

# **SSOME ASG EYE HOSPITALS**

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\*Includes all center's data

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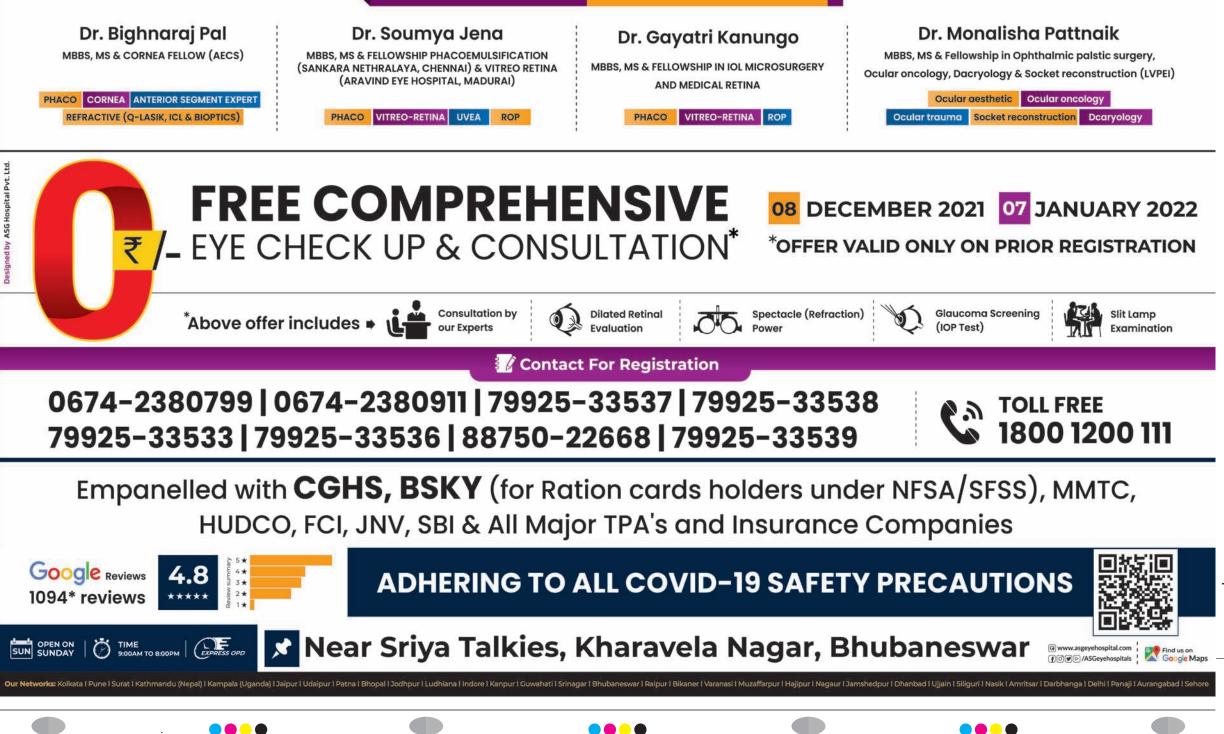
Cornea 🗌 🔿 Squint



Oculoplasty

# OUR EXPERTS AVAILABLE 24x7

**Glaucoma** 





# leisure

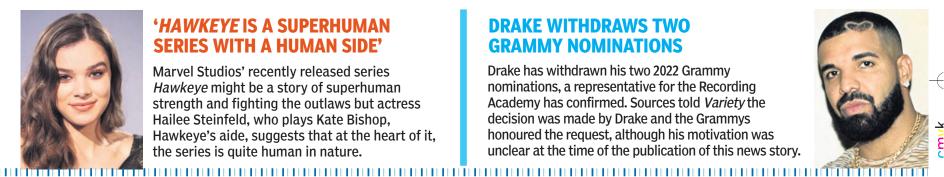


### *'HAWKEYE* IS A SUPERHUMAN **SERIES WITH A HUMAN SIDE'**

Marvel Studios' recently released series Hawkeye might be a story of superhuman strength and fighting the outlaws but actress Hailee Steinfeld, who plays Kate Bishop, Hawkeye's aide, suggests that at the heart of it, the series is quite human in nature.

### **DRAKE WITHDRAWS TWO GRAMMY NOMINATIONS**

Drake has withdrawn his two 2022 Grammy nominations, a representative for the Recording Academy has confirmed. Sources told Variety the decision was made by Drake and the Grammys honoured the request, although his motivation was unclear at the time of the publication of this news story.



FORTUNE **FORECAST** 



### 

You will be very enterprising and industrious today. You make your plans very carefully and execute them perfectly. Despite this, your progress will be very slow. However, Ganesha advises you not to despair and showers his blessings on you

### TAURUS

This is a great day for showcasing your adminis trative and organizing abilities, says Ganesha. Go all out and put in all you have, at your workplace or in your business. You can be sure of impressing your colleagues and superi ors, partners and competitors and gain ing their admiration and support. Just one thing. Do not over do any thing.

### GEMINI

You had better start sharing your feelings with your family today, says Ganesha. Also, it's time to tell your family about your current financial status. It will help you feel better. Your energy levels will soar and you will approach everything with renewed vigour.

#### Today, you and your soul

mate will be rolling in the hav: there will be little time of inclination to do anything else. In fact, you will show such single-minded devotion to the act of rolling as if the future of the world lies in the haystack. Your mind can think of nothing more, and nothing less. The best part is your resilience and your ability to spring back into action when everybody

LEO

Try and put on some protective gear today - maybe a suit of armour should do fine, says Ganesha. For, you may find some need for it on this day of mixed fortunes as you miss out the expected and come face-to-face with the unexpected.

### VIRGO

Today, you will be aspire to be a master of your own destiny. You have the ability to see through the façade that people put up to shield their true self. You will choose your company wisely and plan for success. Polish your presentation skills and you may need to work an extra hit to get your ideas approved, says Ganesha.

# Samantha bares her heart on separation

Hyderabad: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has at last opened up on her divorce from Akkineni Naga Chaitanya and the impact it had on her mental health

Not long ago, celebrated pair Naga Chaitanya and Samantha announced their divorce, sending shockwaves among their fans. Ever since the Majili actress announced her separation from Naga Chaitanya, she has been mum on the issue

Samantha said, "As soon as you accept the fact that you are going through, something, half of the healing is done. Accepting, vocalising, and fighting back is what I did.'

Samantha said she felt like she would "crumble and die". But, as she realised that she is going to live her life, with all the issues, she appreciates herself for being such a strong woman.

"I never knew I could pass this. I am proud of myself because I never knew I was this strong", the Shakunthalam actress said.

Samantha also mentioned that her divorce from Chaitanya took a toll on her mental health. But she tried her ways to get better.

Samantha, on the work front, has been busy signing new ventures, and will soon be working on two multilingual projects, of which one is titled Yashodha. Samantha promises that she will shut up her critics only with her hard work,

nothing else.



Katrina is said to have also wanted Salman's parents to attend the ceremony and shower their blessings to the soon-to-be-wed couple

Mumbai: As the suspense surrounding Salman Khan's at-tendance at the much-hyped wedding of Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal grows with every passing minute, the superstar's family is expected to attend the event. Katrina is said to be close to Khan's sisters, Arpita and Alvira.

According to sources close to the family, the two sisters will attend the wedding along with their husbands – Arpita's husband and Antim star Ayush Sharma and actor-director Atul Agnihotri (Alvira's husband)

Katrina is said to have also wanted Salman's parents to attend the ceremony and shower their blessings to the soon-to-be-wed couple, but they won't be able to attend the event because of health concerns. Salman's Da-bangg concert tour's dates coincide with Vicky and Katrina's wedding celebrations. The actor is unlikely therefore to attend the function. Salman has flown to Rivadh with his head of security, Shera, who incidentally is monitoring the 'KatVic' wedding security at the Six Senses Fort Barwara in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan.



**Trouble for** another Disney movie in Middle East

Mumbai: After Eternals, another Disney film - Steven Spielberg's remake of classic West Side Story - has run into rough weather in the Middle East. The film won't be available for exhibition in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait.

While in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the film wasn't granted a release certificate, in Qatar and Oman, Disney refused to comply with cuts requested by censors, reports Variety. The film has been banned in the aforementioned countries owing to the strict censorship mandates regarding sexuality, swearing, and other aspects that don't fall congruent to the Middle East's cultural views.

Although West Side Story isn't completely irreverent, but Anybodys, a transgender character portrayed by non-binary actor Iris Menas, became the bone of contention for the censors.

Films with LGBTQ references have been regularly targeted by censors in the Middle East, as well as China. West Side Story, the second feature film adaptation of the 1957 stage musical of the same name, features Rachel Zegler and Ansel Elgort as star-crossed lovers having affiliation to rival gangs. The film, whose cast also includes Ariana DeBose, David Alvarez, Mike Faist, and Rita Moreno, is set to release theatrically worldwide December 10.

# Avijatrik: A mesmerising attempt in Ray's league

WHILE SATYAJIT RAY'S FILMS HAVE THEIR PLACE ON THE ARENA OF WORLD CINEMA, SUBHRAJIT MITRA ADDS HIS AVIJATRIK TO COMPLETE THE APU TETRALOGY

hose who have seen Satyajit Ray's Apu Trilogy (Pather Panchali - 1955, Aparajito - 1956 and Apur Sansar 1959) would experience a riot of emotions before seeing this film. It is like revisiting a longforgotten, two-third read classic, anticipating if it would evoke or arouse the same kind of feelings that it did the first time around. And those who have not seen the Apu Trilogy, Avijatrik would be a good enough reason to revisit the

trilogy This Bengali film with English subtitles, is based on the concluding

### **FILM REVIEW**

chapters of Bhibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's novel Aparajito. It takes off from where it left in The World of Apu. It shows us how Apu has finally realised his responsibilities and returns to his roots accompanied by his endearing and likeminded son,

FUN

way to the spectator, which may at times appear to be too verbose but yet is distinct in style. But unlike the trilogy, the structure of storytelling in Avijatrik differs. The plot is split into five chapters, each titled on a specific location that propels the narrative. Set during pre-independence India, the first chapter - The Train Journey sets Apu's story rolling when by happenstance he meets his childhood friend Lila on the train while travelling to Kashi. The story is simple and throughout the film we realise how Apu has evolved as a human being, seeking the meaning of life. His meek and unpretentious viewpoints about life are poignant as well as troubling. The simplicity of the character mirroring a simpleton is what makes him appealing and Arjun Chakrabarty essays him with perfection. Director: Subhrajit Mitra

> Cast: Arjun Chakrabarty, Ayushmaan Mukherjee, Sabyasachi Chakrabarty, Arpita Chatterjee, Sreelekha Mitra and others

characters are conveyed in a peculiar artistic

Equally enchanting is Ayushmaan Mukherjee, who plays his charming son Kajol. All others in supporting roles keep the viewers enthralled with their effortless performances.

Supratim Bhol's camera moveme



Ganesha feels the day will be



beneficial for you when it comes to transactions with the government. But you already expect that. It is more than likely that public servants will have encouraging and optimistic achievements lined up for their efforts.

aligned to auteur Satvajit Ray's mode of nar-

Kajol.

rative, which centres predominantly on the complicated doctrine of the Rasa theory of Sanskrit drama. Here the feelings experienced by the

Amitabh Kumar Roy, who he fondly calls

Like Ray's trilogy, Subhrajit Mitra's Avijatrik

is a black-and-white period drama. It is also

flawless, and each frame, picture-perfect. The background score and music elevate the viewing experience. IANS

### SCORPIO

Ganesha feels that you may be confronted with vital decisions at work. You will need to trust the opinions of your close friends and peers so that you may take informed decisions. Keep your mind away from negative thoughts and delegate responsibilities accordingly.

### **SAGITTARIUS**

It is not your nature to warm the bench, but you will wake up feeling lazy and laid-back today, says Ganesha. This may be due to the fatigue of some recent endeavours. For a change, you will try and delegate your work and responsibili ty to those around you.

### **CAPRICORN**

Plans for expanding business may require you to take risks, leaving you in a dilemma on more than one occasion. In such desperate circumstances, following your instincts can lead you to success, advises Ganesha

### 

You are loaded with work, but you will be able to complete the pending assignments. It is, however, necessary that you keep on marching ahead otherwise your growth may become stagnant, advises Ganesha, Keep vourself guarded and watch the moves your opponents make to be prepared for any challenge.

### PISCES

Today is a day of mixed fortunes. So, while you may not win a gazillion dollars in the daily lottery, you might just end up winning a return air ticket to Timbuktu. No one has really been there, but it is better than nothing. However, the distress of those lost dol lars is likely to be eased by the ecstasy awaiting you in the evening

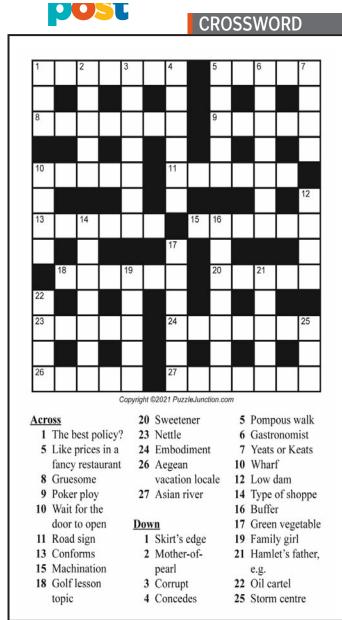


### CALVIN AND HOBBES



## BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

### 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.

								5
	6		9		1			
	8					7		
1		4		S	5	6		
			÷			2 2		1
	3	7					4	2
8	1				3			4
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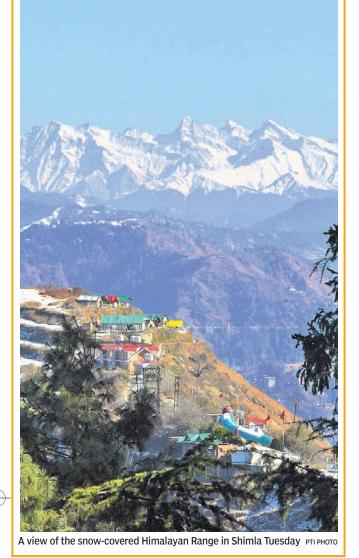
SOLUTIONS LIM ITE CROSSWORD RALL BAMBOO DISCUS IIOR A ' H TI A T 5 6 9 7 з 163 9 4 5 3 1 9 8 4 2 6 7 5 7 2 6 3 4 8 9 SUDOKU 9 1 7 2 8 4 5







# **CELESTIAL SIGHT**



# **Farmers likely to** end protests today

Govt has accepted almost all demands of farmers; submitted written assurance to that effect

### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 7: Farmers' agitation on the borders of the national capital is likely to end soon as the Centre Tuesday gave a written assurance on their demands.

After a meeting in the evening, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which is spearheading the agitation, said they will meet again Wednesday as they have sought some clarifications from the government on its communication.

It is learnt that in the point-wise written assurance, the Centre has said that the Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister have already announced the formation of a committee consisting of representatives of the Centre, states, farmer organisations, and agriculture scientists on Minimum Support Price (MSP). "The SKM members will be part of the farmer representatives in the committee," the government conveyed to the SKM. It was also learnt that the govern-

ment has assured the SKM that police cases filed against the farmers will be withdrawn as soon as the protest ends. "The Uttar Pradesh and Harvana gov-



ernments have agreed to withdraw cases with the end of the protest. Departments related to the Government of India and the Union Territory have agreed to withdraw cases as farmers end their protest," the Centre assured the farmers.

On the question of compensation for farmers who died during the protest, sources said: "The Centre mentioned that the Punjab government has already announced ₹5 lakh, to which Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have in principle agreed.'

About the demand for withdrawal of the draft electricity bill, the Centre said that the opinion of all the stakeholders would be taken into before tabling

ANOINCO

it in Parliament.

On the issue of penal action for burning stubble, the government assured the SKM that farmers will be freed from criminal liabilities on the issue.

Farmer leaders said that a proposal has been received on which a discussion was held Tuesday

'We discussed the proposal received from the Union government. Some farmers felt that some more clarification was needed on some issues. We hope that we will receive a reply from the Centre. The government has put some conditions and we want unconditional assurance," farmers leader Yudhvir Singh said.



# 'Nanda Master' no more; tributes pour in

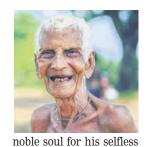
#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 7: Centenarian teacher Nanda Prusty, a Class 8 pass-out who had been educating children and village elders free of cost for last seven decades in Odisha, died at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar Tuesday.

The 104-year-old teacher, popularly known as 'Nanda Master'. was bestowed with the Padma Shri November 9 for his long contribution in the field of education and social service.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death and said the much respected "Nanda Sir" will be remembered for generations due to his efforts to spread the joys of education in Odisha. Union Home Minister

Amit Shah tweeted, "Nation will always remember this



service." A resident of Kantira village in Sukinda block of Jajpur district, Prusty was admitted to a CHC November 29 after he complained of cough and cold, and old-age-related problems. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "His valuable contribution in education and lifelong sacrifice will remain as an ideal forever. May his soul rest in peace." Governor Ganeshi Lal conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family.

# High drama in House IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Assembly sees high political drama as both Oppn and ruling party adopt innovative ways of protests; Oppn beats gongs while BJD MLAs sprinkle Ganga water on Cong, BIP members

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Logjam continued to prevail in the Assembly for the sixth con-



The Congress had brought the adjournment motion notice in the Assembly Tuesday for a discussion on Mamita murder case to

which Parliamentary Affairs Minister





change his religion, not nature

MARKET WATCH				
IN	DEX		VAR	ATION
CURRENCY BOURSES	SENSEX	57633.65		886.51
BOL	NIFTY	17176.70		264.40
ENCY	DOLLAR	75.46		₹0.07
CURR	EURO	84.90	₽	₹0.16
ION	GOLD	₹47,995		₹81
BULLION	SILVER	₹61,539	1	₹269

secutive day as both opposition and ruling party members created a ruckus in the house forcing the Speaker to adjourn proceedings thrice Tuesday.

As soon as the house assembled, BJP and Congress members rushed to the well holding placards. Wearing black gamucha, BJP members beat gongs and bells as a mark of protest. They demanded removal of Minister of State (MoS) for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra over Mamita Meher case.

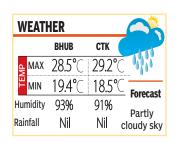
The BJD members also joined the bandwagon as they sprinkled 'sacred water' on the opposition members seeking good sense to prevail upon them and come for the discussion. This is for the first time that the treasury bench members agitated in the well. As the gong sound and slogans rented

the air, Speaker SN Patro adjourned the proceeding till 4 pm.

Bikram Keshari Arukh was supposed to reply. However, it could not be discussed due to the stalemate. Following the adjournment, members of all three parties continued protests outside the hall and inside the Assembly premises too. BJP MLAs staged demonstration outside the house beating gongs and bells, while Congress members went on a 'Parikrama'

(making round) of the Assembly building. The BJD legislators, holding banners, staged dharna before the Mahatma Gandhi statue.

The situation remained the same in the post-lunch session as the opposition MLAs continued their protests inside Assembly. Adjourning the proceedings for 30 minutes, Speaker called an all-party meeting. However, the meeting failed to resolve the logjam.



### 406 JUMBOS KILLED IN STATE IN 5 YEARS

Bhubaneswar: As many as 406 elephants have died in the state during last five years, Forest Environment and Climate Change Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha told the State Assembly Tuesday. Replying to a question of Suresh Kumar Routray (Congress), Arukha said 162 jumbos died in accidents while 11 were killed by poachers and the rest due to various other reasons between 2016 and 2021. Out of 162 accidental deaths, 14 died in train accidents, four in road accidents, 54 in electrocution and 90 for other reasons. He said the government has formed three elephant conservation projects - Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Mahanadi elephant conservation projects to check the deaths of elephants.

# Switzerland legalises death capsule

■ Shaped like coffins, the machine brings the oxygen level inside the glass capsule down to a critical level within a few seconds

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 7: Switzerland has legalised the use of a 'Suicide Machine' named Sarco which offers painless death to those who desire it. It allows users to kill themselves painlessly by inducing hypoxia and hypocapnia (the state of inadequate oxygen supply at the tissue level and reduced carbon dioxide in the blood leading to death).

Shaped Like coffins, the machine brings the oxygen level inside the glass capsule down to a critical level within a few seconds, reported Independent citing the Machine's creators. The entire process takes less

than a minute and allows the person to die "relatively peacefully and painlessly". It is the

latest example of advances in euthanasia machines, which are devices specifically engineered to allow an individual to die quickly with minimal pain in countries where voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide is legal."

The suicide machine can be taken to a location of preference and after its use, the



biodegradable capsule is detached from the base in order to serve as a coffin. Sarco "the suicide machine' is invented by Dr Philip Nitschke, dubbed 'Dr Death', and is short for "sarcophagus". "Barring any unforeseen difficulties, we hope to be ready to make Sarco available for use in Switzerland next vear. It's been a verv ex-

pensive project so far but we

plementation now," Dr. Philip Nitschke said However, Nitschke received adverse reactions because of

think we're pretty close to im-

the method used by his machine. "Some have even said that it's just a glorified gas

chamber," the Independent reported. According to the reports, with the Sarco machine being legal scrutiny in Switzerland, its creators are likely to put it up and ready for operation in the country from next year." In its initial days, the machine faced heavy criticism, specifically due to its nature wherein nitrogen flows into the capsule, displacing oxygen, leading to death.

### SURESH CHANDRA AGARWAL 1948:2020

olo

The business tycoon and legend of outdoor industry. Throughout your life you have touched everyone with your warmth and benevolence. Your vision and expertise will inspire us forever. With reverence and an unswerving love in our hearts, today on your

### 1<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary.

We pledge to eternize your unique legacy

000

### DEEPLY MOURNED BY, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND EMPLOYEES







# downtown

# No decision on opening of '4 Khelo India projects underway in state' inner Ratnabhandar: Jena

### PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Clearing air on the opening of the inner chamber of Ratnabhandar of Puri Srimandir, Law Minister Pratap Jena Tuesday informed the Assembly that no decision has been taken yet in this regard.

"As per Sub-section 1 of Section 6 of the Shree Jagannath Temple Act 1960, the inner treasure can be opened only after the state government issues a special order in this regard following certain terms and conditions," Jena said in his reply to a question asked by BJD lawmaker Aswini Patra.

The minister said that an experts' team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had inspected the Bhitara Ratnabhandar April 4, 2018, to ascertain whether the chamber required preservation or repair.

The team had then suggested further inspection of the inner portion of the Ratnabhandar during Rath Yatra. However, no decision has been taken to open the inner chamber. he said.

As per an earlier statement made by Jena in the House, the Ratnabhandar had more than 120 kg gold and 221 kg silver. According to the inventory prepared in 1978, when the Ratnabhandar was last

# Body found

BARANG: Barang police Tuesday recovered the decomposed body of an unidentified woman from the Mahanadi River bank behind the Sanamundali School under Barang police limits. The naked decomposed body had two pairs of bangles in the right hand and a red thread tied on its waist. The identification of the woman has become a challenge for Barang police. However, it is yet to be ascertained whether the body came ashore or someone has killed the woman before dumping it there. Some local youths spotted the body Tuesday morning when they reached the bank for bathing. Barang police and Godisahi outpost police reached the place and sent the body for post-mortem after registering an UD case

## **Farewell to Christ College teacher**

CUTTACK: A function was held to give a grand farewell to the former head of the Economics department of Christ College, Cuttack and senior reader Praina Samantaray on her superannuation from service in the college premises. Students of the Economics department as well as eral fo stude its attended function recently held in the college auditorium. Principal Madhumita Patra presided over the meeting in which Professor Kumarabar Das joined as chief guest while Anupam Patra, managing committee president, was the guest of honour. Vice Principal Kshyanaprava Nanda, readers Swati Dash, Daitari Shukla, Priyadarshini Pradhan and all the faculties and staff attended the meeting. Reader and head of the department of Economics Jogashankar Mahaprasastha gave away the welcome address and deliberated on the achievements and contribution of Prajna Samantaray to the growth of the department. Lecturer Maradaraj Panda gave away the vote of thanks.



he inner treasure can be opened only after the state government issues a special order in this regard following certain terms and conditions, said the law minister

An experts' team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had inspected the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar April 4, 2018, to ascertain whether the chamber required preservation or repair

The team had then suggested fur-ther inspection of the inner portion of the Ratna Bhandar during Rath Yatra

opened, it had more than 12,831 'bhari' gold and 22,153 'bhari' silver (One bhari equals 11.66 grams). However, the government does not have any information about the value of the items in the storehouse.

### LawMin: Over 1.87L cases pending in HC

BHUBANESWAR: Over 1.87 lakh cases are pending in the Orissa High Court, Law Minister Pratap Jena informed the Assembly Tuesday.

In reply to a written question asked by Cuttack-Choudwar MLA Souvic Biswal, Jena said more than 1.87 lakh cases are pending in the High Court till October 31

The minister also said that 17,68,704 cases were pending in the district courts, while 8,95,412 cases were disposed of in the last three years.

The High Court has formed Arrears Committee and Mission Mode Committee for speedy trial in the pending cases, he said.

Besides, the district judges have been directed to expedite the disposal of cases, Jena said.

"Steps are being taken to establish various courts across the state in a phased manner and ensure prompt justice to people through Lok Adalats," he added.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 7: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Ramesh Chandra Majhi Tuesday sought the status of projects launched by the Union government in Odisha under the Khelo India scheme.

The BJD MP, during the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, sought to know from the Centre as to how many project under Khelo India Mission are being implemented in Odisha and the current status thereof

Union Minister of State for Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik, in response to the BJD MP's question, said that as many as four projects worth ₹28 crore are being implemented in Odisha under Khelo India mission.

"These include construction of a multi-purpose indoor hall at



Kalinga Stadium Sports Complex in Bhubaneswar with an expenditure of ₹8 crore, construction of a multi-purpose hall in Puri worth ₹7.5 crore, a swimming pool at Boudh District Headquarters worth ₹5 crore and construction of a multi-purpose hall at District Sports Complex in Burla amounting ₹7.5 crore. The swimming pool project has been completed while other

# Bargarh farmers denied crop insurance: Pujari

**NEW DELHI:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Suresh Pujari Tuesday brought it to the notice of the Union government that the HDFC Ergo Insurance Company denied insurance benefits to the farmers in Bargarh district, in violation of the Crop Insurance Act.

Speaking during the Zero Hour in Lok Sabha, the Bargarh MP said that the company did not approve the crop insurance policies

of farmers in Padampur sub-division - a non-irrigated area in Bargarh district.

"The company learnt through MeT department forecasts that Padampur sub-division would have scanty rainfall. After that, the company rejected crop insurance in thousands without giving any specific reason for the same. The rejections were made after cut off date. This is against the Crop

56 athletes from **Odisha are getting ₹10,000 monthly** scholarship under Khelo India Mission

projects will be completed very soon," the minister said.

The Nabarangpur MP also asked the minister whether the Centre is providing financial assistance to the athletes, including those from Odisha. The Union minister informed

the House that as many as 2.964 athletes are being provided scholarships under Khelo India scheme. Out of that, 56 comprising 39 women and 17 men are from Odisha. These athletes are getting ₹10,000 monthly scholarship under Khelo India Mission, said the minister.

Set up aluminum plant in Koraput soon: Ulaka

NEW DELHI: Congress MP Saptagiri Ulaka Tuesday urged the Centre to direct Odisha government for early establishment of an aluminum refinery at Kansariguda in Koraput district.



Speaking during Hour in Lok Sabha, the Congress MP apprised the House that 2,100 acres of land had been acquired for establishment of the aluminum unit in Koraput. But, the refinery is yet to be set up even though 14 years have elapsed since the land acquisition.

He also claimed that the plant has been approved by the state government and a public hearing has also been completed for it. "People have lost their land

and they are now facing difficulties. I request the Union Ministry of Mines to direct the state government to sign an MoU so that the plant can be set up at the earliest," Ulaka said.

# Security audit of City ATMs, banks on cards

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Keeping in view the significant rise in incidents of property offences in the Capital city, the Commissionerate Police (CP) has constituted special committees at zonal level to conduct security audit of the ATM kiosks and banks in the Twin City.

media, Speaking to Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Umashankar Dash Tuesday said that the audit teams comprising the Zone ACPs and IICs of the concerned areas along with one special officer from the DCP office per team will visit ATM kiosks and branches of banks under their respective jurisdictions.

They will check whether the security installations like the emer-gency siren systems and CCTV ОР РНОТО

#### cameras are properly functioning or not.

They will try to figure out the deployment of adequate security personnel at the banks and the ATMs

Dash also revealed that the committees have been asked to submit the audit reports within one month.

The report then will be sent to the office of the Police Commissioner for scrutiny.

A senior police official of the CP said letters would be sent to banks to address the shortcomings in their security arrangements within a specific time limit.

thorities of Reserve Bank of India and the insurance companies about the lax approach of the erring\_\_\_\_ branches in this regard.

Director of Acharya Harihar

Regional Cancer Research Centre

(AHRCRC) Lalatendu Sadangi said,

'This institute has added to the

complete and holistic management

of the cancer patients. With this in-

He also said the centre would

have 32 nodes in all the districts

which would operate in hub and

spoke model with the hospice at

Gurumeet Singh Randhawa

thanked the state government for

this 'pioneering initiative' and

'generosity'. He also said that the

hospital would function in collab-

oration with Government of

Odisha, AHRCRC, Capital Hospital

and AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

Managing Trustee of BHT

stitute, a dream has come true.

in the Twin City.

.

Bhubaneswar.

tients in remote areas.

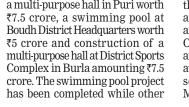
The CP could also write to the au-

Timely detection, treatment of State opens home care for cancer patients

Engineer caught taking backhander

of income

FOR A COZY FEELING



Insurance Act," Pujari said. Meanwhile, Biju Janata Dal MP Ramesh Chandra Majhi urged the Union government to grant sched-

uled tribe status to Duduwa community.

Majhi, while speaking during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, said that Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has written to the Prime Minister several times regarding the same.



WASSUP TODAY

### BHUBANESWAR

- Press meet on Kalinga Literary Festival, Swosti Premium, 11:45am
- Protest by Odisha state branch of All India Save Education Committee, near Raj Bhawan, 11am
- Nrutyanjali by Debadasi, Rabindra Mandap, 6:30pm
- Protest near Board of Secondary Education zonal office, 10am

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.

# CVDs can save lives: Expert

A Dorjee servitor stitching winter clothes for Lord Jagannath and His siblings in Puri, Tuesday

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Timely detection and treatment of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), the leading cause of deaths globally, can help save precious lives, said a senior consultant cardiologist Tuesday.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), CVDs claimed around 17.9 million lives in 2019, around 32 per cent of global deaths.

"CVDs are the leading cause of deaths globally. The typical symptom of ischemic heart diseaseproblems caused by narrowed heart arteries—, one of the CVDs, is anginal pain. usually in retrosternal location. It includes severe chest pressure with squeezing or burning sensation and difficulty in

breathing. The pain typically radiates to left shoulder or left side of the neck or jaw region along with profuse sweating. If left untreated, the pain starts worsening with exertion. It can be usually relieved by nitroglycerin tablets. said Priyaranjan Parida, consult-

ant cardiologist at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. In case of valvular heart disease, the symptoms include fatigue, swelling of feet and breathlessness with irregular heart rhythms, said Parida, adding early detection and treatment of the CVDs will go a long way to save lives.

Most of the CVDs like arrhythmia can be prevented by addressing behavioural risk factors like tobacco use, unhealthy diet and obesity, sedentary lifestyle and use of alcohol.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Tuesday inaugurated Bagchi-Karunashraya city space and palliative home care services for cancer patients at Gandamunda here.

Mahapatra said, "With this institution, Odisha becomes a pioneering state in India to provide such humanitarian service with love, care and relief to the cancer patients during the later stage of lives. This joint initiative of the Government of Odisha, Bangalore Hospice Trust (BHT), and Bagchis of Odisha caters to a basic need of the patients who generally feel dejected with pain during the later stage of life.



The Chief Secretary expressed hope that the construction of Bagchi Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital would be completed within a year. The functioning of the new hospital would open a new era of cancer care in Odisha. Further. Mahapatra advised to involve service oriented NGOs in different districts, and train them on counselling and palliative care. They could provide the care to cancer pa-

### **NEWS SNIPPETS** HE dept to CHSE: List students for BYSY '21 **BHUBANESWAR:** The Higher Education (HE) department Tuesday wrote to the Controller of Examinations, Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), and sought the list of meritorious students who got through the Annual Higher Secondary Exam (AHSE 2021) for their inclusion under Biju Yuva Sashaktikaran Yoiana - 2021. In a letter. HE additional secretary Rajashree Mohanty said meritorious students passing out the offline examination are required to be included

Minor girl engaged as maid rescued

BHUBANESWAR: The Child Line members here Tuesday rescued an 8-year-old girl engaged as a housemaid by a lady nurse in Nandan Vihar area here. The girl's parents, who hail from Jasipur area of Mayurbhani, work as daily wagers. The onset of Covid-19 made it difficult for the couple to raise their four children. The nurse allegedly coaxed the couple to send the victim to Bhubaneswar to work as maid. The lady nurse used to send Rs 2.000 to the parents every month. Locals spotted the girl in Patia area and informed the Child Line officials who handed over the girl to Infocity police

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday caught red-handed an assistant executive engineer at the Irrigation Division in Khurda while accepting bribe from a contractor to clear pending bill.

The accused public servant. Kamadeba Biswal, was accepting ₹10,000 from the contractor to facilitate the payment of bills worth ₹10 lakh.

After getting a complaint from

#### the contractor, the anti-corruption sleuths laid a trap to nab Biswal at his office.

"The bribe money was recovered from the possession of Biswal and seized in the presence of the witnesses," claimed Vigilance sources. Later: a raid was conducted at the

residence of Biswal at Bhimpur Mouza near Aerodrome Area here.

Vigilance officials arrested Biswal after registering a case (42/21) in this regard.

**CUTTACK:** Vigilance sleuths Chandanpur and in-laws' place at Tuesday carried out simultaneous Malatipatapur in the Holy City raids at five places related to OSAP were raided by the anti-corrup-6th Battalion sepoy Sahadev Parida tion wing sleuths. on charges of amassing assets dis-"We've traced two plots registered

SEPOY UNDER VIG GLARE

proportionate to his known sources in Sahadev's name and as many plots in the name of his wife, Geetanjali. Parida's government quarter, a Besides, ₹2,94,600 in cash, four twothree-storey residential complex wheelers and accounts maintained at Tinigharia, residence at with 17 banks have been found dur-Gandarpur, paternal house at Puri's ing the raids," said an official.

in the list for Biju Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana-2021 scheme before December 10.

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Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347 Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

# state

### SHORT **TAKES**

### **Spurious liquor** claims one life



Patana: A woman reportedly died after consuming spurious liquor at Kuthaghar Kudar Sahi village under this block in Keonjhar district, police said Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Gurubari Munda. 50, wife of Biranchi Munda of the village. She experienced uneasiness and vomiting and was admitted to the Patana community health centre (CHC) after returning home from a weekly market at Nuagaon where she consumed liquor, Sunday. Family members later shifted her to the district headquarters hospital in Keonihar after her condition deteriorated. She breathed her last during treatment at the hospital Monday morning, Ghatagaon police sent the body for postmortem and launched an investigation, IIC Pratibha Sahu said. Preliminary inquiries indicated that her death is due to consumption of spurious liquor. However. the actual reason can be ascertained after the postmortem report is available to us, the IIC added.

### **Illegal LPG** depot raided

Patana: During a raid at Sarnapasi village under Patana police limits in Keonjhar district Tuesday state Civil Supplies and Consumer Welfare department officials seized 17 LPG cylinders from the house of a villager, identified as Rabindra Maharana. Maharana was illegally selling LPG in the area. He was procuring gas cylinders from an LPG distributor of Karanjia in neighbouring Matyurbhanj district. A distributor of Indane Gas of the locality had filed complaints with the Collector and the district civil supplies officer about illegal distribution of gas.



Berhampur: Tension ran high at Goudabandha Sahi under ward no-36 of Berhampur **Municipality Corporation** (BeMC) during an eviction drive carried out by the civic body as per NGT norms uesday. Police had a tough

# POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Dec 7: India Tuesday successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed new Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile from Odisha coast here. Defence Reserach and Development Organisation (DRDO) said.

The DRDO-developed quick reaction surface-to-air-missile was test launched from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur here at about 3.08 pm, an official of the organisation said To monitor the missile's trajec-

tories, a number of tracking instruments were used. The missile has an operational range of 50 to km distance and features mid course inertial guidance through fiber optic gyroscope and active radar homing in terminal phase, he said

The DRDO in its official twitter post said, "Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile for @IndianNavy was flight-tested



from ITR Chandipur. The missile was tested against an electronic target at a low altitude. The weapon is planned for integration onboard naval ships.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, Indian Navy and industry for the successful flight-test of VLSRSTA and said the system will enhance the defence capability of Indian naval ships against aerial threat, RMO (Defence Ministry) India said in its official Twitter post.

Ahead of the test-firing of the tactical missile Tuesday, Balasore

**Defence Minister Rainath Singh congratulated** DRDO. Indian Navy and industry for the successful flight-test of VLSRSTA and said it will enhance the defence capability of Indian naval ships

district administration as a safety measure temporarily shifted more than 4,500 people residing within 2.5 km radius of launch pad number 3 of the ITR from where the weapon with a dummy pay load was positioned and launched.

A revenue official said, "On the request of ITR authority people residing in six hamlets in close proximity to the ITR launch site were temporarily shifted to nearby shelter centres with compensation. They will return home after the DRDO gives the green signal for it."

# **Covid Delta variant infects** two students in VIMSAR

**19 OTHER GIRL STUDENTS TEST COVID POSITIVE IN JAJPUR. ANGUL** 

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur/Jajpur/Angul, Dec 7: Apprehensions regarding the spread of the Omicron variety of Covid-19 in VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in Sambalpur district was laid to rest after reports of RT-PCR test of 12 students ruled out the presence of virus in the hospital, Tuesday.

However, two out of 12 students who underwent the test for Covid-19 have tested positive for the Delta variant of the virus, while the remaining 10 students were found suffering from mild presence of the Delta variant, Professor Jayshree Dora, principal of VIMSAR, said. She added that the health condition of all the affected students is stable.

The students and staff have heaved a sigh of relief after receiving the test reports. Earlier, 75 persons including students, staff and nurses had tested positive for the Delta variant of the virus. The district administration had then declared five hostels of VIMSAR as containment zones. The restrictions are still in force in the medical college and

hospital. Meanwhile, nine girl students of the Kasturba Government Girls' High School were infected with the virus in Dasarathpur area of Jajpur district. Similarly, 10 students of a



As many as 10 girl students of Panchayat **High School in Balipata** panchayat of Angul district have tested positive during

antigen test Girls' High School at Balipata panchayat in Angul district also tested

positive for the virus As per precautionary measures, all the affected have been put under isolation, while all students and emplovees, including teachers of the school, have undergone Covid-19 test. This apart, sanitisation work has been carried out on the school premises to prevent further spread of the virus, said Chakravarti Singh Rathore, Jajpur Collector.

As many as 10 girl students of Panchayat High School in Balipata panchayat of Angul district have tested positive during antigen tests. Covid tests of the students were conducted after many of them displayed the symptoms. Following this, the students tested positive for the Covid-19 virus during the antigen test.

The antigen test result of 10 girl students staying in a hostel was positive. They have undergone an RT-PCR test whose results are awaited, while contact tracing is being carried out by the authorities, Siddharth Shankar Swain, Angul Collector said.

**POLITICKLE by MANJUL** 

# Students walk 5 km to lodge plaint with DM

### POST NEWS NETWORK

ON

Rayagada, Dec 7: Frustrated over multiple problems, hundreds of students of the Ekalavya Residential School at Siriguda run by the SC and ST Welfare and Development department came out of the school and walked about 5km to convey their grievances to the Collector, Tuesday.

The tribal students alleged that they were being served substandard food at the hostel while toilets are in unhygienic condition. Fresh uniforms are not given them. They also complained of teacher shortage. which is hampering their studies. The principal also misbe-

Andhra

haves with them if the shortcomings of the school are brought to his notice, they alleged. The students sat on a dharna in front of the Collector's office seeking redessal of their grievances. Later, the students talked to officials of the district administration about their problems. Collector Saroj Mishra said that immediate steps would be taken to sort out the issues of the students.

# **WOMAN BOOKED** FOR SUICIDE BID

WAIT A LITTLE BIT.

I WILL BE RIGHT BACK

AFTER FIGHTING

ELECTIONS

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Dec 7: A quarrel between a couple turned horrific as the woman tried to slit her throat to commit suicide in presence of police at Nuapada in this town, Tuesday. The injured woman, identified as Lakshmi Behera, 42, wife of Rajesh Meher of the area, was rescued in critical condition and admitted to the district headquarters hospital. Later, she was shifted to VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in Sambalpur district after her condition deteriorated. Police registered a case against the woman and begun an investigation. The actual reason behind her extreme step is yet to be ascertained.



time in controlling the unruly mob as they fought a pitched battle with police and civic body authorities by pelting stones at them. Police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the mob. BeMC enforcement officer Tarun Kanta was injured in the stone pelting, while a resident Lakshmi Dash, 55, sustained critical injuries after a wall collapsed on her. She was admitted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital. The BeMC commissioner has giver the residents time till December to vacate the area. Tension prevailed in the area as the officials reached there for the eviction drive 13 days before the expiry of the deadline. People pelted stones at the officials.

# 1.5L people of city outskirts moot ordinance

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Dec 7: Nearly one-anda-half lakh people live on the out skirts of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC), but they are not a part of the civic body. Several slums have also come up around the city

They have been demanding inclusion of their areas in the civic body for long. Now, they suggest that their areas be included in the BeMC through an ordinance.

The areas, which have been out of the purview of the civic body, are in area. Several slum areas like Nimakhandi, Lochapada and Basudevnagar, Goutamnagar, Bhabanipur panchayats. Lochapada





panchayat is very close to the BeMC

Sidarthanagar, Vijaynagar,

Rajibnagar, Nilachalnagar, Alkapuri, Gobindanagar and Bank Colony in Bhabanipur panchayat are close to the BeMc area. People of these areas have long been agitating for their inclusion in the BeMC, but no step has been taken in this regard as yet.

They have also formed an action committee to carry forward their demand. They argued that after inclusion of their areas in the civic body, they will see faster development of the basic amenities.

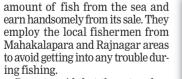
Ahead of the civic body and panchavat polls, they suggested that the government bring an ordinance for inclusion of their areas on the outskirts in the BeMC.

# Illegal fishing in Gahirmatha endangers Ridleys

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Dec 7: Nesting of Olive Ridlev turtles at Gahirmatha sanctuary in Kendrapara district have gone for a toss as hundreds of illegal fishing trawlers were found anchoring at Bahakud ferry ghat near Mahandi river mouth here due to the cyclonic storm Jawad, a report said.

These trawlers illegally enter the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary to fish in the sea and transport the catch outside of the state. These illegal fishing trawlers from Balasore. Bhadrak, Dhamra, Balaramgadi, Kashaphala, Digha and neighbouring West Bengal areas catch large



Reports said that these trawlers were found fishing in the Gahirmatha sanctuary area for years together in complete disregard to a fishing ban imposed by the Forest department for the protection of the turtles.

They even do not fear the Forest officials patrolling in the area and get into fights with them on the slightest pretext. These turtles travel thousands of miles in sea and come to Gahirmatha sanctuary for mating and nesting.

## Croc gets trapped in fishing net, rescued

KENDRAPARA: A five-foot-long estuarine crocodile was rescued from Kendrapara district Tuesday after it got trapped in a fishing net, officials said. The juvenile crocodile strayed into Luna river from the Bhitarkanika



river system and a fisherman found the animal stuck in his net near Orataghat village in Mahakalapada police station area, they said. After spotting the reptile entangled in the net, the fisherman informed the police and forest personnel who rescued it, they added. The crocodile is safe and there was no injury to it, forest officials said. The crocodile was later released into the wild of the Bhitarkanika river system. Fisherfolks of the area were left panic-stricken as the crocodile was found. Crocodiles stray into the water bodies of the area in search of food and leave for their habitat within a few days, forest officials said

Such rampant fishing by these trawlers is the biggest threat to the endangered turtles. The threat comes in the form of accidental entanglement of the turtles in the nets of the fishing vessels that scour the sea in the sanctuary, which is the mating and nesting site of the turtles. These trawlers use a special kind of fishing net known as Ganja

net which entangles the turtles during fishing and eventually leads to their death. The fishing nets remain in the sea for five to seven hours during which the turtles get caught inside and die, stated a fisherman requesting for anonymity. However, the forest and Coast Guard personnel keep a watch on such illegal fishing inside the sanctuary area.

rejected summarily without any consideration.	No.O-1229:- E-Procurement	<u>lotice</u>
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website http://www.reps.gov.in The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e- tendering. All relevant papers must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e- tendering as per instruction. Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.	<ol> <li>BID IDENTIFICATION NO. EEDGH</li> <li>Name of Bridge work : (08 Nos.).</li> <li>Estimated cost : Rs.6.19 lakhs to 13.27</li> <li>Mode of submission of tender: Tender a www.tendersodisha.gov.in.</li> <li>Availability of tender for online bidding: 18.12.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.</li> <li>Date and time of opening of tender: 20.1</li> <li>Other details can be seen from the we gov.in.</li> <li>Corrigendum / addendum if any shall on</li> </ol>	lakhs. shall be submitted online in 08.12.2021, 11.00 A.M. to 12.2021, 11.00 A.M. bsite www.tendersodisha.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)/ PR-609/M/21-22 Sambalpur	website.	er, R.W. Division, Deogarh OIPR-25087/11/0015/2122
यूनियन बैंक O Union Bank Ne gisa	REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE 3rd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road,	POSSESSION NOTICE





Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Co-applicant/Co-Obligant/Guarantor in Ioan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-applicant/Co-Obligant/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Co-applicant/Co-Obligant/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrower/Co-applicant/ Co-Obligant/ Guarantor	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession		Description of Properties
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BHADRAK BRANCH - 2/ Borrower: Jayguru Traders, Prop.: Mr. Sarat Kumar Swain, At: Bonth Chowk, NH-5 Side, Bhadrak, Dist.: I Guarantor/Co-obligant: Mrs. Sanju Mr. Sarat Kumar Swain, At: Badab Agarpada, Dist.: Bhadrak-756135	Bhadrak-756100 / Jkta Swain, W/o:	01.10.20 (Demand No Published Newspape 01.10.202 "Business Sta & "The Sam 03.12.20	otice	Land bearing Khata No.: 821/1721, Plot No.: 124/4023, Area: Ac.0.10dec., Kissam: Gharabari at Mouza: Samaraipur, Dist.: Bhadrak, in the name of <b>Mrs. Sanjukta Swain</b>
BHADRAK BRANCH - 1/ Borrower: M/s. Sumangal Textile, Prop.: Mr. Ajay Kumar Mehta/ Co- Applicant/Guarantor: Mrs. Padmag are At: Kuansh, P.O./Dist.: Bhadrak	+ interest thereon ouri Mehta, Both	/ 03.12.2021 Dec., in the n F/o.: Mr. Ajay	Mouza: Plot No ame of I Kumar	ng Plot & Building in Kuansh, Khata No.: 93, p.: 1104, Area: Ac.0.02 Late Bhupat Rai Mehta, Mehta (Prop.)
Place: Balasore, Date: 07.12.2021	Sd/	<ul> <li>Authorised</li> </ul>	Officer	, Union Bank of India





# power post

### FOCUS CONSERVATION

Whatsoever has courage can give courage to others just as the flame of the candle can light up another. THE MOTHER



# Act of Death

The killings of 14 innocent people in Nagaland - six in the first and the rest in two other incidents in quick succession - by the armed forces 4 December have once again brought to the fore the pertinent question, whether there is any need for retaining in the statute book the colonial era, draconian Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA). Union Home Minister Amit Shah's expression of regret for the mindless massacre or the announcement of a probe by a Special Investigation Team is unlikely to assuage the anger and anguish of the people of Nagaland. This is time to seriously ponder over the main issue and the cause of prolonged sufferings of the people of the northeast, who have, for years been subjected to frequent abuse of the AFSPA. The Chief Minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Rio and his counterpart in Meghalaya, Conrad Sangma, both BJP partners, have already raised the demand for repeal of the Act and they are joined by the Left parties which questioned in the Parliament the wisdom of retaining the Act.

The wanton killings by the security forces on the plea that they were looking for insurgents cannot be condoned by a simple expression of regret either by the Army or the Centre. The incident only exposes the folly of handing over to the Army wide powers in the form of the AFSPA which gives the security forces virtual immunity to whatever they like to do to civilians, rendering many other laws inoperative even when they go berserk. No wonder Rio urged the Centre to annul the law which he describes as a "black spot on the image of the country."

The AFSPA gives armed forces special powers to control areas the government designates as 'disturbed' necessitating the use of the armed forces in aid of the civil authorities. The Act has wide-ranging powers authorising the armed forces to open fire, enter and search without warrant and arrest any person who supposedly committed a cognisable offence. For all these acts they enjoy immunity from being prosecuted. And there lies the rub.

Initially, it was the states which had the power to declare a territory 'disturbed'. But, in 1972 it was transferred to the Centre. Currently, AFSPA is in force in Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur (excluding seven Assembly constituencies of Imphal) and parts of Arunachal Pradesh. Also, the law ceased to be in force in places where insurgencies had been curbed and the governments felt they could manage the situation with the help of the police. Hence, AFSPA was withdrawn in Tripura in 2015, while in 2018 the Centre also removed Meghalaya from the list. It is used in a limited manner in Arunachal Pradesh.

What makes the use of the Act suspect and objectionable is that it is based on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Ordinance of 1942 issued during the Quit India movement. It is considered draconian as under AFSPA, the armed forces have the powers to shoot to kill or destroy a building on mere suspicion. A non-commissioned officer or anyone of equivalent rank and above may use force based on opinion and suspicion, to arrest without warrant, or to kill. He can fire at anyone carrying anything that may be used as a weapon, with only "such due warning as he may consider necessary." This is why the mayhem was possible in Nagaland 4 December. The worst part of the Act is that no prosecution can be instituted except with the previous sanction of the central government. However much the Union Home Minister announces the formation of an SIT to go into the firing or the Army assures people of conducting its own investigation, these cannot inspire confidence in the affected people as both, it is obvious, would be partial.

The Jeevan Reddy Committee constituted in 2004 recommended a complete repeal of the law. "The Act is a symbol of hate, oppression and an instrument of high handedness," it said. The Supreme Court in its judgement in 2016 observed the continuance of the Act in any region for extended periods signifies "failure of the civil administration and the armed forces." The apex court also ruled the notion that the Act provides a free hand to security forces is flawed.

It is indeed a sad commentary on the Act that over 1,500 cases of alleged fake encounters were engineered in Manipur alone during the past 20 years. Irom Sharmila, known as the Iron lady of Manipur, has become a symbol of monumental protest against the abuse of the Act. She had been on hunger strike for 16 years demanding the annulment of the law. It is only natural that after the Nagaland incident showing blatant misuse of the powers of the AFSPA the clamour for its repeal would be made once again. The government will do well to find out a permanent solution to the problem rather than taking ad hoc measures. For, peace in Nagaland is hanging in the balance with the deal between the Centre and the NSCN (IM) being at a precarious stage and the anger of the civilians rising to a crescendo.

# **BRIGHT AS A BIRD**

Birds are found worldwide, in many different environments, from penguins in Antarctica to pigeons in Trafalgar Square, and from the familiar sparrows on our lawns to the great albatrosses who spend years at sea without ever touching land. There are more than 10,000 species totaling many billions of wild individuals. To this we must add the tens of billions of birds we raise for their meat or eggs, and others we keep as pets.



Peter Singer & David S. Wilcove

BIRDWATCHERS HAVE LONG BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS TO PROTECT WILD SPECIES AND THEIR

HABITATS. OUR DWINDLING POPULATIONS OF WILD BIRDS NEED THOSE EFFORTS

NOW MORE THAN EVER

Unfortunately, nearly one in seven of those 10,000-plus bird species is currently at risk of extinction. Even common species are declining. A recent study estimated that the total population of birds of all types in the United States and Canada has dropped by 30 per cent since 1970. It is easy to dismiss their fate. The use of the term 'bird brain'

as an insult suggests that many people have a low opinion of avian intelligence. But they are wrong. Irene Pepperberg's work with Alex, a grey parrot who lived from 1976 to 2007, showed that a bird can learn concepts such as 'colour' and 'shape.' Pepperberg would show Alex a red cube and a red sphere, and ask "What is the same?" Alex would reply 'colour.' When shown a red cube and a yellow cube, and asked the same question, Alex would say 'shape.'

Parrots are not the only highly intelligent birds. In 2002, Betty, a New Caledonian crow, was faced with the puzzle of trying to get a piece of meat out of a tube. She bent a piece of wire and used it to hook the meat and pull it out, thus becoming not only a tool user, but a tool maker - characteristics once thought unique to humans. More recently, other New Caledonian crows have shown that they can mentally represent a three-stage task: picking up a short stick, taking it around a corner to a place where it could be used to extricate a stone from a tube, and then taking the stone around another corner to a third place where, by dropping it down another tube, it would release a door and provide the crow with food.

Pigeons – often viewed with disdain by urban pedestrians – can learn to distinguish between the paintings of Monet and Picasso, even when shown paintings the birds have never seen before. They



Nearly one in seven of the 10,000-plus bird species is currently at risk of extinction. The fate of birds, both wild individuals and those kept as pets, would be harder to ignore if more people understood how intelligent and complex they are

also grouped paintings by Cézanne and Renoir with those by Monet, and paintings by Braque and Matisse with paintings by Picasso. When Monet's paintings were presented upside down, the pigeons failed to distinguish them from the cubists' paintings. Presenting the Picassos upside down, however, made no difference.

Birds are very popular pets. Budgerigars, popularly known as 'budgies' but also often referred to simply as 'parakeets,' were first imported to the United Kingdom from their native Australia around 1840 and quickly became a hit with people. Today, they are among the most popular pets in the world. Hundreds of other species, including canaries, lovebirds, zebra finches, and a host of less well-known species, are also kept as pets.

Unfortunately, many people who buy birds as pets treat them as living ornaments, valued for their plumage or song rather than for their minds. They have little idea of how intelligent and complex their new companions are, and are unaware of basic care requirements. Budgies, for example, are long-lived (10-15 years if properly cared for) and highly social. Like dogs, they need a lot of

e one-on-one attention and affection from their owners, plus toys and time outside their cages, to keep them happy while their owners are not at home. Typically, however, pet birds are allowed to interact far less with their owners than dogs or cats are. And because they are usually caged, they cannot go to their owners when they want attention.

The fact that some types of birds can be bought for a few dollars at a pet store with no questions asked or training required is therefore not something that a society that cares about animal welfare should tolerate. Many birds end up at 'rescue centers' for adoption, often exhibiting harmful behaviours like feather plucking, which stem from mistreatment.

Some simple reforms could improve the lives of pet birds. One would be to require people intending to purchase one to take an online course and pass a concluding exam. These exams could be tailored to the main types of pet birds, such as parrots and parakeets, and canaries, finches, mynahs, and other songbirds. An alternative would be to require those who sell pet birds to provide, both verbally and in writing, and prior to finalising a sale, all the essen-

tial information the buyer will need to care for their new pet properly.

People can also thoroughly enjoy birds without owning them. Birdwatching is an increasingly popular hobby around the world, offering thousands of species to see and no cages to clean. It boomed during the coronavirus lockdowns, and it appears to be retaining many of the new – and often younger – followers it picked up

then. Let's hope that continues. Birdwatchers have long been at the forefront of efforts to protect wild species and their habitats. Our dwindling populations of wild birds need those efforts now more than ever.

Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the non-profit organisation The Life You Can Save. David S. Wilcove, Professor of Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Public Affairs at Princeton University, is the author of No Way Home: The Decline of the World's Great Animal Migrations (Island Press, 2007).

## IN JEST THIS

### WISDOM CORNER

**16** The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities.

AYN RAND

- As soon as questions of will or decision or reason or choice of action arise, human science is at a loss. NOAM CHOMSKY
- Moral authority comes from following universal and timeless principles like honesty, integrity, treating people with respect.

### WORDS**WORTH**

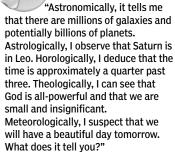
### Profician

uch effort has been expended in the UK on reporting the results of the Great British Class Survey, devised by the BBC and researched by social scientists from three British universities. It divides the economically active population into seven groups, rather different in composition to the six grades of the NRS social grade system (A, B, C1, C2, D, E) and the eight of the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification. One consequence has been a rare appearance in the public media of the specialist term profician. This is strongly associated with Professor Guy Standing of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, who has been using it since the early 1990s and seems to have coined it. In his book of 2009, Work After Globalization, he discusses it alongside his other socio-economic classifications: the global elite, the salariat, the traditional working class, the precariat and an underclass, the lumpenproletariat in Marxist theory. As the name suggests, proficians are experts in a field and include skilled technicians and professionals. They may be lawyers, sports stars, architects or IT specialists. Their key quality is that they are project-oriented freelance workers and tend to suffer problems such as stress and burn-out. Standing could have created proficiat instead of profician, to match the -iat ending of the other terms that have been coined on the model of proletariat. It might now be better known.

# LOL

## **Holmes & Watson**

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine they laid down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Watson pondered for a minute.



Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "It tells me that someone has stolen our tent."



DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOUR DOG CHEWS YOUR CELLPHONE TO TURN DOWN THOSE NOTIFICATION SOUNDS

# Watch out for the noise

Before you turn up the volume of your music, you need to be aware that it might disturb your neighbours. And it might terrify your neighbours' pets.

Pets have sensitive ears. If you have a dog, you probably already know this. Any type of shouting can send the dog scurrying away. Just try screaming, "Tasty bones! Come and get your tasty bones!" Your dog will run away like you're screaming, "Vaccinations! Come and get your vaccinations!"

Loud noises such as thunder and fireworks can also terrify dogs. You may love Lata Mangeshkar's songs, but if you play her loud enough, your dog might post its photo on Adopt-a-Pet.com.

A recent study at University of California, Davis, finds that even common noises, such as a pressure cooker or microwave, can trigger a dog's anxiety. According to the study, which was published in the journal "Frontiers in Veterinary Science," high-frequency, intermittent noises are more likely to bother dogs than low-frequency, continuous noise. In other words, don't wait until your dog chews your cellphone to turn down those notification sounds. Do you really need a loud ping every time you receive a text message? Trust me, your dog doesn't think so.

While owners can recognise some signs of dog anxiety, including cringing and trembling, other signs are harder to identify. For example, stressed dogs may lick their lips, turn their heads away, stiffen their bodies, turn their ears back, or keep staring into space, thinking to themselves, "If only Jeff Bezos would offer me a free ride."

"There is a mismatch between owners' perceptions of the fearfulness and the amount of fearful behaviour actually present. Some react with amusement rather than concern," said Emma Grigg, lead author of the study and a research associate and lecturer at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. "We hope this study gets people to think about the sources of sound that might be causing their dog stress, so they can take

steps to minimise their dog's exposure to it."

Of course, if dogs get stressed by noises, so do other animals, including cats, rats and chickens. You probably don't care if the rats in your neighbourhood get stressed. "Let them drop dead," you might say, and few people would blame you. But what about the chickens in your neighborhood? What if they drop dead?

If you've been following the news closely, you know what I'm alluding to: the recent case in Balasore, Odisha. A 22-year-old poultry farmer named Ranjit Parida, who lives in Kandagaradi village, filed a complaint at Nilagiri police station against his neighbour Ramachandra Parida for the loud music that a DJ had played during a wedding procession.

According to an India Today report, Ranjit alleges that his chickens started behaving strangely, jumping and hissing, as the procession approached the farm. Ranjit tried to get the DJ to turn down the music, but to no avail, he claims. As a result, 63 of his chickens died, despite his attempts to revive them. A local veterinarian told him that the loud music had caused the birds to go into shock. If you're the parent of teenagers, you can probably understand this. You've probably heard some shocking lyrics.

Ranjit tried to get Ramachandra to compensate him for the fowl loss, without using foul words. But Ramachandra apparently declined, causing Ranjit to file the police complaint.

According to Balasore Superintendent of Police Sudhanshu Mishra, the two parties resolved the case amicably at the police station. If so, they deserve credit for not being too chicken to face each other.

Ramachandra nevertheless ridiculed the allegations, saying, "When lakhs of chickens are transported on the road on daily basis amid blaring horns, how is it possible that the birds in his farm died due to DJ music?"

That's a good question. Perhaps the chickens didn't like the DJ's taste in music.

# 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** 

#### OrissaPost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Apology not enough

Sir, At least 13 civilians from the Konyak community were gunned down by security forces during counterinsurgency operations in an alleged case of mistaken identity in Nagaland. What makes it more distressing is the incident that happened during their local festival Hornbill. Soon after this happening the Chief Minister of the state assured to constitute an SIT and investigate the whole issue. Union Home Minister Amit Shah apologised and paid condolences to the kin of the deceased in both Houses of the Parliament. Is this enough for the grieving families? With great power comes great responsibility. No reason can validate these killings. We have respect for the sacrifices the armed forces have made over the years for the nation but in this case the culprits need to be punished. The government should conduct an impartial investigation and act as soon as possible. This can surely bring down anger and pain in the region. Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

### **Polluted Yamuna**

Sir, A recent study has found that hydrogen sulphide released from the black waters of the Yamuna has a more corrosive impact on the Taj Mahal than sulphur dioxide emitted by the factories in Agra. The stink that comes from the Yamuna is caused by hydrogen sulphide. It is likely that this gas is behind the discolouration of the Taj's magnificent white marbles. The findings assume profound significance as the measures adopted to protect the Tai from pollution are concerned with dealing with industrial and vehicular pollution. In fact, the pollution of the Yamuna has not received much attention until recently. For a long time, discussions on tackling the discolouration of the Taj have been centred around reducing sulphur dioxide emissions on the assumption that it was the main pollutant behind the decay of the marbles. While a report of the Archaeological Survey of India had blamed Yamuna pollution for the discolouration, it viewed things in a different perspective. The polluted Yamuna is damaging the Taj in different ways. The polluted water of the river contains hydrogen sulphide. This acidic and corrosive gas causes considerable damage to the monument. Industrial pollution causes less damage as the wind takes away the pollutants moving towards the Taj. In the light of the findings, practical measures need to be adopted to deal with the pollution of Yamuna. Froth in different parts of the river indicates that its pollution has reached alarming levels. The sacred river that occupies an important role in the Puranas must be rid of pollution. Venu GS, KOLLAM











I am wondering what has happened to Amit Shah. He is coming to Rajasthan and saying absurd things. It seems the state BJP did not make him aware of the truth or they do not have the courage to tell the truth to Amit Shah or they are deliberately trying to mislead the public ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

### **KEJRIWAL WOOS SC COMMUNITY**

In a bid to impress the Scheduled Caste community ahead of Punjab Assembly polls, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday promised to provide free education to their children, besides bearing their coaching fees for higher studies, if his party comes to power



# uote

I cannot comment on the findings of the CAG report. Senior officials of the state government will examine CAG findings. But I will certainly say that

Bihar is marching ahead on the progress path NITISH KUMAR BIHAR CM

The country is heading in the direction shown by Dr B F Ambedkar, but some "narrow-minded" tendencies are trying to throw it off the track

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | BJP LEADER

Is booster dose required then? We have doses available today. There is a need to take a decision at the national level in this regard I think. There are different opinions about it. So, it should be told why it needs to be given or why it shouldn't. Only experts who have researched it (the infection)

AJIT PAWAR MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

SHORT TAKES

can talk about it

## **₹17 lakh stolen**

Amaravati: A gang of burglars looted ₹17 lakh from an ATM in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa town by using gas cutters. police said Tuesday. The incident occurred on the outskirts of the town on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. According to police, the burglary was committed at an ATM of State Bank of India (SBI) near the KSRM Engineering College.

### Teacher arrested

Rajnandgaon: A teacher of a government school in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district allegedly raped a 16year-old student on the pretext of taking her for an educational trip, police said Tuesday. Based on a complaint lodged by the parents of the Class 11 student, the police Tuesday arrested the science teacher of the high school in Dongargaon police station area, an official said.

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kohima, Dec 7: The situation in Nagaland, where protests and rioting broke out after firing by security forces claimed 14 civilian lives, remained tense but calm on Tuesday as the state cabinet met and decided to write to the Centre demanding repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

The Cabinet which met in an emergency sitting under the leadership of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Tuesday also called off the ongoing Hornbill Festival in protest against the killing, state ministers said.

The 10-day Hornbill Festival, the state's largest tourism extravaganza held at Naga Heritage Village in Kisama near the state capital. was scheduled to end on December 10. During the meeting, the cabinet was briefed about the action taken following the killing, including setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by an IGP rank officer and grant of ex-gratia to the next of kin of the deceased by the state and cen-

Narcotics worth

Myanmar border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

₹500 cr seized along

Imphal/New Delhi, Dec 7:

Narcotics worth ₹500 crore were

seized from Manipur's Moreh

town near the India-Myanmar

border in one of the biggest drug

hauls in the Northeastern state's

history, officials said on Tuesday.

police and 43 Assam Rifles, a ware-

house was raided Monday after-

noon, Tenugopal district's

Superintendent of Police Vikramiit

said. About 54 kg of brown sugar (an

adulterated form of heroin) packed

in 3,716 soap cases, and 152 packets

of crystal methamphetamine weigh-

ing 154 kg were seized in the raid.

About 54 kg of brown

sugar (an adulterated

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weighing 154 kg were

methamphetamine

seized in the raid

the seizures, they said.

officials said.

In a joint operation by the state



Coffins of the people, who were killed by Armed Forces, buried during their funeral in Mon district

tral governments, ministers Neiba Kronu and Temjen Imna Along later told reporters.

The Cabinet has directed the SIT to complete the investigation within a month. they said. Kronu said that altogether 14 civilians have died in the incident, while two seriously injured are undergoing treatment in neighbouring Assam, and six are being treated in

Dimapur: The firing incidents took place in Oting-Tiru area on December 4 and Mon town on December 5.

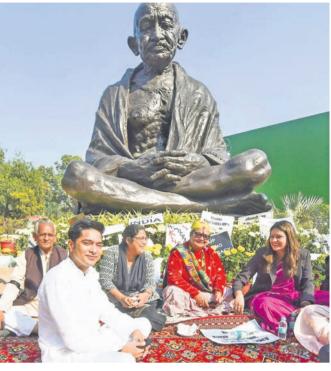
"All activities of Hornbill Festival 2021 should cease in view of mourning announced for the deceased in the firing incidents in Mon district." Kronu said. Officials said the situation in the state where people had taken to the

streets in protest against the firing was "tense but calm". Rio, while attending the funeral of the 14 civilians in Mon town on Monday, had joined a growing chorus of demands seeking the repeal of AFSPA that gives special powers to security forces in "disturbed areas"

A report submitted to the state government on Sunday claimed the army made no attempt to ascertain the identity of the civilians returning from work on a pick-up truck before shooting them in Nagaland's Mon district on Saturday. Critics have maintained that the controversial law gives the armed forces to act with impunity, leading to human rights violations

The joint report by the state's Director General of Police (DGP) John Longkumer and Commissioner Rovilatuo Mor quoted evewitnesses, who said the Army's special forces tried to "hide" the bodies of six people by wrapping and loading them on a pick-up van with the intention of taking them to their base camp.

# Nagaland 'tense but calm,' Hornbill fest put off Oppn blames govt for RS deadlock



TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee joins suspended Rajya Sabha MPs who have been staging a dharna near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi demanding revocation of their suspension, during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Holding the government responsible for the deadlock in Rajya Sabha, opposition members Tuesday said they will continue their joint protest against the suspension of 12 MPs till the time it is revoked.

The Upper House did not transact any significant business for the second consecutive day as opposition parties kept up their protest, demanding the revocation of the action against the MPs. The government, however, insisted that the suspended MPs will have to first apologise for the unruly conduct in the House.

Addressing reporters outside Parliament, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the suspension is against the rules and undemocratic. He said they will continue to protest in support of the suspended members and sit on a dharna with them. The Congress leader also urged Lok Sabha members to ioin the sit-in. "The government is fully repened during the previous Monsoon session," he said

Kharge said they have to first name each member separately and tell why each of them has been suspended and only then can the suspension take place and "that too should have happened on August 11". "When the House is prorogued,

the government has no right to suspend the members anymore for the previous session. Their action of suspension is neither as per rules nor as per the Constitution."It seems the government's intention is clear of not allowing the House to function. Until their suspension is revoked, our fight will continue," Kharge said.

'We will not allow our voice to be throttled. This has no place in democracy and we will not allow any dictatorship. Modi ji wants to run Parliament with dictatorship. We will not allow this to happen, he alleged. DMK leader Tiruchi Siva also questioned the action\_ against the MPs."This is totally undemocratic and rules of procedure have not been followed and it is against the Constitution. So, revoke the suspensions. "Whenever the government goes out of their



People use a rope to come out of a flooded area of Verma Nagar due to the overflowing Ariyar river following heavy rainfall in Trichy district

# Sena's big pat for Congress



their strategies to fight the BJP would be separate. "While we are in separate compartments, our destination will be he same. To remove the BJP." TMC MP Derek O'Brien said, days after Mamata Banerjee's statement in Mumbai questioning the very existence of the anti-BJP combine United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the Congress's leadership of the opposition group. Raut declined to share details about his meeting with Rahul Gandhi, but said they discussed about the status of the UPA. The Shiv Sena, a former BJP ally, is not part of the UPA which was in power at the Centre between 2004 and 2014. "There was a discussion about the UPA. It is not right to comment on it. I will talk to Uddhavji (Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray) and then speak to you (the media)," Raut told reporters after meeting Gandhi. When asked how the opposition parties are coming together to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Raut said efforts for this are on."I have told Rahulji to take a lead in this and work towards it. There can be no (opposition) front without the Congress. What will two-three fronts of opposition do?' the Rajya Sabha MP said.

## India updates list of 'at risk' countries



### Five held

Mumbai: Five persons have been arrested for allegedly trying to sell a 10-day-old baby for ₹2.5 lakh in Navi Mumbai, police said Tuesday. Based on a tip-off, the NRI police nabbed the accused. including three women, who had come to sell the infant near Nerul railway station on Sunday, an official said.

### 2 dead, 25 hurt

Shimla: A pick-up vehicle fell into a gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district Tuesday, leaving two people dead and 25 others injured, a district official said. The accident took place at Bharari at Sarog Nala near Bharai, which comes under the jurisdiction of Chowari police station. Chamba Deputy Commissioner Rana said

The warehouse was under surveillance for some time, following which the raid was conducted. police said. A Myanmar national was arrested in connection with

A case has been registered and

further investigation is underway, they

added. Congratulating the forces,

Chief Minister N Biren Singh said,

"Marvellous achievement by

Tengnoupal Police & 43 Assam Rifles

on seizing illegal narcotics substances

worth ₹500 Cr from a warehouse in

Moreh." Singh said it was one of the

biggest seizures of drugs in the

state's history under the 'War on

Drugs' drive of the Manipur gov-

ernment. "Narco-terrorism is a

major source of finance for the

Indian terrorist groups based in

Myanmar and has umbilical cord

linkages with other players in the

'golden triangle' (the confluence

of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar).

son for rise in drug addiction

among the youth of India, espe-

cially the northeast region, and

is also a source for fuelling ter-

rorism in the region," the Assam

Rifles said in a statement.

"This scourge is the main rea-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: After his meeting with Rahul Gandhi, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut Tuesday said there can be no opposition front without the Congress, in a clear message to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over her "no UPA" taunt, even as another ally NCP asserted it will make every effort to form a broad-based alliance that will also include the Congress.

As the NCP distanced itself from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo's jibes at the main opposition party, TMC sources said its national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee conveyed to all its MPs at its Parliamentary Party meeting that the party will not play second fiddle to anyone, including the Congress.

During the meeting, the TMC also discussed that while it will be one with the opposition, including the Congress on all issues in Parliament, but outside

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: India Monday added Ghana and Tanzania to the list of "at risk" countries, passengers from where have to follow additional COVID-19 testing and quarantine measures.

The Aviation Ministry said Tuesday that the list of "at risk' countries was updated on Monday. Countries in Europe, including the UK, and South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Ghana, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tanzania and Israel have been placed in the "at-risk" category, the Aviation Ministry noted.

Delhi had reported its first case of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus on Sunday with a 37-yearold fully vaccinated man, who arrived in Delhi from Tanzania, testing positive.

chairman and the government and have stressed that they cannot suspend members like this. They have wrongly and undemocratically suspended 12 MPs for what has hap-

sponsible for the deadlock in Rajya

Sabha. We have been meeting the

way to fulfil their agenda, opposition members resort to disruption, which is part and parcel of democracy," Siva said.

#### **OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH E-mail: eemisundargarh@yahoo.co.in No 2221/MID Dated 06.12.2021 CORRIGENDUM No.A-703:- Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender

floated vide this office tender call notice No. EE MID SNG 05/2021-22 is hereby cancelled. Sd./- Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Sundargarh

OIPR-32124/11/0005/2122

OFFICE OF THE SU PANIKOILI (R8 INVITATIOI	MENT OF ODISHA JPERINTENDING ENGIN (B) DIVISION, PANIKOIL N FOR BIDS (IFB) wd.pkl@rediffmail.com				
Corrigendum to e-Procurement					
Notice Letter No. 6587 No. B-763: Tender for 1 (One) N circumstances.		<b>.02.12.21</b> avoidable			
All other terms and conditions remain					
OIPR-34067/11/0022/2122	Sd./- Superintending Engineer Panikoili (R&B) Division				

### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES Office of the Engineer-In-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

Email Address: cemech.eicwr.od@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No CEM/MDB-04/ 2021	-2
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1.	Name of the Work	:	Mechanical Gate Works
2.	No. of Works	:	01 (One)
<u>2.</u> 3.	Category of executors	:	SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
4.	Bid Identification No.	:	CEM / MDB - 04 / 2021-22
5.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 27,65,999.00
6.	Period of Completion	:	Thirty days.
7.	Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	•	From dt.09.12.2021 (10.00 AM) to dt. 23.12.2021(5.30 PM)
8.	Last date/ time for receipt of bid In the Portal	:	dt.23.12.2021 (up to 5.30 PM)
9.	Date and Place of opening of Bid	:	dt.24.12.2021 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/O the undersigned)
10.	Name of the Officer inviting bid		Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the E.I.C, Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only. Sd./- Chief Engineer, Mechanica O/o- Engineer-In-Chief, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswa OIPR-32033/11/0003/212

# *HC* quashes 'frivolous petition', fines petitioner ₹1.5*L*

In his petition, Thavamani said that Covid-19 and its variants were not deadly diseases and curable in due course if the state health department, doctors and health professionals were more vigilant and had provided proper medical care to the people

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Dec 7: The Madurai bench of the Madras High Court has come down heavily against frivolous petitions and fined a petitioner ₹1.5 lakh, who wanted the orders issued by the government pertaining to Covid-19 restrictions. as "unconstitutional, null and void".

Sixty-three-year-old M. Thavamani had petitioned the court seeking to pay him a compensation of ₹5 lakh, saying that the lockdown had infringed upon his fundamental rights and af-

### fected him financially.

The court rejected the petition and said that it was not maintainable The division bench of the Madras High Court comprising Justices S. Vaidyanathan and G. Jayachandran observed that the attitude of persons like Thavamani was detrimental to the selfless service rendered by doctors, health workers and other Corona Warriors who have lost their lives during the course of the pandemic.

In his petition, Thavamani said that Covid-19 and its variants were not deadly diseases and curable in



due course if the state health department, doctors and health professionals were more vigilant and had provided proper medical care to the people.

The Madras High Court Judges said: "Unless 'busybody' like the petitioners were punished for their senseless activity and approached the court with frivolous petitions, this court fears that the sacrifices of selfless people will go in vain."

The judges observed that the petitioner was mocking the sincere efforts taken by the state to curb the pandemic and was condemning the preventive measures taken by the Central and state governments to stop the spread of the infection.

The Madurai bench directed the petitioner to pay a fine of ₹1.5 lakh to the credit of the Covid-19 ward at the Government Rajaji hospital, Madurai, within 15 days of the judgment and if he fails to pay the fine within the stipulated time, the Madurai District Collector can evoke the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890, and collect money from the petitioner. The Court came down heavily on the petitioner and said that he had approached the court for the sake of publicity and was trying to waste the precious time of the court.











# **TN OPENS MULLAPERIYAR DAM'S SHUTTERS** High alert for people living on Periyar banks



#### AGENCIES

Chennai/Thiruvanthapuram Dec 7: Tamil Nadu has opened nine shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam, leading to high water flow in the Periyar.

The nine shutters were opened to a height of 120 cm each and this has led to the heavy flow of water from the dam, situated in Kerala but maintained and managed by the Tamil Nadu government. The Supreme Court had fixed 142 feet as the maximum water level in the dam.

The Kerala government had raised its apprehensions over the Mullaperiyar shutters being opened at night without warning and water has started entering the houses of people living on the banks of Periyar in its Idukki district.

People on the banks of Periyar have been given a red alert and will be shifted to relief camps.

Kerala's Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine, speaking to media persons, noted that it was "unfortunate on the part of Tamil Nadu to open the shutters at late night even after the appeal of our Chief Minister to the Tamil

### **IMD predicts rainfall** for next two days

After a few days of dry Weather, Chennai and surrounding districts are expected to receive light rains Wednesday and Thursday. Rains continue to lash several parts of Tamil Nadu with Tiruchi district receiving heavy rain and an orange alert has been issued in the district. The rainfall in Chennai and adjoining districts is owing to the consecutive weather activity triggered by the entry of steady easterly winds. Weathermen said that the city may not receive heavy rain like in November, but continuous rainfall is a

Nadu Chief Minister regarding the same"

possibility for the next few days.

He also said that this action of Tamil Nadu cannot be accepted at any cost. He also said that he was on the way to the Periyar banks and will oversee the shifting of people from their homes to secure places in relief camps.

# **Can't let kids with rare diseases to die: HC**

**THE DELHI HIGH COURT HAD PASSED AN ORDER DIRECTING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT** 

**TO MAKE OPERATIONAL THE DIGITAL CROWD** 

**FUNDING PLATFORM FOR MEDICINES AND TREATMENT FOR RARE ILLNESSES** 

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: The Delhi High Court Tuesday said the Centre has not given any sufficient justification for Rs 193 crore lying unutilised in the rare diseases fund for children and emphasised that it will not let kids die from such illnesses despite funds being available

The high court pulled up the authorities for making a "mockery of the whole thing" and said it was strange that the allocated funds are available but not being spent on children suffering from rare diseases "The affidavit filed by

Respondent no. 1 (Centre) gives no reason or sufficient justification for not utilising the unspent amount of the fund for the last three years on children suffering from rare diseases," Justice Rekha Palli said. The high court said the gov-

ernment's affidavit also gives no sufficient justification as to why names of petitioner children are not included till date on the digital crowd funding platform made operational



for medicines and treatment for rare illnesses. It asked the government to take instructions on whether it is possible to provide treatment to the petitioner children and then adjust the amount collected through crowd funding.

The court granted time to Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma to seek instructions on the issue and listed the matter for further hearing December 14.

"What is this? Children are dying because of lack of funds .. What about the corpus which is available with the government here. I will not permit these children to die despite funds being available. When there are funds, why should the children suffering from rare diseases not get it?" the judge said.

The court did not accept the sub mission of the government counsel that the unutilised amount in the fund gets lapsed and said "what kind of answer is this"

On the issue of transfer of the unutilised amount of over Rs 63 crore, lying with the Kerala High Court after it was collected from the general public for the treatment of a person suffering from a rare disease, to the rare diseases fund, the Centre told the Delhi High Court that it has filed an impleadment application before the Kerala court.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions on behalf of children suffering from rare diseases, including Duchenne Muscular (DMD) and Dystrophy Mucopolysaccharidosis II or MPS II (Hunter Syndrome), and seeking direction to the Centre to provide them uninterrupted and free of cost treatment as the therapy is very expensive.

DMD, one of the various forms of muscular dystrophy, is a rare genetic disease that affects boys almost exclusively and causes progressive weakness. MPS II is a rare disease that is passed on in families and it mainly affects boys and their bodies cannot break down a kind of sugar that builds bones. skin, tendons and other tissues.

On August 11, the court was informed that pursuant to an order passed by the Kerala High Court for establishing a digital crowd-funding platform, over Rs 63 crore were collected from the general public for the treatment of a person sufHC reserves order on plea against **AIADMK org polls** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

> Chennai, Dec 7: The Madras High Court Tuesday reserved its orders on the maintainability of a public interest writ petition challenging the organisational polls for the posts of Co-ordinator and Joint Co-ordinator of the AIADMK party, originally scheduled to be held today (December 7).

Incumbents O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami were on Monday declared elected unopposed as party Coordinator and Joint Coordinator respectively, the top two posts that together constitute the AIADMK's apex leadership.

amount was thus lying unutilised. The court had then asked the On Tuesday, the first bench of Centre to obtain instructions on the Acting Chief Justice MN Bhandari and Justice P D Audikesavalu reutilisation of the amount for the treatment of other similarly placed served its orders, without menpatients under the National Policy tioning the date, after wondering as to why the petitioner had included On January 28, the court had the Election Commission of India

as a party-respondent in the case. Unless the relevance and role of the ECI is established, the petition would be treated as not maintainable, the bench added.

In his petition, J Jayachandran of Arsanapatti in Hosur, who was allegedly manhandled when he went to the party headquarters in Royapettah to obtain nomination papers to contest in the elections December 4, cited the ECI as the first respondent.

He contended the mandatory notice of a clear 21 days from the date of announcement of election and the date of polling, was not issued.

The election officers -- C Ponnaiyan and Pollachi V Jayaraman -- nominated by the party high command, were acting whimsically.



# Amicus Curiae to look into mosquito menace in capital

fering from a rare disease, who

unfortunately expired and the

passed an order directing the cen-

tral government to make opera-

tional the digital crowd funding

platform for medicines and treat-

On March 23, the court had

passed a slew of directions in con-

nection with the treatment of per-

sons with rare diseases, including

a direction to notify the National

Health Policy for Rare Diseases by

March 31 and setting up a National

Consortium for Research,

Development and Therapeutics, a

rare diseases committee at AIIMS

It had directed that the entire un-

spent budget allocated for rare dis-

eases for the past three years shall

be immediately moved into the

rare diseases fund, which shall be

managed, supervised and utilised

by nodal agency AIIMS.

and a fund for such ailments.

for Rare Diseases, 2021.

ment for rare illnesses.

Amicus Curiae, which literally translates as a friend of the court, is a neutral lawyer appointed by the court to assist it in cases that require specific expertise

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 7: The Delhi High Court has appointed advocate Rajat Aneja as Amicus Curiae to assist the Court in suggesting ways to deal with the menace of large scale breeding of mosquitoes in the national capital, which results in vector-borne diseases such as malaria, chikungunya, and dengue, causing numerous fatalities every year.



be checked on a more permanent

North Delhi Municipal Corporation,

South Delhi Municipal Corporation,

East Delhi Municipal Corporation,

New Delhi Municipal Council, and

the Delhi Cantonment Board have

been filed in the Court on Court's

During the course of hearing, it

has been suggested by Dr Aniket

Sirohi, Deputy Health Officer,

SDMC that the Court may also take

Also, status reports from the

basis

direction.

the assistance of Dr Kalpana Barua, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), who is an expert in the field or any other expert at the hearing of the petition.

On December 1, the High Court had pulled up the AAP-led Delhi government and BJP-led municipal

A child sitting in a bucket being evacuated by a man and a policeman from a flooded area of Verma Nagar due to the overflowing Ariyar river following heavy rains, in Trichy district, Tamil Nadu

Amicus Curiae, which literally translates as a friend of the court, is a neutral lawyer appointed by the court to assist it in cases that require specific expertise.

In one of its recent order, the court said it is necessary to monitor the issue closely so that the systems are put in place by all the three Corporations, the New Delhi Municipal Council, the Delhi Cantonment Board, and by the GNCTD, and the said menace can

corporations over their inaction in containing the rising dengue fever cases in the city, saying policies were being made in populist ways and the authorities are concerned about losing votes if they do anything.

Taking note of the conditions in the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) area, the court had said the stench is unbearable in the locality.

It also stated that the authorities are not bothered about the deaths. and officials are living with the attitude that since there is a large population, the disease will come and go.

# Colder days ahead for Delhi

"Dense fog is very likely in isolated pockets over Northeast India during the next three days," the weather forecast mentioned

### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 7: In its latest forecast Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that there will be a gradual fall in the minimum temperatures by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius over most parts of northwest India, including Delhi, in the next four to five days. A similar drop will also be

recorded in the central and eastern part of the country.

"A fresh Western Disturbance seen as a trough roughly along longitude 62 degrees east to the north of latitude. Twenty-seven degrees north in lower and middle tropospheric levels. Under its influence, there is a possibility of rainfall or snowfall over Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzzafarabad during December 7 to 9 and over Himachal Pradesh December 8 and 9," the IMD said in a statement.

Besides, there will isolated to scattered light to moderate rainfall over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala Thursday with isolated heavy falls over Tamil Nadu. "Dense fog is very likely in iso-



lated pockets over Northeast India during the next three days," the forecast mentioned. Meanwhile, the national capital's maximum and minimum temperatures Tuesday were pegged at 24 degrees and 11 degrees Celsius.

Delhi Monday recorded a minimum temperature of 15 degrees Celsius -- six notches above the season's normal. The minimum temperature Sunday stood at 11.4 degrees Celsius, which was two notches above the normal.

Also, 0.8 mm rainfall was recorded at the Safdarjung Observatory in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, according to IMD data.

# Air quality panel issues new orders

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: In a stern action against industries, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Tuesday ordered immediate closure of all those NCR industries which have not switched to cleaner fuels in industrial areas despite their availability.

The CAQM said violating industries/industrial units will not be permitted to operate till December 12, 2021 and the position will be reviewed for further decisions. "There is an emergent need for preventive measures, as a matter of extreme emergency, to prevent further deterioration in air quality. Flying Squads of CAQM will launch special drives

and inspect sites to ensure compliance," the commission said. "Strict enforcement of the commission's directions to be ensured and closely monitored by the respective state governments and

government of Delhi," it said. In its official statement, the CAQM expressed concern over the 'very poor' air quality in the capital and NCR.

geomorphological significance would become the state's 16th bird sanctuary, the government said Tuesday PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Chennai, Dec 7: An extent of 5151.60 hectares in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district, a wetland

of ecological, faunal, floral and geomorphological significance would become the state's 16th

bird sanctuary, the government said Tuesday.

The 'Kazhuveli' swamp region, situated in Vanur and Marakkanam taluks of Villupuram district would now be constituted as 'Kazhuveli Wetland Birds Sanctuary,' under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, a Government Order said.

The region is of "adequate ecological, faunal, floral and geomorphological significance, for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing wildlife and its environment," the GO dated December 6 2021, released Tuesday



TN declares swamp, spread over

5,000 hectares a bird sanctuary

An extent of 5151.60 hectares in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district, a wetland of ecological, faunal, floral and

said. The Kazhuveli brackish water lake, the wetland areas fall under a string of villages including Nadukuppam, Seyvankuppam, Chettikuppam, Anumandai, Urani, Keelputhupattu and Koonimedu

"Kazhuveli Wetland **Birds Sanctuary.**" It would be the 16th sanctuary in the state

swamp region would

now be constituted as

The 'Kazhuveli'

order added. According to the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, notified in 1936 during the British era. was the first sanctuary for birds in India.

It is located about 55 kilometers from Tambaram, the key southern suburb of Chennai. Totally, there are 15 bird sanctuaries including the Pulicat and Karikili in the state. The Kazhuveli would be the 16th sanctuary in the state.





A notification would be pub-

lished both in English and Tamil

in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette

and in Tamil in the District Gazette

of the Villupuram District, the



India and Bangladesh share a strong commitment to counter destabilising forces that aid and abet terrorism and radicalization HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA INDIA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY

### **BELIEVE IT OR NOT**

The 46-year-old doctor who tested positive for Omicron variant has tested positive for Covid-19 in RT-PCR test even after completing 14 days of guarantine period, Karnataka Health Department sources said



# uote 🦅

Installed capacity of solar energy in India has increased by more than 18 times from 2.63 gigawatt in March 2014 to 47.66 gigawatt in October 2021. As a result, India's current share of non-fossil sources based installed capacity of electricity

generation is more than 40 per cent ASHWINI CHOUBEY MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT

The NDFB cadres had picked up arms for their land people while the army and police personnel also used weapons during their service period. But they put it

down once they retire. Similarly, the cadres should consider the previous chapter closed and embark on an economic revolution HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

Instead of freebies, ensuring quality and affordable education is the need of the hour as it is the key to good standard of living CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI PUNJAB CM

### SHORT TAKES

### Man attacked

Mumbai: A 35-year-old man was allegedly attacked by a gang of drug peddlers, hours after he lodged a police complaint against them in suburban Kurla here, police said Tuesday. The incident took place at Kurla pipe road late on Monday night, an official said. The victim Nilesh Kondhalkar had lodged a complaint against the gang, including a constable attached to VB Nagar police station, on Monday, he said.

### Leopard rescued

Indore: Forest officials Tuesday rescued the sixmonth-old leopard cub that had disappeared from the premises of Kamala Nehru Zoo in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city six days ago, an officials said. The cub was spotted by

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Dec 7: The Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal Tuesday formally announced their alliance for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls at a rally in Meerut and exuded confidence that the BJP will be "wiped out" from the state.

While SP chief Akhilesh Yadav promised to provide due rights to the farmers, RLD president Jayant Chaudhary said the first work after coming to power would be to build a memorial of those who died during the protest against the nowrepealed Central farm laws.

Against the backdrop of farmers' protest, the alliance is expected to give a tough fight to the  $\dot{B}JP$  in western Uttar Pradesh which had won 109 of the 136 Assembly seats in the region during the last Assembly polls.

Yadav claimed that the BJP did not have any issue to highlight and accused the BJP members of creating fissures in society. "SP and RLD workers, on the other hand, are there to strengthen brotherhood," he said. The Samajwadi Party chief

claimed that under the BJP's rule, people had to stand in queues for fertilisers and for medicine, oxygen and beds during the pandemic. They also had to stand in line during demonetisation, he said.

This time, people will queue up to oust the BJP from power.""The BJP will be wiped out from the state this time. BJP will be driven



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) President Jayant Chaudhary during Parivartan Sandesh rally ahead of the UP Assembly elections 2022, in Meerut PTI PHOTO

out ('khadeda') from western Uttar Pradesh and in the eastern part, the party's sun would set forever,' Yadav said. He also announced to provide cheap electricity to farmers and repaying their dues as he urged people to vote for the alliance to save the legacy of former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh and RLD founder Ajit Singh.

The timing of Yadav and Jayant Chaudhary's address at the Meerut rally was close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at a public meeting in Gorakhpur where he dedicated to the country three megaprojects, including an AIIMS and a fertiliser plant.

At the rally, Yadav paid homage to Bhimrao Ambedkar, Ram Manohar Lohia and farmers' leader Mahendra Singh Tikait and highlighted their contribution to making an egalitarian society.

There will be a revolution by farmers in 2022, there will be a change in 2022," he stressed, adding that there should be a decision on the legal guarantee of minimum support price for farmers.

Alleging the BJP does not want to take a decision in favour of farm-

Against the backdrop of farmers' protest. the alliance is expected to give a tough fight to the **BJP in western UP which** had won 109 of the 136 seats in the region during the last polls

ers, the Samajwadi Party chief said, "Our alliance will ensure due rights to the farmers. BJP minister and his supporters crushed farmers under their vehicle."

He was referring to the Lakhimpur Kheri incident on October 3 when four farmers were allegedly mowed down by an SUV. In the ensuing violence, four people, including a journalist and two BJP workers, were also killed.

Over a dozen people, including Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, have been arrested in the case. He alleged the claims of development by the BJP were "farce, like the fake horse used in film sets, which appears to be running but remains still at one place"

"The BJP government at the Centre is on a selling spree. They sold airports, aeroplanes, railway stations. They had promised that those wearing slippers will be able to travel on aeroplanes. Now, it is difficult for a common man to even ride a bike," Yadav said.

SP, RLD forge alliance for UP polls Modi warns BJP MPs At the meeting, Nadda asked all MPs to visit their respective constituencies after the Winter Session



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is felicitated after the announcement of November 15th as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas during the BJP Parliamentary party meeting, at Ambedkar International Centre, in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 7: In a meeting of the BJP Parliamentary Party on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked all the party MPs to regularly attend the Parliament sessions and actively participate in the legislative work. As per sources, the Prime Minister cautioned the MPs to 'bring a change in their behaviour as otherwise changes will happen'.

According to sources, while directing all the MPs to ensure their presence in the Parliament, he said, "It is not right to repeatedly tell the same thing to you like children...you bring a change in your behaviour, otherwise change will happen.

At the meeting, BJP national president J.P. Nadda asked all MPs

to visit their respective constituencies after the Winter Session and communicate with the district chiefs and mandal chiefs and call them for discussion over tea. Prime Minister Modi was quick to add that he will also invite the district presidents and divisional presidents for tea on December 14 when he will be visiting in Varanasi.

Talking about the discussions held at the Parliamentary Party meeting, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said that the Prime Minister has told all the MPs to organise sports competitions, children fitness competitions and Surya Namaskar competitions. Joshi added that Modi also directed them to remain in touch with the Padma awardees residing in their respective areas and to interact with them frequently.

### Deaf, mute woman RAPE, MURDER CONVICT GETS DEATH PEN raped, blackmailed-(

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, Dec 7: A Special POCSO Court in Gujarat Tuesday awarded death penalty to a person convicted of raping and murdering a two and a half year old girl child, officials said.

Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi said this is the third case pertaining to rape in which the court delivered the verdict swiftly -- in just 29 days.

"Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel



in today's cabinet meeting congratulated the entire police department for doing a fabulous job. I also thank the judiciary for the ver-

**Gujarat Home Minister** Harsh Sanghavi said this is the third case pertaining to rape in which the court delivered the verdict swiftly -- in just 29 days

dict. This is the third such case wherein justice has been delivered in such a quick time, and it is a historic episode not only in Gujarat,

but probably in the country,' Sanghavi told reporters.

The incident had taken place in the busy Pandesara area of Surat. Special POCSO court judge PS Kala has convicted Guddu Yadav, 35, after listening to arguments of both sides

Yadav had on November 4, a night before Diwali, abducted the girl to a bushy area, and raped her before choking her to death. He was nabbed two days later.

The police had presented a 246-

VACATION RUSH

page chargesheet in just eight days after arresting the accused. The court trial was concluded in seven days

The court handed out death penalty to the accused and also fined him Rs 20 lakh as a compensation to the family of the girl.

The court convicted the 35-yearold man who was charged for rape, murder, and abduction under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE New Delhi, Dec 7: A 29-year-old hearing and speech impaired

woman was allegedly raped in the national capital, an official here said on Tuesday, adding that the accused has been arrested According to the official, the

victim had been "repeatedly raped" since November 21, by the 34-yearold man, identified as Rehan, a resident of Mauipur. The victim, who approached the police with her mother and sister, lodged a complaint on December 5 after which, a counsellor appointed by the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) was called. However, since the victim was deaf and mute, an interpreter was required for recording her statement.

**BHIMA-KOREGAON CASE** Relief for activist



some people near the forest department's office in Navratan Bagh and it was caught with the help of a net, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Narendra Pandwa said.

### **3 cops killed**

Raipur: Three policemen were killed when their motorcycle collided with a car on a highway in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said Tuesday. The accident took place on National Highway-30 in Sukma town, around 400 km from capital Raipur, late on Monday evening Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said. The policemen were returning to Police Lines after buying some medicines, when their two-wheeler collided with a speeding car coming from the opposite direction, the official said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 7: The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed an appeal filed by the NIA against bail to activist Sudha Bharadwaj in the Bhima-Koregaon violence case.

A bench headed by Justice U.U. Lalit after hearing detailed arguments by Additional Solicitor General Aman Lekhi, representing the NIA, dismissed the appeal by the premiere investigating agency. The bench, also comprising Justices Ravindra Bhat and Bela Trivedi said there was no reason to interfere with the Bombay High Court order.

The NIA on Monday urged the Supreme Court to urgently list its petition challenging the Bombay High Court, which granted default bail to activist Sudha Bharadwaj in the Bhima Koregaon case. On December 1, the Bombay High Court granted bail to Bharadwaj in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case. However, it refused to entertain bail pleas of the other eight accused - Rona Wilson, Varavara Rao, Sudhir Dhawale, Surendra Gadling, Shoma Sen, Mahesh Raut, Vernon

Activist Sudha Bharadwaj has been in jail since August 2018 after her arrest from New Delhi by the Pune police

Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira. All the accused are lodged at the Taloja Central Jail. A division bench comprising Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamadar directed that Bharadwaj should be produced before the Special NIA Court on Wednesday which will impose the bail conditions and finalise her release.

It had noted that a special court designated under the NIA Act already existed in Pune. as a result. the sessions judge had no jurisdiction to extend the detention beyond the stipulated 90 days. Bharadwaj is the first among the 16 activists arrested in the case to be granted default bail. Earlier, another accused P. Varavara Rao was granted bail on medical grounds, while accused Fr. Stan Lourduswamy passed away in custody after a prolonged illness.



Traffic jam on a road after large number of tourists arrive at Solang in Manali

"Due to late night hours, no interpreter wasn't available. Later, a private interpreter was arranged and the DCW counsellor counselled the victim and also recorded her statement with the help of the interpreter," the official said. The medical examination of the victim was conducted at the Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital.

The police registered a case under sections 376(2)(n) and 506 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Bhajanpura police station. According to sources, the accused was residing in the same locality as the victim.

"The accused had also made an obscene video of the act and threatened the girl with dire consequences if she revealed to anyone about the heinous crime," the sources said. He also blackmailed her with the same video to rape her multiple times.

During the course of investigation, the accused was arrested after which the police produced him before a local court on Monday. "The court has sent the accused to judicial custody," the official said.

### Jawan dies

Mumbai: A 31-year-old Army jawan, who was missing since last week, died after being hit by a train in Mumbai two days back, prompting the Government Railway Police to launch a probe into his death, a GRP official said Tuesday. Bhupendra Singh Omprakash Tokas, who was based in Ludhiana, had come to Mumbai for a technical course. He was hit by a train at around Sunday midnight while crossing the tracks between Mira Road and Dahisar stations, the official said. Personnel of the GRP took him to a hospital where he was declared dead on arrival, he said. During a probe into the incident, police found the man left the Army premises at Navy Nagar in south Mumbai on November 30 without informing anyone.

# Ex-IAF man held after 11 yrs of killing his first wife, daughters

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Dec 7: An Indian Air Force sergeant, who killed his wife and two daughters to get married to another woman, has been arrested after 11 years by the Karnataka Police from Assam, police said Tuesday.

Dharam Singh Yadav (54) from Haryana was arrested at Nellie, a town in Assam, where he lived with his second wife and two children. The police got a clue on him after they got to know that he was still receiving pension from the IAF.

Yadav had joined the IAF in 1987 and retired in 1997. He was married to Anu Yaday from New Delhi. He had two daughters aged 14 years and

eight years. After retirement Yadav purchased a house in Vidyaranyapuram of Bengaluru and lived with his family. He worked as an officer in the purchase department of a private company.

Yadav had uploaded his information on marriage portals seeking a bride, claiming that he was unmarried. One woman from Assam had shown interest in his proposal and agreed to marry him. While preparing to marry the new woman, Yadav hatched a plan to get rid of his wife and two daughters. In 2008, he assaulted his wife Anu Yadav and daughters with a wooden

log and killed all of them. To divert the police investigation, he had slit the throat of wife



gold jewellery.

Anu Yadav and also took away gold jewellery. Later, he enacted a drama before the police that robbers have killed his wife and daughters for

tody. He confessed to the crime during the questioning. Yadav was sent to jail. After spending 14 months in prison he hatched a conspiracy to escape from there.

The police said that Yadav claimed to have kidney issues and was taken to a hospital. He somehow managed to take chili powder along with him. The prison authorities took him to the Urology department for consultation where the doctors asked the policemen accompanying him to make him drink water and walk for some time. While walking inside the hospital, Yadav threw chilli powder on the policemen and escaped with handcuffs on. After escaping, Yadav went back to his village in Haryana. Since his first wife Anu Yadav's family and relatives hounded him, he ran away to Assam. He worked at a bar and married the Assamese woman, and started his life all over again.

Back in Karnataka, the police department was pulled up by the court on undetected cases. DCP (South) Harish Pandey had ordered an inquiry. The new team received confirmation that the accused was still drawing a pension from the army.

The police team went to Haryana and managed to elicit information from the locals and found that he was living in Assam. With the cooperation of the Assam Police,the team from Bengaluru managed to nab Yadav.







The police after gathering cir-

cumstantial evidence suspected

Yadav and took him into their cus-







international

**Bangladesh and** India are neighbours. We should celebrate the fact that these two neighbours have enjoyed 50 years of good relations. This is a precious achievement томму кон I AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, SINGAPORE

### **TAKE A BREAK**

Instagram Tuesday launched a feature that urges teenagers to take breaks from the photosharing platform and announced other tools aimed at protecting young users from harmful content on the Facebook-owned service



18th birthday

# uote

End of an era: Germany's Merkel bows out after 16 years **Dutch Princess** quietly celebrates

The United States will pay a price for its wrongdoing. The boycott of the Games will only make people around the world see

its sinister intentions even more clearly, and further erode its credibility and morality

ZHAO LIJIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, CHINA

While the surge in infections is of great concern, we should remember that we anticipated it.



would likely experience a fourth wave around this time and that it was almost inevitable that new variants of the virus would emerge

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA



structures where the states need to be the engines that drive growth. My

recommendation to both the governments would be to prioritise such engagement between states with business leaders working alongside

ARUN KUMAR FORMER OBAMA ADMIN OFFICIAL

### SHORT TAKES

### Lynched Lankan's kin get ex gratia

Colombo: The Sri Lankan government Tuesday approved a compensation of Rs 2.5 million (nearly USD 12,500) to the kin of Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana, who was lynched by a mob in Pakistan's Punjab province over allegations of blasphemy. In a shocking incident on Friday last, supporters of the hardline Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked a garment factory in Sialkot in Pakistan and lynched its general manager Diyawadana, 49, before setting his body on fire over allegations of blasphemy.

### Explosion levels building; 3 missing

Named 'The World's Most Powerful Woman' by Forbes magazine for

the past 10 years in a row, Merkel steps down with a legacy of breaking

ASSOCIATED PRESS

through the glass ceiling of male

ending with her leaving office at age dominance in politics 67 to praise from abroad and enduring popularity at home. Her designated successor, Olaf Scholz, is expected to take office Wednesday. Berlin, Dec 7: Angela Merkel was

lor Nov 22, 2005.

Merkel, a former scientist assured of a place in the history who grew up in communist East

books as soon as she became

Germany's first female chancel-

Over the next 16 years, she

was credited with raising

Germany's profile and influence,

working to hold a fractious

European Union together, man-

aging a string of crises and being

Now that near-record tenure is

a role model for women.



Germany, is bowing out about a week short of the record for longevity held by her one-time mentor, Helmut Kohl, who reunited Germany during his 1982-

### 1998 tenure.

While Merkel perhaps lacks a spectacular signature achievement, the center-right Christian Democrat came to be viewed as an indispensable crisis manager and defender of Western values in turbulent times

She served alongside four US presidents, four French presidents, five British prime ministers and eight Italian premiers. Her chancellorship was marked by four major challenges the global financial crisis, Europe's debt crisis, the 2015-16 influx of refugees to Europe and the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's undeniable that she's given Germany a lot of soft power," said Sudha David-Wilp, the deputy director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States' Berlin office. "Undoubtedly she's elevated Germany's image in the world." When she first came onto the

scene in 2005, a lot of people underestimated her, but she grew in stature along with Germany's role in the world, David-Wilp added. Others in Europe and beyond "want more of an active Germany to play a role in the world — that may not have been the case before she was in office, necessarily."

neighboring Bangladesh. Some

10.000 have ended up in the United

States. In 2018, United Nations

human rights experts investigating

attacks against the Rohingya said

Facebook had played a role in

More than 10,000 Rohingya have

been killed and more than 150,000

were subject to physical violence,

according to the law firms organ-

izing the cases. The lawsuits say

Facebook's algorithms amplified

hate speech against the Rohingya

people and that it didn't spend

enough money to hire moderators

and fact checkers who spoke the

local languages or understood the

They also say Facebook failed to

shut accounts and pages or take

down posts inciting violence or

using hate speech directed at the

political situation.

ethnic group.

spreading hate speech.

Amsterdam. Dec 7: The heir to the Dutch throne, Crown Princess Amalia, was expected to quietly celebrate her 18th birthday at home Tuesday, in line with the country's coronavirus lockdown rules and the tradition of the Netherlands' lowkey monarchy.

REUTERS

The occasion means that Amalia, the eldest daughter of King Willem-Alexander, is now in theory ready to succeed her father as head of state.

However Amalia, formally known as the Princess of Orange, said in an approved biography pub lished last month that while she is committed to a life in service of her country, she is not quite ready to begin just yet. She would ask for her mother Queen Maxima to act as regent for a time if for any reason Willem-Alexander had to step down soon.

No ceremony was planned to mark the occasion, although Wednesday Amalia will be sworn in as a member of the country's Council of State, a body that advises on constitutional matters.

# **Biden, Putin talk for 2 hours on Ukraine** and other concerns



The White House issued

a statement saying the

not display any visuals

'Situation Room' where

nied harbouring any intention to

attack Ukraine and has said its

from the secure

Biden was located

troop posture is defensive.

talks had started, but did

### REUTERS

Washington/Moscow, Dec 7: US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin held two hours of virtual talks on Ukraine and other disputes Tuesday amid Western fears that Moscow is poised to invade its southern neighbour.

Russian TV footage showed Biden and Putin greeting each other in a friendly manner at the start of what was expected to be a tense exchange. Biden told Putin he hoped their next meeting would be in person.

But Moscow has voiced rising The White House issued a statevexation over Western military ment saying the talks had started, aid to Ukraine. a fellow former but did not display any visuals Soviet republic that has tilted tofrom the secure 'Situation Room' wards the West since a popular rewhere Biden was located volt toppled a pro-Russian president The two leaders talked for two in 2014, and what it calls creeping hours and one minute, according NATO expansion. to the White House. Moscow has likewise questioned The Kremlin has said it hopes the Ukrainian intentions and said it two leaders can hold an in-person wants guarantees that Kyiv will summit to discuss what it has denot use force to try to retake terscribed as the lamentable state of ritory lost in 2014 to Russia-backed US-Russia relations, which have separatists, a scenario Ukraine sunk to their lowest since the end has ruled out. of the Cold War.

# Rohingya refugees sue FB for \$150bn

### AGENCIES

London, Dec 7: Rohingya refugees sued Facebook parent Meta Platforms for more than USD 150 billion over what they say was the company's failure to stop hateful posts that incited violence against the Muslim ethnic group by Myanmar's military rulers and their supporters.

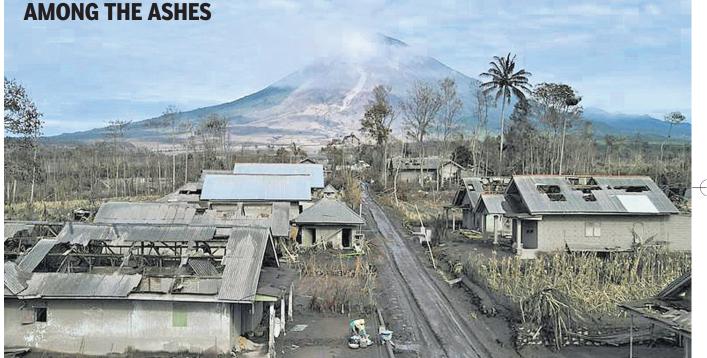
Lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit Monday in California saying Facebook's arrival in Myanmar helped spread hate speech, misinformation and incitement to violence that "amounted to a substantial cause, and eventual perpetuation of, the Rohingya genocide.<sup>3</sup>

Lawyers in the United Kingdom have issued notice of their intention to file a similar legal action. Facebook, which was recently renamed Meta, did not immediately, reply to a request for comment.

It's the latest in a series of accusations that the social media giant fueled misinformation and political violence, outlined in redacted internal documents obtained by a consortium of news organisations. including The Associated Press.

The combined legal claims from Rohingya refugees are being filed on behalf of anyone worldwide who survived the violence or had a relative who died from it.

The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic group forced to flee persecution and violence in Myanmar starting in 2017, with an estimated 1



# million living in refugee camps in **MYANMAR VIOLENCE**

Paris: French rescue workers pulled a toddler and the child's mother from the rubble of a three-story apartment building that collapsed in a suspected gas explosion on southern France's

Mediterranean coast. They were still searching Tuesday for three other people feared buried under the giant pile of debris. The child, thought to be 18 months old, was located by sniffer dogs and extracted by rescue workers who dug their way through the debris, fire department Capt. Aurelia Mannaioni said.

### Moscow: Gunman opens fire, kills 2

Moscow: A gunman opened fire in a Moscow city customer services facility, killing two people Tuesday and wounding three others, city authorities said. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said on Twitter that a suspect was detained. Sobyanin didn't offer any details about the assailant or his possible motive, saying only that the incident took place in the southeast of the city.

### 4 women stripped, thrashed over theft

Lahore: A group of people in Pakistan stripped four women including a teenager, dragged and beat them up after accusing them of "shoplifting" in the country's Punjab province. The incident took place in Faisalabad, some 180 kms from here, Monday. The four women, including a teenager, were seen in a viral video pleading to the people surrounding them to let them have a piece of cloth to cover themselves after being stripped but they were beaten with sticks.

"We're looking for good, pre-US officials said before the video dictable relations with the United conference that Biden would tell States. Russia has never intended Putin that Russia and its banks to attack anyone, but we have our concerns and we have our red could be hit with the toughest economic sanctions yet if it attacks lines," said Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov. They said the sanctions, which

Leaders from Britain, the United States, France, Germany and Italy will hold a call at 1800 GMT following the Biden-Putin talks, the White House and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said. The same allies spoke Monday

tens of thousands of troops massed near the Ukrainian border to attack and "agreed to stay in close touch on a coordinated and comprehen-The Kremlin, which said before sive approach in response to Russia's Tuesday's meeting it did not exmilitary build-up on Ukraine's borpect any breakthroughs, has deders," the White House said.

A local collects usable goods from her damaged house, at an area affected by the eruption of Mount Semeru volcano, in Curah Kobokan, Pronojiwo district, Lumajang, Indonesia

# Workweek in UAE to be Monday through Friday

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Dec 7: The United Arab Emirates said Tuesday its official workweek will move to Monday to Friday, a major change that brings the Islamic nation that is home to major financial institutions in line with Western schedules.

The decision, which is to take effect next month, makes the Gulf Arab state, home to Abu Dhabi and

**Government employees** would work a half-day on Friday and then take Saturday and Sunday off

Dubai, one of the few places in the Middle East to operate on Western hours instead of on a Sunday through Thursday working week. Government employees would

work a half-day on Friday, the traditional Muslim holy day, and then take Saturday and Sunday off, the announcement said.

The government shift likely will see private industry and schools follow suit, as they did in 2006, when the week changed from Saturday to Wednesday - an Islamic workweek followed in some Muslim countries, such as Iran and Afghanistan

The Emirati government hailed the decision as making it "the first nation in the world to introduce a national working week shorter than the global five-day week" – a reference to Friday becoming only a half-day workday.

'The extended weekend comes as part of the UAE's government efforts to boost work-life balance and enhance social wellbeing," the statement added.

# Explainer: What's behind Russia-Ukraine tensions?

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine.

Moscow, Dec 7: Ukrainian and Western officials are worried that a Russian military buildup near Ukraine could signal plans by Moscow to invade its ex-Soviet neighbour. The Kremlin insists it has no such intention and has accused Ukraine and its Western backers of making the claims to

one source said could target Russia's

biggest banks and Moscow's abil-

ity to convert roubles into dollars

and other currencies, were de-

signed to dissuade Putin from using

its southern neighbour.

cover up their own allegedly aggressive designs. It's unclear whether the Russian troop concentration heralds an imminent attack. Russian President Vladimir Putin has pushed for Western guarantees precluding NATO's expansion to Ukraine, and the buildup could reflect an at-

tempt to back up the message. Here is a look at the current tensions:

#### **Roots of Russia-Ukraine standoff**

Ukraine, which was part of the Russian empire for centuries before becoming a Soviet republic, won independence as the USSR broke up in 1991. The country has moved to shed its Russian imperial legacy and forge increasingly close ties with the West. A decision by Kremlin-leaning

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych to reject an association agreement with the European Union in favour of closer ties with Moscow sparked mass protests that led to his ouster in 2014. Russia responded by annexing Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and throwing its weight behind a separatist insurgency that broke out in Ukraine's east.

Ukraine and the West accused Russia of sending its troops and weapons to back the rebels. Moscow denied that, charging that Russians



who joined the separatists were volunteers. More than 14,000 people have died in the fighting that devastated Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland known as Donbas

A 2015 peace agreement brokered by France and Germany helped end large-scale battles, but efforts to reach a political settlement have failed, and sporadic skirmishes have continued along the tense line of contact.

Latest Russian military buildup

The US intelligence officials last week determined that Russia is planning to deploy an estimated 175,000 troops and almost half of them are already stationed along various points near Ukraine's border in preparation for a possible invasion that could begin as soon as early 2022. Ukraine has complained that Moscow has kept over 90,000 troops not far from the two countries' border following massive war games in western Russia in the fall. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry said units of the Russian 41st army have remained near Yelnya, a town about 260 kilometers north of the Ukrainian border.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told lawmakers Friday that the number of Russian troops near Ukraine and in Russianannexed Crimea is estimated at 94,300, warning that a "large-scale escalation" is possible in January. Russia hasn't provided any de-

tails about its troop numbers and locations, saying that their deployment on its own territory shouldn't concern anyone. What moscow wants

The Kremlin has accused Ukraine of failing to honour the 2015 peace deal and criticized the West for fail-

ing to encourage Ukrainian compliance. The agreement was a diplomatic coup for Moscow, requiring Ukraine to grant broad autonomy to the rebel regions and offer a sweeping amnesty to the rebels.

cease-fire violations by Russiabacked separatists and insists there is a continuing Russian troop presence in the rebel east despite the Kremlin's denials. Amid the recriminations, Russia has rejected a four-way meeting with Ukraine. France and Germany, saying it's useless in view of Ukraine's refusal to abide by the 2015 agreement. Moscow has strongly criticized the US and its NATO allies for providing Ukraine with weapons and holding joint drills, saying that en-courages Ukrainian hawks to try to regain the rebel-held areas by force.







Ukraine, in turn, has pointed to



# business



Every year, India spends around ₹5-7 lakh crore on crude oil for petrol and diesel. We can reduce this import by giving emphasis on ethanol and biofuel. NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

### **VOLKSWAGEN LAUNCHES NEW TIGUAN SUV**

Volkswagen Passenger Cars Tuesday launched the facelift version of its five-seater Tiguan SUV in the domestic market at an introductory price of ₹31.99 lakh (ex-showroom). The company at the launch event also announced the opening of bookings from Tuesday







The PLI scheme

has been crafted to promote domestic manufacturing and would lead to creation of large scale manufacturing capacity besides promoting job creation in a critical sector like food processing

MOHIT MALHOTRA DABUR INDIA LTD CEO

The Staff Accountability Framework is aimed at protecting bona fide decisions taken by the bank officers/workmen while ensuring accountability for wrong doing or inaction NIRMALA SITHARAMAN UNION FINANCE MINISTER

### SHORT TAKES

### Sonalika posts 16% market share in Nov

New Delhi: Sonalika Tractors has registered the highest market share of 16% in November, 2021 and has been among the leading market share gainers with 1.4%. Overall, the company has clocked 11,909 tractor unit sales in November 21. The company has clocked YTD exports of 22,268 tractors and surpassed entire FY'21 sales in just 8 months. This includes a whopping 72.2% YTD growth over 12,937 tractors sold in the corresponding period last year. Overall, Sonalika has sold 3,225 tractors in the month of November against 1607 tractors exported in the same month last year. Overall, Sonalika has sold 3,225 tractors in the month of November against 1607 tractors exported in the same month last year and registered the growth of 100.7%.

57000

09:15

Tata Steel

Axis Bank 3.60

ICICI Bank 3.46

Kotak Mahi 2.74

POST NEWS NETWORK

of previous year.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: The world's

largest coal producer Coal India

Limited (CIL) has registered 353.4

million tonne (MT) of coal pro-

duction during the period of April

to November, 2021, according to

CIL's report. The production was

334.5 MT during the same period

CIL produced about 53.8 MT of

coal in the month of November,

2021, posting 4.1% growth in the

same month. CIL had produced

51.7 MT of coal during the corre-

The report also suggests that

3.63

HP unveils gaming **Iaptop OMEN 16** 

# **Proposed Bill banning crypto payments** could mean jail for violations: Sources

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO CRACK DOWN HEAVILY ON CRYPTOCURRENCY TRADING SPARKED A FRENZY IN THE MARKET AND SEVERAL INVESTORS EXITED WITH SIGNIFICANT LOSSES

#### REUTERS

Mumbai, Dec 7: A proposed legislation that would ban the use of cryptocurrencies as a method of payment in India also seeks to make those who infringe the law subject to arrest without a warrant and being held without bail, according to a source and a summary of the Bill seen by Reuters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has previously flagged that it plans to ban most cryptocurrencies - a move which follows measures by China this September that intensified its crackdown on cryptocurrencies.

According the summary of the Bill, the Indian government is planning a "general prohibition on all activities by any individual on mining, generating, holding, selling, (or) dealing" in digital currencies as a "medium of exchange, store of value and a unit of account.'

Flouting any of these rules would also be "cognisable" which means an arrest without a warrant is possible, and "non bailable", it said. The source, who has direct knowledge of the matter, was not authorised to speak to media and declined to be identified. The finance ministry did not respond to an



Industry estimates suggest there are about 15 million to 20 million crypto investors in the country, with total crypto holdings of roughly 450 billion Indian rupees (US\$6 billion)

previously said it aims to promote blockchain technology, the proposed law will also deal a blow to its use as well as to the non-fungible token market in India, lawyers said. "If no payments are allowed at all

email seeking comment. Although the government has

transaction fee then it will also effectively stop blockchain development and NFT," said Anirudh Rastogi, founder of law firm Ikigai Law.

The government's plans to crack down heavily on cryptocurrency trading sparked a frenzy in the market and several investors exited with significant losses.

Lured by a barrage of advertisements and rising prices for cryptocurrencies, the number of investors in crypto assets has surged in India.

While no official data is available, industry estimates suggest there are about 15 million to 20 million crypto investors in the country, with total

### **BILL SUMMARY**

SEBI will be the regulator for Crypto assets

he Centre is planning a "general prohibition on all activities by any individual on mining. generating, holding, selling, (or) dealing" in digital currencies as a "medium of exchange, store of value and a unit of account"

Iouting any of these rules would also be "cognisable" which means an arrest without a warrant is possible, and "non bailable"

The government now plans to also come down heavily on advertisements that seek to woo new investors, according to the draft summary of the Bill and the source.

Self-custodial wallets that allow people to store digital currencies outside exchanges are also likely to be banned, the source added.

The tough new regulations stem from the central bank's grave concerns about digital currencies and aim to put in safeguards to ringfence the traditional financial sector from cryptocurrencies, the draft summary of the Bill said.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will be the regulator for crypto assets, the draft summary also said.





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Dec 7: The Madras High Court has ordered the winding up of private carrier SpiceJet Limited and directed the official Liquidator attached to the High Court to take over its assets, in a plea filed by a Swiss company over unpaid dues.

The airline said the court has staved the order for a period of three weeks, subject to the condition that it deposits the amount equivalent to USD five million within two weeks.

SpiceJet said it shall initiate appropriate remedial steps, including preferring an appeal.

The court was allowing a company petition from Credit Suisse AG, a stock corporation registered under the laws of Switzerland, which prayed for winding up of the Indian firm under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and appoint

the Official Liquidator of the High Court as the Liquidator with all powers under Section 448 of the Companies Act to take charge of SpiceJet's assets, properties, stock in trade and books of accounts.

The claimed non-payment by Credit Suisse AG "as a purported assignee" of SRT Technics, amounts to USD 24.01 million under the agreement, SpiceJet said.

The "respondent company (SpiceJet) has miserably failed to satisfy the three pronged test suggested by the Supreme Court in Mathusudan Govardhandas & Co. V. Madhu Woollen Industries (P) Ltd., and hence had rendered itself liable to be wound up for its inability to pay its debts under Section 433 (e) of the Companies Act 1956," Justice R Subramanian said in his order on Monday and directed the private carrier be wound up and the official liquidator take over its assets.

2018 constituting 3.27 per cent and 37.26 per cent of NIC in terms of volume and value respectively; 2,233 mpcs were in circulation on November 26, 2021, constituting 1.75 per cent and 15.11 per cent of

fresh indent has been placed with currency printing presses for the banknote from 2018-19 onwards.

"The decrease in circulation of ₹2,000 note issued after demonetisation is because no fresh indent has been placed for printing of these notes from 2018-19 onwards. Further, notes also go out of circulation as they get soiled/mutilated." he said.

November 8, 2016, the government had decided to demonetise the then prevailing ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes to curb black money, among other objectives. Following demonetisation, ₹2,000 note and a new series of ₹500 note were introduced.

said demand for currency depends upon several macro-economic factors, including economic growth and level of interest rate.

Precautionary demand generated by the public during fiscal 2020-21 due to Covid-19 pandemic induced uncertainties is also an important factor in currency demand.

"Combination of greater public demand for cash and a contraction in GDP has led to an increase in\_ Currency in Circulation (CiC) as percentage of GDP from 12 per cent during 2019-20 to 14.5 per cent during 2020-21," Chaudhary said.

However, year-on-year growth in CiC has decelerated sharply to 7.9 per cent as in November 2021 from pandemic influenced surge to 22.2 per cent a year ago, he added.



### crypto holdings of roughly 450 biland an exception is not made for lion Indian rupees (US\$6 billion). ₹2,000 notes now 1.75% of banknotes in circulation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: The number of ₹2,000 currency notes in circulation has decreased to 223.3 crore pieces or 1.75 per cent of total notes in circulation (NIC) in November this year, compared to 336.3 crore pieces in March 2018.

Printing of banknotes of particular denomination is decided by the government in consultation with the Reserve Bank to maintain desired denomination mix for facilitating transactional demand of public, said Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State in Finance Ministry, in a written reply in the Raiva Sabha.



New Delhi: HP has introduced the HP OMEN 16, a new addition to its gaming PC portfolio in India. The new gaming notebook features a 16.1-inch screen with 16:9 aspect ratio. The laptop is equipped with the next gen 11th Gen Intel Core Processor & NVIDIA GeForce RTX 30 Series to boost gaming performance. To enable a smooth game play experience. it runs all games at 1080p and 60fps. The device includes up to 1x PCIe Gen4 SSD storage The HP OMEN 16 laptop is available at a starting price of ₹139,999. According to HP India Gaming Landscape Report 2021, 89% Indian gamers believe that a PC offers a better gaming experience than a smartphone.

### **Day-1: Rategain IPO** subscribed 41%

New Delhi: The initial public offer of Rategain Travel Technologies Limited received a 41 per cent subscription on the first day Tuesday. The IPO received bids for 71,88,090 shares against 1,73,51,146 shares on offer, according to data available with the exchanges. The Retail Individual Investors category received full subscriptions on the first day, getting subscribed 2.23 times, while the non-institutional investors portion got subscribed 4 per cent. The IPO has a fresh issue of up to ₹375 crore and an offer for sale of up to 2,26,05,530 equity shares. The three-day offer has a price range of ₹405-425 per share. RateGain Travel Technologies Monday raised ₹599 crore from anchor investors. The travel and hospitality technology services provider's offer is expected to fetch ₹1,335.73 crore at the upper end of the price band.

SBI 2.43 **GRAPHICS** 

Tata Motors 3.23 IOC -0.12

CIL produces 353 MT coal in

Among all CIL subsidiaries,

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)

posted highest coal production in

November. According to the re-

port, MCL produced 14.9 MT in

the same month registering 16.2%

monthly growth. The CIL sub-

sidiary had produced 12.8 MT in the

Chemicals Zone in Ruwais," the

April-Nov, supplies 421 MT

"As against 3,363 million pieces (mpcs) of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes in circulation on March 31.

Overall, MCL's total coal pro-

duction now reached 100.3 MT dur-

ing April to November, 2021. It has

gained 14.3% growth as compared to

same period of the previous fiscal.

that CIL supplied 56.8 MT of coal

in November surpassing the set

target for the same month. The

growth was 10.8 %. During the pe-

riod of April to November, CIL

supplied 421.1 MT to its customers

compared to 357.1 MT during same

The subsidiary MCL alone sup-

plied 112.7 MT to its customers

during April to November, 2021

period of the previous fiscal.

Moreover, the report revealed

NIC in terms of volume and value, respectively," he said. Chaudhary further said that no

Indian geospatial market can grow at 12.8% by 2025

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hvderabad. Dec 7: India's geospatial economy is currently valued at ₹38,972 crore and has potential to grow to ₹63,100 crore at 12.8 per cent by 2025 end, according to India Geospatial 'Artha' Report, released here Tuesday.

The report, which was launched at the GeoSmart India 2021, in presence of Amit Khare, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Kiran Kumar, Vikram Sarabhai Professor, ISRO, says that if the Centre implements the three geospatial policies by 2022, which are currently in the draft stage, the country's Geospatial economy has the poLater, banknote of denomination of ₹200 too was introduced. In another reply, the minister

tential to double in a year.

The Centre is currently in the

process of finalizing the draft

National Geospatial Policy (NGP)

and the Indian Satellite

Navigation Policy (SATNAV

Policy). It has already imple-

mented Guidelines for Geospatial

Data (Guidelines for acquiring

and producing geospatial data

and geospatial data services, in-

Speaking at the launch, Khare

said evolving technologies in geospa-

tial sector has brought about trans-

formational changes whereby even

an inch of a land in India can be

mapped, thus providing solid back-

velop its downstream operations

in Ruwais. These projects include

adding refining and petrochem-

The oil refinery planned at

'The project builds on ADNOC

Ruwais is being designed to be

integrated with the petrochemi-

and Reliance's long-standing strate-

gic partnership and is Reliance's

first investment in the MENA re-

The signing of the joint venture

terms, which are subject to regu-

Chairman and Managing Director

Mukesh D Ambani.

gion," the statement said.

ical capacity.

cal project.

cluding maps) in 2021.

### **NESTLE INDIA GETS PLI SCHEME NOD FOR** FOOD PROCESSING

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Dec 7: FMCG major Nestle India Tuesdav said it has received approval from the government for the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for processed fruits and vegetables.

In June 2021, the company had submitted its proposal towards the Indian government's PLI for the food processing sector under the eligible categories of ready-toeat/ready-to-cook and processed fruits and vegetables, Nestlé India said in a regulatory filing.

It further said that on December 6, 2021, the company has "received communication from the Government of India that its proposal with respect to processed fruits and vegetables has been approved.

Thanking the government for the approval, Nestlé India said it has "always believed that the PLI scheme for the food processing sector will help farmers and the food processing industries.

It is overall a good step for an industry that has one of the better ratios of capital investment and employment generation, the company said.

The food processing ministry Monday had said it has approved 60 applications of investment proposals by packaged food companies, including Amul, ITC, HUL, Britannia Industries, Parle Agro, Tata Consumer Products and Nestle India seeking benefits under the PLI scheme.

In March this year, the government had approved a PLI schemefor the food processing sector, entailing an outlay of ₹10,900 crore.

sponding month previous year. same month of the previous year. registering 21.6% growth. ups for land reforms. Reliance, UAE chemical firm form \$2bln production JV

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Tuesday said it will in partnership with Abu Dhabi Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd (TA'ZIZ) invest USD 2 billion in setting up a petrochemical production facility in the UAE.

state holding company ADQ for

developing the facility at Ruwais

to launch 'TA'ZIZ EDC & PVC', a

world-scale chemical production

partnership at the TA'ZIZ Industrial

'TA'ZIZ and RIL, have agreed

in western Abu Dhabi.

The oil-to-telecom conglomerdesign phase with project start up ate will join the recently-formed targeted in 2025. TA'ZIZ joint venture of Abu Dhabi "Representing the first producstate energy giant ADNOC and

tion of these chemicals in the UAE, the project will enable the substitution of imports and the creation of new local value chains, while also meeting growing demand for these

chemicals globally," it said. The TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemicals Zone is a joint venture between



Abu Dhabi National Oil Company ADNOC, which pumps most of latory approvals, was witnessed by UAE Minister of Industry and ADNOC chief executive Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber and Reliance

the UAE's 3 million barrels per day of crude oil, plans to spend USD 45 billion with partners to de-







(ADNOC) and ADQ.



tion facility, with an investment of more than USD 2 billion. The TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemical Zone projects are currently in the







# **EYEING THE URN**

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brisbane, Dec 7: One particular contest between bat and ball could shape this Ashes series. Pat Cummins is set to lead the home team, putting a fast bowler's perspective on Australia's test cricket captaincy for the first time since the 1950s. Joe Root is primed to lead England with the bat again in a series he thinks may define his career.

Root was already feeling some pressure before it was confirmed that Jimmy Anderson, England's all-time leading test wicket taker, will miss the first test starting Wednesday at the Gabba.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler said the senior players in the team were ready to step up to support Root, and the return of inspirational all-rounder Ben Stokes would also help.

Root heads into this series as the leading test batsman in the world, having scored 1,455 runs in 12 tests in 2021 at an average of 66.

But England has lost nine of the 10 tests it has played in Australia since its drought-breaking series win Down Under in 2010-11, mostly by big margins. Root has been on the last two tours, and was captain for the 4-0 loss in 2017-18.

And then there's England's record at the Gabba, where it hasn't won a test since 1986 and has recorded only two wins since 1946. Buttler said England was only looking back as far as January

**KEY PLAYERS** 

AUSTRALIA: Pat Cummins, David Warner, Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne & Josh Hazlewood.

ENGLAND: Joe Root, Jos Buttler, Ben Stokes, Stuart Broad & Chris Woakes.

firmed at the coin toss.

Cummins revealed his starting XI well ahead of time, giving himself plenty of time to adjust to his new job. That now includes attending the pre-match news conferences and going out for the coin toss instead of marking out his run-up to prepare to bowl.

The 28-year-old Cummins made his test debut as a teenager in 2011 and was elevated to the captaincy when Tim Paine quit last month after media reports he'd been

investigated four years earlier by cricket administrators for sending an explicit text to a work colleague

He said he plans to rely heavily on his experienced deputy Steve Smith, who was replaced as Australia's test captain by Paine in 2018

the Ashes in England in 2019. Alex Carey was given the wicketkeeper gloves to replace Paine and Travis Head was retained to bat at No.5. The Australians haven't

played a test since the 1-2 series loss to India in January, while England has played in Sri Lanka and India and hosted New Zealand and India in series. But the wet weather and quar-

antine requirements means neither team is going into the series with a lot of red ball cricket form.

The bulk of the Australian team was involved in the T20 World Cup victory in the UAE last month, where coach Justin Langer gave the playing group more control over the

preparations. It's something Cummins wants to carry into the test arena.

## weather playing spoilsport.



victories, while 91 matches ended in draws

**ANDERSON TO** 

**MISS OPENER** 

BRISBANE: England have decided to

rest senior pacer James Anderson

for the first Ashes Test beginning

workload management. By not play-

management feels Anderson can be

better prepared for the subsequent

pink-ball Test in Adelaide. "Jimmy is

fit to play, and is not carrying an injury. With five Tests in six weeks

the plan was to get him ready for

the second Test in Adelaide," the

England and Wales Cricket Board

England's "limited" preparations

ahead of the first Test with the

sion also took into account

(ECB) said in a statement. The deci-

here Wednesday as part of their

ing the series opener, the team

### HE ASHES IN AUSTRALIA

57 Test wins for England III Australia II 202 englands compared to the hosts' 95 victories, while 28 games ended in draws

662/9d The highest team total in an innings, made by the Aussies in 2017 at Perth; England's highest (644) came at Sydney in 2011

# SA name squad for India Tests<sup> $-\epsilon$ </sup>



**DEAN ELGAR (CAPTAIN)** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, Dec 7: Pacer Sisanda Magala and wicketkeeperbatsman Ryan Rickelton were the new faces in South Africa's 21-member squad announced on Tuesday for the three-Test series against India beginning December 26.

Pacer Duanne Oliver, who last played a Test in 2019, is also back in the side to be led by Dean Elgar. The seasoned pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje too returned after being rested in the ODIs against the Netherlands.

Glenton Stuurman and Prenelan Subrave have also made their way back into the team.





**RYAN RICKELTON** The development threatened the

whole series but both BCCI and

Cricket South Africa worked to-

**THE SQUAD** 

Dean Elgar (C), Temba Bavuma (vc), Quinton de Kock (wk), Kagiso Rabada, Sarel Erwee, Beuran Hendricks, George Linde, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Anrich Nortje, Keegan Petersen, Rassie van der Dussen, Kyle

Verreynne, Marco Jansen, Glenton Stuurman, Prenelan Subrayen, Sisanda Magala, Ryan Rickelton & Duanne Olivier.

The first Test has been pushed back a week to start on Boxing Day in the wake of a new COVID-19 variant detected in southern Africa.

gether to ensure it goes ahead. The three-match rubber is part of the World Test Championship and India will be aiming to secure their maiden series win in South Africa.

series schedule Monday.

The first Test will be played in Centurion, second in Johannesburg from January 3 and third in Cape Town from January 11. Three ODIs will be held after that and four T20s, which were part of the original schedule, will be held later. The CSA had announced the revised

# Barca have a mountain to climb

A daunting Bayern test awaits Xavi's men as they eye win against the German giants to make into the Champions League knockouts



the line thanks to strikes from Kingsley Coman and Robert Lewandowski, whose goals once again proved invaluable in Der Klassiker at the weekend.

Jude Bellingham's post-match attack on referee Felix Zwayer made all the headlines, as a potential penalty for Borussia Dortmund was waved away while Lewandowski tucked home a controversially-awarded spot-kick to sink his former club in a 3-2 success. No team in the 2021-22

Champions League has scored more goals than Bayern's 19 in the group stages, with the German champions scoring at least two per game and hitting both Dynamo Kiev and Benfica for five at the

after being held to a goalless stalemate by Benfica on matchday five.

La Blaugrana sit two points above their Portuguese counterparts in second spot, but they have a worse head-to-head record and Benfica will certainly be confident of beating Dynamo Kiev, so Xavi's side are at an alarming large risk of settling for Europa League football.

The Catalan club do not exactly travel to Munich high on confidence either, as Real Betis' Juanmi condemned Xavi to the first defeat of his reign as Barcelona manager at the weekend - ending Barca's sixgame unbeaten run across all competitions in the process.

A paltry tally of three wins from their last nine in all tournaments

NUMBERS GAME wins for Australia in 335 Ashes Tests since its inception in 1882 compared to England's 108 AGENCIES

No. of Ashes series have been played so far, with Australia winning 33, one more than

# England (32), while six ended in draws

Test wins for England in Australia in 180 matches,

when an injury-depleted India squad clinched a series win by ending Australia's unbeaten record at the Gabba that dated to 1988.

England released a 12-man squad later Tuesday, leaving most speculation over the formation of the bowling attack. Stuart Broad, Chris Woakes. Mark Wood and Ollie Robinson were included as specialist pace bowlers, and left-arm spinner Jack Leach was also in the mix. The starting XI will be conafter the infamous Sandpapergate scandal in South Africa.

He served a suspension from leadership positions and was the leading batter when Australia retained

79 The lowest team total in an innings since 2000, made by England in 2002 at Brisbane; Australia's lowest (98) came in 2010 at Melbourne

> **L173** Runs scored by Steve Smith at home, most among the active players from both teams, in 13 matches (22 innings) at an average of 65.16

> > **50** Wickets taken by James Anderson in Australia, most among the active players from both teams, in 18 matches (34 innings) with a strike-rate of 72.0 and at an average of 35.43

while La Blaugrana are in a two-way fight with Benfica for second place.

As widely expected, the Champions League group stage has been a walk in the park for Bayern Munich, who have strolled to five wins from five to ease into the last 16 as one of three teams - alongside Liverpool and Ajax - currently boasting a perfect group record.

Barcelona, Dec 7: Still yet to be

assured of a place in the Champions

League knockout rounds, Barcelona

face a mammoth task against

Bavern Munich in Wednesday's

Julian Nagelsmann's side are

lready guaranteed to finish first.

final Group E clash.

Nagelsmann's men were made to work for their victory over Dynamo Kiev on the penultimate matchday but ultimately got over

Allianz Arena already.

A pair of 1-0 victories over

Dynamo Kiev is hardly anything

to shout about for a club of

Barcelona's calibre, especially see-

ing as they failed to confirm their

second-place finish in Group E

represents a true fall from grace for Nagelsmann's side have not been Barcelona, but they ought to take without their faults this season, confidence from their away form but they have won eight of their in Europe-losing just one of their nine home games in all tournalast 10 Champions League games ments since the season kicked off, on the road. and Barcelona's teething issues Such a streak may pale into inunder Xavi are apparent.

significance against a well-oiled Bayern machine, though, with the German champions running riot in a 3-0 Camp Nou win earlier this season - Barca's fifth defeat from their last six games versus the Bavarian powerhouses.

# Gray helps Toffees Hardik picks rehab over Baroda duty gun down Gunners

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool. Dec 7: Two thunderous strikes by Demarai Gray delivered three precious points for Everton.

On a night of protest then jubilation inside Goodison Park, Everton ended their eight-match winless run by rallying for a 2-1 victory over Arsenal Monday — and it was all thanks to a winger whose offseason arrival from Bayer Leverkusen for 1.7 million pounds (USD 2.25 million) is proving a bargain.

Gray sent in a fierce strike from the edge of the area that struck the crossbar and was headed in by Richarlison off the rebound for Everton's equalizer in the 79th minute.

Then, from further out, Gray cut inside from the left and unleashed a right-footed shot with even more venom in the second minute of stoppage time. The ball flew in off the inside of the post and Grav celebrated by removing his jersey and wading into a section of fans beside the field.

It sparked wild celebrations inside the stadium at the end of a match that featured a walkout by some fans after 27 minutes, in a signal of their unhappiness at the



Everton board's running of the club amid the 27th season without a trophy.

Some of the fans were seen making their way toward the exits inside Goodison Park as play continued, with the score at 0-0.

The majority that hung around saw its team fall behind again thanks to Martin Odegaard's volley in the second minute of firsthalf injury time, which put Arsenal on course for a win to climb back into fifth place.

It was Everton's first win since September 25 and moved the team eight points clear of the relegation zone

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Out of favour India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has decided to skip Vijay Hazare Trophy (National One Davers) starting across the country from Wednesday as he is undergoing an extensive rehabilitation programme in order to regain his bowling fitness.

The Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) had sent an e-mail to Hardik enquiring about his availability for the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He has rarely played for Baroda in last three years. However he gave a one-line reply that he is currently doing rehab in Mumbai," a senior official privy to developments in BCA told this agency on conditions of anonymity. Asked what is the injury he is car-

rying at the moment, the official said: "Even the BCA doesn't know. It is understood that he is trying to do some strength and conditioning

module for his back which is no longer in best of shape post surgery in 2019," the source revealed. If Hardik doesn't play the do-

mestic tournaments, he will not be considered for a comeback in the Indian side for the white ball tournaments. "The current national selection committee has told all the players that all those who are not in the India squad should go back



and play domestic cricket-Hazare and Ranji Trophy," the source added.

The junior Pandya is understandably not keen on playing Test cricket anymore in order to prolong his career and will concentrate primarily on T20Is and ODIs and for that he needs to start bowling regularly.

While he is doing his rehab in Mumbai, he would ultimately need to go to the NCA and prove his fitness in-front of the coaches over there before he is considered for na-

tional selection. There was a time when Indian players used to procure fitness certificate from NCA but that culture was changed after erstwhile Director of Cricket Rahul Dravid took charge.

Dravid made it mandatory for every player to come to NCA, appear for all the necessary fitness tests in-front of the coaches, trainers and physios and then only are given the go-ahead to play matches.

Venkatesh Iyer, who is being seen as Pandya's potential future replacement, could be picked for the ODIs in order to add variety and also have that sixth bowler option.

# Odisha eves go down fighting in semifinals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kozhikode, Dec 7: Defending champions Manipur defeated Odisha via penalty shootout in the semifinal to set up a summit clash against Railways in the Senior Women's National Football Championship here Tuesday.

Manipur and Odisha were locked in a 1-1 stalemate after regulation 90 minutes and 30 minutes of extra time before the penalty shootout was ordered. Three Manipuri players scored while none from Odisha found the target in the penalty shootout.

In the other semifinal, Railways beat Mizoram, also via penalty shootout, 6-5 after both sides were locked 1-1 in the regulation and extra time. The final will be played Friday.

The match between Manipur and Odisha began on a slow pace with both teams testing each other out and chances were few and far between.

The only highlight of the first half was when Papki Devi scored an own goal which gave Odisha the early lead in the 11th minute.

Just when Odisha were looking at the prospect of going into the breather with 1-0 lead, Manipur's Kiranbala Chanu (45+3) rose to the occasion in the dying minutes of the first half and scored from a -

beautiful corner to level the score.

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