BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 | 2021

NOSTALGIC MOMENTS

Actor Sara Ali Khan recreates her mother Amrita Singh's popular song Jab Hum Jawan Honge from 'Betaab' in a reality show

LEISURE



HINDU DEITY'S HOMECOMING

An ancient idol of a goddess missing from a UP temple will soon find its way back home to India from the UK

INTERNATIONAL P10



AUSSIES TAKE LEAD

Australia draw first blood in the Ashes as they beat England by 9 wickets in the series-opener at the Gabba

SPORTS P1

12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

₹2.33cr down the drain as

check dams lying defunct

ISSUE 251 | www.orissapost.com

■ Lack of proper planning, The purpose of building the unsuitable locations, flawed concepts and incomplete check dams have ensured huge losses to the state exchequer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Although the state government is pumping in huge amount of money for building check dams for irrigation purposes, large tracts of farmlands do not get a drop of water as many of these check dams remain dysfunctional, indicating large-scale corruption in the

This was revealed in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India's report which was tabled in the Assembly re-

CAG REPORT

cently. The check dams built by the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water department have become defunct, said the CAG report tabled in the Assembly recently. Lack of proper planning, selection of unsuitable locations, flawed conception and incomplete check dams have incurred a loss of ₹2.33 crore to the

state exchequer, the report said. The implementing agencies were instructed in 2012 to build the check dams. They were instructed to keep in view the nearby farmlands and consult with the Minor Irrigation Division engineers while choosing suitable sites and making blueprints. They were also told to rope in local farming groups to functionalise the check

check dams was also to provide employment to rural populace under MGNREGS. The CAG scrutinised documents of 2 Gram Panchavats and BDOs under 7 Panchayat Samitis between 2018 and 2020. Construction of 48 check dams at the cost of ₹3.13 crore was targeted between 2009 and 2018 under MGNREGS. By March 2018, 37 check dams were built with ₹2.48 crore, out of which, 30 costing ₹2.03 crore were audited. This apart, 11 check dams costing ₹30.35 lakh remained incomplete.

The audit revealed that these check dams were not being utilised for irrigation of farmlands, were built randomly with no farmland nearby and lacked water containing capacity.



None of the aforementioned directions were followed and no observation was made as to which crops required irrigation, before building the check dams.

Even more shockingly, the dams were not handed over to the local farming groups or Pani Panchayats, the CAG report revealed. Due to this, check dams built at the cost of ₹2.03 crore have been lying defunct for

With this, MGNREGS scheme's goal of strengthening the natural resources and increasing the farmland's fertility to boost employment in rural areas has taken

NAVEEN WRITES TO PM FOR 14.84L PMAY-G HOUSES

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding 14.84 lakh housing units under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). Patnaik urged Modi to sanction 1.84 lakh houses for families hit by Cyclone Fani under PMAY-G and 13 lakh houses for the non-Fani affected in tribal dominated districts and backward KBK region. He thanked the PM for sanctioning 8.17 lakh PMAY-G houses to Odisha while drawing his attention to the woes of many families of KBK region and tribal dominated districts of the state and many families who have lost their houses in Cyclone Fani in 2019. He said the RD Ministry had allowed identification of eligible left-out families through 'Awaas Plus' by March 7, 2019. But the state could identify only 35,000 families within this stipulated period.



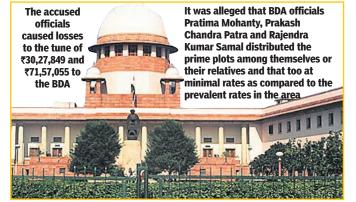
SC junks DQ in govt plot allotment

■ The top court allowed a state govt's petition and cleared decks for prosecution of three officials, who had given away prime lands in Bhubaneswar for a song POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Supreme Court Saturday held that discretionary quota (DQ) in allotment of government properties inevitably leads to nepotism, corruption and favouritism, and this practice needs to be stopped. The bench held that the allotment of public properties must be through auction process.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathana set aside an order of the Orissa High Court and allowed the state government's plea to initiate trial against three accused officials of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Housing and Urban Development department, who clandestinely distributed prime plots in Commercial Complex District Centre at Chandrasekharpur Bhubaneswar.

"Allotment of public properties must be transparent and has to be fair and non-¬arbitrary. In such



matters, public interest has to be the prime guiding consideration. The allotment of plots in the discretionary quota cannot be at the whims of the persons in power and/or the public servants who are dealing with the allotment of plots in the discretionary quota," the bench held.

The apex court noted that even if guidelines are issued to be followed while allotment of the plots under the discretionary quota and it is found that many a time they are hardly followed or are manipulated to suit the particular circumstances. Therefore, the best thing is to do away with such discretionary quota and allotments of the public properties/plots must be through public auction by and large, the apex court said.

Even in the case where the policy decision is taken to allot the plots to a particular class – downtrodden class- in that case also the guidelines must be strictly followed and as observed hereinabove the allotment must reflect the fair play and non-arbitrariness and should have objective, criteria/procedure,' the bench ruled.

Significantly, it was alleged that BDA officials Pratima Mohanty, Prakash Chandra Patra and Rajendra Kumar Samal distributed the prime plots among themselves or their relatives and that too at minimal rates as compared to the prevalent rates in the area. The accused officials caused losses to the tune of ₹30.27.849 and ₹71.57.055 to the BDA.

As per settled proposition of law while examining an FIR/complaint quashing of which is sought, the court cannot embark upon any enquiry as to the reliability or genuineness of allegations made in the FIR/complaint," the 25-page judgement read.

Notably, a case was registered against the accused by Vigilance unit of Bhubaneswar which filed the chargesheet against all the accused.

The chargesheet said that the accused had entered into criminal conspiracy and committed criminal misconduct by abusing their official position showing undue favour to their relatives and allowed illegal pecuniary advantage to the allottees in allotting 10 plots.

Five accused – Bibhuti Bhushan Ray, Parsuram Biswal, Pratima Mohanty, Rajendra Kumar Samal and Prakash Chandra Patra approached the High Court and prayed to quash the criminal proceedings against them. The HC had quashed the criminal proceedings against

State extends free ration scheme by 4 more months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The state government has extended the distribution of free ration to the beneficiaries covered under its own State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) by four months.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed officials concerned to extend distribution of additional 5 kg of rice per head free of cost to beneficiaries of the SFSS from December 2021 to March 2022, Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement Saturday. The directive was issued in view

of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation. As many as 2,88,528 families comprising 9,15,532 members covered under the scheme will be benefited from this move, it said.

For this purpose, the state government will distribute 4,578 tonne rice per month totalling 18,310.640 tonne rice (for four months) from the state pool with an expenditure of ₹68.13 crore from its own fund.

This will facilitate beneficiaries enrolled in the State Food Security Scheme to remain on par with beneficiaries under NFSA, the CMO said. Notably, the Centre has recently extended the free foodgrain distribution scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann

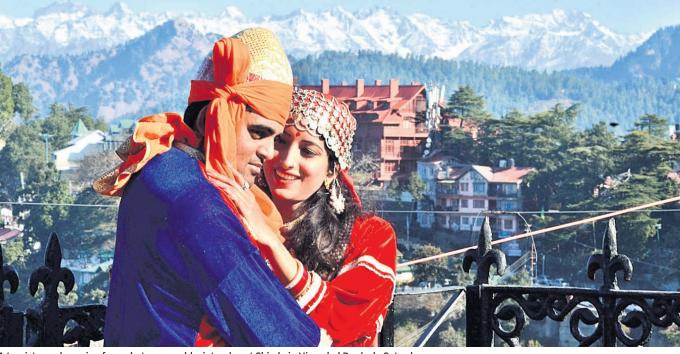
IRREGULAR by MANJUL



still a crime unlike drunk newsreading!!

WEATI	HER		
	BHUB	СТК	
MAX	29.0°€	29.0°	
₽ MIN	19.6°(18.8°	Forecast
Humidity	76%	76%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Partly cloudy sky

WINTER IS HERE



A tourist couple posing for a photo on a cold winter day at Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Saturday

'Triumphant' farmers start returning home

■ *The 15-month-long protests* ended Thursday when the Centre promised the farmers to consider all other demands apart from scrapping the contentious farm laws

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 11: Tikri and Ghazipur borders of Delhi Saturday witnessed the end of a long protest as farmers who have been camping in the national capital for over a year started heading back homes celebrating their success of repeal of the three contentious farm laws.

Farmers were seen packing their bags and moving in tractors used in their fields -- which they have been using for commuting and protesting. They hugged each other and bade good bye. Some were seen



distributing sweets and rejoicing with dancing steps. Their makeshift homes were dismantled almost 15 months after farmers' agitation began against the (now scrapped) farm laws and other issues

The majority of the farmers will start returning to their villages in Punjab from the Singhu and Tikri borders, which they made their homes since November last year. Hundreds of tractors are queued up at Delhi borders to take the farmers back home.

While the farmers have started dismantling the tents, some have already left for their villages after the government Thursday sent a letter promising to meet the demands.

Some elderly farmers were seen cleaning the place where they had set up tents. The roads are also being cleared of things to make it look like what it was before the agitation. It may take days to completely vacate the entire border area as the protesters are large in numbers. However, the trafffic slowly started to resume at Singhu border as hundreds of tractors

carrying farmers left the site. A farmer, Rohi Singh from Bhatinda told IANS that they were not totally satisfied with the way government treated the farmers, on one hand we say "Jai jawan, Jai kisan" on the other, the government is totally against the farmers. He also said that they feel sad for 700 farmers who lost their lives during the protest.

Barricades are still in place but once the protesters completely vacate, police said, they will take charge of the place. The entire area that changed due to the protests over a long period, is set to start regular activities and mixed reactions have been seen by the locals.

A shopkeeper named Yash Verma said, he has a shop of electrical appliances, but his customers have been facing hardships as the way to his shop was diverted due to the protest. He has been facing a forty per cent loss in sales as most of the areas or the routes were closed due to which the customers found troublesome to reach the shop, Verma said.

State bids adieu to Rana Pratap

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Junior Warrant Officer (JWO) Rana Pratap Das, who was killed in the helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu's Coonoor, as his mortal remains arrived at the Bhubaneswar airport Saturday morning.

Das, a native of Talcher in Angul district, was killed in the helicopter crash December 8 along with India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and 11 others.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) officer was given a guard of honour by the personnel of the 120 Infantry Battalion. State ministers, MLAs and top police officers, including Director-General of Police Abhay, were among those who paid floral tributes to JWO Das at the airport.

The body was then taken to his village Krushnachandrapur in Talcher.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), on the direction of Union



CM Naveen Patnaik pays homage to JWO Rana Pratap Das

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, prepared a special crematorium at the village for his last rites. People of JWO Das' native vil-

lage have been demanding that the road between Talabeda and Krishnachandrapur be named after him. Later in the day, Rana Pratap's mortal remains were consigned to flames in the presence of family members, officials of the IAF and hundreds of people.

Tornadoes tear through US, claim at least 70

Mayfield (US), Dec 11: At least 70people were feared dead in Kentucky after tornadoes and severe weather tore through multiple states and caused catastrophic damage.

Kentucky Governor Andv Beshear said at a news conference Saturday that the death toll may exceed 100. "This has been the most devastating tornado event in our state's history," Beshear said.

The storms hit a candle factory in Kentucky, an Amazon facility in Illinois and a nursing home in Arkansas. Beshear said about 110 people were in the Mayfield factory when the tornado hit.

Kentucky State Police Trooper Sarah Burgess said search and rescue teams were going through the rubble Saturday but didn't yet have a number for how many have died.

"We just can't confirm a number right now because we are still out there working, and we have so many agencies involved in helping us,' Burgess said. President Joe Bidentweeted Saturday that he was briefed MORE P10 on the situation.



eisure

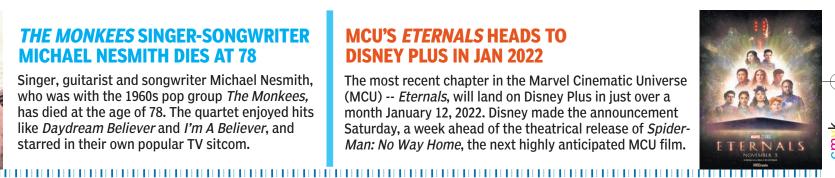


THE MONKEES SINGER-SONGWRITER MICHAEL NESMITH DIES AT 78

Singer, guitarist and songwriter Michael Nesmith, who was with the 1960s pop group The Monkees, has died at the age of 78. The quartet enjoyed hits like Daydream Believer and I'm A Believer, and starred in their own popular TV sitcom.

MCU'S ETERNALS HEADS TO **DISNEY PLUS IN JAN 2022**

The most recent chapter in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) -- Eternals, will land on Disney Plus in just over a month January 12, 2022. Disney made the announcement Saturday, a week ahead of the theatrical release of Spider-Man: No Way Home, the next highly anticipated MCU film.



GaneshaSpeaks.com

Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today, people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesha. pany of friends and loved ones.

TAURUS

Armed with ingenuity and lateral thinking, you are all set to take on today with practised ease, feels Ganesha. The toughest of problems will crumble like a house of cards before your intellect. A promotion or salary hike is also likely today. Money lenders and brokers will have a profitable day, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

An extremely profitable and progressive day awaits you. You may come into a handsome inheritance. Your responsibilities will increase along with a possible promotion at work. However, do not let your success go to your head, says Ganesha

CANCER

Ganesha says that you will carve out your path for progress. You will aet respect and recognition from people. Business rivals and illness may bother vou. Beware of enemies' actions. Your

LEO

You will be in a light-hearted mood today. Be it at the office or at the home, you will be full of joy and will be looking to pass your time lesiurely. You will spend time with family and friends. You will be ling work today in your current mood,

You may relieve all the tension and pressure inside you today, a day which will be full of light and relaxing moments. Ganesha foretells a beneficial and progressive day for you. You will gatherings and parties.

Ganesha says that to gain future opportunities you may have to rely on past sessive about things close to you. You wil also have to deal with unpleasant situa tions where your integrity is questioned All said and done your day will go good except for minor issues and your under standing attitude will be praise worth

SCORPIO

Today, Ganesha is in the mood to give you health tips. Cultivate healthy eating habits and exercise regularly to stay away from disorders like obesity. Irregular eating habits and unhealthy lifestyle may lead to many other troubles. Eat healthy, stay happy.

SAGITTARIUS

You are on a high today and rounds you. You are per formance driven and shall give you best in anything you take up. Listen to your inner voice, it will guide you to the correct path. Ganesha showers His benevolent

CAPRICORN

You have meticulously planned every aspect of your plan and prepared the check list. The only thing left now to do is execution of that plan. Delays and obstacles, however, will block your path and will leave you disheartened. Don't doubt your abilities though. You have planned properly and have faith as those delays are not permanent, assures Ganesha.

AOUARIUS

Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport in the important decisions of your life The tendency to be sentimental when you need to be rational will become an obstacle in your path. Learn to curb this habit otherwise you may have to pay a heavy price, advises Ganesha

PISCES

Take one cautious step at a time today, says Ganesha. You will discuss intimate matters at home and official matters at work but be careful about whom you trust and deception from someone close might

lead to worry and stress in the future.

Sara recreates **Betaab** moments



I'm playing a small part in *Atrangi Re*: Akshay

New Delhi: A-lister Akshay Kumar is all set to enchant the audience with his latest role in the upcoming film Atrangi Re.

Crediting it as a complete Sara Ali Khan and Dhanush movie, the Khiladi actor says he is just a character actor in the Anand L Rai directorial. Not much is known about

Akshay's role in Atrangi Re, which is slated to release December 24 on Disney+ Hostar. In an interview, Akshay said: "I am

just a small part of the film but this is actually Dhanush and Sara's film. They are the main lead and I am just a character in it. So, when this film came to me I liked the story.

The 54-year-old star revealed why he said 'yes' to such a character.

The character was small but I liked it so much that I told Anand L Rai that I will do it and he was also shocked to hear how I said 'yes' to this," said Akshay, who in 2020, was ranked as the highest-paid Hindi film

9TH KALINGA LITERARY FESTIVAL- DAY 2

'Every ruler has destroyed history of previous rulers'



Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy makes a point at the event

Bhubaneswar: The second day of

Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) here witnessed nine sessions ranging from history, sports, climate change to social and political lives along with regular sessions on poetry recitations, Saturday.

Participating in the inaugural session Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik said that India was the global Vishwa Guru because of its rich and vibrant literature containing themes such as love, peace and universal brotherhood. The country will regain its position soon, he added.

Dharitri and **Orissa POST** Editor Tathagata Satapathy, participating in a discussion titled Rulers Erases History of Other Rulers, said,

"Every ruler on the Earth has destroyed the history of previous rulers as it is the nature of power."

"Be it BJD in Odisha or the

NDA at the Centre, each of them has tried to remove history of previous rulers. This (attitude) is with everyone, across the party lines," he remarked while talking about intolerance in regimes.

Speaking during a session on *Empowerment of women through* sports and how to strengthen the trend, Indian women footballer Bembem Devi said "Indian women's football has come a long way from where it was a decade ago but it will take another decade to play the football World Cup. The men's football in India has

been strengthened due to participation of corporate and private players. If similar support is extended towards the women's football team then it would tremendously benefit the team.

Chief of Odisha Skill Development Authority Subroto Bagchi, on the Covid outbreak, maintained that "Covid management handling couldn't have been possible by a corporate. Governments across globe are not dumb; they are actually smarter than we think. A government responds to ideas that has the ability to change on a large scale basis"

The three-day literary extravaganza will conclude

156-minute

directed by Rahul

Rawail and produced

by Dharmendra, in the

Hindi film industry.

The singing re-

script is engaging but very perfunctorily it spends a valuable

teven Spielberg's West Side Story the 1957 original Broadway musical of the same name and its faithful 1961 film adaptation whose dramedy theme was famously based on William Shakespeare's play *Romeo* and Juliet. Set in early 1950, in the backdrop of the gentrification of the Upper West Side neighbourhood of Manhattan in New York City, the story concerns the feud between amount rival street gangs; The white Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks, each want-

This

The film begins with a witty flourish with members of the Sharks gang being taunted by the white

Neighbourhood.

ing to control the Upper West Side

is a vital and vibrant remake of



gang because the turf that they're fighting over is changing and shrinking beneath their feet.

Amidst their confli (Rachel Zegler), the younger sister of the Shark leader Bernardo (David Alvarez) falls in love with Tony whom she fondly calls Anton (Ansel Elgort), after their paths cross on the

West Side Story lacks exquisite 'Spielberg' stamp

aware that Tony, freshly out of prison for killing another man, is the friend of the current Jet boss Riff (Mike Faist), and is the sworn enemy of her brother. But when she realises this, Bernardo is not happy that

his sister is attracted to a gringo, a white American, and with their long-standing en-

mity with the Jets, he challenges Riff

for a duel and insists that Riff invite Tony to the rumble. During the fight, the situation

goes out of control. And Bernardo and Riff are killed. And then the tragedy of errors concludes the drama just like in Romeo and Juliet.

This 156-minute script is engaging but very perfunctorily it spends a valuable amount of time on the

SUDOKU

8

6

3

9

8 4

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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.

DIRECTOR: Steven Spielberg

CAST: Ansel Elgort, Rachel Zegler, Ariana DeBose, David Alvarez, Mike Faist and others

songs and the general rambling of the working-class Puerto Ricans.

On the performance front, every actor gives their sincere best. Elgort and Zegler make a brilliant pair but they lack on-screen chemistry.

Overall, this film is brilliantly mounted, with good production values, picture-perfect shots, seamless editing, and excellent music, but it lacks the exquisite 'Steven Spielberg' stamp on it.

6

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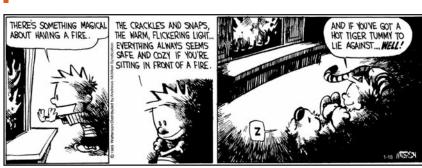
PEANUTS

of time on

the songs



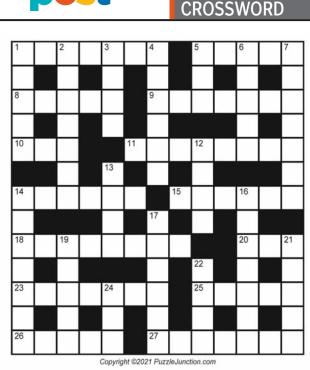
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN



25 Sufficient

Down

Across

- 1 Seaport
- 5 Renaissance fiddle
- 8 Eskimo boat
- 9 Pimiento powder 10 Apply gently 11 Gulf of Venice
- neighbor
- 14 Persian Gulf
- kingdom
- 15 See eye to eye 18 French pastry

23 Contemptible

20 Captain's journal

- 2 Storm follower, at
- time

26 Poison ivy

result

(4-3)

27 Game break

1 Harrier, e.g.

- 3 Sturdy trees 4 River feature
- 5 Cemetery inits.
- 6 Constructed
- 17 Cloak-and-

centre

dagger word 19 Go to pieces 21 Belgian urban

7 Canterbury

12 Links club

14 Heyerdahl's

16 Odysseus's

detainer

Tales author

13 Coffee grinder

transport (3,4)

- 22 Raffia, e.g. 24 True laurel

SUDOKU

3 6 2 7 5 4 4 8 6 5 7 2 9 3 7 3 5 1 9 8 6 4 2

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



FOR LORD'S BLESSINGS

P3 OrissaPOST			22 23	COV	/ ID-19 1	TRACK	ER
SUNDAY DECEMBER 12 2021 BHUBANESWAR	College College	FOR LORD'S			INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
)	The second secon	BLESSINGS Hundreds of devotees		World	269,653,514	242,567,964	5,315,679
downtown		queuing up on the Grand Road in Puri to visit		India	3,46,82,736	3,41,14,331	4,75,128
a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a		Srimandir, Saturday		Odisha	10,51,414	10,41,132	8,433
				 			:

CAG censures BMC for failure to stop roadside animal slaughter

THE CIVIC BODY **HAD BUILT AN ABATTOIR AT A COST OF ₹7.27 CRORE AT GADAKANA, BUT FAILED TO UTILISE** IT OWING TO THE **APATHETIC**

POST NEWS NETWORK

APPROACH

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The Comptroller and Audit General (CAG) has censured the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for not heeding to the advice of the expert committee to start the operation of abattoir constructed at a cost of ₹7.27 crore and the civic body's failure to end open slaughter of an

In its latest report, the CAG stated that in 2011 the BMC engaged Centre for Environment and Development (CED) for consultancy to construct a modern abattoir. While forming a Detailed Project Report (DPR), the CED suggested that adopting the construct, operate and maintain (COM) model would not be feasible for small projects where only 100 sheep could be slaughtered per day.

"The BMC could manage the slaughter house with their own staff by forming a cooperative society that can carry out operation and maintenance (O&M) of the slaughterhouse or outsource the operation and maintenance to an external agency. The agency could slaughter the animals at a fixed rate in morning hours only and, thereafter, utilise the plant for its own purpose," the CED had

However, in a meeting held in 2013, the civic authority opted for

STATED THAT IN 2011 THE BMC **FNGAGED CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT** (CED) FOR CONSULTANCY TO CONSTRUCT A MODERN ABATTOIR

IN ITS LATEST REPORT, THE CAG

WHILE FORMING A DETAILED PROJECT REPORT (DPR), THE CED SUGGESTED THAT ADOPTING THE CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN (COM) MODEL WOULD

NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR SMALL PROJECTS WHERE ONLY 100 SHEEP COULD BE SLAUGHTERED PER DAY

the COM model. Following this, the CED chalked out a second DPR and stated that the capacity of the slaughterhouse would be 100 sheep per day at an estimated project cost of ₹6.4 crore. The entire cost was to be funded by BMC and the successful bidder would construct the slaughter house and operate it for 10 years.

The BMC then invited Request for Proposal (RFP) in November 2013 for the COM of the slaugh terhouse, but did not receive any response. Thereafter, in August 2014, the National Building Construction Corporation offered to complete the project on turnkey basis and constructed the slaughterhouse at Gadakana in 2017 at a cost of ₹7.27 crore.

The CAG observed that the BMC invited multiple bids for O&M from 2017 but failed to receive any response. However, while one agency showed interest, an expert committee constituted by the BMC for its selection did not express any opinion on its acceptability. Rather, the committee suggested enforcing a ban on road side slaughtering to make the plant operational.

mptroller and Audin Gare

"However, no efforts were made either for engaging an operator nor was the ban on road side slaughtering enforced, rendering the abattoir at Gadakana useless. The BMC blatantly ignored suggestions by the CED, which is indicative of lackadaisical approach of the civic body in making the slaughterhouse operational," the

CAG report said. Meanwhile, the Housing and Urban (H&UD) department stated that it given its nod to an agency in February 2021 for O&M of the abattoir. While a MoU was signed between the party and the agency, the operations have been delayed owing to the pandemic.

"It is clear that the slaughter house is now going to be made operational through outsourcing of O&M activities to an external agency, something that had been suggested by the consultant in October 2013 itself, but ignored by the BMC. Non-adherence to the advice has led to the infrastructure being unused and failure in preventing roadside open slaughtering of animals," the report added.

Naveen seeks 14.84L houses under PMAY-G

The Chief Minister wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking 1.84 lakh housing units for cyclone Fani-affected people and 13 lakh houses for poor people living in tribal and KBK districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding 14.84 lakh housing units under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G).

He demanded 1.84 lakh houses for cyclone Fani-affected people and 13 lakh houses for other districts basically comprising tribal and **KBK** districts

Thanking Modi for sanctioning 8.17 lakh PMAY-G houses to Odisha, Naveen drew his attention to the woes of many families of KBK and tribal-dominated districts of the state and the families who have lost their houses in cyclone Fani.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has allowed identification of eligible left-out families through Awaas+ by March 7, 2019. However, the state could identify only 35,000 families within the stipulated period because of pre-occupation of government machinery in preparatory work for general elections -2019, network con-

Three middlemen

nabbed from SCB

Cuttack: The police Saturday

claimed to have arrested three

The arrested have been identified

Ranihaat and Silan Kumar Jena of

cards of some private clinics were

seized from the arrested persons,

police said. According to police, the

relatives of a critically-ill patient to

shift him to a private hospital. A

patrolling team spotted the trio

registered and the trio has been

produced in a local court," said a

near the casualty ward of the

hospital. "A case has been

Mallahsahi, Ajay Mahapatra of

Tangi, police said. The visiting

trio was trying persuade the

middlemen from SCB Medical

College and Hospital here.

as Sushant Mahapatra of

nectivity issues and LWE violence in some pockets of state, the Chief Minister informed in his letter.

When the MoRD opened Awaas+ window for only the 14 districts affected by cyclone Fani, another 7.87 lakh families were identified,

The Odisha government conducted identification through state developed Rural Housing (RH) portal and found 5.09 lakh families in 16 districts not affected by cyclone Fani are also eligible.

He mentioned that these are predominantly tribal and KBK districts of the state. These families may be covered against PMAY -G target by migrating their data from the RH portal to the Permanent Wait List (PWL) of PMAY (G), the CM requested.

Reminding the Prime Minister about his commitment to allot 5 lakh PMAY-G (special) houses to Fani-affected families during his

and RH portal, the CM has sought kind intervention of the Prime Minister to sanction 1.84 lakh PMAY-G (Special) houses to the cyclone Fani affected families, to migrate 5.09 lakh data from the RH portal to PWL of PMAY (G) and to allow opening of Awaas+ window for the entire state for a period of one month. This will be a step towards achieving shelter security to all, he stated.

visit in May 2019, Naveen said that

there are 1.84 lakh families whose

houses got damaged by cyclone

Fani and they are not otherwise en-

titled for availing normal PMAY (G)

sidered for PMAY-G (Special) houses

waiving the pre-condition of their

names to be in PWL of PMAY (G),"

Stating that there might be some

more eligible families missed out

during survey through Awaas+

"So, these families may be con-

The CM has also referred to the MoRD's rejection of the request by the state government in July this year on the same issue.

Odia girl facing racial bias in NZ seeks Centre's help

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: A girl from Soro area in the state facing racial discrimination in New Zealand has sought help of the Government of India.

Padmavati Maharana, 32, a native of village Kanpur under Soro police station limits, has been in Rangiora town, under Canterbury of New Zealand after completing PG in English.

The girl, who was teaching Yoga since 2018, came under attacks from some local residents after she posted a video footage through

The girl, who was teaching Yoga since 2018, came under attacks from some local residents after she posted a video footage through social media

social media (TikTok App) appealing to people to shun non-vegetarian food for a healthy life.

This post became controversial and she faced trolling in the social media against her and received uncomfortable messages in her social media accounts including Facebook account, Messenger and WhatsApp.

Padmavati alleged that she was getting calls from unknown numbers and even prepaid beef stuffed pizzas were being sent to her from unknown sources. Some people also staged demonstrations before her office. The girl lodged a complaint with the local police but in vain.

Due to COVID restrictions, while she was imparting Yoga training through an online medium, she was forced to live in her room as people are abusing her in filthy language with racial remarks in front of her rented accommodation.

Central Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar,

Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003

Name and Address of Amount demanded Date of

Bank of India

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 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 following Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notices g failed to repay the a and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Central Bank of India for an amount stated and interest thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address	and the second s	in Securitisation Notice/Possession Notice	Securitisation Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
JALESWAR BRANCH / Pankaj Kumar Sahoo, S/o.: Srikanta Sahoo, At: Santia, Jaleswar, Dist.: Balasore	1) Srikanta Sahoo, 2) Niyati Sahoo, Both are At: Santia, Jaleswar, Dist.: Balasore	₹ 2,20,273/-	09.12.2021 Jaleswar, Dist. 3662, Area: A	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Santia, PS.: Jaleswar, Tahasil: .: Balasore, Khata No.: 922/928, Plot No.: 1474/ to 0.018 Dec., Bounded by East: Self, West: hu, South: Self, North: Kartik Chandra Giri
Sudhir Kumar Jena, S/o.: Sanyasi Jena, At/ PO.: Dhanasimilia,	1) Biswajit Jena, S/o.: Sudhir Kumar Jena, 2) Sudhir Kumar Jena, Both are At/PO.: Dhanasimilia, Jaleswar, Dist.: Balasore - 756084	as on 16.05.2021/ ₹ 9,54,404/- as on 08.12.2021 plus interest thereon	09.12.2021 Balasore, Kha 485, Area: A East: Plot No	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Dhanasimilia, P.S.: Jaleswar, Tahasil: Jaleswar No.: 145, Dist.: ata No.: 467/414, 380, Plot No.: 485/2077, c. 0.10 Dec., Ac. 0.22 Dec., Bounded by 5.: 584, West.: Suresh Kumar Jena, South.: ar Jena, North.: Plot No.: 474
Ash Bricks, Smt. Minati Das, At/PO.: Rajpur, Jaleswar, Dist.: Balasore - 756032		as on 08.08.2021/ ₹ 19,78,232/- as on 08.12.2021	09.12.2021 Basta , Dist.: No.: 56/2017, Ac.0.29 Dec., I Plot No-56/196	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Velora, PS.: Basta No.: 72, Tahasil: Balasore, Khata No.: 468/143, 468/6, 306, Plot 56/1914, 56 respectively, Area: Ac.0.11 Dec., Bounded by East: Subas Chandra Nayak, West: 64, South: Govt Land, North: Trilochan Das
BALASORE BRANCH /	1) Mr. Sanjay Kumar	₹4,20,104/-	11.05,2021	All that part & parcel of the property

as on 10.05.2021/

₹ 4,13,611/-

as on 09.12.2021

plus interest thereon

other expenses etc.

₹11,13,186/-

as on 09.05.2021/

₹ 11.61.897/-

as on 09.12.2021

plus interest thereon

₹19,27,909/-

as on 14.05.2021/

₹ 17,77,111/-

as on 09.12.2021

plus interest thereon

Balasore - 756001 At: Golapola, Nayabazar, Jadapur, Balasore OMP SQUARE BRANCH/ Mr. Bijay Kumar Sahoo,

NISCHINTAKOILI

Kendupatna, Dist.: Cuttack - 754203

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 10.12.2021

Mr. Bijay Kumar Sahoo, Sahoo, At: Tinigharia, S/o.: Late Bhagaban PO.: Nayabazar, PS Sahoo, At: Tinigharia, Chauliaganj, PO.: Nayabazar

756001, 2) SK Jalaludin,

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Nishad, Nishad, S/o.: Hariram

S/o.: Hariram Nishad, At: Nishad, At: Ranipatna,

Ranipatna, Bank Colony, Bank Colony, Balasore

Chauliaganj, Dist.: Cuttack - 753004 NAYACHOWK BRANCH/ 1) Smt. Puspa Nayak, Shiba Narayan Nayak, W/o.: Shiba Narayan Sri Dharmendra Nayak, Shiba Nayak, At: Pradhan Sahi, Narayan Nayak, S/o. PO.: Choudwar, Dist.: Sri Dharmendra Nayak Cuttack - 754071 Both are At: Pradhan

Sahi, PO.: Choudwar, Dist.: Cuttack - 754071 Sri Pravakar Sahoo, Sri Pravakar Sahoo, Vill/P.O.: Tarat Sasan S/o.: Late Dhadi Sahoo, PS.: Nemalo, Dist. Vill/P.O.: Tarat Sasan, Cuttack, PIN - 754209 PS.: Nemalo, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN - 754209

NISCHINTAKOILI BRANCH/ Legal Heirs of Dhoi Das Legal Heirs of Dhoi Das are: 1) Mrs. Pramila Das, are: 1) Mrs. Pramila Das, 2) Mrs. Anjusmita Das, 2) Mrs. Anjusmita Das, 3) Mr. Arun Kumar Das, 3) Mr. Arun Kumar Das, 4) Mr. Ashok Kumar Das, & other expenses etc. 4) Mr. Ashok Kumar Das, All are At: Buhalo, PO .: All are At: Buhalo, PO.: Kendupatna, Dist.: Cuttack - 754203

Wide Road 10'0", South: Plot No.: 38, North: Plot k other expenses etc ₹4,22,546/as on 30.07.2020 / ₹ 4,27,664/as on 09.12.2021 plus interest thereon

₹4,36,628/as on 14.05.2021/ ₹ 4,40,340/-

as on 09.12.2021 plus interest thereor

& other expenses etc. North: Gokuli Bal

North: Rest Land

North: Road

30.07.2020 All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Tarat Sasan, PS.: Nemalo, Tahasil: 10.12.2021 Nischintakoili, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No.: 461 91, Plot No.: 1055, Area: Ac. 0.011 Dec., Bounded by East: firamani Mohanty, West: Road, South: Gandharba Parida 15.05,2021 All that part & parcel of the property

/ consisting of Mouza: Jadapur Unit No.: 11, 10.12.2021 PS./Tahasil/Dist.: Balasore, Khata No.:

445/1313, Plot No.: 348/1733, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec.

Bounded by East: Rest Land, West: Road, South: Road

10.05.2021 All that part & parcel of the property

/ consisting of Mouza: Cuttack Town Unit No.: 30, Andarpur, PS.: Madhupatna, Tahasil:

Cuttack Sadar, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No.: 299/517, Plot No.

131/1567, Area: Ac.0.020 Dec., Bounded by East: Vendo

and Renuka Sahu, West: Banshidhar Prusty, South: Road

15.05.2021 All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: CDA Plot

10.12.2021 B-109 (Sector-6), PS.: Bidanasi,

Tahasil/ Dist.: Cuttack, Plot No.: 171 (G), Area 338 Sq.ft., Bounded by East: Plot No.: 37, West:

10.12.2021 | consisting of Mouza: Buhalo, PS./Tahasil: Salepur, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No.: 602/328, Plot No.: 114, Area: 9496.08 sq ft, Bounded by East: Road, West: Achuti Navak, South: Achuti Navak, North: Gokhe

Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India





The BJP MLAs return from Raj Bhawan after meeting Governor Ganeshi Lal, Saturday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: A day after the Winter Session of Odisha Assembly adjourned sine die, the BJP legislators Saturday sought personal intervention of Governor Ganeshi Lal for proper functioning of the Assembly.

The BJP lawmakers alleged that the decision of Speaker SN Patro to adjourn the Winter Session sine die 20 days ahead of scheduled date is unconstitutional

and undemocratic. They urged the Governor to direct the Speaker to show respect to the Constitution and conduct the business of the House impartially. They also requested the Governor to

ask Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to attend the Assembly physically.

The BJP MLAs alleged that the Chief Minister was touring several districts and addressing public meetings as well as party events. But, he was staying away from Assembly debate and dis-

cussions despite being the leader of the House, they said.

The saffron party members also al leged that the Speaker was not maintaining impartiality in running the business of the House and he has been depriving the Opposition from discussing various issues concerning the interest of the people and the state.

BJP deputy leader in the Assembly, Bishnu Sethi, said as per the constitutional provisions the House should sit for 60 days in three sessions in a particular calendar year. During the last three years, the Assembly had only 112 sittings and eight sessions instead of 180 sittings and nine sessions, he said.

Sethi further said the long absence of the Chief Minister in the Assembly is an insult and disrespect to the House. "The Speaker had also lowered the dignity of the House by not directing the Chief Minister to attend the house", he stated.

The MLAs further said it was disappointing that several House sessions were terminated before the schedule. Stating that the action of the Speaker has led to a constitutional crisis, the BJP MLAs urged the Governor to personally intervene into the issue.

pposition announces fresh stir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: A day after the state Assembly was adjourned sine die 20 days ahead of its schedule amidst a nine-day logjam over the Kalahandi woman teacher murder case, the opposition Congress and BJP Saturday announced fresh protests on the issue as well as police excess on youths and students demonstrators.

While Congress announced it would demonstrate in front of all the SP offices December 14 demanding action against erring police personnel who allegedly injured NSUI activists during an agitation in front of the Assembly Friday, the BJP Legislature Party members rushed to the Governor seeking his intervention on abrupt culmination if the Winter Session. At a press conference here, OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik and CLP leader Narasingha Mishra strongly condemned police "excess" on the peaceful agitation by NSUI activists.

MAMITA MURDER

Mishra termed the lathi-charge on party workers as "torture" and accused the state government of violating the human rights of students on "Human Rights Day" which fell Friday. "Law allows police to use of minimum force on the unruly crowd. But police barged into our party office and brutally assaulted workers. In a democratic setup, police have no right to enter into the office of a recognised political party unless deadly criminals have taken shelter there. Here too they have to take per-

mission from the party office," he said. Mishra alleged that attempts were made to break the doors at the Congress Bhawan where workers had taken shelter to escape police baton charge. The Commissioner of Police should be suspended, Mishra, a lawyer by profession said, adding police are liable to punishment under Section 307 of IPC, attempt

to commit murder, and a case should be registered for house trespassing. Many NSUI activists were injured in the police lathi charge during the agitation on Mahatma Gandhi Marg when they were on the way to "gherao the assembly."

Mishra said that Congress would also move the Human Rights Commission, seeking action against erring cops and compensation for injured workers. The party will intensify the agitation in coming days, he said, adding that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was to blame for the police atrocities.

Meanwhile, BJP MLAs also strongly condemned the police action against the BJP Yuva Morcha activists. The BJP frontal organisation youths were injured while picketing before the Assembly Friday demanding removal of Minister of State for Home, DS Mishra. The BJP legislature party members also rushed to Puri and invoked blessings of Lord Jagannath to save the state from "anarchy".

Cyber criminal's bid to defraud ADG CB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Cyber criminals continue to target politicians and senior government officers. However an alert and cyber literate citizen can put cyber criminals into trouble instead of getting trapped by them.

This was proved true by Additional DG of the Crime Branch Sanjeeb Panda who managed to block two bank accounts and securing vital details of the conmen who tried to dupe him by sending distress messages impersonating one of his friends.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, Panda said that he received a distress message from the Whatsapp account of one of his friends seeking monetary help. Panda smelled the rat that his friend's Whatsapp account had been hacked as the phone number linked with the Whatsapp account was not of his friend. He tried to contact the sender but the latter did not pick up his call and instead sent a bank account number asking him to deposit the money. Upon Panda's request, the fraudster sent another bank account number too.

"The Crime Branch blocked both bank accounts, obtained their transaction details, ATM withdrawals, phone numbers and emails. This will help us probe the OCAC case," said Panda in his Facebook post.

Sharing some tips to avoid cyber fraud, Panda advised people not to deposit money in anyone's account without discussing with their relatives after receiving such messages. He urged people not to share their pin with anyone, and enable two-step verification to avoid hacking of their WhatsApp accounts.

"In case you receive messages asking financial help, please intimate the Crime Branch Cyber helpline number 155260," he advised.

He also refuted the reports in a section of the media about him being duped by the fraudsters.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

- Felicitation of Khela Ratna Award winner Pramod Bhagat by Prajapita Brahmakumri Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya, Amruta Bhawan, Patia, 9 am
- Triennial general body meeting of All Odisha Radiographers Service Association, Unit-6, 12 noon
- Gita Gitika programme by The Heavens Group, Soochana Bhawan.
 6 pm

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.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

This is to certify that I have changed my name from Yagnya Valkya Mishra to Yagnya Valkya Misra for all purposes.

I Mrutyunjaya Behera, S/o Sibaram Behera (Father) & Babita Behera (Mother) of Angul Tamrit Colony, House No.1/14, P.O./P.S./Dist. Angul (Odisha) sworn before Notary Public, Kantabanji on 10.12.2021 hereby declare that my original **CBSE Examination** Certificate No.SSCE/2016 0138117 (Roll No. 6600179) passed through DAV Public School, Angul & Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations Certificate No.EQ90046944(U.I.D. No.5737106) passed through Amar Vani School, Angul was kept in a wooden box has been fully damaged by white ants which can not be trace out. I have not used the said certificate for any other purpose. Mrutyunjaya Behera

Schools running without CoR to get closure notice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The state government has directed the District Education Officers (DEOs) to initiate action against the schools that do not have certificate of recognition (CoR).

The government has directed the DEOs to issue show cause notices to all such educational institutions.

State School and Mass Education (SME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said that several private English medium schools do not have CoR and they will be facing action. The DEOs have been issued instructions to initiate steps on the matter, he added.

Going by the data available from the School and Mass Education (SME) department, around 39 per cent of the private English-medium schools at the elementary level in the state are operating without the CoR from

Out of the 1,969 private English medium schools in state, 765 are reportedly operating without CoR, while 1,204 have obtained CoR

At the secondary level (Classes IX and X) too, only 389 private schools have obtained the state government's CoR

Around 39 per cent of the private English-medium schools at the

elementary level in the state are

Education department

operating without the CoR from the

the Education department.
In all, 1,969 private Englishmedium schools are running in the state where education is imparted to students from Class I to VIII. Out of these schools, 765 are

while 1,204 have obtained CoR. At the secondary level (Classes IX and X) too, only 389 private schools have obtained the state government's CoR.

reportedly operating without CoR,

REJOICING REPEAL



Samyukta Kisan Morcha celebrating the withdrawal of the three controversial farm laws near Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Saturday ор рното

Over 4,500 acres of 6 temples grabbed: CAG

THE CAG FOUND THAT ONLY 45.03% OF THE LANDED PROPERTIES ARE UNDER THE POSSESSION OF THE AUDITED TEMPLES WHILE 35.28% HAVE BEEN ENCROACHED UPON

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in its latest report on general and social sector for the year ended March 2020, said that over 4,500 acres of landed properties of six temples in Odisha are under encroachment.

The CAG has conducted audit of the records of 13 temples of

the state and observed that of the total landed property of 12,767.679 acres of these temples, only 5,749.464 acres (45.03 per cent) were under their possession and 35.28 per cent of the land was under encroachment.

According to the report, the highest 4,030.78 acres of land belonging to Debottar Dhenkanal is under encroachment. Similarly, 296.664 acres of Jagannath Ballav

Math, 139.330 acres of Thakur Mahal, 36.370 acres of Sri Lingaraj Temple, 0.070 acres of Maa Mangala Temple and 0.657 acres of Maa Samaleswari Temple are under encroachment.

Among the remaining seven audited temples, no land has been found to be encroached upon in four cases while the three other Religious Institutions (RI) don't have the data. While only four

LAND BELONGING TO DEBOTTAR
DHENKANAL IS UNDER
ENCROACHMENT
LIKEWISE, 296.664 ACRES OF

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LIKEWISE, 296.664 ACRES OF
JAGANNATH BALLAV MATH, 139.330
ACRES OF THAKUR MAHAL, 36.370
ACRES OF SRI LINGARAJ TEMPLE,
0.070 ACRES OF MAA MANGALA
TEMPLE AND 0.657 ACRES OF MAA
SAMALESWARI TEMPLE ARE UNDER
ENCROACHMENT

shrines were in possession of all their landed properties, two religious institutions (Maa Mangala and Maa Sarala temples) were not fully aware of the extent of possession of the landed property, the CAG said.

"Further, the extent of encroachment of landed property was also not known in respect of three RIs. Therefore, 7,018.215 acres of land were not under pos-

session of the respective seven RIs. Thus, the RIs concerned were not aware of the status of more than half of their properties which were not under their possession," it said.

Moreover, although the Sri Lingaraj Temple owns landed properties across the state, it was aware of possession and encroachment related to the city of Bhubaneswar only. Information on ownership and encroachment of land at other places were not known to the temple administration.

Executive officer of Lingaraj Temple informed the auditor that 36.370 acres out of 69.423 acres of land in Bhubaneswar were under encroachment.

"Failure to trace and track properties owned by these RIs bears the risk of the ownership of property getting changed over a course of time or it becoming more difficult to recover the encroached land." the CAG observed.

KIIT School secures top rank in all-India survey

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The KIIT International School, Bhubaneswar, was ranked 14th across India and first in state under the top international day-cum-doarding schools category in the annual Education World India School Rankings (EWISR) 2021-22.

Apart from KIIT International School, SAI International Residential School, Cuttack, was rated 16th nationwide and number one in state in Top Co-ed Boarding Schools category. This was released in the Part II of the EWISR rankings of the country's top 1,000 schools in three main and six sub-categories – Boarding Schools (Co-ed, Girls and Boys), International Schools (Day, Day-cum-Boarding, Fully Residential) and Private Budget schools.

While Doon School, Dehradun (Boys), bagged top award in Boarding Schools category, Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, topped in International Day, Day-cum-Boarding and Residential schools.

Mahima Sethi conferred Sarala Yuva Puraskar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: The prestigious Sarala Yuva Puraskar was conferred on Mahima Sethi, an IITian, by the Sarala Sahitya Sansad

at a function in Cuttack Saturday. The prize includes a citation, Rs 25,000 cash award and a shawl. A seminar was also organised to review the recently published English Poetry Book "Ink from night skies". In his address, chief guest Rajendra Prasad Mohanty said that the literary work of Mahima was endowed with lots of passion, thought and experience. "She is an inclusive poet and her thought, ideas and feelings are reflected in her

poetry," Mohanty said.

Mahima expressed gratitude and said that she developed a deep passion for poetry since childhood, inspired by her parents. Eminent English writer and educationist Prafulla Kumar Mohanty admired her work and said that the thought reflected in the poems are more

TOPPING BY



People at the organic fair organised by the Press Club of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

NHRC moved over sexual harassment of minor boy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Dec 11: A petition has been filed with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in connection with the alleged sexual harassment of a minor boy by a senior servitor of Srimandir here.

Petitioner Jayanta Kumar Das alleged that the police have shown no urgency in initiating action against the accused servitor.

In his petition, Das claimed that

In his petition, Das claimed that the accused had sexually assaulted the minor boy, the son of a visually-impaired servitor, inside the 12th century shrine several times a few days ago.

The accused had also threatened to kill the victim when the latter refused to accompany him to a hotel, said the petitioner.

Though the police have registered a case in this regard and arrested the accused, they are yet to expedite the probe, alleged the petitioner: "The accused is a wealthy

person. There is every possibility that he would influence the investigation," said the petition. The petitioner claimed that the

incidents of sexual assault on minor boys and girls on the temple premises have gone up recently. However, the authorities concerned are yet to take the issue seriously and install adequate number of CCTVs on the temple premises to check such incidents.

"The security personnel deployed at the shrine have failed to perform their duties properly. On occasions, the Fundamental Rights of the minors are being violated inside the temple," alleged the petitioner.

The petitioner sought the intervention of the NHRC in securing Rs 5 lakh compensation to the minor boy. He also urged the rights body to direct the temple authorities to install adequate number of CCTVs on Srimandir premises and step up security inside the shrine.

Dozens of camels barred from beauty contest over Botox

mature than her age.

audi authorities have conducted their biggest-ever crackdown on camel beauty contestants that received Botox injections and other artificial touch-ups, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported Wednesday, with over 40 camels disqualified

from the annual pageant.
Saudi Arabia's popular King
Abdulaziz Camel Festival, which
kicked off earlier this month, invites the breeders of the most
beautiful camels to compete for

some \$66 million in prize money. Botox injections, facelifts and other cosmetic alterations to make the camels more attractive are strictly prohibited. Jurors decide the winner based on the shape of the camels' heads, necks, humps,

dress and postures.

Judges at the month-long festival in the desert northeast of the Saudi capital, Riyadh, are escalating their clamp down on artificially enhanced camels, the official news agency reported, using "specialised and advanced" technology to detect tampering.

This year, authorities discovered dozens of breeders had stretched out the lips and noses of camels, used hormones to boost the



to relax their faces.

"The club is keen to halt all acts

beasts' muscles, injected camels' heads and lips with Botox to make them bigger, inflated body parts muscles, injected camels' heads and lips with Botox to make them bigger

with rubber bands and used fillers of tampering and deception in

■ Saudi Arabia's popular Camel

Festival, which kicked off earlier this

month, invites the breeders of the

most beautiful camels to compete

This year, authorities discovered

hormones to boost the beasts'

for some \$66 million in prize money

dozens of breeders had stretched out

the beautification of camels," the

SPA report said, adding organis-

the lips and noses of camels, used

ers would "impose strict penal-

ties on manipulators".

The camel beauty contest is at the heart of the massive carnival, which also features camel races, sales and other festivities typically showcasing thousands of dromedaries. The extravaganza seeks to preserve the camel's role in the kingdom's Bedouin tradition and heritage, even as the oil-rich country plows ahead with modernising mega-projects.

Camel breeding is a multimillion-dollar industry and similar events take place across the region.

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SHORT **TAKES**

■ 5 injured in acid attack

Bargarh: At least five people were injured in an acid attack at Nuapada under Bargarh Municipality, Saturday. The injured were identified as Harihar Bhoi, Manoj Soni, Paban Soni, Gita Devi and Pinku Paban, There were heated arguments between two siblings Paban and Manoj. At that time, some neighbours came to settle the issue. Paban Soni hurled acid at them. Paban himself was injured. They were admitted to Bargarh Town CHC. Some of them were shifted to VIMSAR. Police have detained Paban. However, the reason of such an attack is not known.

Teacher dies in bee attack

Rupsa: A teacher died due to bee attack in Kulida panchauyat under Basta block in Balasore, Saturday. According to reports, Pradip Kumar Ghose, assistant teacher of Srustidhar UP School was on way back home. At Brahmapura Chhak, a swarm of bees attacked him leaving him critically hurt. Locals rescued and rushed him to GK Bhattar Hospital in Jaleswar where he succumbed during treatment.

Central team to visit Ganjam today

Chhatrapur: A central team will visit Ganjam district Sunday to conduct an assessment of crop loss arising out of cyclonic storm Jawad, a report said. Incessant rainfall lashed the district following the formation of the cyclonic storm and inundated large tracts of farmlands in the district. As a result, paddy crops and vegetables were destroyed. The team led by Sourav Ray, joint secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs will visit farmlands in various parts of the district and make an assessment of crop loss. They will prepare a report on crop loss and submit the report.

Ex-Champua MLA ioins BJD

Keonjhar: Former Champua MLA Dhanurjaya Siddhu joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. Siddhu joined the ruling party in the presence of BJD's Keonjhar in-charge and Jajpur MLA Pranab Prakash Das, observer Ashok Bal and BJP's OBC Morcha president Mitrabhanu Mahakur, general secretary Prabhat Kumar Sahu and joint secretary Seshadev Biswal also joined the party along with Siddhu. Speaking to media, Siddhu said he has only changed his political platform but will continue to work for the uplift of Juang, Bhuyan, Gond and Bathudi tribals in Telkoi Assembly segment in Keonjhar district. Siddhu was elected MLA from Champua on a Congress ticket in 2004 but lost twice in 2009 and 2014 from Telkoi. Later he joined BJP and contested from Telkoi.



Villagers and students of Kantapada panchayat in Angul district calling for a sustainable mountain tourism taking out a rally on the occasion of International

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 11: Cyber crimes are

spiraling in the state while cyber

crime police stations have been

plagued by shortage of technically

A per official reports, the state

has recorded 7,330 cyber crimes

from 2015 to September 30, 2021.

However, the government has no

specific data about the rate of con-

viction, number of cases under

trial, cases settled and number of

In the backdrop of the increasing

cyber crimes, the state has only

four police stations to deal with

such cyber crimes. The four police

stations have 26 staff inclduing in-

spectors, sub-inspectors, ASIs and

This came to the fore in the

Assembly in a reply to MLA

Mohan Majhi's questions on the

cyber crimes in the state. Dealing

acquittals in these crimes.

trained staff, a report said.

Staff crunch cripples cyber crime control

FOUR CYBER CRIME POLICE STATIONS ARE RUN BY 26 STAFF, INCLUDING 11 EXPERTS

PMAY beneficiaries

As funds for second installment have not been released, construction of houses have remained incomplete forcing beneficiaries to live in the open

Subsidy eludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Dec 11: As many as 400 beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) have been forced to live outside or in half-finished houses in this district due to delay in release of subsidy, a report said. The beneficiaries have knocked the doors of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) but the civic body is yet to release the subsidy. The civic body has also acknowledged the delay. The civic authorities have said that the beneficiaries have not received their subsidy from November 9 which they claimed has occurred because of technical problems. A few months ago, distribution

of the centre-sponsored housing scheme had snowballed into a major controversy between the BJP and the BJD. The BJP claimed the centre sponsored scheme has made housing affordable for all and attacked the ruling party BJD for reportedly branding the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Houses (PMAY) houses as Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (BPGY) houses

The party accused the BJD government of appropriating the central schemes and showcasing them as its own. The ruling party denied it stating that the state government provided the same amount of funds as by the centre. This has

been confirmed after the centre awarded Odisha for being the best performing state for rural housing, the BJD said.

However, when over 400 beneficiaries are awaiting release of their subsidy, both the parties have stopped opening their mouth.

A beneficiary of Tangarpali said he started construction of a house after receiving the work order. Till now he has received only ₹40,000 in the first installment. He has now laid the roof of the house and is expected to receive the second installment as per norms. The SMC officials have monitored the house construction by visiting the site and has submitted the photograph of his house and other documents.

He has made several rounds of the SMC office. Although a month has passed, he is yet to receive his second installment. Raw material suppliers regularly haunt him for payments and he is unable to carry out the work due to paucity of money. He was expecting the subsidy by within the deadline but has been let down. Similar is the fate of over 400 beneficiaries who are waiting for clearance of their final bills or second installment of subsidy. After demolishing their old houses, they are in a spot as they fail to complete their houses due to lack of funds and are forced to live

Woman Maoist surrenders

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpurm Dec 11: A woman Maoist of Chhattisgarh surrendered before the DIG, South Western Range and Nabarangpur SP here, Saturday after being allured by the rehabilitation scheme of the state government.

The woman ultra was identified as Kamleswari Marei, 30, alias Amila of Kondagaon district in Chhattisgarh.

She was working as a party member in the local guerilla squad of Mainpur division of CPI (Maoists) in Garibandh district of Chhattisgarh.

She surrendered in the presence of DIG Rajesh Pandit, Nabarangpur SP PS Parmar and CRPF second commandant N Ratan Kumar Singh at a presser, Saturday. Kamleswari is a native of Hanamundi village under Bishrampur police limits in Kondagaon district of Chhattisgarh.

with cyber crimes in towns and interior pockets has been a challenge for four police stations. There is a need for technically

trained staff to handle the cyber

₹94-cr high-tech collectorate building

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur: The district administration will have a high-tech at Chhatrapur. An estimated ₹94.46 crore will be spent for the 10-

partment will carry out its construction. Meanwhile, the state government has given its administrative approval to its cost estimate.

Even his name is used in the

According to reports, Bijay

crimes. Most of the crimes are related to financial frauds in banking system, snooping and black mailing via social media. Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra in his reply said the rate of conviction is on the upswing. These police stations are CID cyber crime police station, Berhampur cyber crime police station, Sambalpur cyber crime police station and Rourkela cyber crime police station.

CID cyber police station is run

by five inspectors, two ASIs and a constable while Berhampur cyber crime police station has an inspector, two sub-inspectors and three constables. Sambalpur has an inspector, a sub-inspector and three constables. For Rourkela, there are two inspectors, an ASI and four constables. What is surprising is that only 11 officials are technically trained. All these police stations are

equipped with right blockers, forensic analysis tool kits, laboratory

TRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL

For over four crore people in the state, only four cyber crime police stations sans adequate number of technical staff is a challenge for the existing police personnel. There is a need for more experts to handle such crimes and carry out proper investigation

Balabhadra uses ration cards

of the deceased. He has also got

funds under KALIA sanctioned in

the name of the deceased. He gets

MGNREGS wages in the name of

A villager has apprised the PD, the

BDO and the district civil supplies

officer about the fraud. BDO Gopabandhu Bhosagar said the ra-

tion card of the deceased will be

cancelled after an investigation.

the deceased, it was alleged.

facilities, password recovery system, CDR analysis softwares, mobile forensic softwares and online social media analysis tools.

However, for more than four crore people in the state, only four cyber crime police stations lacking adequate number of technical staff is a tough challenge for the existing staff when such crimes are on the rise. There is a need for more technical staff capable of handling such crimes and for modern infrastructures, experts observed.

in Chhatrapur

floored building.

The roads and buildings de-

The new collectorate building will have a basement area, a ground floor and nine floors. The building will have lift systems while offices of all the departments will be housed in the building. People coming to the collectorate will get facilities at one place, it is said.

Students and NCC cadets of Aska Womens' College offering tributes to late General Bipin Rawat, first chief of defence

staff Saturday, following his death in a chopper crash in Tamil Nadu

1,033 varsity teaching posts vacant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur. Dec 11: Large-scale vacancies of teaching posts have affected studies in 11 universities in the state. Out of 1,663 sanctioned teaching posts, 1,033 posts of associate professors, assistant professors and professors (nearly 60 per cent) have remained vacant at 11 universities, a source said.

This fact surfaced after the Higher Education Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo replied to a guestion raised by Keonjhar BJP MLA Mohan Charan Majhi during recent Winter Session of the Assembly.

The minister clarified that positions of professor are filled based on promotion. Interestingly, 76 posts of professor have been filled up in the recent past.

According to sources, not a single post of professor has been filled in Rajendra University of Bolangir and Kalahandi University, so far.

Odisha's oldest –Ravenshaw University in Cuttack has the maximum of 267 sanctioned positions against which it has 193 vacancies including 113 assistant professors, 56 associate professors

and 24 professors. The Utkal University has 257



sanctioned posts, of which 126 are still vacant, which includes 47 assistant professors, 44 associate professors sand 35 professors.

Likewise, Sambalpur University has 153 sanctioned positions against which it has 66 vacancies. including 31 posts of assistant professor, 20 associate professors

and 15 professors. Berhampur University has 196 sanctioned positions against which it has 96 vacancies including 38 assistant professors, 41 associate professors and 17 professors. Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University in Puri has 38 sanctioned positions against which it has 27 vacancies including 13 posts of assistant professors, 8 associ-

ate professors and 6 professors. Shreeram Chandra Bhanjadeo University has 115 sanctioned positions while 75 posts including 33 assistant professors, 27 associate pro-

fessors and 15 professors are vacant. Gangadhar Meher University has 144 sanctioned positions against which it has 68 vacancies,

including 26 posts of assistant professors, 22 associate professors and 20 professors.

Ramadevi University in Bhubaneswar has 138 sanctioned positions against which it has 102 vacancies, including 65 posts of assistant professors, 28 associate professors and 9 professors.

Fakir Mohan University in Balasore has 117 sanctioned positions against which it has 42 vacancies, including 15 posts of assistant professors, 15 associate professors and 12 professors.

Hundreds of meritorious students across the state depend on these universities for their higher education. Their studies have been affected by vacancies. Owing to senior positions not being filled up over years, the otherwise wellknown educational institutions in the state have been losing their

past glories. Besides, the private universities have succeeded in attracting students in the name of self-financing programmes and employability.

During last five years, more than 80 per cent posts of professors have remained vacant at seven educational institutions which were accorded university status.

Dolphin counting in Bhitarkanika from Dec 16

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, Dec 11: The forest department will carry out a dolphin census in Bhitarkanika area of Kendrapara district from December 16. "Dolphins will be enumerated for three days from Dhamra river mouth to Devi river mouth and in Bhitarkanika area," said DFO Jainadatt Pati.

Nine teams have been formed for the exercise. Five teams will be deployed in the sea while four teams will be for rivers and creeks. Last year, 342 dolphins were detected in Bhitarkanika area.

Works Division.

Balasore

OIPR-25108/11/0014/2122

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GAJAPATI, PARALAKHEMUNDI e-mail: rwd_gajapati@yahoo.co.in **NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement** Identification No. Online Tender 08/GJP/2021-22 1. Name of the work Road Works Total No. of Work 9 (Nine) Nos. of road works 3. Estimated cost Rs.39.51 lakhs to 8.86 lakhs 4. Class of Contractor 'D' and 'C' & 'C' & 'B' Class Contractor Period of Completion Furnished in Annexure 6. Availability of Tender 13.12.2021 at 10.00 AM to Online for bidding 22.12.2021 upto 5.30 PM 7. Date and Time of 23.12.2021 at 11.30 AM Opening of Tender 8. Place of Opening As per Annexure details be from the seen www.tenderorissa.gov.in Sd./- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER OIPR-25158/11/0009/2122 R.W. DIVN., GAJAPATI

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Balasore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

e-Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification No. 17/EERW/BLS/2021-22 Name of the Work Total No. of Works 24 Nos Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Rs.4.42 Lakh to Rs.26.52 Lakh Class of Contractor 1 Month (One Calendar Month) Time of Completion Availability of tender Bid Date & time of opening Procurement Officer Identification Online for bidding & time of of tender in the Office of the Superintending No. seeking tender Engineer, 17/EERW/ 13.12.2021 20.12.2021 up 21.12.2021 Superintending Engineer, Rural BLS/ 2021-22 at 11.00 A.M. up to 5.00 to 1.00 P.M. at 10.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in



We have every one of us a role to fulfil, a work to do, a place which we alone can occupy.

The Mother



Aakar Patel

Is it reasonable to

say that the Army

should not be tried

an Indian judge for

crimes against

It seems

Indian civilians?

unreasonable to

expect that. But

repeal of the

that is what those

who do not want a

AFSPA are saying

in an Indian court by

Unreasonable AFSPA

The killing of 14 Indians by the Army in Nagaland has resurrected the demand for the repeal of AFSPA, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. Two northeast chief ministers have said they want the law to go from their states. Later this month the Nagaland Assembly will convene a special session to demand that the law go from their state.

Before we offer opinion in favour of or against AFSPA, it may be of interest to see two things. First, what are these 'special powers' given to the armed forces and secondly what does repeal mean? The key provision of AFSPA is the sweeping empowerment of individuals from the police and the military and the paramilitary to open fire 'if he is of opinion that it is necessary so to do for the maintenance of public order.' The forces could use force 'even to the causing of death' and would be immune from prosecution for their actions except with the sanction of the Centre. Secondly, they could destroy anything they thought was a hideout, a fortified position or shelter from which an attack could be made. And they could arrest and detain without a warrant anyone they wanted and could use force in effecting the arrest. What happens when you give armed men such freedom in a place that has been declared hostile by the State is not difficult to imagine.

What does repeal mean? It means only that in case an individual is accused of committing a crime, and an FIR is filed and then the police investigates

and finds primary evidence and files a chargesheet, then that individual is tried in court. If found guilty, the person is punished. That is all repeal means. Technically there exists a provision within AFSPA for this to happen. The chargesheets filed against the armed forces are sent to Delhi for the Ministry of Defence (for the Army) and the Ministry of Home (for paramilitary). These ministries then decide if the immunity given to the individual can be lifted so he can be tried in court. January 1, 2018, the Rajya Sabha was told that since 1989, approval for prosecution had not been given in any of the cases of murder, torture, kidnap and rape.

The Army says it has an internal system of discipline that it uses. However, that must be used for military offences, such as indiscipline. It cannot be used for crimes against civilians but nonetheless let us see what happens in such cases. May 11, 2006, after investigating a case the CBI filed murder charges against five serving army personnel from the 7 Rashtriva Rifles unit in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Srinagar. The CBI argued this was a case of 'cold blooded murder' and actions were not taken in the course of performing official duties, and so the perpetrators could not be protected. The Indian Army blocked the prosecution of the five personnel using AFSPA. The Supreme Court of India upheld the Army's action and asked it to decide whether it wanted to court martial them instead.

In September 2012, over 12 years after the murder of the five civilians in Pathribal, the Indian Army chose to bring the case before the milita

Army chose to bring the case before the military justice system and began proceedings in a general court-martial. January 24, 2014 the Indian Army said it was dismissing all charges against five of its personnel due to a lack of evidence. According to the closure report filed in the Srinagar Chief Judicial Magistrate's court, the Indian Army did not even conduct a trial but instead dismissed the charges through a pre-trial procedure.

In another case, in Kashmir's Machhil soldiers were convicted of murdering three civilians but freed nonetheless by an Army tribunal without explanation. February 23, 1991, soldiers of 4 Rajputana Rifles came into the villages of Kunan and Poshpora in the remote northern district of Kupwara. The Army asked the men to assemble outside and then entered their homes.

They remained there the entire night and allegedly raped the women of the village, from a fourteen-year-old disabled girl to a seventy-year-old grandmother. Nothing has come of this though FIRs were filed.

Those who oppose the repeal of AFSPA must consider if they want a continuation of this state of affairs. Because the repeal of AFSPA means nothing more than that cases like these will be tried in a civilian court. The Army has been left to do justice to itself for crimes it is accused of committing against civilians. As a force inside the government obviously it will want that there be no intrusion into what it does. But is it reasonable to say that the Army should not be tried in an Indian court by an Indian judge for crimes against Indian civilians? It seems unreasonable to expect that. But that is what those who do not want a repeal of AFSPA are saying.

WISDOM CORNER

66 Th

The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams.

TI de

The simple act of paying attention can take you a long way.

KEANU REEVES

Either you're the one erasing or you're the one being erased.

WORDS**WORTH**

■ Prolegomenon

his is a posh word for an introduction, preface or foreword or, to counter ponderous Greek with obscure Latin, an exordium. It's the neuter of the present participle passive of the Greek prolegein, to say beforehand, and is much rarer than its relative prologue, which is from Greek prôlogos, literally 'fore-speech". Both have travelled via Latin to reach us, but prologue has shuffled off its high-flown classical links while prolegomenon is condemned by its length and shape to be reserved for grand-sounding intellectual occasions and formal scholarship. As prolegomenon to the systematic account of what I regard as the truth about the history of psychiatry presented in this book, I offer Roy Porter's restatement of the premises that underlie my writings on this subject (Coercion as Cure, by Thomas Szasz, 2007). It may be a prologue to a book but it may also describe a work that introduces the study of a subject. A perusal of the dustier shelves of a large library may find titles such as A Prolegomenon to the Material Culture of Garments in the Formative Islamic Period, A Prolegomenon to the Reconceptualisation of Dialectic and Prolegomenon for an Excuse-Centered Approach to Transitional Justice. Should you ever need to discuss more than one prolegomenon, the plural is prolegomena, though this has also at times been used irregularly for the singular, especially in what is almost certainly the best known use of the word in Immanuel Kant's Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics That Will Be Able to Present Itself as a Science of 1783, a summary and introduction to his Critique of Pure Reason of two years previously.

LOL

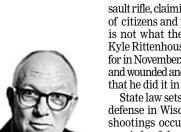
Frog calls a psychic

Recently, the Psychic Hotline and Psychic Friends Network have launched hotlines for frogs. Here is the story of one frog and his discussing with his psychic. A frog telephones the Psychic Hotline and is told, "You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you." The frog says, "This is great! Will I meet her at a party, or what?" "No," says the psychic. "Next semester in her biology class."



FOCUS IDEOLOGIES

MARTYRS OF THE RIGHT



Ian Buruma

MARTYRDOM IS
A RELIGIOUS
CONCEPT.
PEOPLE DIE FOR
THEIR BELIEFS.
RELIGIONS ARE
FOUNDED ON
THE BLOOD OF
MARTYRS.
WHEN
POLITICAL
PARTIES

INDULGE IN

SENTIMENTS,

DEMOCRATIC

THEY ARE

RARELY

THESE

was doing roaming the streets of a Midwestern town with a semi-automatic assault rifle, claiming to be a defender of citizens and property. But that is not what the now 18-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse was put on trial for in November. He killed two men and wounded another, then claimed that he did it in self-defense.

State law sets a low bar for self-defense in Wisconsin, where the

ne might well wonder

what a pudgy teenager

defense in Wisconsin, where the shootings occurred. Carrying a gun is lawful, and so is shooting someone to prevent "what the person reasonably believes to be an unlawful interference with his or her person by such other person." Since one man pointed a gun at Rittenhouse and the others were chasing him, the jury believed that his fear of being "interfered" with was reasonable.

This was not an absurd verdict. One could easily imagine that a black man shooting three white people (all Rittenhouse's targets were white) might not have gotten off so easily. But that is speculation, and no reason to doubt the jury's good faith. Nonetheless, some liberal media instantly published angry articles arguing that the verdict was a clear case of white supremacy. Because Rittenhouse had ostensibly come to town to protect people during a Black Lives Matter demonstration, one writer argued in The Guardian the "verdict is proof that it is reasonable to believe that the fear of Black people can absolve a

white person of any crime."
Such instant conclusions are almost always unwise. But the reaction on the right of the political spectrum was more disturbing. Former US President Donald Trump hosted Rittenhouse at his palatial home in Florida, had photographs taken with him, and called him a "really good, young guy" who had been the victim of "prosecutorial misconduct." Liberals, in this version of the



The cases of George Floyd, Kyle Rittenhouse, and the mobs that ransacked the Capitol are not equivalent. It is easier to sympathise with outrage over racism than it is with the so-called patriotism of right-wing vigilantes

story, had been out to get him. Rittenhouse himself claimed that he had been "extremely defamed." This is about more than defending gun-slinging and vigilantism. It is about turning political opponents into dangerous enemies and larding support for violence with pumped-up stories of martyrdom.

The American left has its own language of grievance and trauma. Black victims of police shootings become the focus of nationwide demonstrations against white supremacy. When George Floyd was killed by police officers in Minneapolis in May 2020, he became a martyr of "systemic racism." And "social justice" can be an excuse for fanaticism – often inviting equally extreme responses on the right. Still, there is good reason to deplore the way police routinely treat African Americans, and some of Trump's most fervent supporters make their white racist views perfectly clear. When some of them got arrested for storming the Capitol in 2021, they became martyrs of the right. After visiting these "patriots" in prison, far-right US Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene tweeted, "I have never seen human suffering like I witnessed last night.' And Trump called Ashli Babbitt, who was shot by a police officer after breaking into the Capitol, "a truly incredible person." The cases of Floyd, Rittenhouse, and the mobs that ransacked the Capitol are not equivalent. It is easier to sympathise with outrage over racism than it is with the so-called patriotism of right-wing vigilantes. And elected politicians on the left are much less likely to promote violence. But the language of martyrdom is dangerous, even when the sentiments are justified.

the sentiments are justified.

Martyrdom is a religious concept. People die for their beliefs. Religions are founded on the blood of martyrs. When political parties indulge in these sentiments, they are rarely democratic. Horst Wessel, the Nazi brownshirt who was killed in a street brawl with Communist activists, became a martyr to National Socialism. But then Nazism, with its leader worship, its martyrs, its arcane rituals, and torchlight parades, was more like a religion than a politi-

cal creed. This has not traditionally been the case with democratic parties, whether left or right.

So long as political differences concern interests and ideas that can be reasonably debated, political opponents can be respected, and compromises can be reached. Nothing about democratic politics is "sacred"; lives should not be sacrificed for one party or another. But reasonable debate ends when politics becomes religious. When blood sacrifice is idealised, there can be no room for compromise.

In the worldview of far-right Trump supporters, anyone with opposing views—liberals, anti-racism activists, advocates for immigrants—are not just political adversaries. They are an existential threat: you are either for us or against us, and those who are against us want to "take over our nation," or "replace our race." That can only end in a fight to the death. Blood will be avenged.

This puts US Democrats in a difficult position. What is a political party to do when the other main party has been taken over by self-appointed holy warriors? To treat them as a loyal opposition worthy of engagement in a spirit of compromise and respect becomes almost impossible. Democrats like Hillary Clinton, Barrack Obama, and Joe Biden have sometimes been criticised by their own supporters for not fighting dirty and giving Republican fanatics a dose of their own foul medicine.

That would be a mistake. All legal means should be used to stop extremists from wrecking democratic institutions, but those institutions won't survive if all parties turn politics into a matter of life and death. In a quasi-religious war, the far right will almost certainly win; they have more fanatics and, in the US, many more guns.

The writer is an editor and author of several books.

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SPECTRUM CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Stopping the for-profit pandemic



Andrés Constantin

TOBACCO,
ALCOHOL, AND
FOOD COMPANIES
HAVE A LONG
HISTORY OF
DOWNPLAYING
THEIR PRODUCTS'
EFFECTS ON
PUBLIC HEALTH

It has been less than two years since phrases like "flatten the curve," "contact tracing," "social distancing," and many others related to the COVID-19 pandemic entered the lexicon and became part of everyday communication. People everywhere have learned more about epidemiology, virology, and immunology than they ever expected they would.

And yet, despite the increased attention to public health, few people can name the world's leading cause of death. That is not an accident.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), especially heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes, account for over 40 million deaths per year, strain healthcare systems, and impose significant social and economic costs. But they do not attract nearly the same attention as infectious diseases like COVID-19, even though they are largely preventable.

It has long been known that tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and diets that are high in fats, sodium, and sugar increase the incidence of NCDs. But, despite some progress in recent years, particularly in reducing tobacco use, these risk factors do not receive the attention they deserve in discussions worldwide. That is partly because the companies that manufacture, promote, and sell these products play a major role in shaping how the public perceives NCDs.

Tobacco, alcohol, and food com-

panies have a long history of downplaying their products' effects on public health. And, since the start of the pandemic, they have used COVID-19-related marketing campaigns and corporate social-responsibility initiatives to divert public attention further.

A study covering 18 countries, conducted from March to July 2020, collected more than 280 examples of ways Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Nestlé, and PepsiCo exploited the public-health emergency to market unhealthy products to vulnerable populations. In Brazil, Nestlé and Danone donated ultra-processed foods to a government programme to provide food to low-income residents. Coca-Cola contributed its sugary drinks for food parcels in South Africa. And Colombian food manufacturer Alpina promoted a highsugar yogurt as essential to improve the immune system.

Similarly, according to a recent report, tobacco companies used pandemic-related corporate social responsibility activities to expand access to senior government officials and repair their public image. In one audacious example, Philip Morris International donated ventilators to hospitals in Greece and Ukraine. The incoherence of a system that works hand in hand with some of the biggest contributors to NCDs while trying to respond to COVID-19 should provoke general outrage. But these activities have gone largely unnoticed and unremarked. It is true that in some cases, corporations have stepped in to deliver goods or services that governments failed to provide. But the state's inability to fill these gaps must not permit corporations to whitewash the harms they cause. When Big Tobacco or Big Food influence governments with donations of food or medical equipment and other high-profile goodwill initiatives, public-health efforts to combat NCDs become futile.

The World Health Organisation

(WHO) recently documented corporations' contribution to poor health outcomes and rising inequities worldwide. To tackle the NCD pandemic, their influence on policymaking should be strictly regulated. Governments must fulfill their obligation to protect their citizens from the harmful activities of third parties - including multinational food, beverage, and tobacco industries. Failure to monitor these corporate activities amounts to a violation of their citizens' fundamental human right to health.

right to health.

The experience of Big Tobacco offers some insight into how the international community can approach industry interference in public health. Following the adoption of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which entered into force in 2005, governments around the world recognised that the industry had been engaging in a concerted effort to undermine

and subvert tobacco-control efforts, and some countries adopted measures to address the problem.

In light of the tactics corporations have deployed during the COVID-19 pandemic, legal measures must be adopted to de-normalise activities that, masquerading as displays of "social responsibility," offer short-term benefits to communities that come at the expense of public health. Governments must not only ensure public awareness of the harms caused by tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy foods; they must also establish measures to limit policymakers' interactions with these industries.

As WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus recently put it, "if tobacco was a virus, it would long ago have been called a pandemic and the world would marshal every resource to stop it. Instead, it is a multi-billion-dollar business profiting from death and disease." His comment applies no less to other products that contribute to NCDs. Governments must take decisive action to counter the role of the private sector in undermining public health. Even when corporations step up to help a community, officials should ensure that this aid does not address problems by creating new ones.

The writer is an associate with the Healthy Families Initiative

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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

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Worrisome report on India

Sir, It is ironic that despite being one of the leading developing economies in the world, the recently released World Inequality Report has put India in the category of the poorest and the most unequal countries in the world. In fact, India's widespread poverty is not caused by shortage of resources but by the most unequal ways of distribution of wealth among people. One-third of the country's wealth is accumulated in the hands of 1% of the population. The wealthiest 10% of the population holds two-thirds (65%) of the total wealth of the nation. It is worrisome that 90% of Indians are forced to manage with just 35% of the total wealth. Worse, this percentage is showing an upward course for over two decades. In spite of tall claims by successive governments about poverty alleviation, the country's poverty has not been eliminated. Even more worrisome is the fact that the wealth of the bottom 50% has been on a downward slide. We can draw reasonable inferences from this. One, there is a wide gap between wealthy and deprived sections of the population. Two, as years go by, the gap is widening. The average wealth of an Indian household is ₹9,83,010 whereas a household in bottom 50% holds a meagre ₹66,280. As for income, half of the Indian population is far behind earning what 1% of the population is earning. Inequalities of income would lead to even greater inequalities in accessing other benefits. One of the distinctive features of Indian society, diversity could be one of the reasons behind this great inequality. Faulty economic model that India follows is another reason for this. Instead of focusing on an overall growth. India must focus on the welfare of individuals.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Farmers on good wicket

Sir, The farm unions appear to be on a good wicket. On the back of the celebrations following the Centre rolling back the three controversial farm laws and granting several other concessions, the unions intend to press the Punjab government to honour the Congress promise made in 2017 on complete debt waiver for tillers. They plan to start an indefinite protest if the government cannot implement it. The estimated size of Punjab's farm debt is ₹1.25 lakh crore. With the state set to go to the polls in just a few months, the farmers' ploy comes as a bombshell for the Congress government in Punjab.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

national



This competitive religion-based politics is creating problems for secular and progressive parties like us (Congress). We have to make people realise that Didi (Mamata) and Modi (Narendra Modi) are two sides of the same coin. They had pursued this dangerous brand of politics of division in the West Bengal assembly poll in which BJP had a serious setback

ADHIR CHOWDHURY | WEST BENGAL PCC PRESIDENT

DELHI SHIVERS

Residents of Delhi-NCR woke up to a cold Saturday morning as the minimum temperature dropped to 9 degrees Celsius, according to the India **Meteorological Department**





responsibility stopped. They need to be tried and jailed. But this government hasn't done it. The Congress will increase the staffing of women in police stations. You have to be heard. Wherever there is a BJP government, there are more crimes against women

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA CONGRESS

government Minister Narendra Modi is committed to conserving our religious, cultural and social values











SHORT TAKES

3 killed, 6 injured Bemetara: Three persons were

killed and six others injured after a tractor-trolley they were travelling in collided with a pick-up van in Chhattisgarh's Bemetara district, police said Saturday. The accident took place near Maharaji village around 9 pm Friday, when around 30 occupants of the tractor trolley were returning to their hometown Bundeli village after attended a function in Khairi village, Nawagarh Station House Officer Ajay Sinha said.

Emergency landing

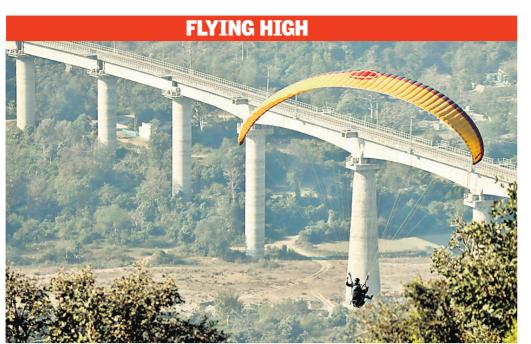
Nagpur: A Gorakhpur-Mumbai flight of SpiceJet made an emergency landing at Nagpur airport in Maharashtra due to a medical emergency involving a pregnant passenger, a senior official said. Air India Airport Services Lta's senior manager Suni Sangole told PTI that a SpiceJet flight heading to Mumbai from Gorakhpur with 182 passengers and crew members on board made an emergency landing at the Nagpur airport at 12.32 PM after a passenger, who was three-month pregnant, had a medical emergency. The woman passenger was rushed to a private hospital by 12.42 PM. The flight flew to Mumbai at 5:17 pm.

Man arrested

Kota (Raiasthan): A Himachal Pradesh man was arrested here Saturday, along with a relative, for impersonating as a Raiva Sabha MP and visiting government offices under fake identity, police said. The accused, Jugjeet Singh alias Puran Singh, impersonated as Narinder Gill, Rajya Sabh MP from Punjab, and had been visiting government offices for the last three days and inquired about land related work, police said. The accused introduced himself to the district officials with a fake visiting card and held meetings with them.

Two electrocuted

Muzaffarnagar: Two young siblings died of electrocution after they came in contact with an overhead high tension wire under Titawi police station limits Saturday, police said. Pradeep (20) and his sister Pinky (18) were cleaning the chimney situated on the roof of their house with an iron rod when it accidentally collided with the high tension wire, leading to their death, police said. Enraged with the incident, members of a farmers' outfit sat on a dharna outside the victims' house in Gujjarheda village against the electricity department.



A tourist participates in a paragliding event ahead of International Mountain Day, in Jammu

BSP to go solo in UP **Assembly polls 2022**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which has been left with only four MLAs in Uttar Pradesh Assembly, has reiterated that it will go solo in the 2022 polls as it has an "alliance" with the state's population.

The BSP has lost 15 of its 19 MLAs to other parties.

BSP chief Mayawati has said that like 2007, the party will come to power with complete majority as it has formed an "alliance with the people of the state".

BSP national spokesperson Sudhindra Bhadoria said: "The party has decided to go it alone. It will not stitch alliance with any other party."

On forming an alliance with the Congress, Bhadoria said that talks were on, but whether the alliance will happen or not is yet to be seen.



Though the Congress has opened its door for the BSP, the latter does not want to enter into alliance with any big party, especially the SP.

In 1996, the BSP fought the polls in alliance with the Congress

But, for the 2022 polls, the BSP seems to be reluctant in having an alliance with the Congress, thereby 'proving that the previous alliance was a failure'

Alliance politics in the state started in 1993 when the BSP and the SP challenged the BJP. The SP-BSP combine had won 176 seats, of which the SP had won 67.

But after the 1995 Guest House scandal, the SP-BSP relationship turned sour. After that the BSP continued to take support from the BJP and Congress and tried to strengthen the party.

In 1996, the BSP fought in alliance with the Congress and the former bagged 67 seats and its vote percentage increased to 27 per cent.

In 2017, it formed an alliance with the SP and the Congress, but did not get anything as the Modi wave swept the state.

Omicron spread: Sec 144 imposed in Mumbai



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Dec 11: The Mumbai police has clamped prohibitory orders under Sec 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) banning the assembly of five or more. protests, marches or rallies by people or vehicles till Sunday night, officials said here Saturday.

The orders, which came into effect from midnight (Friday-Saturday), were issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations), and shall be in force till midnight (Sunday-Monday). "The order has been issued to prevent danger to human life from Omicron, new variant of Covid-19, as well as a threat to the law and order situation against the backdrop of the violence that took place in Amravati, Malegaon (Nashik) and Nanded," said the notification.

Violators shall attract action under Indian Penal Code Sec. 188 and other legal provisions, it added. The prohibitory orders are likely to restrict the movement of the "Tiranga Rally" with over 300 buses and other vehicles starting from different parts of the state to Mumbai, organised on Saturday by the All India Majlis-e- Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

Led by AIMIM MP Syed Imtiaz Jaleel, the vehicle rally to Mumbai will press for the pending demands of the Muslim community including reservations and other issues, with participants likely to reach here from Pune, Nashik, Beed, Jalna, Nanded, Wardha,

Delhi reports second case of **Omicron variant**

New Delhi: Second case of Omicron variant of the coronavirus has been reported in the national capital. As per Delhi government sources, the person -- fully vaccinated, came from Zimbabwe and had travelled to South Africa. The B.1.1.529 variant was first reported to **World Health Organization** (WHO) from South Africa on November 24, 2021.

Parbhani, Latur, Osmanabad and other places.

However, the Mumbai Police has made it clear it will not permit the rally inside the Country's fi nancial capital in view of the restrictions imposed here and the Omicron concerns. With seven new patients detected on Friday, the number of Omicron cases has shot up to 17 in Maharashtra, or nearly half the known cases in the

Of these seven, three were found positive in Mumbai, all males, aged 25, 37 and 48, with a recent travel history to the United Kingdom, South Africa and

The four new patients, including a three-and-half-year-old child, in Pune, are the close contacts of the Indian-origin Nigerian woman who was detected Omicron positive last Sunday

Pinaka-ER successfully test-fired

New Delhi, Dec 11: India successfully tested multi barrel rocket launcher system with extended range at Pokharan range, Saturday.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in a statement said that successful tests of Pinaka Extended Range (Pinaka-ER), Area Denial Munitions (ADM) and indigenously developed fuzes have been carried out at various test ranges

The system is jointly designed by laboratories of DRDO -Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune.

The DRDO, after establishing the performance efficacy of the enhanced range Pinaka, transferred the technology of the system to the industry. The Industry Partner has manufactured enhanced Pinaka Mk-1 rockets with DRDO's hand holding during the production and Quality Assurance. In continuation of the Transfer

of Technology absorption, rockets developed by the industry have undergone the performance evaluation and quality certification process. The hand holding during the production, quality assurance and launch coordination for bulk production is being provided by the DRDO design team and quality assurance agencies nominated for the system.

The DRDO, along with the Army, conducted series of performance evaluation trials of these industry produced rockets at Field Firing Ranges in the last three days. In these trials, enhanced range Pinaka rockets were test fired at different ranges with var-

THE PINAKA-ER IS THE UPGRADED VERSION WHICH HAS BEEN IN FOR THE LAST DECADE

THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN THE LIGHT OF EMERGING REQUIREMENTS WITH ADVANCED **TECHNOLOGIES ENHANCING**

ious warhead capabilities. All the trial objectives were met satisfactorily. A total of 24 rockets were fired for different ranges and warhead capabilities to meet the objectives of accuracy and consistency. With this, the initial phase of technology absorption of Pinaka-ER by the Industry Partner has successfully been completed making the Industry Partner ready for series production of the rocket system.

The Pinaka-ER is the upgraded version of earlier Pinaka version which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade. The system has been designed in the light of emerging requirements with advanced technologies enhancing the range.

The Area Denial Munition (ADM) variants of munition designed by the ARDE, Pune for Pinaka and manufactured by the industry partners under technology transfer were successfully carried out at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges. These trials are part of performance evaluation under

technology absorption.

The indigenously-developed proximity fuzes for Pinaka rockets have also been tested. The ARDE. Pune has developed different fuzes for Pinaka rocket for different types of applications. After design validation trials, dynamic performance evaluation of these fuzes has been evaluated with flight testing. Consistency in performance of fuzes has been established in consecutive flight trials. These have been developed through dedicated indigenous Research and Development efforts for the first time in the country. These indigenously developed fuzes will replace the imported fuzes and save foreign exchange.

The ARDE has also designed miniaturised fuzes for ADMs. Performance of dual-purpose Direct-Action Self Destruction (DASD) and Anti-Tank Munition (ATM) fuzes were evaluated during the current flight trials and the results were satisfactory. All the mission objectives were successfully in all the above trials.

Chopper crash: IAF thanks locals for help

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Indian Air Force Saturday thanked the local villagers. Nilgiris district administration and the Tamil Nadu chief minister's office for prompt assistance in the rescue operations following the helicopter crash in which CDS Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 armed forces personnel lost their lives.

Locals from Katteri village were the first to reach the site of the crash and had informed the police and the fire departments about the accident."IAF thanks the prompt and sustained assistance provided by the Office and Staff of @CMOTamilnadu, @collrnlg, Police officials and locals from Katteri village in the rescue and salvage operation after the unfortunate helicopter accident," the IAF said in a tweet. Besides Gen Rawat and his wife Madhulika, those killed in the crash included Brig LS Lidder, the defence assistant to the Chief of Defence Staff, and staff officer Lt Col Harjinder Singh.

The other personnel killed in the crash are Wing Commander PS Chauhan, Squadron Leader K Singh, JWO Das, JWO Pradeep A. Havildar Satpal, Naik Gursewak Singh, Naik Jitender Kumar, Lance Naik Vivek Kumar and Lance Naik Sai Teja.

Punjab moves SC over new border force powers The state government.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 11:: The Punjab government has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's decision that expanded the BSF's jurisdiction to undertake search, seizure and arrest within a larger 50-km stretch from the international border in Assam, West Bengal and Punjab, as compared to the earlier 15 km.

The state government, in its plea, has said the extension of the territorial jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) encroaches upon the constitutional jurisdiction of the states.

"It is submitted that the notification dated October 11, 2021 is ultravires the Constitution as it defeats the purpose of Entry 1 and 2 of List-II of Schedule 7 of the Constitution of India and encroaches upon plaintiff's plenary authority to legislate on issues which relate to or are necessary for the maintenance of public order and internal peace," the Punjab government has said.

The Union home ministry had issued a notification in this context on October 11, amending a July, 2014 enabling provision for the BSF personnel and officers while they operate in the border areas.

extension of the territorial jurisdiction of the BSF encroaches upon the constitutional jurisdiction of the states While in Punjab, West Bengal

in its plea, has said the

and Assam, the BSF jurisdiction was enhanced from 15 km to 50 km, in Gujarat, which shares its border with Pakistan, the limit has been reduced from 80 km to 50 km, while in Rajasthan, it has been kept unchanged at 50 km.

The issue courted controversy as Opposition-ruled Punjab and West Bengal denounced the move and the respective state assemblies moved resolutions against this decision of the Union government.

The BSF has strength of about 2.65 lakh personnel and it was raised on December 1, 1965. It has 192 operational battalions and is the country's largest border-guarding force, with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Assam Rifles being the other three.

As farmers return home, the poor worry about food, lodging

"WE USED TO HAVE OUR BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER AT LANGARS HERE. THIS IS OUR LAST BREAKFAST TODAY AT THE LANGAR. NOW, WE HAVE TO EITHER COOK ON OUR OWN OR LOOK FOR OTHER OPTIONS," 13-YEAR-OLD ARYAN, A RESIDENT OF SLUMS IN KUNDLI, SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: Thirteenyear-old Aryan is now worried about his next meal as thousands of farmers ended their protest and wound up their langars at Delhi's Singhu border.

Like him, there were many who used to get food at the community kitchens set up by farmers and slept in tents pitched by them during the over a year-long protest. On Saturday morning, a large number of children and local poor, in-

Farmers said they too had developed feelings for local children who used to come to the protest site as they reminded them of their own sons and grandsons."These children became part of our protest as they used to come here for food. They reminded me of my grandsons. It was good to have them here. The Almighty will take care of them now." Satwant Singh from Mohali said.

Dwellers of slums generally work at factories or warehouses in the region. The homeless who used their lodging arrangements.



paths again," Kushwaha lamented. Eight-year-old Mausam, a resident of slums located near the KFC tower in Kundli, said for the past one year, he had been having good food at langars. "My father works in a factory but since the family is big, we often have to skip meal of one time. But for the past one year, we used to have plenty of food at langars. We used to get it packed for home as well. All this will stop now,"

Mausam said. The presence of farmers and

since farmers came here, I faced no problem in crossing the road because of no traffic. I used to have food here and then go to school. It is sad that they are going back," said Tarun, 11, whose father works in a showroom. On November 29, a bill was passed in Parliament to repeal the laws, one of the main demands of the farmers.

However, the farmers refused to end their protest, demanding that the government fulfil their other demands that included legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP) and the withdrawal of

cluding slum dwellers, had their last to live in makeshift tents set up by their settlements also helped poor breakfast at farmers' langars. children in other ways as well. farmers were concerned about police cases against them. "We used to have our breakfast, They said they had no problem As the Centre accepted the pendlunch and dinner at langars here. Monu Kushwaha, 38, from crossing the highway for their ing demands, the Samyukt Kisan This is our last breakfast today at Supaul in Bihar said before farmdaily works, which before the Morcha (SKM), which was spear-Farmers celebrate at Tikri border area as they prepare to leave after their the langar. Now, we have to either ers came to the Singhu border to year-long agitation against the contentious farm reform laws ends PTI PHOTO protests generally used to be a heading the stir, suspended the cook on our own or look for other protest, he used to sleep on the tough task farmers' movement and announcedhave food at langars. All of that will "My school is located on the options," 13-year-old Aryan, a resfootpath but that changed after the farmers' agitation, I used to that they will be returning home ident of slums in Kundli, said. the stir began last year."During sleep in one of their tents and stop now and I will go back to footother side of the highway. Ever on December 11.

OrissaPOST

Kerala's higher edu sector has gone to dogs: Governor

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Delhi/Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 11: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan Saturdav slammed the manner in which Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left government was running the higher ed-

"The Chief Minister has nothing to do with Universities. While the school education in the state is fine, the higher education sector has gone to the dogs as even appointments are being made against the rules," said Khan while speaking to the media in Delhi.

"Since the chancellor's post is not Constitutional, I wrote to Vijayan to pass an Ordinance wherein the Chief Minister can take over as the chancellor," said Khan.

Friday night, it was learnt that Khan wrote to Vijavan that if things in the state's higher education sector continues in this manner, he will step down from the post of Chancellor of the state varsities.

The Governor in his letter has cited the statements of eminent personalities like Bharat Ratna CNR Rao and historian KN Panikkar on why Kerala is lagging behind in the education sector.

Khan Saturday said he was deeply pained, especially when the retiring Vice Chancellor of the Kannur University Gopinath Raveendran was given a four-year extension, last month.

"After signing the order I felt



66 Since the chancellor's post is not Constitutional, I wrote to Vijayan to pass an Ordinance wherein the Chief Minister can take over as the chancellor

was not right and then wrote to the Chief Minister asking him to pass an Ordinance so that he can take over as the Chancellor,'

Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan said finally even the Governor himself has become aware of the manner in which things are happening in Kerala.

"All the fundamental rules are being violated and the higher education sector is run by Vijayan as a feeder organisation of the CPI-M.

We demand a judicial probe into all the recent appointments made in the education sector and all those including the Vice-chancellor at Kannur should quit their posts," said Satheesan.

The Congress and the BJP have been at loggerheads after a Vice Chancellor in the state was given an extension after attaining superannuation. It came at a time when a controversy broke out that rules were bent to appoint the wife of Vijayan's Secretary to a teaching post at Kannur University.

Friday, as a follow up to his letter, emissaries tried their best to pacify Khan, when Chief Secretary VP Joy called on Khan and later State Finance Minister KN Balagopal also called on him, but Khan stood his ground. Reportedly, Vijayan, who is presiding over his party meetings at his home town in Kannur, is likely to speak to Khan later in the day.

IUML questions Vijayan's Communist credentials

Vijayan attacked IUML over Waqf Board issue asking it to make clear if it was a political party or religious outfit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kozhikode, Dec 11: A day after Pinarayi Vijayan questioned the political credentials of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), a top leader of the key Congress ally in Kerala Saturday came down heavily on the Chief Minister asking him whether he was a Communist.

Amid escalation in political fight between the CPI(M) and the Muslim League, the Kozhikode city police has registered cases against ten thousand Muslim League workers on charges of violating COVID guidelines while participating in the massive rally organised by the party at the beach here Thursday to mark their protest against the government's decision to entrust appointments in the Waqf Board to the state Public Service Commission.

Vijayan Friday had attacked the IUML over the Waqf Board issue asking it to make clear if it was a political party or a religious or-

ganisation. "Is Pinarayi a Communist," senior League leader and MLA MK Muneer asked, reacting to the Chief Minister's allegations against IUML. He said his party believes that as per the old definitions of Communism, Vijayan is not a Communist.

Most of the followers of the Communist party also believe that Vijayan is not a Communist, the IUML leader claimed.

Talking to the media here today, Muneer, who is also a former minister, said Muslim League was a political party and it was a key ally



of the Left government headed by Communist leader EMS Namboodiripad during 1967-1969.

The Muslim League leader said it was out of fear over the massive turnout at the rally that prompted the Chief Minister's police to register cases against League cadres. The fight by the party on the Waqf Board issue will continue, Muneer added. Asked about the remarks made by Muslim League leader Abdurahiman Kallayi on the marriage between PWD Minister Muhammed Riyas and CM's daughter Veena, Muneer said it was a closed chapter after Kallayi had expressed regret over the statement. Addressing the rally organised by the Muslim League in Kozhikode Thursday evening, party state secretary Abdurahman Kallayi urged the League workers to have the audacity to say loudly that Rivas' marriage with Veena last year was 'illegitimate.' He later tendered an unconditional apology for the remarks.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) leader and state general education minister V Sivankutty said the Chief Minister's question as to whether the League is a political party or a religious organisation is relevant.

He attacked Muneer for questioning the CM's Communist credentials, saying Vijayan does not need any sort of certificate from the Muslim League leader.

Meanwhile, the Kerala Police Saturday registered a case against a Muslim League leader for allegedly making derogatory remarks against state PWD Minister P A Muhammed Riyas and his wife Veena.

Police said Muslim League leader Abdurahman Kallayi, who allegedly Amid escalation in political fight between the CPI(M) and the Muslim League, the Kozhikode city police registered cases against 10,000 Muslim League workers on charges of violating COVID guidelines while participating in a massive rally organised by the party

described as "illegitimate" the marriage between Rivas and Veena. daughter of chief minister Pinaravi Vijayan, has been booked under relevant sections of the IPC including Section 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony).

The case against the Muslim League leader was registered on the basis of a petition filed by Muieeb. a local CPI(M) leader, police said.

Kallayi made the alleged remarks against Rivas and his wife while addressing a massive rally organised by his party here on Thursday to protest against the stand of the state's ruling LDF on Waqf board appointments.

Kallayi's comments were widely condemned by political leaders and social media users in Kerala. forcing him to tender an apology.



Social activist Medha Patkar addressing a victory procession of joint farmers' group in front of Kerala Secretariat to mark the successful movement of farmers pressuring the Modi government to accept their demands, in Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday.

Man arrested for objectionable remarks on Gen Rawat's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Khandwa (MP), Dec 11: Police have arrested a man in Madhya Pradesh for allegedly making objectionable remarks on Facebook over the death of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and others in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu, an official said.

General Rawat, his wife Madhulika and 11 others on board an Indian Air Force helicopter died in the crash Wednesday

"A comment was made on social media Thursday and we received a complaint in this regard. following which the person who had passed the remark was booked and arrested Friday," Khandwa's Superintendent of Police Vivek Singh told reporters.

Pandhana police station incharge RS Malviya said the complainants also furnished a video CD in support of their allegation, after which the accused, identified as

Durgesh Vaskele, was arrested. He was booked under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 297 (trespass to wound religious feelings), 153A (enmity between dif-



ferent groups), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), among others, Malviya said.

In his Facebook post, Vaskele wrote – "You have killed our 14 people, in return nature swallowed your 13 soldiers," the FIR said.

In the post, he was apparently referring to the death of 14 civilians in Nagaland in firing by se-

curity forces The complainants - Ajay More and Neelesh Dangore - alleged that Vaskele expressed happiness over the martyrdom of the soldiers and

CDS Bipin Rawat and his wife

Madhulika Singh, and tried to disturb the social harmony. The accused insulted the mar-

tyrs and his act adversely affects the national unity and integrity, Earlier, Pandhana's BJP MLA

Ram Dangore had also written a let-

ter demanding action against Vaskele, who belongs to Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakit (JAYS) outfit, for his social media comment. Meanwhile, a Congress leader claimed that B.IP IT Cell's district

head Inder Patel had responded to Vaskele's Facebook post by writing "Absolutely true". State Congress spokes

Narendra Saluja asked why no action was taken against Patel.

"Pandhana police registered a case against a person for an objectionable post about the helicopter crash, but no action was taken against the district head of BJP IT Cell, who made objectionable remarks by writing 'absolutely true' in response to the

post," he said. BJP MLA Dangore said he has learnt about Patel's comment and has apprised the party's senior leadership in this regard.

70% in Kerala get both doses of Covid vaccine



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 11: Kerala Health Minister Veena George said that 70 per cent of the state's population above 18 years has received both the Covid vaccine doses.

"So far 96.87 per cent (2,58,72,847) of Kerala's population above 18 years have by now taken one dose, of which 70.37 per cent (1,87,96,209) have taken both the doses. In all 4.46.69.056 vaccine doses have been given which includes the first and second dose," she said.

Nationally, the data for those who have taken the first dose is 86.52 per cent while 53.84 per cent have received both the doses. "With the threat of Omicron variant still looming large, the local bodies have been asked to ensure that extra efforts are made to see that those who are yet to receive their second dose should be identified and given the vaccine," George said.

Couple held for luring tribal women to change religion

During a meeting held November 29, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had directed the police as well as the state administration to launch a probe against the NGOs receiving foreign funding, including those indulging in religious conversion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barwani (MP), Dec 11: Police have arrested a couple in Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh for allegedly trying to lure tribal women to convert to Christianity, an offi-

cial said Saturday. The accused, identified as Anar Singh Jamre (35) and his wife Laxmi Jamre (32), residents of Nawalpura village, were booked and arrested Friday under the pro-



visions of Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, Rajpur police station in-charge Rajesh Yadav said. The action was taken based on a complaint filed by Prakash Chouhan, a resident of Madil village, he said.

As per the complaint, the couple had been luring the tribal women for conversion to Christianity by offering money, free education, free medicines, employment and other facilities after inviting them to their residence, Yadav said.

Police have also seized some related literature, pen drives and other material from the couple's house, he said, adding that they

were released after a local court granted bail to them. The amended Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act penalises religious conversions through fraudulent means including those

for the sake of marriage. In cases

members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minors, a provision has been made for imprisonment of two to 10 years and Rs 50,000 fine.

Last month, police had arrested 11 persons, including seven from Rajasthan and Gujarat, in two cases of religious conversion in Khargone and Jhabua districts. They had also booked a pastor from Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) in the conversion case of Khargone district, officials said. December 6, the activists of right-wing groups had allegedly vandalised and created a ruckus at a missionary school in Ganibasoda town in Vidisha district of MP over the purported religious conversion of eight students to

Christianity. Later, four persons of right-wing groups were arrested in connection with the vandalism, they said.

During a meeting held November 29, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had directed the police as well as the state administration to launch a probe against the NGOs receiving foreign funding, including those indulging in religious conversion.

NCPCR issues notice on complaint of feeding beef to kids

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Dec 11: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Friday issued a notice to the Superintendent Police (SP) of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh, seeking its report on a complaint of feeding cow meat to children at sewadham ashram.

The move came after the Commission received a complaint against St. Francis Sevadham located in the Shyampura area under Sagar district. The complaint alleged minor children were being forced to eat beef and read Bible. Recently, two siblings residing in St. Francis Sevadham with the help of their parents lodged a complaint in the Cantt police station in the district. As per the report, children have alleged that "they were forced to eat cow meat and read the Bible. On refusing to do so, the children alleged that they would be ha-

rassed by the ashram authorities.' Acting on the complaint, the NCPCR has directed Sagar District SP to investigate the matter and submit its report within next 48 hours. Father of the children, Deshraj Raikvar had written a letter to the Child Welfare Committee, Sagar, mentioning that a woman took his children to the sevadham ashram.

Dead man gets vax certificate in MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgarh, Dec 11: A deceased senior citizen allegedly received a message about having taken the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and got a certificate for the same in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh

district, an official said on Saturday. The authorities have cited computer error as a reason for the goofup, in which Purushottam Shakyawar (78) of Biaora town, who died in May, received a message on his mobile phone number that he was administered the second

dose of the vaccine December 3. According to the deceased man's son Phool Singh Shakyawar, they received the message December 3 and were also able to download the vaccine certificate.

Shakyawar said his father had taken the first dose of the vaccine April 8, and had died May 24 while undergoing treatment in Indore.

When asked about the goof-up, District Vaccination Officer Dr PL Bhagoria said he had received information about the matter and was inquiring into it.

A glitch in the computer might have generated such a



message, he said.

Biaora's block medical officer Dr Sharad Sahu said that since vaccination is being carried out on a large scale, someone might have entered the wrong mobile phone number while making an entry, and the mistake will be rectified.

Meanwhile, Congress MLA from Biaora Ramchandra Dangi alleged that the state government was misleading people by presenting the wrong data of vaccination.

Such incidents were exposing the government's claim and a highlevel inquiry should be conducted into all such cases, he said.

national

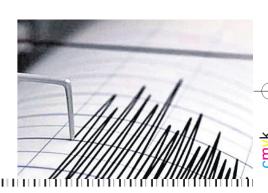


water is not just the responsibility of the government, but that of people too

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

QUAKE HITS MIZORAM, TRIPURA

A moderate quake, measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale, hit Mizoram, northern Tripura and adjoining areas of the northeast region Saturday, according to the National Centre for Seismology



supplies to Afghan



Singh could not accomplish anything during his tenure and has now joined hands with the BJP, which is inimical to the interests of Punjab, to aspire for power

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI PUNJAB CM

Following the death of CDS Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash minds have made some irresponsible

tweets and in a way rejoicing the tragedy, this has to be condemned by every Indian in the strongest possible terms. I strongly condemn it

Out of the total 157 newly approved medical colleges in the country's backward areas, only 70 institutes have become functional till date

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA UNION HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Three arrested

Jamshedpur: Police have arrested three miscreants involved in the loot of over 9.80 lakh from a private steel firm in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, a senior officer said. Miscreants entered the office of the private steel firm owned by the Secretary of Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Sanwarmal Sharma at Jugsalai on the evening of December 5 and looted Rs 9.83 lakh from an employee on duty at gunpoint, said Superintendent of Police (City), Subhash Chandra Jat on Friday.

Three drown

Raisen (MP): Two girls aged eight and four and their sixyear-old brother died while bathing in a pool of water formed in a stone quarry in Raisen district, police said Saturday. The incident took place at Kunwarkhedi on Silwani Road. 110 km from here, on Friday evening, said Sub Divisional Officer of Police P N Goval. The stone guarry had been dug up on a piece of farmland by a road contractor. The victims, two girls aged eight and four and their sixyear-old brother, were children of the watchman appointed to guard the farmland, the police official said.

Surgeon booked

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A surgeon has been booked for alleged negligence while conducting a hysterectomy on a woman at his clinic here last year, police said Saturday. A hysterectomy is a surgical procedure to remove a woman's uterus. Dr P K Kamboj, a reputed surgeon from the district, had operated upon Rajesh Devi to remove her uterus on September 21, 2020 but she died of excessive bleeding. According to a complaint lodged by the deceased woman's son Sachin Kumar, it is alleged that his mother died due to negligence on part of the doctor during the operation.

3 dead, 8 hurt

Bikaner: Three people were killed while eight others injured when a jeep collided head-on with a truck in Raiasthan's Bikaner district. police said Saturday. The jeep travelling from Bikaner to Lunkaransar collided with the truck coming from the opposite direction near Hansera village on Friday night, they said. Three people were declared brought dead while eight others are undergoing treatment at PBM Hospital, Bikaner, Lunkaransar police said. The deceased were identified as Baldev Singh, Udairam and Ghanshyam, all residents of Hansera village.

Saryu project: PM, Akhilesh trade barbs India sends medical

The PM inaugurated the Saryu Canal National Project in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur Saturday, hours after Akhilesh claimed that it was his government that had completed three-fourth of its work and the BJP has only cut ribbons of projects initiated by them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Balrampur, Dec 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav Saturday traded barbs over the Saryu canal project, with the opposition leader calling the BJP government "kainchijivi" and the PM saying he might have cut its ribbon in "childhood".

The PM inaugurated the Saryu Canal National Project in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur Saturday, hours after Akhilesh claimed that it was his government that had completed three-fourth of its work and the BJP only cuts ribbons of projects initiated by them.

Pradesh took five years to complete the remaining work of the



project. "There are basically two

types of people in the world, some

who really work and some who ap-

propriate others' work. This is the difference between the government of the SP and today's 'kainchijivi' (ribbon cutting) government. That's why in the 2022 elections, the BJP is going to be completely wiped out." Akhilesh said in another tweet.

Later at a rally, the PM without taking Yadav's name said he was waiting that "someone" will claim credit for the project."When I started from Delhi, I was waiting for someone to say that he had cut the ribbon of this project and started this scheme. This is the habit of some people. Maybe in their childhood they had cut its ribbon," he said, without taking any name.

"For some people cutting ribbon is a priority while for us completing schemes in time is the priority. In 2014, when I came to power, I was amazed to see that 99 irrigation projects were lying (incomplete) for decades in the country," he said. The project will provide water for irrigation of 14 lakh hectares, benefiting around 29 lakh farmers.

Afghanistan to address the unfolding humanitarian *crisis in the country*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: In the first tranche of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan after its takeover by the Taliban, India on Saturday sent medical supplies to that country in sync with its commitment of extending help to the Afghan people in their times of difficulty.

India has been pitching

for providing unimpeded

humanitarian aid to

The medical supplies were sent on a return flight that had brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans to Delhi from Kabul on Friday. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the consignments will be handed over to WHO representatives in Kabul.

"In view of the challenging humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the Government of India has dispatched humanitarian assistance consisting of medical supplies on the return flight today," the MEA said.

These medicines will be handed over to the representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Kabul and will be administered at the Indira Gandhi Children Hospital, Kabul," it said in a statement. India has been pitching for providing unimpeded humanitarian aid to Afghanistan to address the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the country. At the same time, India has been calling for the formation of a truly inclusive government in

Kabul while insisting that Afghan soil must not be used for any terrorist activities against any country.

India has already announced that it will send 50,000 tonnes of wheat and medicines to Afghanistan by road transport through Pakistan. India and Pakistan are now finalising the modalities for transportation of the consignments. The MEA said the special flight from Kabul to Delhi, chartered by India, brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans on Friday.

"The flight brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans, including members of Afghan minority community. The minority community members carried with them two 'Swaroops of Guru Granth Sahib' and some ancient Hindu manuscripts," it said. The people were brought under India's "Operation Devi Shakti" which was launched to evacuate Indians as well as Afghans from Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul on August 15.

"Under 'Operation Devi Shakti', a total of 669 people have now been evacuated from Afghanistan. This comprises 448 Indians and 206 Afghans, which includes members of the Afghan Hindu/Sikh minority community," the MEA said. As many as 565 people including 438 Indians were evacuated from Afghanistan in the month of August.

India has been concerned over the recent developments in Afghanistan. It hosted a regional dialogue on Afghanistan on November 10 that was attended by National Security Advisors (NSAs) of Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



'BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO' SCHEME

Rahul takes dig at govt over report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday took a dig at the Centre over a parliamentary panel suggesting that the government should reconsider spending on advertisements under the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' scheme, saying the BJP's real slogan is "chhavi bachao, photo chhapao (save image, get photos printed)".

The Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women has flagged poor utilisation of funds by states under the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme and suggested that the government needs to focus more on education and health than on advertising the scheme.

Tagging a media report on the panel's report tabled in Parliament,

The Parliamentary Committee on **Empowerment of** Women has flagged poor utilisation of funds by states under the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme

A model of a cycle, election symbol of Samajwadi Party, being installed at the party headquarters in Lucknow PTI PHOTO

Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi, "BJP ka asli naara -- chhavi bachao, photo chhapao (BJP's real slogan -- save image, get photos

printed). "The committee finds that out of a total of Rs 446.72 crore released during the period 2016-2019, a whopping 78.91 per cent was spent only on media advocacy. Though the committee understands the necessity to undertake media campaign to spread the message of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' among the people, they feel that it is equally important to balance the objectives of the scheme," the panel

Noting that over the last six years, through focused advocacy,

BBBP has been able to capture the attention of the political leadership and national consciousness towards valuing the girl child, the report said now the scheme should focus on other verticals by making ample financial provisions to help achieve measurable outcomes related to education and health envisaged under the scheme.

"Since BBBP is one of the most important schemes of the government to improve child sex ratio in backward regions and ensure education of the girl children, the committee recommends that the government should, hereafter, reconsider spending on advertisements under the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' scheme and should focus on planned expenditure allocation for sectoral interventions in education and health," it added.

Man fined for filing 'frivolous' bail pleas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: A Delhi court has imposed a fine on a man for filing 11 bail applications in one year, noting that the pendency of such "frivolous" pleas floods the dockets of the courts and wastes the precious judicial

Additional Sessions Judge Ravinder Bedi slapped the accused with a fine of Rs 25,000 in a cheating and conspiracy case after noting that he filed the bail plea for the eleventh time without there being any change in circumstances.

The judge noted that the tenth bail plea of the accused was dismissed on November 29, 2021. The sixth plea, seeking interim bail, was junked with a cost of Rs 10,000, ASJ Bedi said.

The accused is in judicial custody since November 27, 2020.

Only 3-5% of total hospital beds for emergency care: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 10: The number of beds available at emergency departments accounted for only 3-5 per cent of total hospital beds in the country says a report that accessed the prevailing status of 100 emergency and injury care centres in government and private hospital settings

The report titled 'Emergency and Injury Care at Secondary and Tertiary Level Centres in India', prepared by the Department of Emergency Medicine, AIIMS was submitted to Niti Aayog.

As per the report, most of the hospitals lacked presence of general doctors, specialists and nursing staff dedicated for emergency departments vis-à-vis the average footfall of patients, even though the hospitals as such, had sufficient overall numbers of required

human resource.

The report assessed the prevailing status of 100 emergency and injury care centres in government and private hospital settings in 28 states and 2 union territories of India, in addition to 34 district hospitals.

Amongst the critical infra-related quality parameters assessed in the emergency departments (EDs), the following were important deficiencies: absence of point of care lab (73 per cent), demarcated triage area (65 per cent), police control room (56 per cent), separate access for ambulance (55 per cent) and adequate spacing for emergency department (52 per cent).

The report said, emergency and injury cases annually accounted for 9-13 per cent of all patients presenting to a health facility and 19-24 per cent of admissions in government hospitals and 31-39 per



cent admissions in private hospitals. Emergency care can be defined as the delivery of time-sensitive interventions needed to avert death and disability and for which delays of hours can worsen prognosis or render care less effective.

The report noted that while compliance with availability of overall recommended biomedical equipment and critical equipment were largely found satisfactory at all private hospitals (86-93 per cent) and government medical college hos-

pitals (68 per cent), deficiencies were found largely in smaller gov-

ernment hospitals (45-60 per cent). According to the report, many government medical colleges lacked common HDU (55 per cent), Cardiac ICU (55 per cent) and Neuro ICU (55 per cent). In addition, they also lacked facilities for Coronary Artery By-pass Graft (55 per cent), Cardiac Cath Labs (30 per cent) and interventional radiology (40 per cent), it said. The report pointed out that most of the hospitals did not have a dedicated blood bank in the emergency department nor an existing standard protocol for massive blood transfusion. It also said that the patient disposition time for the sickest group (red zone) was high at government medical colleges (90 minutes) vis-à-vis private hos-

The reasons for this delay amongst others were due to: high

pitals (15 minutes)

patient load, lack of in-house specialists in the ED, need for multiple cross referrals, with an overarching lack of a dedicated department for emergency services, it added.

While 91 per cent of hospitals had in-house ambulances, the report said trained paramedics needed to assist ambulance services were present only in 34 per cent.

The report pointed out that only 19 per cent hospitals had a mobile stroke/STEMI (for heart attack) program, with only 4 per cent having a mobile stroke unit.

Specifically, equipment deficiencies pertained largely to the category of pediatric-care (75 per cent), equipment pertaining to Airway, breathing, circulation and general categories had deficiencies pertaining to a few sets

of specific equipment (10-72 per cent), it said.



BASAVARAJ BOMMAI KARNATAKA CM

The BJP government in Uttar

Centre asks states to buckle up amid Covid

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

surge in 27 districts

New Delhi, Dec 11: As many as 27 districts have registered a surge in the Covid-19 positivity rate in the past two weeks and are being monitored closely, the Central government told the states, adding that the country is critically placed in its fight against the pandemic.

With the recent trend of sustained and overall decline in Covid-19 cases in the country, we are critically placed in our fight against the pandemic. Eight districts in three states have been reporting more than 10 per cent positivity rates in the past two weeks. As many as 19 districts in seven states and union territories (UTs) have been reporting positivity rates between 5 per cent and 10 per cent in the past two weeks. Thus, these 27 districts need to be monitored closely. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan wrote in his letter to

The letter informed that a framework based on the test positivity rate or bed occupancy rate (test positivity rate more than or equal to 10 per cent or more than 60 per cent bed occupancy on either oxygen supported or ICU beds) was

provided to the states. "It is imperative for all states and UTs to maintain a strict watch on the situation with focused district level measures for containment of clusters of new positive

cases as per guidelines. In case of any district reporting a surge in Covid cases or rise in the positivity rates, intensive action and local containment as

per the containment framework

must be initiated." the letter said. The strategic containment interventions in identified areas with test positivity rate of more than or equal to 10 per cent or more than 60 per bed occupancy on either oxygen supported or ICU beds include night curfews, restricting the intermingling of people, prohibition of congregations, curtailment of attendees in marriages and funerals and last rites, etc.

international



The fact that we presented the text of Iran's proposal to the negotiating parties shows that we are serious in the talks, and if the other side is also serious about the removal of US sanctions, we will achieve a good agreement. We are definitely after a good agreement EBRAHIM RAISI | PRESIDENT, IRAN

BIDEN'S ADVISER TO HEAD UNICEF

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the appointment Friday of Catherine Russell, an assistant to US President Joe Biden, as the next head of the UN children's agency UNICEF



message I want to impart as we close out this Summit for Democracy is that we know how hard the work is going to be ahead of us. But we also know we

are up to the challenge JOE BIDEN PRESIDENT, US

Social media which was described as a symbol of freedom when it first appeared, has turned into one of the main

sources of threat to today's RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

You and the coalition partners have a responsibility to reform the vicious power model inherited from 12

years of authoritarian rule, to tackle corruption and lawlessness, the inequalities and poverty they create

RUMEN RADEV | PRESIDENT, BULGARIA

SHORT TAKES

Taiwan registers **1st Omicron case**

Taipei: Taiwan has recorded its first case of the omicron variant in a passenger who recently travelled to the southern African country of Eswatini, health officials said Saturday. The passenger, a Taiwanese woman in her 30s who returned on December 8, is now in quarantine in hospital, according to the Central Epidemic Command Center, which is in charge of the island's pandemic response. Passengers who sat near her on the plane have tested negative so far.

US sanctions two SL military officers

Colombo: The US has imposed sanctions on two Sri Lankan military officers, including a murder convict pardoned by President Gotabava Rajapaksa, for human rights violations, banning them and their immediate family members from entering America. Chandana Hettiarachchi, a Naval officer, and Sunil Ratnavake, a former staff sergeant of the Sri Lankan Army, were among several officers from 12 countries who were sanctioned by the US over accountability for gross violations of human rights. Hettiarachchi was involved in the flagrant denial of the right to liberty of at least eight 'Trincomalee 11' victims, from 2008 to 2009, the US state department said in a statement issued on Friday, coinciding with the International Human Rights Day.

Gunmen attack cops in Pakistan

Peshawar: Gunmen attacked two police officers who were providing security for polio vaccination workers in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing one and wounding the other, police said Saturday, days after a major terror group announced that it has ended a month-long ceasefire deal with the government. Mohammad Khurasani, spokesman for Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), known as the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Mt Semeru death toll reaches 45

Jakarta: The death toll from the eruption of Indonesia's Semeru volcano has increased to 45 after rescuers recovered two more victims in Kampung Renteng hamlet of Lumajang district in East Java province, a disaster management official said. Meanwhile. nine people were still reportedly missing.

Glowing Covid detection masks made from ostrich cells

The scientists started by creating a mask filter coated with ostrich antibodies targeting the novel coronavirus, based on previous research showing the birds have strong resistance to disease

Tokyo, Dec 11: Japanese researchers have developed masks that use ostrich antibodies to detect Covid-19 by glowing under ultraviolet light.

The discovery by Yasuhiro Tsukamoto and his team at Kyoto Prefectural University in western

Japan could provide for low-cost testing of the virus at home, they said in a press release.

The scientists started by creating a mask filter coated with ostrich antibodies targeting the novel coronavirus, based on previous research showing the birds have strong resistance to disease.

In a small study, test subjects



wore the masks, and after eight hours, the filters were removed and sprayed with a chemical that glows under ultraviolet light if the virus

is present. The filters worn by people infected with Covid-19 glowed around the nose and mouth areas. The team hopes to further de-

RINGS OR RIGHTS?

velop the masks so that they will glow automatically, without special lighting, if the virus is detected.

Tsukamoto, a veterinary professor and the president of the university, has studied ostriches for years, looking for ways to adapt their immunity power to fight bird flu, allergies, and other diseases.

Tsukamoto told the Kvodo news agency he discovered his own positivity for Covid-19 after he wore one of the special masks and found that it glowed when checked. The diagnosis was confirmed after a standard test.

900 on Zoom call takes time off PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CEO who fired

New York, Dec 11: Vishal Garg, the Indian-origin CEO of US-based homeownership firm Better.com, who recently laid off 900 employees over a Zoom call and triggered widespread outrage, is taking time off from the company as it looks to build a positive culture, according to media reports.

Garg's leave is also effective immediately, according to a Friday email from the company's board of directors. Day-to-day operations will be taken over by the company's CFO Kevin Ryan, the CNN reported.

Better.com is hiring a third party firm to do a leadership and cultural assessment, whose recommendations will be taken into account to build a long-term sustainable and positive culture at the company, it said Friday, citing an email from the digital mortgage company's board.

On December 1 over a Zoom call that lasted less than three minutes, Garg abruptly fired more than 900 employees, about 9 per cent of the company's workforce.

"If you're on this call, you are part of the unlucky group that is being laid off. Your employment here is terminated, effective immediately," he told the employees.

Garg, who is in his mid-40s, cited market efficiency, performance and productivity as the reason behind the firings. In a later post on the professional network Blind, he accused the fired employees of stealing from their colleagues and customers by being unproductive and only working two

More than 70 die as tornadoes rip

through US states

Benton (Kentucky), Dec 11: A devastating swarm of tornadoes ripped through six US states, killing more than 70 people in Kentucky and leaving a trail of destroyed homes and businesses along a path that stretched more than 200 miles, officials said Saturday

Dozens were feared dead at a candle factory in western Kentucky where about 110 people were working when a powerful tornado ripped through the facility late Friday, causing the roof to cave in.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear said 40 of the 110 workers had been rescued from the factory so far. "The level of devastation is unlike anything that I have ever seen," Beshear said of the damage caused by the collection of twisters, with the primary tornado travelling more than 365 km across his state.

Earlier this morning at about 5 am, we were pretty sure that we would lose over 50 Kentuckians. I'm now certain that number is north of 70. It may, in fact, end up exceeding 100 before the day is

done. Beshear said, 189 National Guard personnel have been deployed to assist with the recovery, with a focus on Mayfield, a small city of about 10,000 people in the southwestern corner of the state where it converges with Illinois, Missouri

Fire and police stations in Mayfield were destroyed, hindering the emergency response. Mayfield is also home to the candle factory, which collapsed soon after emplovees heard howling winds and the lights began flickering, according to Kyanna Parsons-Perez, a worker at the plant.



and Arkansas

Video and photos posted on so-

cial media showed brick buildings in downtown Mayfield reduced to rubble, with parked cars nearly buried under bricks and debris. The steeple on the Graves County courthouse in Mayfield appeared to have been toppled, photos on Twitter showed. The genesis of the tornado outbreak was a series of overnight thunderstorms, including a super cell storm that formed in northeast Arkansas. That storm moved from Arkansas and Missouri and into Tennessee and Kentucky.



Members of the Tibetan Youth Association in Europe (TYAE) and Students for a Free Tibet protest against the Beijing

2022 Olympic Games outside the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland

spokesman, Abdulatif al-Qanou, told the Associated Press that the group wants parliamentary and presidential elections and considers holding the municipal vote alone a violation of previous agreements. Today's vote does not "satisfy the inspiration and needs of the

Palestinian people. The popularity of the Palestinian government has plummeted since Abbas cancelled long-awaited legislative and parliamentary elections in April.

Palestinians vote in rare polls G7: United front against Russia over Ukraine row

Britain, as current chair of the G7, is calling for its members to be more strident in their defence of what it calls the free world

REUTERS

Liverpool, Dec 11: The world's wealthiest democracies Saturday sought to present a united front against Russian aggression toward Ukraine as Britain hosted a meeting of foreign ministers in the northern English city of Liverpool.

The G7 meeting, attended in person by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his counterparts from France, Italy, Germany, Japan and Canada, comes amid international concern that Russia could invade Ukraine. Russia denies planning any attack. Ahead of the formal discussions, British foreign minister Liz Truss met Blinken Friday night where they expressed deep concern about the build-up of Russian troops on Ukraine's border, Britain's

foreign office said in a statement. Any incursion by Russia would be a strategic mistake for which there would be serious conse-

against the growing threats from hostile actors and we need to come together strongly to stand up to aggressors who are seeking to limit the bounds of freedom and democracy. Truss told foreign ministers at the start of the meeting. To do this, we need to have a

We need to defend ourselves

stronger united voice

Ukraine is at the centre of a crisis in East-West relations as it accuses Russia of massing tens of thousands of troops in preparation for a possible large-scale military offensive. Russia accuses Ukraine and the United States of destabilising behaviour, and has said it needs security guarantees for its own protection. Ministers arrived at the Museum of Liverpool to a brass band playing Christmas carols, before convening the first formal meeting session which will look at geopolitical issues including nuclear talks with Iran and

Tens of thousands march on main roads of Gwadar

'GWADAR KO HAQ DO'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gwadar, Dec 11: Tens of thousands of people, including women and children, marched on the main roads and streets of Gwadar in support of their movement launched for the rights of the people of the city in Pakistan's Balochistan province, Dawn re-

Led by Maulana Hidayat-ur-

Rehman, the Balochistan General Secretary of Jamaat-i-Islami, the people of the port city launched the Gwadar ko haq do' movement 26 days ago.

The participants of the procession started their march from Seratun-Nabi Chowk, carrying placards and banners inscribed with slogans in support of their demands. They were chanting slogans against the provincial government, the report said.

Addressing the participants



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ramallah, Dec 11: Palestinians

took part in rare municipal elections

across the occupied West Bank

Saturday, following months of sim-

mering anger towards their gov-

ernment and the cancellation of

promised parliamentary and pres-

idential elections earlier this year.

eligible to vote in the election where

they will select representatives for

154 village councils under the ju-

risdiction of the Fatah-controlled

cally held every four to five years

The increasingly unpopular

president of the Palestinian

Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, con-

fined the election to rural mu-

nicipalities, postponing voting in

the West Bank's major cities where

anger towards his ruling Fatah

Palestinian Authority.

Municipal elections

and last took place in 2017.

Some 400,000 Palestinians are

Friday, Maulana Hidayat said po lice and other law-enforcement agencies blocked the Coastal Highway at Uthal, stopping buses, coaches and other vehicles carrying people to travel towards the city as thousands of people from Karachi and other areas of Sindh wanted to join the sit-in in Gwadar.

Maulana Hidayat said that the participation of hundreds of thousands of people in the procession and the sit-in was actually a referendum against the provincial and federal governments and the people would continue their struggle and protest till the achievement of their rights which had been denied to them for a



Missing 'Goat Goddess' to find way back home soon

THE YOGINI, WHICH REFERS TO THE DIVINE FEMININE IN HINDUISM, DATES BACK TO THE 8TH CENTURY AND WENT MISSING FROM THE VILLAGE OF LOKHARI IN UP AROUND THE LATE 1970s AND EARLY 1980s

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Dec 11: An ancient Indian idol of a goddess missing from a temple in Uttar Pradesh, presumed stolen over 40 years ago, will soon find its way back home to India after it was discovered in a garden in a country home in England.

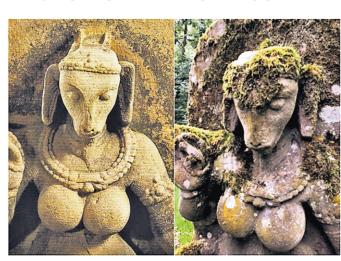
The Yogini, which refers to the divine feminine in Hinduism, dates back to the 8th century and went missing from the village of Lokhari in Banda district around the late

1970s and early 1980s. This week, the Indian High Commission in London confirmed that the formalities for the ancient artefact's return to India are being

finalised and it will be restituted in a few months' time.

"High Commission of India in London is making all out efforts to bring back the identified Yogini," said Jaspreet Singh Sukhija, First Secretary – Trade and Economic, who has been liaising on the restitution of the sculpture.

"Most of the formalities are completed and we are in the final lap for bringing the artefact home. Chris Marinello and Mr Vijay Kumar have played a very important role in helping in the identification of the artefact a couple of months back. You would soon see the Yogini being handed over to the High Commission and restored



to its full glory," he said.

Marinello, a lawyer and Founder of Art Recovery International, became aware of the goat-headed sculpture when an unnamed elderly woman in the UK was selling her country home after her husband passed away.

"She was selling the home and the contents, which included some very valuable antiques. As part of the due diligence process, we were contacted to research and investigate this artwork found in her garden. She had purchased the house over 15 years ago and this was already in the garden,'

explained Marinello. He then contacted Vijay Kumar,

Co-Founder of the India Pride Project – an organisation that works on restoring India's lost artefacts - and he was able to identify the sculpture in the garden as the Yogini missing from Uttar Pradesh

"I negotiated an unconditional release with the possessor, who was very cooperative. It was in my home office in London for a short period of time, and Vijay promised that she would watch over me during this process,' recalls Marinello.

The journey of the Yogini back to its original home has been a long one, including a mysterious diversion when it briefly emerged on the auction circuit over 30 years ago.

business



Our business has been thriving. Despite the growth of UPI. the whole market has grown. So we view nationalism or governmental involvement as not necessarily a negative PASANT PRABHU | VICE-CHAIRMAN, VISA

INDIA RE-ELECTED TO IMO COUNCIL

India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council after elections were held at its Assembly in London for the 2022-23 biennium. India's election falls under the Category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade", alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Arab Emirates





The year 2020 and 2021 have indeed been very challenging for not just the aviation and travel industry economy, and it is the economy

SANJAY KUMAR | CHIEF STRATEGY AND

REVENUE OFFICER, INDIGO

Commission's role is to ensure that platforms, which act as a central point of interaction between different sides in digital markets.

remain neutral, offer a level playing field and allow enterprises, big or small, to compete on merit ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA CHAIRPERSON, CCI



supply side shortages. As and when the supply side situation normalises we will cater to that demand

TARUN GARG DIRECTOR SALES AND MARKETING, HYUNDAI MOTOR

SHORT TAKES

Centre rejects steel cos' offer

New Delhi: The government has rejected the steel industry's proposal to lower prices on several products by Rs 1,500 a tonne for small businesses and exporters and has instead asked it to improve the offer. At a meeting of commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, steel minister RCP Singh and MSME minister Narayan Rane Thursday, user industries such as auto components players, engineering goods makers and exporters demanded that prices be lowered by Rs 4,000 a

Lulu to invest ₹2K cr in Gui

New Delhi: The UAE-based retail giant Lulu Group Saturday announced it will invest Rs 2,000 crore to develop a shopping mall near Ahmedabad in Gujarat as part of its plans to expand business in India. The company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government, it said in a statement. The Lulu Group already has three operational malls in India and will open two more mall in the country by March next year.

MedPlus Health raises ₹418cr

Mumbai: Pharmacy retail chain MedPlus Health Services has mobilised Rs 418 crore from anchor investors ahead of its initial share sale that opens for public subscription Monday, December 13, The company has allotted 52.51 lakh equity shares to anchor investors at Rs 796 apiece. aggregating to Rs 417.98 crore according to BSE circular. Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, BlackRock Global Funds. Fidelity, Nomura, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, HFFC Life Insurance Company, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company and SBI Life Insurance Co Ltd. SBI Mutual Fund (MF), and Aditva Birla Sun Life MF are among the anchor investors.

Lupin enters diagnostics biz

New Delhi: Homegrown pharma major Lupin Friday announced its foray into the diagnostics business and plans to have around 100 laboratories as well as 1,000 collection centres across the country over the next five years. The laboratories would be company-owned, while the collection centres would be a mix of companyowned and franchise outlets.

US CPI inflation soars 6.8% in Nov

Biden acknowledged the increased burden on household budgets from the high inflation, while trying to reassure Americans that the country was pushing ahead with efforts to ease supply bottlenecks

Washington, Dec 11: US consumer prices rose solidly in November as Americans paid more for food and a range goods, leading to the largest annual gain since 1982, posing a political nightmare for President Joe Biden's administration and cementing expectations for the Federal Reserve to start raising interest rates next year.

The report from the Labor Department Friday, which followed on the heels of a slew of data this month showing a rapidly tightening labor market, makes it likely the US central bank will announce that it is speeding up the wind-down of its massive bond purchases at its policy meeting next week.

"There's not much room to explain away this inflation from pandemic or reopening anomalies," said Will Compernolle, a senior economist at FHN Financial in New York. "Inflation is a tax, gas and food are among the most regressive aspects of it. Lower-income Americans spend disproportionately on both.'

In the 12 months through November: the CPI accelerated 6.8%. That was the biggest year-on-year rise since June 1982 and followed a 6.2% advance in October. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the CPI would climb 0.7% and rise 6.8% on a vear-on-vear basis.

HIGHEST GAIN SINCE 1982



CONSUMER PRICES INCREASE 0.8% IN NOVEMBER

LEAD BROAD INCREASE IN CORE CPI RISES 0.5%; SURGES 4.9% ON YOY BASIS US GOVT BUDGET DEFICIT DOWN 17% YOY

The consumer price index increased 0.8% last month after surging 0.9% in October. The broadbased rise was led by gasoline prices, which increased 6.1%, matching October's gain. With crude oil prices declining recently, gasoline prices have likely peaked for now.

Food prices rose 0.7%. The cost

of food at home increased 0.8%, driven by a jump in the price of fruits and vegetables, meat, and cereals and bakery products. The price of food consumed at home gained 6.4% over the past 12 months, the most since December 2008. Dining out was also more expensive last month.

Rising inflation is eroding wage gains. Inflation-adjusted average weekly earnings fell 1.9% on a year-on-year basis in November.

"We are making progress on pandemic-related challenges to our supply chain which make it more expensive to get goods on shelves, and I expect more progress on that in the weeks ahead," Biden said in a statement.

The US budget deficit totaled

DOLLAR SLIPS

London: The dollar shed early gains and turned lower Friday after US consumer prices increased further in November, posting their largest annual rise in 39 years as investors took profits before a Federal Reserve meeting next week. Against a basket of its rivals, the dollar briefly fell 0.1% to 96.10 before trimming losses in volatile trading. Money markets expect more than 60 bps in rate hikes from the US central bank next year. The dollar's losses pushed other currencies higher with sterling edging 0.2% higher to \$1.324. The euro, seen as vulnerable to a Federal Reserve hike especially if euro zone rate rises lag, trimmed losses to stand down 0.1% on the day at \$1.1281. Elsewhere, China's yuan fell in onshore and offshore markets after the People's Bank of China raised FX reserve requirements for the second time since June, and was further pressured when the central bank set its trading band midpoint weaker than expected.

\$356.4 billion in the first two months of the budget year, down 17 per cent from the same period a year ago as a sharp jump in government revenues offset a smaller increase in spending.

SYRINGE SHORTAGE SCARE

Impact of Omicron to be less severe: FinMin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: India will be among only a few economies in the world to rebound strongly from Covid-19 induced economic contraction of 2020-21, a Finance Ministry report said assuaging that the Omicron variant's impact on the economy will be less severe due to rapid vaccination.

"India is among the few countries that have recorded four consecutive quarters of growth amid Covid-19 (Q3, Q4 of FY21 and Q1, Q2 of FY22) reflecting the resilience of the Indian economy. The recovery was driven by a revival in services, fullrecovery in manufacturing and sustained growth in agriculture sectors," it said. The recovery suggests kick-start-

ing of the investment cycle, supported by surging vaccination coverage and efficient economic management activating the macro and micro drivers of growth.

Yet, Omicron, a new variant of Covid-19 may pose a fresh risk to the ongoing global recovery. However, preliminary evidence suggests that the Omicron variant is expected to be less severe and more so with increasing pace of vaccination in India, the FinMin said.

Observing that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to considerable human and economic costs setting countries back on their developmental goals, the latest review said, the year 2021 is thus a catch-up vear for the global economy in-



MPC in its December statement has maintained the growth forecast of 9.5 per cent during FY 2021-22

pre-pandemic output level of 2019. India has not only caught up with its pre-pandemic output of Q2, but is also expected to do so for the full year, it said, adding, the

cluding India, trying to recover the

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its December statement has maintained the growth forecast of 9.5 per cent during FY 2021-22, implying a full recovery and a 1.6 per cent growth over pre-pandemic GDP level of FY 2019-20. India will be among only a few

economies in the world to rebound strongly from COVID-19 induced economic contraction of 2020-21, it said.

In the first seven months of FY2021-22, it said the government stepped up public capital expenditure in infrastructure by 28.3 per cent over the corresponding period of last year with focus on railways, road transport and highways, and housing and urban affairs.

Property with British

era architecture soon

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: A new res-

idential property is coming up in

city that will be established based

in British era architecture, said

Siddharth Sekhar Mohapatra from

Mohapatra announced it dur-

"This project is a mixed use

ing the launching of Nawah, the

multi-storied complex with iconic

British era architecture in Patia.

Brtitish era buildings always fas-

cinated me when I used to visit to

London, So, we are now bringing

here in city the gothic architec-

ture. Even before launch of the

project the company has garnered

appreciation for its bold move and

iconic landmark ideas. We would

like to attain expertise in this sec-

introduce architecture designs and

The company is also likely to

tion," said Mohapatra.

flagship brand of the company.

POST NEWS NETWORK

OU Infra Projects.

Edible oil prices down; may fall further: Industry HMD asks Modi to lift shutdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 11: Edible oil prices declined by Rs 8-10 per kg in last one month mainly on the back of lower import duties and may fall by Rs 3-4 per kg in coming months on higher domestic output of oilseeds and bearish trend in global markets, according to industry body SEA.

The last few months have been harrowing for the Indian edible oil consumer largely on account of very high international prices of all oils viz palm, soya and sunflower, Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) President Atul Chaturvedi said in a statement.

SEA had advised its members before Diwali to reduce prices to the maximum extent possible, he said, adding that the Centre also reduced import duties on edible oils. "We are happy to confirm all

these actions have resulted in edible oil prices coming down by around Rs 8-10 per kg in the last 30 days," Chaturvedi said.

SEA said its members have been responding promptly in the past in passing on the benefit of lower prices to the consumers.

'With likelihood of lower import parities, our members have agreed to pass on the reduced cost to our consumers as seasons' greetings. We feel the prices would be reduced by around Rs 3-4 per kg in foresee able future by our members. This should provide relief to our edible oil consumers during fes-



tive season," the SEA president

With a large soyabean crop of around 120 lakh tonne and groundnut crop in excess of 80 lakh tonne, Chaturvedi said the edible oil prices would now remain in check.

"The icing on the cake is that high mustard seed prices have elicited a massive supply side response from the farmers and they have planted an all-time high mustard crop in about 77.62 lakh hectares. This figure is higher by almost 30 per cent and has the potential of increasing domestic mustard oil availability by 8 to 10 lakh tonne in coming year," he added.

Chaturvedi said the global trend of edible oil prices is relatively bearish and we feel prices would continue to move downward.

According to SEA, India's dependence on import of edible oils is nearly 65 per cent of the total consumption of about 22-22.5 million tonne. The country imports 13-15 million tonne to bridge the gap between demand and domestic supply.

For the last two marketing years (November to October), due to the pandemic, import has reduced to nearly 13 million tonne.

Mumbai, Dec 11: India's largest syringe and needle manufacturer has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to revoke an order to suspend production, part of a broader factory shutdown imposed by a state regulator to curb heavy pollution in the region.

Hindustan Syringes and Medical Devices (HMD) has shuttered its factories on the outskirts of New Delhi following the directive from a state pollution control board. triggering concerns of an acute shortage of syringes and needles in India just as its COVID-19 vaccination programme is in full swing.

"The closure of needles and svringes manufacturing factories will create disruption in the supply chain," said Rajiv Nath, managing director of HMD, in a letter



We assure the government that we will not use our diesel generator sets and have fully equipped our plants with renewable energy sources

RAJIV NATH | MD, HMD

to Modi's office which was released to media.

"This may impact healthcare delivery across the country in general and the Covid-19 vaccination programme in particular, resulting in major shortage and other related issues," Nath said, adding

tories to operate under the National Disaster Management Act. The directive was issued to more than 228 factories in the region by

that authorities must permit fac-

the Haryana Pollution Control Board as part of a drive to combat pollution and improve air quality. HMD, which provides more than 60% of the needles and syringes which India needs for curative healthcare and immunisation, said it will take adequate measures to

luting the region. Air quality in India's capital and its neighbouring region remains very poor, forcing the government to take emergency measures.

ensure its factories are not pol-

Schools and colleges were also ordered to shut as the government intensified various dust-control steps such as using fire trucks to spray water.

building like established in Italy, France and German.

'FSI likely to rise 9% CAGR over FY20-25E'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 11: The Indian food service industry (FSI) is expected to grow by nine per cent CAGR over FY20-25E.

As per Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL), the growth of FSI is being driven by rising income levels, urbanisation, and nuclearisation apart from innovative offerings that appeal to the youth and the changing dynamics of the food delivery and food tech.

Within FSI, organised players are growing faster than the industry, with the companies covered in this report growing even faster.

Over FY20-25E, the organised industry is expected to deliver 15.4 per cent CAGR, while the companies in this report are expected to deliver an aggregate sales CAGR of 18.5 per cent. According to MOFSL, the contribution of organised FSI

in FY20 from 29 per cent in FY15 and is expected see its share increased to 50 per cent by FY25E.

The organised Indian FSI is witnessing enhanced growth prospects post-Covid, led by sustained high delivery levels compared to the past aided by increased technology adoption by consumers; incrementally strong gains from unorganised peers, led by closures of 30-40 per cent the restaurants.

About Nawah, Mohapatra said, "We at the house of OU Infra Projects are proud to introduce Nawah, a unique identity of our own, keeping the spirit of '9' alive. Nawah intends to bridge the gap between people and their lifestyle

ODISHA #1ST FORUM UNVEILED

Voluntary effort needed to boost growth: Vedanta chief

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: About 18 eminent personalities of different fields gathered under one roof at the launch of Odisha #1st forum. The forum, hosted by Vedanta, was launched to promote Odisha in their respective domain.

Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, the world-renowned flautist and the recipient of Padma Vibhushan, became the chairman of the forum. Tapan Chand, President and Resident Director - Odisha of Vedanta Ltd was also requested to

be the convenor of the forum. "Odisha has now become a land of happenings and opportunities. We thought this land has given us enough, we have been promoting this land, now we will promote it together," Chaurasia said.

Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Group and Rahul Sharma, CEO - Aluminium Business. Vedanta Limited joined the event through video conference.

The forum will function as a Think Tank to generate various ideas and action plans by practising professionals of this forum. These ideas and action plans will be presented to the government, corporate bodies and autonomous institutions for their support for implementation, said an official release.

Agarwal appreciated Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik for giving a stable government with high standard of governance. He also said that that more of voluntary participation of successful people in the growth and development of the state will expedite the process. Agarwal complimented



the efforts of Odisha #1st Eminent Personalities meet for taking such voluntary initiative for the cause of Odisha and said Vedanta would continue to partner in the growth and development of the state.

The business tycoon also informed that in socio cultural, health, education and sports progress of Odisha Vedanta would also consider the initiatives as suggested by the eminent personalities of this forum for the progress of the state. He also said that he has pledged to donate

75% of his family wealth to charity.

Anil Agarwal, said, "Odisha is

the land of great cultural heritage and opportunities for all, be in industries, tourism, sports, arts or start-ups. All of the luminaries gathered here today symbolise the soft power of Odisha that is recognised across the world. Odisha has some unique advantages compared to all other states strategic location, abundant natural resources, a government committed to development, and such talented people! I consider myself and our entire team at Vedanta to be an integral part of the Odia family.

Tapan Chand, Convenor of the forum gave welcome address and Shri Rahul Sharma, CEO -Aluminium Business, Vedanta made a detailed presentation on Vedanta's work in Odisha. In his address he informed amongst other points that Vedanta is setting up a world-class Aluminium Park in Odisha for value-addition in the state.

Rahul Sharma, CEO -Aluminium Business, Vedanta Limited, said, "Believing in Odisha's potential, 20 years back, our Chairman took the landmark decision of setting up a world-class industrial ecosystem to make Odisha the 'Aluminium Capital of the World'. And today, I am proud to say that Vedanta has been a partner in Odisha's development for nearly two decades. Odisha is poised to be a trillion-dollar economy in this decade and Vedanta is a committed partner in this journey be it education, healthcare, livelihoods or infrastructure, Vedanta has bolstered the state's efforts to bring prosperity to the remotest parts of the state.'

Australia draw first blood

Hosts take 1-0 lead in the five-Test Ashes series with a comfortable nine-wicket victory over England in the campaign-opener at the Gabba



LANDMARK MAN: Nathan Lyon is mobbed by his teammates after getting his 400th Test wicket, Saturday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brisbane, Dec 11: Australia won the Ashes series opener by nine wickets Saturday with one-and-ahalf days to spare after Nathan Lyon (4/91) picked up his 400th Test wicket and quickly added three more to dismantle England's bid to save the first Test.

England resumed Day 4 at 220/2and Lyon struck in the fourth over. triggering a collapse that netted eight wickets for 77 runs as the visiting team finished the match in a similar vein to how it started.

After restricting England's second innings to 297, the Australians needed just 20 runs to clinch the match. They did it in 5.1 overs, for the loss of only makeshift opener Alex Carey (9), with Marcus Harris (9 n o) hitting a boundary to finish

Lyon triggered England's de-

BRIEF SCORES

England 147 & 297 (Joe Root 89, Dawid Malan 82: Nathan Lvon 4/91. Cameron Green 2/23) lost to Australia 425 & 20/1 (Ollie Robinson 1/13) by 9 wickets.

mise when he dismissed Dawid Malan (82) to end a 162-run thirdwicket stand. With that, he joined retired leg-spinner Shane Warne (708) and retired paceman Glenn McGrath (563) as the only Australians to surpass the 400wicket barrier in Tests.

The 34-year-old off-spinner was the 17th overall in international cricket, a list topped by Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan

Carey, as well as moving up the order to open in the second innings because of David Warner's

Day 3, took a record eight catches for a wicketkeeper on Test debut. After being dismissed for 147 in the first innings and surrendering a 278-run first-innings deficit when Australia replied with 425. England revived some hope of challenging in the first test when Malan and Joe Root (89) defied the attack

forced relegation for not fielding on

for almost two full sessions Friday. But the defiance didn't extend long into Day 4, with Malan getting an inside edge from Lyon to Marnus Labuschagne at bat-pad. Lyon took his 399th wicket in January and had to wait almost 11 months for No.400 because the Australians didn't play another Test in 2021 until this week.

Root added only three runs to his overnight score, making it to 89 — his highest score in an Ashes Test Down Under — before his 165-ball knock ended when he was caught behind off all-rounder Cameron

Green (2/23) in the seventh over of the morning.

Lyon chimed in again when he had Ollie Pope caught by Steve Smith in the slips in the next over as England slipped from 222/2 to

The slide continued when Australia took the new ball, with Ben Stokes (14) squared up by a sharply-rising ball from Pat Cummins (2/51) and edging to Green in the gully, and Jos Buttler (23) caught behind off Josh Hazlewood's (1/32) bowling.

At that stage, England was 268/7, and still needed 10 runs to make Australia bat again. Lyon returned to dismiss Ollie Robinson (8), inexplicably reverse sweeping to point, and bowl Mark Wood (6) before Green finished off the England innings when he had Chris Woakes (16) caught behind.

The loss extended a drought for England, which haven't won a Test in Australia in a decade since winning the Ashes here in 2010-11 and hasn't won a Test at the Gabba

A power outage at the broadcast compound cut the TV feed for at least 15 minutes Saturday, and created another round of technology issues for the match officials.

On Day 1, the TV umpire wasn't able to access ball-by-ball replays to review front-foot no-balls and there were 12 that went uncalled in the first session. On Days 2 and 3, the technology used to register "snicks" — light contact between bat and ball — wasn't available in the Decision Review System, either.

ENGLAND PENALISED HEFTILY

DUBAI: England have been fined 100 percent of their match fee

maintaining a slow over-rate against Australia in the lost first Test

and penalised five ICC World Test Championship points for

in Brisbane. David Boon of the Elite Panel of Match Referees

imposed the sanction after Joe Root's side was ruled to be five

overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into

consideration. In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of

Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates

to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of

allotted time. Meanwhile, Australia batter Travis Head has been

fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC

Code of Conduct. Head was found to have breached Article 2.3 of

International Match". In addition to this, one demerit point has

the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel,

their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the

which relates to "use of an audible obscenity during an



DISAPPOINTING RESULT: England skipper Joe Root leads the team off the field after their loss at the Gabba

ROOT STILL FEELS BATTING FIRST 'WAS' THE RIGHT CALL

BRISBANE: Joe Root didn't back away from the contentious calls to bat first in the Ashes series opener when conditions appeared to heavily favor the bowlers, or on a team selection that omitted England's two most experienced pacemen.

One regret he had after England's nine-wicket loss to Australia at the Gabba Saturday was not giving left-arm spinner Jack Leach, who conceded 102 runs for one wicket and going for almost eight runs per over, more protection against some aggressive batting.

Root said setting a more defensive field would have helped Leach gain some confidence and "ease

into the series". "I put a lot of that on myself ...made it very difficult for him and it's probably more on my shoulders than looking at the selection," he said.

Leach's place in the starting XI was only confirmed at the coin toss, with England hoping to get a more varied attack by leaving out fast bowler Stuart Broad.

"If we go about things the way we did on the last two tours we'll get the same result," Root said, reflecting on England's last two tours to Australia which included nine losses, one draw and no wins.

"We have to be brave. I look back and think (batting) was the right decision. In terms of selection, we could have gone a different way (but) we wanted variety in our attack and ways of changing things."

A veteran of four Ashes tours to Australia, Broad was a surprising omission, a decision confirmed a day after the news that 39-year-old Jimmy Anderson, who has been to Australia on five Ashes tours, would be rested for the series opener.

"You can't question the guys that were out there - our seamers created so many chances - we just weren't good enough to take them," Root said. "But it's nice to know (Broad and Anderson) should be fit and available and ready to go," for Adelaide.

been added to the disciplinary record of Head, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period. The incident occurred in the 77th over of Australia's first innings on Thursday, when Head used inappropriate language after he was beaten on a delivery from Ben Stokes.

HOBART TO HOST 5TH TEST

HOBART: Cricket fans on the island state of Tasmania have received an early Christmas present - Hobart's Bellerive Oval will host its first-ever Ashes Test next month. Cricket Australia confirmed the expected Saturday, that Hobart will host the fifth Test between Australia and England beginning January 14, and that it will be a day-night match. It replaces the Test originally scheduled for Perth for the same dates but which had to be moved out of the Western Australia capital because of COVID-19-related quarantine and state border restrictions. It will be the first test match at Hobart since 2016 - and the last one didn't end well for Australia. South Africa beat the home side by an innings and 80 runs in

Odisha teams storm into semifinals Arjun-Ravi pair bags gold

boys and girls teams of Odisha sailed into the semifinals in their respective category of the Junior National Rugby 7s Championship (U-18 Boys & Girls) at the KIIT Rugby Stadium here, Saturday.

The competition is organised by Rugby India, Odisha Rugby Football Association (ORFA) Department of Sports & Youth Services, Govt. of Odisha and KIIT - Deemed to be University from December 10. The tournament will end Sunday (December 12). A total of 600 participants from 24 men teams and 21 women teams are taking part in this event. The state colts began the second

day with a dominating 40-0 win over Jammu & Kashmir in their pre-quarterfinal match. Later on the day, they overpowered Jharkhand to script a 48-5 victory, sealing a semifinal berth in the process.



Odisha girls' team players are in action during one of their matches, Saturday

JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The state girls' team were even more impressive as they didn't even concede a single point against their oppositions. They first outplayed Telengana 43-0 to seal a quarterfinal spot before making it into the last four stage with a outrageous 53-0 rout over a hapless Rajasthan.

In the semifinals, the colts will face Bihar, while the other last four contest will be played between West Bengal and Maharashtra. The eves too face Bihar for a place in the final, while Delhi and Maharashtra will vie for the second final berth.

Rahul Bose, actor and Board Member of Rugby India, was among the guests, who graced the competition with their presence.

Bangkok, Dec 11: Indian rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Ravi won the gold medal in the men's double sculls event while Parminder Singh bagged a silver in the men's single sculls competition at the Asian Rowing Championships, here Saturday. Arjun and Ravi edged past Chinese

duo of Qing Li and Lutong Zhang and Uzbekistan's Davrjon Davronov and Abdullo Mukhammadiev for the gold medal at the Royal Thai Navy Rowing Center in Rayong.

Tokyo Olympian Arjun and his partner Ravi completed the race in 6:57.883s while the Chinese duo clocked 7:02.374s. The Uzbeks finished with a timing of 7:07.734s.

This is India's second straight podium finish in the men's doubles sculls event at the continental event, having won a bronze at the 2019 Asian Rowing Championship.

Arjun had earlier clinched a silver in the men's lightweight dou-



(From L): Arjun Lal Jat, Parminder Singh and Ravi pose with their medals

ble sculls event at the previous continental meet.

Adding to India's celebrations, Parminder later won a silver medal when he clocked 8:07.323s, while the gold winner from Uzbekistan Kholmurzaev Shakhboz was 11 seconds faster at 7:56.307s. Indonesia's Memo finished third with 8:10.055s.

The Indian rowers will be in contention for more medals when they compete in the finals of five more events Sunday.

Maradona's stolen watch found in Assam

GUWAHATI: Football legend Diego Maradona's watch, allegedly stolen in Dubai, was recovered from Assam's Sivasagar district Saturday morning, following which a person was arrested, police said. The accused person was working as a security guard at a company in Dubai that was storing the belongings of the late Argentinian footballer, they said. The accused is suspected to be involved in the theft of a safe in which the limited edition Hublot watch was also kept, Director General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said. After working for a few days at the company, the accused returned to Assam in August. The Assam Police swung into action after the Dubai Police reached out to India with information about the accused. Subsequently, the accused was arrested from his residence at 4 am and the watch was recovered, he said.

Max takes pole ahead of season finale

ABU DHABI: Max Verstappen overcame a mistake in qualifying to grab the pole for the Formula One title-deciding Abu Dhabi GP, where he'll try Sunday to dethrone seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton. Verstappen topped the chart with a lap at one minute, 22.109-seconds around Yas Marina Circuit to put his Red Bull on top. Hamilton was 0.371-seconds slower. Lando Norris for McLaren was a surprise third. Verstappen and Hamilton head into Sunday's finale tied in the championship standings, the first time the title contenders are even going into the deciding race since 1974. Hamilton is seeking a record-breaking eighth title to pass Michael Schumacher, while Verstappen will try to become the first Dutch champion. The polesitter has won the last six races at Abu Dhabi.

Citizens overcome Wolves scare

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Dec 11: Manchester City needed a disputed penalty to secure a 1-0 win over 10-man Wolverhampton Saturday and ensure it stayed atop the Premier League.

City was awarded a spot-kick for handball when Joao Moutinho blocked a cross from Bernardo Silva with his arm outstretched, although Wolves argued that the ball hit his armoit.

Raheem Sterling calmly converted the penalty straight down the middle in the 66th minute for his 100th Premier League goal, which proved enough on a day when City's high-powered attack struggled to

make the most of its chances. Wolves had gone a man down just before the halftime break when Raul Jimenez was first booked for a tackle near the halfway line then inexplicably stretched his leg out



to block the resulting free kick to earn a second yellow card straight

Jack Grealish missed a stellar chance to double the lead in the 70th when he poked the ball over

the bar from close range after a cross from Sterling across the box. The win made sure Pep Guardiola's team will stay in front of closest rivals Liverpool and

Abhishek, Senapati hand Odisha third straight win

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 11: Skipper Subhranshu Senapati's (71 n o, 113b, 7x4) stupendous run with the bat continued Saturday as he struck an unbeaten half century to help Odisha register third successive win – a 6-wicket victory – in the Vijay Hazare Trophy One-Day (50over) cricket tournament in Thane.

However, it was the leg-spinner Abhishek Raut (5/36), who laid the foundation of the victory as his fivewicket haul dismantled Vidarbha.

Electing to field, Raut spun the web around opposition batters to restrict Vidhrabha to a below-par 148. He was ably supported by the other bowlers as well. Akshay Wadkar (41, 63b, 5x4) was the top scorer for Vidarbha.

Debabrata Pradhan (3/13 in 7 overs), Ashish Rai (1/28 in 6 overs)

and Jayanta Behera (1/29 in 8.4 overs) shared the other five wickets. Rajesh Mohanty () was yet again showed his class as a new-ball bowler with a spell of 0/13 in 7 overs, despite finishing wicketless.

Later, Senapati and opener Anurag Sarangi (52, 96b, 4x4) then struck a fifty each to guide Odisha home in 42 overs with six wickets in hand.

This was Odisha's third win on the trot after victories over Andhra (by 63 runs) and Gujarat (by 3 wickets). They are now leading the Elite Group A with 12 points (NRR: 0.716), four ahead of Himachal Pradesh and Vidarbha.

BRIEF SCORES: Vidharbha 148 (Akshay Wadkar 42; Abhishek Raut 5/36, Debabrata Pradhan 3/13) lost to Odisha 152/4 (Subhranshu Senapati 71 n o, Anrurag Sarangi (52; Atharva Taide 2/8) by 6 wickets.

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