. The actor was stopped by the immigration authorities at the Mumbai airport on the basis of a Look Out Circular (LoC) issued by the federal probe agency, they said. Agency sleuths later reached the Mumbai airport and disallowed her travel asking her to remain in the country as she may be required to join the probe.

Naxals burn road roller

Bhopal/Balaghat: Naxalites burnt a road roller engaged in construction work in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district and left behind pamphlets calling for a bandh in MP. Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh December 10 to protest the killing of rebels in an encounter in Gadchiroli

NAGALAND KILLINGS Chorus grows for repeal of AFSPA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Shillong, Dec 5: The gunning down of 13 civilians by security forces in Nagaland led to the demand for the withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 from the Northeast with a renewed vigour Sunday.

Civil society groups and rights activists and political leaders of the region have been demanding the withdrawal of the "draconian" law for years, alleging excesses by security forces with impunity under

the cover of the Act. The AFSPA is in force in Assam Nagaland, Manipur (excluding Imphal Municipal Council Area), Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh. and areas falling within the jurisdiction of eight police stations of districts in Arunachal Pradesh bordering Assam. The North East Students' Organisation (NESO), an umbrella body of students unions of the region, said the Centre should repeal the law if it is concerned about the welfare and well-being of the people of the Northeast."...Otherwise it will only further alienate the people of the region," NESO chairman Samuel B Jyrwa said.

'The armed forces have been

operating in the Northeast with impunity and they are further emboldened with the imposition of a draconian law known as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958 (AFSPA)," he added. The incident in Nagaland's Mon

brings back horrific memories of the past where on numerous occasions the security forces "massacred. tortured the innocent villagers and raped women" in the name of fight ing insurgency, he claimed.

TIPRA chairman Pradyot Deb Barma said that those responsible should be held accountable and laws like AFSPA have to be repealed. Rajya Sabha member from Assam and senior journalist Ajit Kumar Bhuyan said the killing of the villagers should be an eve-opener

for all. "Incidents like this are the reason we have been constantly protesting against renewal of draconian AFSPA. This is not the first incident, but I hope this is the last.' All Assam Students' Union (AASU) chief Advisor Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharjya, said, "The action of the security forces is an unpardonable and heinous crime." He alleged that the incident showed the government's unwillingness for

peace and stability in the region, and said that AFSPA should be revoked for the protection of the citizens.



A black flag being hoisted at the venue of Hornbill festival in solidarity with the civilians, killed in an anti-insurgency operation in Kisama, Nagalance

BJP eyeing tribal vote bank Air pollution: Builders'

In 2018, the BJP had to face defeat in most of the Assembly seats reserved for the tribals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Dec 5: Two years ahead of Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP is trying to woo state's tribal population, who have the power to swing the elections in the state. The BJP has intensified its campaigns of organising pro grammes to honour the heroes of the tribal community. There is a possibility of BJP los ing the polls in 2023 due to the farmers' protest. In 2018, the BJP had to face defeat in most of the Assembly seats reserved for the tribals. However, in 2013, it had won twice as many seats as the Congress and the party remained in power. Therefore, it is now trying to plug the gap which cost it the first rank in the previous polls and to bring back into its fold the tribals from the state. In September, a grand event was organised in Jabalpur to honour the memory of Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah which was attended by Union Minister Amit Shah.





The first Indigenous Survey Vessel (Large) for Indian Navy during its launch at GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers) in Kolkata

Half of India's adult population fully vaccinated against COVID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Over 50 per cent of India's eligible adult pop-ulation is now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said Sunday as the cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country exceeded 127.61 crore.

According to Union Health Ministry officials, over 84.8 per cent of the adult population in India has been administered the first dose

According to Union Health Ministry officials, over 84.8 per cent of the adult population in India has been administered the first dose



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mandaviva said in a tweet.

The plea is likely to be men-New Delhi, Dec 5: A builders' tioned on Monday. The top court dibody has moved the Supreme Court rected the Centre and the states seeking to vacate its order by which in the NCR on Friday to imple it had re-imposed the ban on conment the orders of the Commission for Air Quality Management in struction activities in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). the NCR and Adjoining Areas to

drive was rolled out on January 16 with health care workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of front line workers (FLWs) started from February 2. The next phase of COVID-19 vac cination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age

The countrywide vaccination

arms and ammunition including magazine, two Chinese hand and those aged 45 and above with

session in addition to ₹2.90 lakh cash," a police officer said. Sri Lankan Navy attacked us, claim Indian fishermen

Two LeT militants held

Srinagar, Dec 5: Two militants of

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were ar-

rested by the security forces on

Sunday in J&K's Shopian dis

Police said the security forces

arrested Shahid Ahmad Ganie

of Doomwani Keegam and his

close associate, Kifayat Ayoub

Alie of Pinjoora, both LeT mil-

itants. Personnel of the police, 44

Rashtriya Rifles and 14 Bn CRPF

launched a joint cordon and

search operation in the area after

receiving information about the

"When the joint parties of the

security forces approached them,

ties. "Incriminating materials,

one Chinese pistol, one pistol

grenades, eight pistol rounds

were recovered from their pos-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

trict.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Dec 5: Fishermen from Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu Sunday alleged that the Sri Lankan Navy personnel attacked them on Saturday by throwing bottles and stones while they were fishing near Katchatheevu.

The fishermen association pres ident of Rameswaram, Devadass

presence of militants. "Congratulations India. It is a 1,32,44,514 sessions, the ministry moment of great pride as over 50% said. of the eligible population is now the two suspects tried to flee fully vaccinated. We will win the battle against COVID-19 together," from the spot. The duo was ar-rested by the joint search par-

With the administration of 1,04,18,707 vaccine doses in a span of 24 hours, the total COVID-19 vaccine doses given in the country has exceeded 127.61 crore, according

pollution," the plea said.

month, police said. The incident took place on the intervening night of Friday-Saturday near Korka village of Balaghat, they said.

.....

Body found

Gurugram: A 30-year-old woman's decomposed body was found in an empty water tank of Ashiana society here in Sector-47 on Sunday, the police said. A cleaning staff spotted the body and later informed the police. A team of Sadar police station reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.

Labourer dies

Mumbai: A 50-year-old labourer died Sunday after a heavy iron angle fell on him while unloading it at an underconstruction building in Worli in central Mumbai, police said. The under-constructed building is located opposite the Doordarshan office.

Contractor held

Srinagar: A man, who claimed to work as a contractor with the Border Security force (BSF), was held on Sunday with unauthorised cash in J&K's Sopore town. Police said Aishfaq Ahmad Khan was intercepted in Tarzoo area of Sonore town and on frisking, ₹5 lakh was recovered from his possession. "When questioned, he failed to justify the possession of the recovered cash amount.' police said

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B

The Habibgani railway station in Bhopal which is majorly in-

habited by the members of the Gond tribe, was recently named after the Gond queen Kamalapati Rani. The BJP government also celebrated the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda in Bhopal as Tribal Gaurav Diwas which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After this, the party organised another programme in Indore to pay tributes to Bhil tribe warrior, Tantya

Bhil, on his sacrifice day. Mahakaushal and Vindhya region in Madhya Pradesh are home to the Gond tribe, while Malwa and Nimar regions, are home to the Bhils and Bhilalas. The BJP is leaving no stone unturned to woo these people and bolster its poll chances in 2023. Tribals constitute about 23 per cent of the voters in the state and have 47 seats reserved for them.

Till now, the tribal vote bank was believed to go to the Congress. However, with the BJP too eyeing the crucial tribal votes now, the 2023 Assembly elections have become an interesting battle to watch out for.

The plea filed by the Developers and Builders Forum, a body of more than 60 builders, contended that they use the latest construction technology so as to reduce dust pollution and adhere to the laiddown norms

"It is most respectfully submitted that the above direction imposing a blanket ban ought to be re-visited by this court in view of the relevant data and statistics."That the direction is issued without taking the views of all stakeholders and without differentiating between construction activities of various nature. "It is submitted that the present blanket ban on all construction activities takes within its sweep even small constructions of residential and other units, which can in no manner be said to be causing large-scale

curb pollution and sought a proposal to ensure that all industrial units switch over to PNG or cleaner fuel in a time-bound manner or face closure, while ruing that some news reports tried to portray it as a "villain" that wants to close down the schools here

Observing that instruments like PILs would not have been needed if the governments did everything on their own, a special bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said it was not adversarial litigation and it will not close the case and will keep monitoring the measures to be taken up by the states to curb pollution. The builders' body has chal-

lenged the November 24 order by which the apex court re-imposed the ban on construction activities in Delhi-NCR and directed the states to provide subsistence to workers.

told the media persons that around 4,000 fishermen were fishing off Katchatheevu coast on December 4. The fishermen alleged that Sri

Lankan Navy personnel had come in four boats and hurled stones and bottles at them. While 10 boats were damaged, the fishermen were not hurt.

fishermen from The Rameswaram area were not fishing off the Katchatheevu coast since long time after regular incidents of stone throwing against them. In October 21, a fisherman, Rajkiran, a fisherman from Pudukottai was killed when the Sri Lankan Navy attacked them while he was fishing with two of his colleagues. The two were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy for trespassing into Sri Lankan waters but later released

Amid schools shutdown, dropout rate goes up

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 5: With the shutdown of schools in many states including Delhi, lakhs of students are falling out of the education system. According to an estimate, out of two crore students who dropped out of school across the country, more than 20 lakh comes

from Delhi alone. Educationists are now demanding to open the schools "at any cost". According to Ashok Agarwal, President of All India Parents Association (AIPA), in such a "critical situation", it is absolutely unnecessary to keep the schools shuts just because of pollution. Citing his assessment, Agarwal

said that "more than" 20 lakh students have dropped out due to the shutdown of schools in the national capital. "These include more than one lakh disabled students. While the total figure of school dropouts across the country is more than two crores,' he noted.

The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in Delhi as well as across the country is now weakening. Experts are predicting a third wave. However, in the meantime, many students, parents and parent organisations want opening of schools for all.

According to renowned educationist C.S. Kandpal, the problem of dropout has arisen due to con-





tinuous lack of connection of students with schools, teachers, classmates and regular classes for a

of online classes are not fully available.

"According to an estimate about 30 per cent students of government schools are 'dropouts'. We should not overlook the fact that the best and safest place for children is school. Shutting down schools for a long time is like giving rise to social evils like child labour, sexual harassment, and disease, among others. Why can't schools start when all other activities have started in corona unlock," AIPA said.

The Union Education Ministry is also aware of the problem of dropout amongst students. The ministry says that a policy to bring down the school dropout rate is being worked upon with all the states

It also asserts that the objective of the 'New Education Policy 2020' is to bring the out-of-school children back into the main stream.

To monitor the progress, the data of such children will be compiled by each state.

For this, the ministry has developed a portal and online mod- 关 ule named 'Prabandhan'. In view of pollution, schools in Delhi and some neighbouring cities have been directed to remain shut.

The Delhi government also believes that with the onset of the pandemic, there has been a massive loss of students' studies.



long time. The problem is bigger es-

pecially amongst the sections with

whom the facility and resources



Karnataka opposed to declaring HP first fully vaccinated state: Govt Western Ghats as eco-sensitive AGENCIES Shimla, Dec 5: Himachal Pradesh



AGENCIES

Bangalore, Dec 5: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavarai Bommai has opposed declaring Western Ghats as an ecologically sensitive zone as it would adversely affect the livelihood of the people in the region.

Participating in a virtual meeting on implementation of the Kasturirangan report on Western Ghats, chaired by Union Minister for Environment. Forest and Labour Bhupinder Yadav Saturday, Bommai strongly presented the state's stand.

"Declaring Western Ghats as an ecologically sensitive zone would adversely affect the livelihood of the people in the region.

So the Karnataka government and the people living in the region are opposed to implementation of the Kasturirangan report," Bommai said.

He drew the attention of the participants to the fact that the state cabinet had decided to oppose the Kasturirangan report.

The decision had been taken after exhaustive discussions with people of the Western Ghat region and officials.

Karnataka has the distinction of being one of the states with extensive forest cover and the state government has taken extreme care to protect the biodiversity of Western Ghats, Bommai said, adding that people of the region has become the first state to fully vaccinate 100 per cent of its adult population against COVID-19, an official spokesperson claimed here. As many as 53,86,393 eligible

adults have been administered the second dose, he said, adding Himachal Pradesh was also the first state to achieve the 100 per cent first dose vaccination of adult population by the end of August.

Meanwhile, BJP national president JP Nadda said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the fully functional All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bilaspur next year.

Nadda, also a Rajya Sabha member, congratulated Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and frontline workers for making the state the first in the country to fully vaccinate 100 per cent of its adult population against COVID-19.

Inaugurating the outpatient department of AIIMS in Bilaspur, Nadda said the health institute will be fully ready by June next year and hoped the prime minister will inaugurate it.

As much as Rs 2,000 crore will be spent annually to run the institute while a total of Rs 44,000 crore will be set aside for the 22 AIIMS, he said during the programme organised to celebrate the state's remarkable feat.



Speaking about the challenges faced in vaccinating citizens in the hill state, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said a special chopper had been arranged to reach out to people in the remote Bara Bhangal area of Kangra district

manufacture 31-32 crore COVID-

19 vaccines per month under Modi's

'sincere and active leadership' and

that the prime minister had re-

laxed norms, besides providing

the vaccine makers every possi-

ble help in research and manu-

facturing. "India has manufac-

tured vaccines not only for its

citizens but also exported it to var-

ious countries, including the de-

Speaking about the challenges

veloped ones," he added.

Nadda, who is a native of Bilaspur, said though AIIMS Delhi and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, had been built in and around 1960, no other premier health institute had been built in other parts of the country until 2014.

Under Modi's leadership, 22 AIIMS are being built across the country, he said.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said India was able to

FEATHER IN CA

As many as 53,86,393 eligible adults have been administered the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, a state official said

Himachal Pradesh was also the first state to achieve 100 per cent first dose vaccination of adult population by the end of August

the hill state, Chief Minister Thakur said a special chopper had been arranged to reach out to people in the remote Bara Bhangal area of Kangra district.

Union minister and local MF Anurag Thakur said no citizen from the state will have to go to PGIMER or AIIMS Delhi once the 750-bedded facility in Bilaspur will start functioning in its full capacity by June.

Several COVID-19 workers were honoured during the function.

As many as 53,86,393 eligible adults have been administered the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. a state official said.

Himachal Pradesh was also the first state to achieve 100 per cent first dose vaccination of adult population by the end of August.

Sunday's function was held exactly three months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on September 6 appreciated the state's efforts in the administration of vaccines.

High alert in 4 K'taka districts after Centre's warning on Covid situation



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Dec 5: The Karnataka health department has increased vigilance on prevailing Covid situation in four districts of the state as the union government in a letter has warned of rising cases in these districts and urged the state government to initiate action.

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Secretary, Raiesh Bhushan in his letter to the state. said that Tumakuru district has seen 152 per cent spike in Covid cases which have witnessed a jump

fatality. It also emphasised to adopt test, track, treat and vaccinate method and follow Covid appropriate behaviour.

The letter has also directed the state health department to send all positive samples for genomic sequencing quickly. It also talks about enhanced surveillance of international arrivals, monitoring of emerging hotspots, prompt contact tracing and monitoring for 15 days.

The state health department is worried as Covid cases exploded in colleges and educational institutions of these districts. However, swift ac-

Decision to provide eggs to school kids sparks debate NEIGHBOURING TAMIL NADU INTRODUCED EGGS WITH MIDDAY MEALS 50 YEARS AGO DURING

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

zone would adversely affect

implementation of the

friendly manner.

priate," he said.

have adopted agriculture and hor-

ticultural activities in an eco-

"Priority has been accorded for

environment protection under the

Forest Protection Act. In this back-

ground bringing one more law

that would affect the livelihood

of the local people is not appro-

been prepared based on the satel-

lite images, but the ground reality

Yaday assured the state that of-

ficers from the Union Environment

and Forests Department would

visit the state before taking any

decision, the chief minister's of-

fice said in a statement.

is different. Bommai claimed.

The Kasturirangan report has

Bangalore, Dec 5: The Karnataka government has begun distribution of eggs to school children in seven districts of the state where the malnourishment indicator is alarming from December 1. The decision has angered a section of society which is demanding that eggs shouldn't be distributed inside schools as it encourages discrimination among

school going children. Another section supporting egg supplements to school children claims that this project should not stop as protein supplement is badly needed by students. They say children who have easier access to better nutrition have better educa-

tion outcomes. The BJP-JD (S) coalition

issue now

Education Minister BC Nagesh told IANS that the scheme has been implemented with people opposing and favouring it. "There is no substitution for egg as such. There is sovabean, but children won't eat it. The project has been implemented with an intention to address malnutrition among children," he stated.

From December 1, the Karnataka government has started providing boiled eggs and bananas to children studving in government aided schools. aged between six and 15 years and suffering from malnutrition, anaemia and deficiency of proteins.

As many as 14,44,322 students studying in the first standard to the eighth standard in Bidar, Raichur. Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Koppal, Ballary and Vijayapura districts would be the beneficiaries. The programme will end in March 2022. Yadgir district has 74 per cent of students suffering from malnutrition and anaemia. Kalaburagi (72.4 per cent), Ballary (72.3 per cent), Koppal (70.7 per cent), Raichur (70.6 per cent), Bidar (69.1 per cent)



and 68 per cent of students in Vijayapura were found to be malnourished.

However, the move by the government is facing stiff opposition. Channa Basavananda Swamiji, National President of Lingavat Dharma Mahasabha, has demanded a rollback of the decision. "There is uniformity among school-going children in terms of dress code, syllabus. There shouldn't be discrimination in terms of food. The government should provide food which is acceptable to all," he said. "We are discussing a future course of action considering the preget eggs," he said.

"I don't know why religious seers are getting into it. According to the National Family Health Survey 5th round (2019), in Karnataka, most children are not reaching their ideal height and weight, with stunting (less height for age) of 35.4 per cent, underweight (less weight for age) of 32.9 per cent even before starting their school life at 6 years, and this is more so in children from vulnerable communities," he explained.

When asked how important it is to provide eggs to students in the region, Yadgir District Commissioner Dr Ragapriya R said. "We have seen over the course of three to four months of continuous monitoring, that the children who are being given the nutritional supplement and eggs tend to improve their height, weight and circumference of upper hand, all these parameters do improve. "In my district (Yadgir) I have not received a single objection so far. No one has come to our office with such a demand.

faced in vaccinating citizens in

THE TENURE OF THEN CHIEF MINISTER MG RAMACHANDRAN

from 46 on November 19 to 116 on December 2.

Dharwad saw a rise of 21 per cent, Bengaluru Urban 19 per cent and Mysuru 16.5 per cent. The letter says steps have to be taken to contain the infection and reduce the tions by district authorities have prevented Covid infections from spreading further. Sources say, though in small proportion, increasing cases of Covid-19 in the state has become a cause of worry for the health authorities.

ernment in 2007, then headed by H.D. Kumaraswamy, had rolled back its project of distributing eggs to school children, succumbing to pressure from religious groups. However, it is to be seen how the BJP government responds to the try based on food. "The government shouldn't succumb to religious threats. The scheme has to be extended to the whole of Karnataka. Eggs have to be given to small children going to Anganwadis and students from class one to 10 have to

and a decision will be taken. Fifteen

issue," he stated.

seers are gathered to discuss the

Niranjan Aradhya, a develop-

ment educationist and a former

faculty of National Law School of

India University, described the op-

position to providing eggs to stu-

dents as a ploy to divide the coun-

Managing livestock waste to reduce farm input cost

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Dec 5: Amid widespread shortage of fertilizers in the ongoing planting season in several states largely owing to spiking international prices, farmers in Himachal Pradesh are using home made alternatives for cultivation that are not only safer for the environment but are also boosting their incomes by reducing their dependence on chemicals.

State government records say 146,438 farmers, including 14,000 apple growers, in the hill state are doing natural farming either partially or fully, over 8,268 hectares.

This means they are not rushing to the market to plant the winter crops -- not hampering their planting season like in neighbouring states Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh where farmers are currently facing a severe shortage of fertilizers.

Middle-aged vegetable grower Raman Saini, a progressive farmer from Haroli in Una district adjoining Punjab, is one of many to benefit from an alternative method of cultivation that saves the soil from deterioration, boosts his bottom line and importantly without sacrificing much food production.

Earlier, he struggled to market the vegetables - a fact he attributes to overuse of chemical pesticides to control diseases and pests. Even the soil fertility was deteriorating.

"I am so relaxed since I shifted to natural farming three years back. I don't have to run for fertilizers in the market. My land is more fertile and I don't have any health hazards

NATURAL **FARMING**



I am so relaxed since I shifted to natural farming three years back. I don't have to run for fertilizers in the market. My land is more fertile and I don't have any health hazards with the farm inputs I make at home with the natural farming technique

RAMAN SAINI | PROGRESSIVE FARMER

with the farm inputs I make at home with the natural farming technique," an upbeat Saini told IANS.

He grows crops with natural farmfarmers should also understand that ing technique on 25 bighas and takes dependence on the market is not good for agriculture to progress." three crops in a year. Earlier, he used to spend Rs 45,000

on fertilizers (55 bags of chemical fertilizer, including 25 of urea) and around Rs 1.5 lakh on insecticides, herbicides and fungicides in a year. After shunning chemicals, he

said, "Now I am saving all this money as I make everything with desi cow's urine, dung and some locally re-

The redesigning of agriculture with natu-ral farming technique has made farming a lucrative venture for the farmers by reducing the cultivation cost drastically and will gradually cut down on the consumption of chemical fertilizers in agriculture

bout 80 per cent of the total cultivated Aarea in the state is rain-fed. Rice, wheat and maize are important cereal crops of the state. Groundnut, soyabean and sunflower in kharif and rapeseed or mustard and toria in the rabi season are important oilseed crops

s per the Economic Survey 2020-21, the Afertilizer consumption in 1985-86 in Himachal Pradesh was 23,664 tonnes, which increased to 61.778 metric tonnes in 2019-20

charge accounts for a third of agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions. By good management of livestock manure, farmers can retain those valuable nutrients and limit nitrogen pollution.

Recounting a similar experience, grower Anil Biswan whose 30-bigha apple orchard is located at a higher altitude in Chirgaon in Shimla district, said earlier he used to buy 25-26 bags of chemical fertilizers annually with an expenditure of Rs 35,000.

"Now I don't need any fertilizer. The health of the soil and plants has improved with the inputs I prepare myself from indigenous cow's urine and dung. Now I am producing healthy and delicious apples." He is also growing multiple crops,

including peas, potatoes, rajmash, along with apples.

Apple growers need NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) 12:32:16 in winter for the post-harvest management of orchards.

What makes the farmers in Himachal Pradesh opt for the natural way of farming?

The reason: the non-chemical, low-cost and climate resilient natural farming technique that has been promoted by the Himachal Pradesh government under the Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y) since 2018. Farm experts told IANS that the scheme is empowering the farmers to use home-brewed alternatives with zero dependence on the external market.

Under the Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana, the technique is based on the farm inputs that are prepared at home with dung and urine of a 'desi' cow, 'besan', jaggerv and some locally resourced leaves. This technique has also helped them go for multiple crops on one field simultaneously, which not only ensures income in continuity, but also fulfils the nutrient requirements of crops on the same field, Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana Executive Director Rajeshwar Singh Chandel explained to IANS.

Even a large number of women farmers and women farmer groups are pro-actively practicing and spreading the word for natural farming techniques.

Ajay Rattan, a farmer settled in the low hills of Ghumarwin block in Bilaspur district, told IANS, "I am happy now. My agriculture is no longer dependent on chemical fertilizers.

4,669 ha farmland in Himachal covered with solar fencing



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Dec 5: For preventing the crop damaged by wild animals, the Himachal Pradesh government is implementing the Mukhya Mantri Khet Sanrakshan Yojana. Under this scheme, 4,669.20 hectares have been protected by installing solar power fences, officials said Sunday.

About Rs 175.38 crore has been spent under the scheme that has benefitted 5,535 farmers. As per the government, the crop in several areas has been affected by stray and wild animals.

Under the scheme, the state government is providing subsidies to the agriculturists for setting up solar power fences. There is a provision of 80 per cent subsidy for setting up solar power fences at an individual level and 85 per cent subsidy at the community level. The solar powered fencing helps keep even the monkeys away.

As per the demand, the state has made a provision of 50 per cent subsidy on barbed wires and chain link fencing along with 70 per cent

griculture plays an important Arole in the economy of the state with 90 per cent people living in the rural areas and 70 per cent directly dependent on farming

protected under the Wildlife

Protection Act of 1972

Fact file

subsidy on composite fencing.

imachal Pradesh has declared

nine species – monkey, wild boars,

blue bulls, porcupines, jackals, chittals,

sambars, hares and parrots -- as crop

damaging animals. All of them are

Officials told IANS an increase in beneficiaries of the scheme has been recorded in the past few years. The provision of barbed fencing along with solar fencing has proved beneficial in protecting the crop.

The monkey menace across the state has caused crop losses worth hundreds of crores of rupees in recent years. With the mass surgical sterilisation of monkeys or rhesus macaque undergoing since 2007, the state believes their select killing on the demand of the farmer lobbies will somehow help pacifying their anger over the vast crop depredation.

Himachal Pradesh has declared nine species of wild animals as crop damaging animals. Besides monkeys, they are wild boars, blue bulls, porcupines, jackals, chittals, sambars, hares and parrots. All ofthem are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

sourced inputs. I don't have to worry

about the shortage of chemical fer-

tilizers in the market. The other

He produces chemical-free cab-

bages, cauliflowers, mustard, wheat,

maize, potatoes and peas. "The cost

of cultivation on my land has come

down drastically. And see, I have

not yet sown onions, but the buyers

have already booked the harvest.

It is estimated that nitrogen dis-

What do I need?" he added.







national



Imitation is the best form of flattery. The more the AAP imitates the BJP, the less relevant it will become. Soon, the AAP will become a clone of the BJP P CHIDAMBARAM CONGRESS LEADER

VACCINATION COMPULSORY IN PONDICHERRY

The Union Territory of Pondicherry has made it mandatory for all persons to get the COVID-19 vaccine with an aim to achieve cent per cent coverage and said those skipping it would face penal action under law



uote 🦅

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already withdrawn the three farm laws- the main demand of agriculturists who

have been staging protests at Delhi borders for over a year. I think no issue is left now and farmer brothers should end their agitation and get engaged in their routine work

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR AGRICULTURE MINISTER

This is a victory of the people of

Goa. This time. all the divine forces are coming together and something good is going to happen

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CM

People have already giver the title of casino capital to Goa. We (government) need not give it. Public has already declared it

G KISHAN REDDY UNION TOURISM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

2 boys drown

Thane: Two minor boys drowned in a water-filled pit in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday in Shivai Nagar area. The victims, both aged 11, went out of their homes, but did not return following which the police registered a case against unidentified persons under Indian Penal Code Section 363 (kidnapping), Vartak Nagar police station's senior inspector Sadashiv Nikam said.

Three arrested

Thane: Police have arrested three persons for allegedly killing their friend over a dispute while consuming liquor here in Maharashtra, an official said Sunday. The incident took place on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday in Indira Nagar locality of Kalwa area here, Assistant Venkat Andale said. The body of the 22-year-old victim, Gulab Salamat Sheikh, was found with multiple injuries on Friday morning.

AAP accuses BJP of poaching

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, Dec 5: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Sunday accused the BJP of trying to poach its lawmakers from Punjab including its state unit president Bhagwant Mann who claimed he was offered money and a place in the Union Cabinet if he joined the saffron party ahead of assembly election.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP to the allegations. Without naming anyone, Mann, who is an MP from Sangrur, claimed that a senior BJP leader contacted him four days ago and asked him. "What would you take to join the BJP?" The AAP leader claimed he was

asked if needed money and was told that he would be made a Union cabinet minister if he joined the BJP. "I told him (BJP leader) that I am on a mission not on commission,' Mann told reporters in Chandigarh.

Taking a swipe at the BJP, AAP spokesperson Raghav Chadha claimed that 25 Congress MLAs have been approaching his party to join it, but the AAP doesn't want this "garbage" and said he is ready to share the list with the BJP if it wants to take them in its fold.

Chadha alleged that "top BJP leaders" from Delhi had approached the AAP leaders in Punjab over phone requesting them to join the saffron party and offering bribes. "Senior-most leaders of the BJP are making phone calls from Delhi



THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE REACTION FROM THE BJP TO THE ALLEGATIONS

TAKING A SWIPE AT THE BJP. AAP SPOKESPERSON RAGHAV CHADHA CLAIMED THAT 25 CONGRESS MLAs HAVE BEEN APPROACHING HIS PARTY TO JOIN IT, BUT THE AAP DOESN'T WANT THIS "GARBAGE" AND SAID HE IS READY TO SHARE THE LIST WITH THE BIP IF IT WANTS TO TAKE THEM IN ITS FOLD

and position they want for coming to their party fold quitting the AAP, " Chadha alleged in a press conference in Delhi. 'Calls have been made to our

MP Bhagwant Singh Mann directly from the office of Amit Shah (Union to our party leaders, MP, MLAs in Home Minister), "he added. Hitting Punjab requesting them to join out at the BJP he said leaders and workers of AAP "can neither be intimidated nor purchased".

He asked the BJP not to try to poach the AAP's MLAs and MP from Punjab, saying that all the phone calls from saffron party leaders will now be recorded and made public. "We will make the recorded conversation over the phone public. All the AAP leaders have been asked to record the phone calls from now on from the BJP leaders," he said. Chadha, co-convenor of the party's political affairs in Punjab,

refused to share the names of other AAP leaders and MLAs who were allegedly contacted by the saffron party leaders from Delhi in this connection. "They have been contacted and asked to quote their price or tell whatever they want for quitting AAP and joining the BJP," he alleged.

Chadha claimed that as many as 25 Congress MLAs have been "constantly" approaching the AAP expressing their interest in joining the party.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Dec 5: Bihar Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar will soon embark

on another vatra across the state

to gauge the views of women vot-

ers over the liquor prohibition law.

panchayat elections, as he is likely

to visit all districts of the state

and to also take stock of the de-

Sources say that as the Chief

Minister has been criticised over

this law, the main aim of this visit

is to see the implementation of the

liquor ban on the ground and gauge

velopment works.

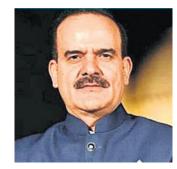
This move comes after the recent

ED records Param **Bir's statement**

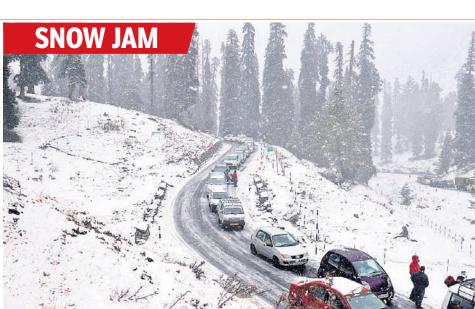
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, Dec 5: The Enforcement Directorate has recorded the statement of suspended Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh in connection with its money laundering probe into alleged irregularities in the Maharashtra police establishment, official sources said Sunday.

The statement was recorded on December 3 at the agency's office in south Mumbai under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). They said the 59-year-old was quizzed for about five hours with questions on different aspects of the case including the allegations he made against his then boss, former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh.



Singh was summoned at least three times in the past by the ED but he never deposed. He may be summoned again. The 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was suspended by the Maharashtra government few days back following registration of police FIRs against him and some other police personnel on charges of extortion.



52% of RS time lost to disruptions in 1st week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The Rajya Sabha lost 52.30 per cent of the scheduled sitting time during the first week of the ongoing Winter session on account of disruptions and forced adjournments, the RS secretariat said.

The productivity of the House during the last week has been 47.70 per cent of the scheduled time. officials said, adding that with the House sitting for 33 minutes beyond the scheduled time last Thursday, the overall productivity for the first week against the scheduled time improved to 49.70 per cent.

The best productivity of 100 per cent was reported Friday and 95 per cent on the previous day last week, showing signs of return of the House to normal functioning, the secretariat said in a statement.

Rajya Sabha had taken up the Private Members' Business for the full scheduled time of two-and-a-half hours Friday last, doing so after one vear, nine months and 24 days, and after 66 sittings.

The last time it happened was on February 7, 2020 during the budget session, the 251st session of the House, the officials said.

The Private Members' Business was not scheduled during the 252nd session, the first full session held under Covid protocol.

It was dispensed with during the 252nd session to take up other business.

No business could be transacted during the 254th session on Fridays,

During the first week of the Winter session, two bills -- the Farm Laws **Repeal Bill and the Dam** Safety Bills were passed by the House

meant for Private Members' Business due to disruptions, they added

On Friday last week, 22 Private Members' Bills were introduced in Rajya Sabha and one was discussed. Introduction of one such Bill seeking to amend the Preamble of the Constitution was put on hold.

During the first week of the current winter session, two bills -- the Farm Laws Repeal Bill and the Dam Safety Bills -- were passed by the House

A total of 27 Zero Hour and 15 Special Mentions were made in the House, the data compiled by the secretariat said.

Twenty-three of the listed 67 starred questions were orally answered and eight listed questions had to be deleted further to suspension members who raised those

questions. On Friday last week, Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu discussed with some opposition leaders and ministers their views on suspension of 12 members of the House in the wake of the demand of the opposition for the revocation of the decision.

Woman jumps into well with daughters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan), Dec 5: Upset over regular fights with her husband, a 40-year-old woman allegedly jumped into a well with her five minor daughters, all of whom died, when the man had gone to attend the condolence meeting of a relative, police said Sunday.

They said the villagers spotted the six bodies Sunday morning_ and informed the police who rushed the bodies to a local hospital. The deceased woman has been identified as Badamdevi, a mother of seven and the wife of Shivlal Banjara, a resident of Banjaron

Why no recruitment when there are vacancies: Varun

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 5: Criticising police action against protesting candidates of UP teachers' test in Lucknow, BJP MP Varun Gandhi Sunday asked why recruitments are not taking place when there are vacancies in the government.



In October Varun Gandhi and his mother Maneka Gandhi were dropped from BJP's national executive committee

own children. Tweeting a video of police reportedly using batons, he said: "These children are also 'Son of Mother India', let alone accepting their demands, no one ready to listen to them. Above this, barbaric 'lathicharge' on them. Put vour hand on heart and think they

the BJP offering them to take any amount of money, land, property

Three found dead

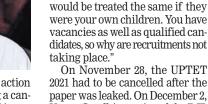
Shajapur: The bodies of three minor boys were found floating in a water-filled guarry in Madhya Pradesh's Shajapur district Sunday morning, a day after they went missing, police said. The three boys, aged 9, 10 and 13, left their homes in Bhuria Khajuria village on Saturday evening to play nearby, but did not return. Kalapipal police station in-charge Uday Singh Alawa said, Later, their family members launched a search and informed the police.

Sharing a video of police action against candidates holding a candlelight march over alleged irregularities in the 2019 UP Teachers' Entrance Test (UPTET) 2021, he lamented that no one is ready to listen to their demand.

Saturday, UPTET candidates were holding a candle march demanding recruitment of teachers on vacant posts in Uttar Pradesh. Gandhi, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Pilibhit, is regularly questioning his own party government on several issues from farmers' protest to the Lakhimpur incident and now over irregularities in UPTET. He also requested people think

if the aspirants would be treated in the same way if they were their

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



On November 28, the UPTET 2021 had to be cancelled after the paper was leaked. On December 2. Varun Gandhi questioned the BJP government on job and paper leaks. "First, there is no government job,

if some opportunity comes, then the paper gets leaked, if you give the exam, there are no results for years, then it gets cancelled in some scam. 1.25 crore youths are waiting for Railway Group D exams for two years. Same is with the Army recruitment. How long should the youth of India have to be patient," Varun Gandhi had tweeted. In October Varun Gandhi and his mother Maneka Gandhi were dropped from BJP's national executive committee - the party's topdecision making body.

1 121 · 1/2 A TH with A Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam during snowfall in Baramulla district PTI PHOTO

Nitish to gauge women's mood

LIQUOR BAN

people's opinion as well as take

stock of various development works.

Nitish Kumar had been taking out

'yatras' across the state in the past.

Whether in or out of power,

Till now, the Chief Minister has un-

dertaken 'Nyay Yatra', 'Vikas Yatra',

'Dhyanwaad Yatra', 'Pravas Yatra',

'Vishwas Yatra', 'Seva Yatra', Adhikar Yatra, 'Sankalp Yatra',

'Sampark Yatra', among others to

gauge the political pulse of peo-

While interacting with the media,

the Chief Minister had himself

said that after the end of panchayat

elections, he will embark on a tour

of the state. In the past, he usually

started his yatra from Champaran

but this time he is yet to make an

official announcement as to from

where he will start his vatra.

ple in the state.

Chechat police station. The five minor deceased girls are Savitri (14), Ankali (8), Kajal (6), Gunjan (4) and one-year-old Archana. Police said the two other daughters - Gayatri (15) and Punam

Ka Dera at Kaliyahedi village under

(7) -- escaped the ill-fate as they remained asleep.

Chechat Circle Officer DSP Praveen Nayak said prima facie the routine fights between the woman and her husband was the reason behind the woman taking the extreme step. Shivlal worked as a blanket and cloth vendor.

The CO said the man was not present at his home when the incident occurred on the intervening night of Saturday on Sunday as he had gone to attend the condolence meeting at his relative's home in another village. Chechat police station SHO Rajendra Meena said the well is just 100 meters from the house of the woman.

Five killed

Tirupati: Five pilgrims, including an infant, were killed and three others seriously hurt after their speeding car crashed into a road divider at Ithepalli near here Sunday, police said. The accident occurred when the vehicle carrying 8 people from Vijayanagaram district crashed into the divider and flipped onto the other side of the road before it caught fire. The passers-by doused the flames and pulled the victims out of the car.

Man held

Thane: Police have arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly stealing autorickshaws in Thane and Vasai in Maharashtra and recovered from him two such vehicles, an official said Sunday. The accused, Sanu Khan alias Lal Badshah, was nabbed following a tip-off, he said.

Lucknow, Dec 5: Aggressively positioning itself against the BJP in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, the Samajwadi Party seems to have found a new icon for itself -- former President APJ Abdul Kalam -- who shares space with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and socialist leaders on Akhilesh Yadav's campaign rath.

The 'Samajwadi Vijay Yatra' rath -- Akhilesh Yadav's personalised campaign vehicle -- carries pictures of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and socialist icons like Acharya Narendra Dev, Ram Manohar Lohia and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar; apart from that of former President Kalam.

The use of the former President's picture for election purposes appears uncommon, but Samajwadi Party leaders justify it, citing his proximity to party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav who they claimed was the first person to propose his name for presidency in 2002.

They dismissed charges that it was an attempt by the party to compensate for the loss of the party's "Muslim face" Azam Khan, who is lodged in a jail in Sitapur with dozens of cases registered against him.

'The Samajwadi Party respects all the great personalities, and an attempt has been made to incorporate photographs of a large number of eminent personalities who have given a direction to the country and the society," SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said.

'It was Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) who had proposed his (Kalam) name for the presidential elections in 2002," Chaudhary said. He also dismissed the "loss of



SP finds new icon in 'missile man' APJ Abdul Kalam

Muslim face" theory.

"There is no communal angle involved in this, and it is purely a nationalist angle. Azam ji enjoys the same respect, which he was get-

ting earlier in the party."When contacted, Abu Asim Azmi, the chief of SP's Maharashtra unit and an MLA from Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar assembly constituency in Mumbai, said, "APJ Abdul Kalam was a great scientist, and was fondly known as the 'People's President'. The attraction which he had among the different sections of the society no other President had.

"People hold him in high esteem. They celebrate his birthday. Despites his achievements, he remained a modest person throughout his life. This is the reason that he continues to inspire many of us."

Azmi also said it was the idea of party chief Akhilesh Yadav to include Kalam's photo along with those of other eminent personalities. He also rejected suggestions that it was done deliberately to woo Muslim voters. "No. Kalam saahab had nothing to do with religion. He used to say that he reads Vedas after getting up in the morning.'

Samajwadi Party Uttar Pradesh unit chief Naresh Uttam echoed

similar views as he hailed the contributions of the former president. The BJP, however, took a swipe at the Samajwadi Party over the issue "It seems that better sense and

wisdom have prevailed on him (Akhilesh Yadav) as instead of (Muhammad Ali) Jinaah's photo, former President APJ Abdul Kalam's photograph appears in his rath along with those of other leaders," said BJP leader Mohsin Raza, also Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj.

"Now, the SP chief has understood that one has to follow the \rightarrow path of a person who has been the pride of the nation, and not that person, who had divided the nation. Now, he (Akhilesh Yadav) is making an attempt to come on the right track and it seems that now he isfinding a way for atonement of his sins," he said.













international

Europe continues to stall, falling prey to forms of nationalistic self-interest rather than being an engine of solidarity. At times, it appears faltering and uncoordinated POPE FRANCIS

OMICRON FOUND IN MORE US STATES

New York announced three more cases of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus Saturday, bringing the number of state cases linked to the new variant to eight





US LARGEST GENERATOR OF PLASTIC WASTE

The Pentagon intends to work better with private industry to develop high-tech systems and to strengthen relations

with allies in the Indo-Pacific region in order to maintain a competitive edge over China

LLOYD AUSTIN US DEFENCE SECRETARY

In the hope of inspiring a few other people to get active and take some extra time for their own mental health - I wanted to share a few of my stories and favourite songs with you in an episode of 'Time to Walk PRINCE WILLIAM MEMBER OF THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY

More offshore wind means more jobs for iron workers, line workers, engineers, electricians plumbers, pipefitters

JENNIFER GRANHOLM US ENERGY SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

31 killed in Mali attack

Bamako: At least 31 people have been killed and 17 others injured when armed men attacked a truck carrying civilians in central Mali, authorities said in a statement. The statement, issued by the transitional government of Mali Saturday, said a group of unidentified armed bandits had attacked and set ablaze a truck carrying people to a fairground near the village of Songho on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported.

18 died in Kenya bus accident

Nairobi: At least 18 commuters died after a bus ferrying choir members plunged into a river in Kitui County, eastern Kenya, the police said. Mwingi East Sub-County Police Commander Joseph Yakan said 10

AGENCIES Washington. Dec 5: The US was the world's "top generator of plas-

tic waste" in 2016, exceeding all European nations combined, The Hill reported recently. An article, entitled "US must

cut plastic production to save oceans," was published Wednesday, citing a new study by the National Academy of Sciences.

With a population of about 330 million, accounting for only 4.3 per cent of Earth's population, the US generates a total of 42 million

Nepal calls for seamless linkages between the Himalayas and Indian Ocean

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Dec 5: Nepal Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal Sunday said the government's priority is to link Nepal's highlands in the Himalayas with the Indian Ocean, while underscoring the need for greater economic and regional cooperation, which would bolster trade and investments in the

region Speaking at the Fifth Indian Ocean Conference, IOC 2021 in Abu Dhabi, Paudyal asserted that a land-locked country like Nepal attaches great importance to the Indian Ocean and considered it an

economic lifeline. "There is a need for international and regional support for landlocked developing countries to enhance their capacity for reaping the benefits by linking the highlands in Nepal with the Indian Ocean through seamless hardware and software of connectivity," he said. In the wake of the challenges posed by Covid-19, the Foreign Secretary opined that a more robust vaccine cooperation and sharing of technical knowhow and capacity enhancement should be at the fore-

Pak has no space to park 14-storey cruise ship

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

front in the region.



metric tons of such waste in 2016, the report said. "The waste is devastating the ocean's health and marine wildlife," it reported. "Plastic waste is an environmental and so-

With a population of about 330 million. accounting for only 4.3 per cent of Earth's population, the US generates a total of 42 million metric tons of such waste in 2016

cial crisis that the US needs to affirmatively address from source to sea," Margaret Spring, chair of the committee behind the re-

port was quoted as saying in The Hill's article. However, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) - a trade group that represents 28 companies, including oil giants, major chemical manufacturers and plastic makers slammed the study's recommendation that plastic production should be limited, Xinhua news agency reported. Joshua Baca, Vice President of

plastics at the ACC, was quoted by the report as saying that "plastic is a valuable resource that should he kept in our economy and out of our environment.

prone to earthquakes and volcanic

activity because it sits along the

Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horse-

shoe-shaped series of fault lines.

Currently 54% of the country's

population live on Java, the coun-

try's most densely populated area.

hoped they could avoid casualties

by closely monitoring the volcano.

National Disaster Mitigation

Agency spokesperson Abdul

Muhari said 56 people had been

hospitalised, mostly with burns

injuries. He said rescuers were

still searching for nine residents of

More than 900 villagers streamed

into makeshift emergency shel-

ters after Saturday's powerful erup-

tion, but many others defied offi-

cial warnings and chose to remain

in their homes, saving they had to

tend to their livestock and protect

evacuate them by preparing trucks

and motorbikes for them to flee at

Indonesian President Joko

Widodo said he instructed his

Cabinet ministers and disaster

and military officials to

coordinate the response.

"We'll do everything we can to

their property, said Purnomo.

any time," he said.

Curah Kobokan village.

Officials said earlier they had

US makes Covid-19 test report mandatory for passengers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Dec 5: The US has made it mandatory for all incoming passengers, including those from India, to carry a negative Covid-19 test report or a proof of recovery from the contagion amidst rising number of cases of the new Omicron variant.



As per the new amended order, effectively for flights departing to the US from a foreign country at or after 12:01 AM EST (5:01 AM GMT or 10:31 AM IST) December 6, 2021, passengers are required to show a -ve test result taken no more than a day before travel

The new protocol comes into effect from December 6, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has said.

"This amendment updates Covid-19 testing requirements for air passengers 2 years or older boarding a flight to the United States," Indian government officials informed Indian-American community leaders Saturday. Documentation of a negative SARS-CoV-2 viral test result from specimen collected no more than 1 calendar day preceding the passenger's flight to the United States or documentation of having recovered from Covid-19 in the past 90 days, before they board their flight.

INDONESIA VOLCANIC ERUPTION **Smoldering debris hinder rescue op** more than 270 million people, is

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lumajang (Indonesia), Dec 5: : Rescuers were sifting through smoldering debris and thick mud in search of survivors a day after the highest volcano on Java island erupted with fury, killing at least 14 people with searing gas and ash.

Mount Semeru in Lumajang district in East Java province spewed thick columns of ash more than 12.000 meters (40.000 feet) into the sky in a sudden eruption Saturday triggered by heavy rains. Villages

and nearby towns were blanketed and several hamlets buried under tons of mud from volcanic debris. Flows of hot gas and lava traveled up to 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) to a nearby river at least twice on Saturday and three times on Sunday with a smaller distance of up to 2 kilometers (1 1/2 miles), according to Indonesia's Volcanology and **Geological Hazard Mitigation** Agency. Authorities warned the thousands of people who fled the volcano's wrath not to return during Sunday's lull in activity. But some were desperate to check on livestock and possessions left behind. In several areas, everything -from the thinnest tree branch to

couches and chairs inside homes

- was caked with ash.

"There's no life there ... Trees farms, houses are scorched, everything is covered in heavy gray ash,' said Haryadi Purnomo of East Java's search and rescue agency. He said that several other areas were virtually untouched.

Search and rescue efforts were temporarily suspended Sunday afternoon because of fears that hot ash and debris could tumble down from the crater due to heavy rains. On Saturday, a torrent of mud destroyed the main bridge connecting Lumajang and the neighboring district of Malang, as well as a smaller bridge, said Thoriqul Haq, the district chief in Lumajang.

that had been building under a lave dome perched on the crater. But experts warned that the dome could

REMEMBERING MOSCOW BATT



The eruption eased pressure

were temporarily suspended Sunday afternoon because of fears that hot ash and debris could tumble down from the crater due to heavy rains

thousands of people who fled the volcano's wrath not to return during Sunday's lull in activity

still further collapse, causing an avalanche of the blistering gas and debris trapped beneath it.

A thunderstorm and days of rain, which eroded and partly collapsed the dome atop the 3,676meter (12,060-foot) Semeru, triggered the eruption, said Eko Budi Lelono, who heads the geological survey center.

Semeru, the stratovolcano in shape of a cone, is also known as Mahameru, meaning "The Great Mountain" in Sanskrit. It has erupted many times over the last 200 years. Still, as with other volcanoes — it is one of 129 under watch in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago — more than 62,000 people call Sumeru's fertile slopes home. It last erupted in January, with no casualties.

Indonesia, an archipelago of



AGENCIES

The grieving wife of



passengers have been rescued after a bus which had at least 30 people on board when the accident occurred at 11 a.m. on Saturday plunged into the river.

Blizzard warning issued in Hawaii

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Los Angeles: A blizzard warning is in effect for Hawaii's Big Island mountain summits, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, both taller than 13,000 feet (3,962.4 meters). According to the US National Weather Service (NWS), at least 12 inches (30.48 cm) of snow are expected to fall in the region this weekend and Monday amid wind gusts of 100 miles per hour (160.9 km per hour).

Quake rattles S Philippines

Manila: An offshore earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.1 struck Davao Occidental province in the southern Philippines Sunday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. The institute said the guake, which struck at 7:48 a.m. local time, hit at a depth of 156 km. about 285 km southeast of Sarangani island. Xinhua news agency reported.

CNN fires **Chris Cuomo**

Los Angeles: American TV journalist Chris Cuomo has been fired from CNN in the wake of revelations that he had helped his brother, former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, while he faced multiple accusations of sexual harassment, doing so in ways of which CNN management had not previously been aware of and breaching the traditional ethics of journalism.

Islamabad, Dec 5: A magnificent 14-storey cruise ship will now be sold in junk as there is not enough space to park the beautiful and comfortable vessel at the country's biggest port in Karachi, Geo News reported.

The cruise's new owner from New Choice Enterprises, Ahmadullah Khan, said he made efforts for the ship to provide recreation as he planned to turn it into a hotel or cruise to promote tourism.

Originally, he purchased the ship to be dismantled in Pakistan. however, when he saw the ship in perfect shape, he changed his mind and thought of turning it into a tourist attraction, the report said.

However, he said that he contacted the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) and other authorities, but no place could be allocated for the cruise ship in the largest port of the country.



World War II re-enactors dressed in Red Army World War II and Nazi Germany uniforms take part in a staged battle to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Moscow, in the Patriot Park outside Moscow, Russia PTI PHOTO

Lahore, Dec 5: Nearly all bones of Sri Lankan national Priyantha Kumara Divawadana were broken and his body was 99 per cent burnt in the horrific lynching incident in Pakistan's Punjab province, a media report Sunday said, citing his postmortem report.

Angry supporters of the hardline Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked a garment factory on Friday and lynched its general manager Diyawadana, who was in his 40s, before setting his body on fire over allegations of blasphemy. The post-mortem report of Diyawadana cited skull and jaw fractures as the cause of death.

All his vital organs, liver, stomach and one of his kidneys, were affected, while torture marks were visible all over his body and his spinal cord was broken at three different points, the report said.

Diyawadana has pleaded for iustice from both the Pak and Lankan governments, saying her husband was a very innocent man

The post-mortem report of the Sri Lankan national revealed that 99 per cent of his body was burned, and with the exception of one foot, all his bones were broken, it said

According to a Punjab Police spokesperson, following the autopsy, Diyawadana's body was sent to Lahore where it will be handed over to the Sri Lankan consulate. After all legal formalities, the

body will be sent to Sri Lanka via a special flight, the report quoted the official as saying.

After 16 years of being in charge, Merkel wants a 'little nap'

THE VETERAN CHANCELLOR HAS BEEN TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT WHAT SHE WILL DO AFTER HANDING OVER THE REINS TO HER SUCCESSOR OLAF **SCHOLZ ON DECEMBER 8**

AGENCIES

Berlin, Dec 5: After 16 years in charge of Europe's biggest economy, the first thing Angela Merkel wants to do when she retires from politics is take "a little nap". But what about after that? The veteran chancellor has been

tight-lipped about what she will do after handing over the reins to her successor Olaf Scholz December 8. During her four terms in office, 67-year-old Merkel was often described as the most powerful woman in the world — but she hinted recently that she will not miss being in charge. "I will understand very quickly that all this is now someone else's responsibility. And I think I'm going to like that situation a lot." she said during a trip to Washington this summer.

Famous for her stamina and her ability to remain fresh after allnight meetings. Merkel once said she can store sleep like a camel stores water.

But when asked about her retirement in Washington, she replied: "Maybe I'll try to read something, then my eyes will start to close because I'm tired, so I'll take a little nap, and then we'll see



where I show up

'SEE WHAT HAPPENS' First elected as an MP in 1990, just after German reunification Merkel recently suggested she had never had time to stop and reflect on what else she might like to do.

"I have never had a normal working day and... I have naturally stopped asking myself what interests me most outside politics," she told an audience during a joint interview with Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

"As I have reached the age of 67, I don't have an infinite amount of time left. This means that I want to think carefully about what I want to do in the next phase of my life," she said. "Do I want to write,

do I want to speak, do I want to go hiking, do I want to stay at home, do I want to see the world? I've decided to just do nothing to begin with and see what happens.'

Merkel's predecessors have not stayed quiet for long. Helmut Schmidt, who left the chancellery in 1982, became co-editor of the weekly newspaper Die Zeit and a popular commentator on political life. Helmut Kohl set up his own consultancy firm and Gerhard Schroeder became a lobbyist, taking a controversial position as chairman of the board of the Russian oil giant Rosneft.

German writer David Safier has imagined a more eccentric future for Merkel, penning a crime novel called Miss Merkel that sees her tempted out of retirement to investigate a mysterious murder. 2ND PARTY APPROVES DEAL FOR SCHOLZ'S NEW GOVT: Germany's pro-business Free Democrats on Sunday approved a deal to form a new government with two center-left parties, moving Chancellor-designate Olaf Scholz a step closer to taking office as the country's new leader this week

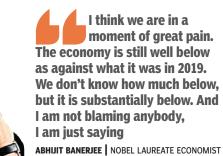
The Free Democrats reached an agreement last month to form a coalition with Scholz's Social Democrats and the environmentalist Greens, effectively crossing the aisle to ally with the two parties. "This is a coalition agreement for policies of the center, which won't shift our country to the left but wants to move it forward," party leader Christian Lindner told a largely online party convention. Delegates voted 535 to 37 to approve the agreement, with eight abstentions. After the Social Democrats backed it overwhelm-

ingly Saturday, only one more hurdle remains before parliament can elect Scholz Wednesday.





business 🛛



TATA, HONDA, RENAULT MULLING PRICE HIKE

With input costs continuing to rise, automakers like Tata Motors, Honda and Renault are looking to increase vehicle prices from January next year to offset the impact. Already, car market leader Maruti Suzuki and luxury automakers Audi and Mercedes-Benz have announced to hike vehicle prices from next month



INCOME TAX

2021-22. 58.98 per cent of these are

ITR1 (1.78 crore), 8 per cent is ITR2

(24.42 lakh), 8.7 per cent is ITR3

(26.58 lakh), 23.12 per cent are ITR4

(70.07 lakh), ITR5 (2.14 lakh), ITR6

Over 52 per cent of these ITRs are

filed using the online ITR form on the portal and the balance are up-

loaded using the ITR created from

the offline software utilities, it said.

through Aadhaar OTP and other

methods is important for the income

tax department to commence pro-

cessing of the ITR and to issue re-

It is encouraging to note that

2.69 crore returns have been e-ver-

ified, out of which more than 2.28

crore are through Aadhaar-based

In November, 48 per cent of the

verified ITRs 1, 2 and 4 have been

processed on the same day. Of the

verified ITRs more than 2.11 crore ITRs have been processed and over

82.80 lakh refunds for AY 2021-22

Taxpayers are urged to ensure

that the bank account selected for

credit of refund must have their

PAN number linked at the bank

to avoid refund failures, it added.

have been issued, it said.

funds if any.

OTP. it said.

The process of e-verification

(0.91 lakh) and ITR7 (0.15 lakh).

uote 77

Can we create a platform as powerful seamless, good, as digital as UPI platform for providing very quick

and easy credit to the MSME, small industries, small businessmen. People really at bottom of pyramid ASHWINI VAISHNAW IT MINISTER

In the next round of funding we will probably feel closer to it. I think in the next 6-12 months we will be unicorn. It's just a tag you get and it doesn't change anything on the business front

KUSHAL NAHATA CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, FAREYE

In India and globally, there is a lot of positivity about the Indian real estate sector. The reason is that the structure of the industry is changing in a very meaningful way ABHISHEK LODHA MD AND CEO, MACROTECH

DEVELOPERS

SHORT TAKES

SBI to sell NPA acc KSK Mahanadi Power

New Delhi: SBI has invited bids from asset reconstruction companies, and other financial institutions to sell an NPA account KSK Mahanadi Power Company, with total outstanding against the company standing over Rs 4,100 crore. The e-auction of KSK Mahanadi is scheduled to take place on December 31, 2021. With fund based outstanding of Rs 3,815.04 crore and non-fund based outstanding of Rs 286.83 crore. company's total loan dues towards SBI stands at Rs 4,101.87 crore as on date.

HC to hear Reliance's plea against DMRC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court will hear the execution petition of Reliance

LIC improves asset quality; lowers NPA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Ahead of its proposed initial public offering (IPO), insurance behemoth LIC has improved its asset quality for the financial year ended March 2021.

The non-performing assets (NPAs) as of March 31, 2021, are Rs 35,129.89 crore out of a total portfolio of Rs 4.51.303.30 crore, according to the latest Annual Report of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

The sub-standard assets are Rs 254.37 crore whereas the doubtful assets are Rs 20,369.17 crore and loss assets are Rs 14 506 35 crore An amount of Rs 34,934.97 crore is provided as per IRDAI guidelines in the books of accounts towards non-

performing assets, it said. The percentage of gross NPA is 7.78 per cent while the net NPA is 0.05 per cent at the end of March 2021. This is lower than gross NPA of 8.17 per cent (as a percentage of its debt portfolio) and net NPA of 0.79 per cent in the previous year. In absolute terms, the NPA was Rs 36,694.20 crore out of a total debt of Rs 4,49,364.87 crore in 2019-20. Stress threshold for banks is

different from that for insurers. LIC usually makes full provisions for all NPA in the debt book. "The management has reviewed the asset quality and performance of investments in respect of real estate, loans, investments, other fixed assets etc and adequate provision

for impairment/diminution in

AHEAD OF IPO



The percentage of gross NPA is 7.78 per cent while the net NPA is 0.05 per cent at the end of March 2021 The corporation has made provisions to the tune of ₹37,341.6 crore, of which ₹34,934.97 crore is towards

doubtful, sub-standard, and loss assets FM Nirmala Sitharaman in the lget speech had said the IPO of the LIC would be launched in the

current financial year value of investments/assets have been provided for wherever necessary," the annual report said.

The government earlier this vear amended the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, to facilitate the listing of LIC. According to the amendment,

the central government will hold 75 per cent in the LIC for the first five years after the IPO and then

it will subsequently hold at least 51 per cent at all times after five years of its listing. The government currently owns a 100 per cent stake in LIC.

The authorised share capital of the LIC shall be Rs 25,000 crore divided into 2,500 crore shares of Rs 10 each, as per the amended legislation. As much as 10 per cent of the LIC IPO issue size will be reserved for policyholders.

LIC, once listed, has the potential to become one of the biggest domestic companies by market capitalization with an estimated valuation of Rs 8-10 lakh crore.

On LIC IPO and strategic sale of BPCL, Sitharaman recently said, "We are progressing with each one of them...The detailing requires a lot of time. The tying up of loose ends among different departments consumes its own time and this is being expedited.'

Dip in freight rates for mining, cement, steel in Nov: Crisil

INDO-ASIA NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 5: Freight rates for mining, cement, and steel have seen some corrections on-month in November as infrastructure-building activities were subdued, ratings agency Crisil said.

However, the fall in rates is not significant in comparison with the reduction in duties for diesel.

But this correction is not sig nificantly more than the fall in diesel price in the case of cement. The situation needs to be monitored for the next one-two months, it added

The Centre November 3 reduced excise duties on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10, respectively. Taking cues from the Centre, some states too followed suit.



Notably, since November 3, prices of diesel across the country have been largely steady

On the other hand, freight rates essentials such as 'FMCGFMCD' (fast moving consumer goods and fast moving consumer durables) remained relatively resilient in November.

"After the festive stock-up, freight rates for discretionary goods such as auto carriers and textiles are seeing more pressure compared with other sectors," the agency said.

Over 3cr ITRs for FY21 filed: FinMin

DEADLINE NEARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The Finance Ministry Sunday said over three crore income tax returns have been filed for the financial year 2020-21 so far and advised taxpayers who are yet to file their return to do so at the earliest.

The number of ITRs filed per day is over four lakh and increasing everyday as the extended due date of December 31 is approaching, an official statement said.

The department has been issuing reminders to taxpayers through e-mails, SMS and media campaigns encouraging taxpavers to file their income tax returns without further delay.

All taxpayers who are yet to file their income tax returns for the assessment year 2021-22 are requested to file their returns at the earliest to avoid the last-minute rush, it said.

The income tax department strongly urges all taxpayers to view their Form 26AS and Annual Information Statement (AIS) through the e-filing portal to verify the accuracy of the TDS and tax payments and avail of pre-filling of ITRs, it said.

It is important for taxpayers to cross check the data in the AIS statement with their bank passbook, interest certificate, Form 16 and capital gains statement from brokerages in case of purchase and sale of equity mutual funds, etc, it said. Income tax return (ITR) filing has

increased to 3.03 crore ITRs for AY

loans at economical rates from Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Ltd.

This was a government initiative to help gencos remain afloat. Later, the liquidity infusion package was increased to Rs 1.2 lakh crore and further to Rs 1.35 lakh crore.

Discoms in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh. Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu account for the major portion of dues to gencos, the data

Overdue of independent power

producers amounted to 51.18 per

cent of the total overdue of Rs

1,01,436 crore of discoms in

December 2021. The proportion of

central PSU gencos in the overdue

was 23.95 per cent.

State govt to set up Chhatua producing units in 314 blocks

The decision has been made for the holistic development of women and also to boost MSMEs

Discoms' dues to gencos rise 1.3% in Dec

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 5: Total outstanding dues owed by electricity distribution companies (discoms) to power producers rose 1.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,13,227 crore in December.

Discoms owed total Rs 1,11,762 crore to power generation firms in December 2020, according to portal PRAAPTI (Pavment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators). In December 2021, the total overdue amount, which was not cleared even after 45 days of grace period of fered by generators, stood at Rs 1,01,436 crore as against Rs 98,334



1,00,417 crore in November this year. Power producers give 45 days to discoms to pay bills for electricity supply. After that, outstanding dues

Total dues in December 2021 also increased sequentially compared to ₹1.13.081 crore in November

 Among private generators, discoms owe the highest overdue of ₹25,141.73 crore to Adani Power, followed by Bajaj Group-owned Lalitpur Power Generation Company at ₹4,503.45 crore

quired to open letters of credit for getting power supply. The Centre had also given some

breathers to discoms for paying

dues to gencos in view of the

Covid-19-induced lockdown. The

government had also waived penal

charges for the late payment of

dues. In May 2020, the government

had announced a Rs 90,000-crore

liquidity infusion for discoms

under which these utilities got

Infrastructure's subsidiary Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd (DAMEPL) Monday. The execution petition was filed by the DAMEPL against Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), to get the Supreme Court order enforced, that had upheld the Rs 7,100 crore arbitration award in favour of the company. Over three months have passed since the pronouncement of the order by SC in favour of DAMEPL, DMRC is yet to make the payment to the company.

Metro Brands IPO to open Dec 10

New Delhi: The initial sharesale of footwear retailer Metro Brands Ltd. which is backed by Rakesh Jhunihunwala, will open for public subscription December 10. The initial public offering (IPO) will conclude December 14. The initial sharesale comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 295 crore and an offer for sale of 2.14 crore equity shares by promoters and other shareholders. Through the IPO, the company's promoters will offload nearly 10% stake.

Centre expands SCALE committee

New Delhi: The government has expanded the SCALE committee (Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports) by adding three new members. hailing from diverse industry backgrounds, according to an industry insider. "The new appointees are Panasonic India Chairman and CEO Manish Sharma, Toyota Kirloskar Vice-Chairman Vikram S Kirloskar, and Asian Paints co-promoter and Chairman Addverb Technologies Jalaj Dani," he said.

in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: In a bid to encourage women entrepreneurship, the state government has planned to set up Chhatua producing centres in 314 blocks of Odisha

The MSME department official said that all centres will be operational in month of March next year. The department has passed on the information to district collectors. Incessant strive of Chief Minister

towards holistic development of women in the state has yet again been reflected by the above step taken by MSME department, the Nodal Department in implementing PMFME (Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises) scheme under which women SHGs are the major group of beneficiaries among others.

It has been decided to promote and foster the SHGs involved in production of the take home ration Chhatua under the PMFME scheme, said an official.



In association with department of Mission Shakti and Department of W&CD; MSME department has formulated a plan to select one SHG from each block in the State involved in production of Chhatua, the official added.

The department of W&CD has shared a list of 314 such Chhatua producing SHGs with MSME Department which has been forwarded to all District Collectors for further action.

The Principal Secretary of MSME department Satyabrata Sahu said that around Rs 18 lakh to Rs 20 lakh of loan will be provided to the producing centres through banks. Sahu also said that there is a facility to provide about 35% of loan

subsidy for these loans. "This will usher in formalization of the unorganised Chhatua producing SHGs by technological gap analysis and providing hand holding support, branding & marketing assistance," he said.

NXTDigital's shares surge around 40%

crore in the same month a year ago.

The overdue amount stood at Rs

New Delhi: When benchmark Indian indices were on a downward trend due to Omicron concern-led weak broader market sentiment, shares of NXTDigital have risen around 40 per cent in the past two trading sessions. On Friday, Sensex and Nifty settled at 57.696.46 points and 17,196 points, down 1.31 per cent and 1.18 per cent from its previous close, respectively. NXTDIGITAL, a subsidiary of Hinduja Group, provides digital television services to consumers. On Friday, shares of the company settled at Rs 472.50, nearly 11 per cent higher from its previous close. The intra-day high was Rs 511.8 per share. Notably, the company has recently raised Rs 560.13 crore through rights issue, against an issue size of Rs 288.61 crore.

become overdue and generators charge penal interest on that in most cases.

To give relief to power generation companies (gencos), the Centre enforced a payment security mechanism from August 1, 2019. Under this mechanism, discoms are re-

Tata's chip plan may hit obstacles

filiate of Fitch Ratings.

So far, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka

and Telangana have been identified

as possible locations for the plant

and the Tatas aim to finalise the lo-

cation this month itself and have

test semiconductor chips after

The facility will assemble and

it up and running by late 2022.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: The Tata Groups' reported plans to set up a \$300-million semiconductor manufacturing facility on a wartime basis is likely to face some headwinds given the absence of raw materials in the country and its scarce availability outside due to the ongoing shortage globally since the pandemic, says a report.

The pandemic and its after effects on increased demand for data and consumer electronics have left semiconductor makers unable to keep up with supplies, according to a note by Fitch Solutions, an afsourcing the sophisticated silicon

wafers from semiconductor foundries like Taiwan-based TSMC," Fitch Solutions said quoting media reports.

'The Tata plant will rely on wafer production from offshore chip foundries, which are already strug gling under intense demand. Tata's will, therefore, be vulnerable to further disruptions to silicon wafer manufacturing," the report said.

The report sees the domestic consumer electronics market to grow from \$66.7 billion in 2020 to \$105.1 billion in 2025, indicating the large prospective market for chip makers.

Climate goals difficult without compromising eco targets: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: India's new climate goals will be difficult to achieve without significantly compromising the country's stated economic targets and its ambition to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25, according to global forecasting firm Oxford Economics. It further said India's pledge

to achieve "net zero" emissions by 2070 is admirable, but the path announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 toward achieving that goal is ambitious.

We think the new climate goals will be difficult to achieve without significantly compromising India's stated economic targets and its ambition to become a \$5 trillion economy by 202425. Indeed, it may not even be possible," Oxford Economics said

In 2019, Modi envisioned to make India a \$5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25. Last month, the Prime Minister announced a bold pledge that India will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070 and asserted that it is the only country that is delivering in letter and spirit the commitments on tackling climate change under the Paris Agreement. According to Oxford Economics,

financing the transition will also be a big challenge. Studies peg the investment bill at around \$200 billion per year in 2020s and 2030s for India to become net zero by



2070. The spending requirements increase progressively as the low cost technologies are exhausted, it said. Net-zero emissions mean

Studies peg the investment bill at around \$200 billion per year in 2020s and 2030s for India to become net zero by 2070

- Oxford Economics noted that India will be relying on private investment to fill the gap between its domestic resources and the requirements
- Oxford Economics also noted that India's de-carbonisation plan suffers from low emphasis on carbon removal strategies
- In 2019, Modi envisioned to make India a \$5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25

that the world is not adding new emissions to the atmosphere. With

ning to peak in the late 2040's. Oxford Economics also noted that India's de-carbonisation plan suffers from low emphasis on carbon removal strategies.









funding from developed economies likely to disappoint, Oxford Economics noted that India will be relying on private investment to fill the gap between its domestic

resources and the requirements. The bleak track record of foreign investment in infrastructure projects doesn't augur well in this regard, it said.

The global forecasting firm suggested that given these issues, "we think India's net-zero time- ২ line will need to be revisited. We maintain our baseline view of India's carbon emissions begin-



ASHWIN TURNS IT ON AS INDIA AIM FOR FOURTH DAY FINISH AGAINST NEW ZEALAND IN THE SECOND AND FINAL TEST OF THE TWO-MATCH SERIES

India inch closer to win



MPRESSIVE START: Indian players appeals for the wicket of NZ skipper Tom Latham, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: India's middle order worries going into South Africa series remained but that didn't deter Ravichandran Ashwin (3/27) from turning the heat on as his three quick blows left New Zealand tottering at 140/5 in pursuit of an impossible 540 on day three of the second Test.

While Daryl Mitchell (60, 92b, 7x4, 2x6) and Henry Nicholls (36 batting, 86b, 7x4) added 73 runs for the fourth wicket, there is no denying that India in all likelihood will finish it early on the fourth day with Ashwin looking menacing after every passing over.

What will hurt New Zealand team most in this defeat is the fact that this is the game where one of its own - Ajaz Patel, equalled the world record and grabbed a matchhaul of 14 wickets, something that no one has ever done against India in Test cricket.

The tall Mitchell at least tried to use his reach to counter Ashwin and also attack Jayant Yadav and Axar Patel (1/42) but looked more like the last man standing, trying to delay the inevitable before a rush of blood saw him being holed at deep extra cover. Tom Blundell had a suicidal run-out going for a non-existent single.

But it was Ashwin, who again got the new ball and immediately got



into the act by removing skipper Tom Latham with an angular delivery while Will Young gave bat pad to forward short leg and Ross Tayor, who has been a walking wicket, failed miserably in his attempt to slog sweep the wily off-spinner.

There was one over where Ashwin literally toyed with lefthanded Nicholls who couldn't gauge

Ajinkya Rahane failed in the first Test and had to be dropped on pretext of a hamstring niggle. Cheteshwar Pujara had three bad innings and one where he looked better but that was after the pressure was released by the bowlers.

Skipper Virat Kohli, whose primary aim of not enforcing followon was to get some batting time under his belt, also didn't look confident during a scratchy innings of 36 off 84 balls. India declared their second innings at 276/7 after Axar (41 n o, 26b, 3x4, 4x6) propped up the innings towards the end.

Kohli's idea of batting again was partially successful because Pujara did look good during his 47 (97b, 6x4, 1x6) and Mayank Agarwal (62, 108b, 9x4, 1x6) did his cause no harm by smashing another half-century to top up his

first innings score of 150. The duo added 107 runs for the opening stand to add insult to New Zealand's injuries and it was compounded by another 82 runs that Shubman Gill (47, 75b, 4x4, 1x6) added with Kohli.

Brief scores: India 325 & 276/7d (Mayank Agarwal 62, Shubamn Gill 47, Cheteshwar Pujara 47, Axar Patel 41 n o, Virat Kohli 36; Ajaz Patel 4/106, Rachin Ravindra 3/56); New Zealand 62 & 140/5 (Daryl Mitchell 60, Henry Nicholls 36 batting, Will Young 20; R Ashwin 3/27, Axar Patel 1/42). Match to continue.



which one would turn away like a

classical off-break and the one that

will straighten or come in with

Dravid's urgent attention. For India,

even in what could be a facile vic-

tory, the wobbly middle-order would

keep them worried going into the

South Africa series

But there will be some issues that would need coach Rahul

the angle.

FINISHING TOUCH: Axar Patel lofts one for a maximum during his aggressive innings in India's second essay at the Wankhede Stadium



India finish 4th after loss

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Title hopes already shattered, defending champions India even failed to finish on the podium as they lost 1-3 to France in the bronze-medal playoff match of the FIH Junior Hockey World Cup here Sunday.

France skipper Timothee Clement slammed a hat-trick to stun the hosts once again and secure the bronze medal. Clement converted three penalty corners

Bukkens ensures 5th place for Dutch

BHUBANESWAR: Miles Bukkens slammed a hat-trick to help Netherlands beat Belgium 6-4 and end their campaign at the fifth position in the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday. Bukkens scored from a field effort in the eighth minute before converting two penalty corners in the 20th and 27th minutes. Brent van Bijnen (15th), Guus Jansen (39th) and Casper van der Veen (50th) were the other goal getters for the Dutch side. Last edition's runners-up side Belgium tried to make a valiant fight back and scored four goals through Thibault Deplus (25th), Roman Duvekot (36th, 38th) and Jeff de Winter (52nd) but it eventually turned out to be too late. Earlier in the first match of the day, Pau Cunill (49, 55th, 58th) scored a hattrick, while Eduard de De Iganicio-Simo struck a field goal as Spain defeated Malaysia 4-1 to finish in the seventh spot.



France players celebrate after finishing third; Indian team members (top) acknowledge the support after their loss to France, Sunday

for France in the 26th, 34th and 47th minutes while India's lone goal was struck by Sudeep Chirmako in the 42nd minute. It was the second consecutive

flop show from the Indians after their superlative performance against Belgium in the quarterfinals. The third-fourth place match was a chance for India to avenge



Field staff remove water from the turf after the rain at Kalinga Stadium

their 4-5 defeat against France in their tournament opener, but it was not to be as the European side continued to dominate the hosts with a superb performance.

France were by far the better side on the pitch as they controlled the proceedings after a sedate first quarter and earned as many as 14 penalty corners as against India's just three.

France were the dominators from the beginning and finally got their reward in the 26th minute when Clement converted France's fifth penalty corner of the match. He doubled the lead just after the change of ends converting yet another penalty corner.

In the 42nd minute Odisha boy Sudeep gave the host's a ray hope by reducing the margin with a field goal. But France continued to attack and earned their 11th penalty corner in the 47th minute and once again Clement was bang on target.

five points from four games. Odisha,

meanwhile, remain on third hav-

ing six points from three outings.

ing first half, Blasters took the lead

from a counter-attack. Adrian Luna

was in the thick of things as his

through ball found Vazquez who

timed his run to perfection. The

Spaniard ran 30 yards, rounded

the keeper and put the ball in the

to saviour came five minutes to

the final whistle when he dinked

a perfectly weighed Luna ball past

the keeper after a lovely run off

the Uruguayan. Raj scored a late

goal for Odisha but it did not mat-

Midfielder Prasanth's moment

back of the net.

ter in the end.

After a goalless-but-entertain-

Silver for Sindhu at India eves run riot over Thailand



Thai defence as they struck another in the 25th minute through

Odisha FC go down⁻ fighting vs Blasters

World Tour Finals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Dec 5: Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu settled for a silver medal at the BWF World Tour Finals after going down meekly against Korean teen sensation An Seyoung in the summit clash, here Sunday.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion and two-time Olympic medallist, could neither match the pace nor breach the defence of the World No.6 Korean, losing 16-21, 12-21 in the 40-minute lop-sided clash.

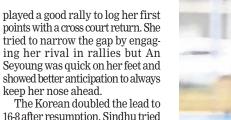
It was Sindhu's third successive loss – all straight games – to the Korean in as many meetings. With this victory. An Sevoung became the first ever South Korean woman to win the season-ending title. It was also her third straight title in Bali, following wins at the Indonesia Masters and Indonesia Open in the last two weeks.

Up against the 19-year-old Korean, Sindhu once again looked short of ideas. She couldn't mount her attacking game or make use of the full court.

An Seyoung looked more polished at the nets and rode on her good quality of strokes. She produced some sensational full stretch diving saves with her swift movement to blunt Sindhu's game plan.

The Indian had a forgettable start and was left to fight a tough battle after lagging 0-4. Sindhu





16-8 after resumption. Sindhu tried to make up the deficit with a few good points but the Korean managed to collect eight game points. Sindhu saved four game points

by putting pressure on her opponent's backhand, while the Korean also sent one long. An Seyoung, however, sealed the opening game with a body return.

The second game started on an even keel with Sindhu managing to take a 5-4 lead for the first time but the agile Korean was quick to wrest back the lead after the Indian went long twice.

The teen shuttler soon extended her lead to 10-6 as she was relentless in the rallies, sending everything back to Sindhu. A razor sharp return on her opponent's forehand gave her an 11-8 advantage at the break.

After the interval, An Seyoung continued to control the proceedings, galloping to a 15-8 lead with another exceptional full dive return. In a jiffy, An Seyoung grabbed a massive 10 match points. Sindhu saved two before sending one to the net as the Korean celebrated.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Donghae (South Korea), Dec 5: Dragflicker Gurjit Kaur scored five goals as the Indian women's hockey team thrashed Thailand 13-0 in its first game at the Asian Champions Trophy here Sunday. Gurjit gave India the lead in the

second minute of the match after an infringement from Thailand in their defensive third awarded them a penalty stroke.

Gurjit, who scored four goals at the Tokyo Olympics, kept a cool head and put the ball in the back of the net. Conceding an early goal put Thailand on the back foot straight away, and Vandana Katariya, the only Indian women's player to score a hat-trick at the

Olympics, found the second goal five minutes later.

By the time the first quarter ended, Lilima Minz added another field goal in the 14th minute, while Gurjit and Jyoti scored two more from penalty corners in the 14th and 15th minute, giving India a 5-0 lead.

The second quarter started much the same way as India kept most of the possession giving no room to Thailand to cause any danger.

Within the first minute of Q2, Rajwinder Kaur, who made her international debut on Sunday, scored a field goal in the 16th minute, and in the 24th minute, Gurjit scored her third goal and Lilima scored another from a penalty corner also in the 24th minute.

The Indian team demolished the

Gurjit, giving them a massive 9-0 lead at the end of the second quarter.

Returning from the 10-minute halftime break. India dominated by continuing to make threatening circle penetrations from the left flank. But Thailand dug in deep and defended well for the first six minutes in the third quarter.

Jyoti broke the threshold, scoring another field goal in the 36th minute to exceed India's lead by 10 goals. A defensive error four minutes later from Thailand gave India another penalty corner, but this time Gurjit's powerful flick was deflected by the opposition. A wellconstructed move from the middle late in the 43rd minute caught Thailand's defence napping as Sonika struck in her first goal in the match.

The fourth quarter saw Navneet Kaur threatening Thailand's defence with penetrating runs from the right flank. But Thailand's defensive troops managed to keep the danger at bay, preventing any further damage to the scoreline.

In the 55th minute, Monika managed to get her stick on a long pass inside the circle, as she deflected the ball into the back of the nets to exceed India's lead by another goal. Three minutes later, Gurjit scored her fifth goal of the match from a late penalty corner, adding in the 13th goal for India.

AGENCIES

Goa, Dec 5: Odisha FC suffered their first loss at this season's Indian Super League (ISL) as they went down 1-2 against Kerala Blasters at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Vasco, Sunday. This was Blasters' first win in four matches this season.

Alvaro Vazquez (62nd minute) and substitute Prasanth Karuthadathkuni (85th) scored second-half goals to hand the yellow shirts their first victory in 11 months. For Odisha, Nikhil Raj pulled one back in second-half stoppage time.

Courtesy the result, Kerala rose to sixth in the points table with



REAL WIN, BARCA LOSE AT HOME

BARCELONA: When Karim Benzema went down injured, Vinícius Júnior and the rarely used Luka Jovic stepped up to secure Real Madrid a 2-0 win at Real Sociedad and strengthen its hold of the Spanish league lead. The young attacking players struck goals early in the second half in San Sebastián to give Madrid its eighth consecutive win across all competitions and leave it eight points clear of nearest chaser Sevilla. Madrid's victory came after Atlético Madrid and Barcelona were upset at home, leaving them further adrift. Atlético Madrid trailed by 10 points in fourth place after the defending champion was stunned by Mallorca 1-2 in the capital. Barcelona was a whopping 16 points behind in seventh place following a 0-1 loss to Real Betis, its first defeat since Xavi Hernández took over as coach.

SPURS, UNITED SCRIPT WINS

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United registered contrasting wins in their respective Premier League fixtures at home, Sunday. Spurs thrashed Norwich City 3-0 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, while United had to toil hard before Fred's strike allowed them come out with full points against Crystal Palace at the Old Trafford. Son Heung-min was the star for the Antonio Conte's side. The South Korean set up the opening goal for Lucas Moura in the 10th minute, before scoring his team's third goal in the 77th. Davinson Sanchez scored the second for the home side. Defending champions Manchester City are on top of the league for the first time this season. On a day when previous leader Chelsea faltered, City displayed total dominance in a 3-1 win at Watford, Saturday.

MEDVEDEV LIFTS RUSSIA

MADRID: Daniil Medvedev had just put Russia into the Davis Cup final by sealing a win over Germany when he turned to the stands at Madrid Arena and started pointing repeatedly at the hard court beneath his feet. He was here to stay in Madrid for one more day, to lead Russia against Croatia for the most illustrious team trophy in men's tennis. Medvedev brushed aside Jan-Lennard Struff aside 6-4, 6-4 to seal the Russian victory on Saturday after Andrey Rublev won the opening singles over Dominik Koepfer 6-4, 6-0. Germany won the doubles when Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz beat Aslan Karatsev and Karen Khachanov 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to make the final score 2-1. Croatia awaits Russia after eliminating Novak Djokovic's Serbia Friday. Russia and Croatia will be aiming for a third Davis Cup title.

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