



SHRUTI ON HATE CULTURE

Actor Shruti Haasan says the ongoing boycott campaign against Hindi film industry is a representation of the society

LEISURE P2



WAS HIT BY 4 BULLETS: IMRAN

Imran Khan says he was hit by four bullets on his right leg during the assassination attempt a day earlier

INTERNATIONAL P10



SWIATEK ENTERS SEMIS

Iga Swiatek secures a semifinal berth at WTA Finals beating Caroline Garcia, while Coco Gauff bows out

SPORTS P12

TWITTER FIRES MAJORITY OF STAFF IN INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Twitter has fired the majority of its over 200 employees in India as part of mass layoffs across the globe ordered by its new owner Elon Musk who is looking to make his USD 44 billion acquisition work.

Sources said the layoffs are across engineering, sales and marketing, and communications teams.

However, there is no clarity yet on the severance package to be paid to employees laid off in India. The entire marketing and communications department in India has been sacked, the sources said.

World's richest businessman Musk began his innings at Twitter last week by firing the CEO Parag Agrawal as well as the CFO and some other top executives. This was followed by an exodus of top management. Musk has now started a massive exercise to downsize the company's global workforce.

"Layoff has started. Some of my colleagues have received email notification regarding this," a Twitter India employee told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Another source said the layoffs have affected a "significant chunk" of the India team. **MORE P11**



TOXIC AIR: Students arrive at a school to attend classes amid heavy smog in Gurugram, Friday

DELHI GASPS FOR BREATH

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: Alarmed by hazardous pollution levels and health warnings, the Delhi government Friday announced that primary schools will remain shut from Saturday and 50 per cent of its staff will work from home, while private offices have been advised to follow suit.

Delhi's air quality remained 'severe' for a second day on the trot, with stubble burning accounting for 30 per cent of the PM2.5 pollution in the capital, according to the Central Pollution Control Board and SAFAR, a forecasting agency under the Ministry of Earth and Sciences.

Over the last few days, the BJP and the AAP have traded barbs over the increase in stubble burning in Punjab. However, Friday, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann owned responsibility for paddy straw burning in the agrarian state and promised to curb the practice by next winter. "We (AAP) have our government in Punjab and we are responsible if 'parali' is being burnt there. Farmers are not responsible for it," Kejriwal said in a joint press conference with Mann.

Experts suggested that the government should rejig vacation schedule as pollution turns severe every winter.

Govt orders closure of primary schools amid spike in pollution levels

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Looks like my popularity has gone manifold up...every voter wants to send me to Delhi

Unemployment surges to 7.77%

AT 1.1%, ODISHA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG LOWEST IN COUNTRY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: Unemployment rate in the country in October rose to 7.77 per cent compared to 6.43 per cent in September, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

Among the 25 states for which data is available with the CMIE, six states registered the unemployment rate in double digits.

Haryana registered the highest unemployment rate of 31.8 per cent followed by Rajasthan (30.7 per cent), Jammu & Kashmir (22.4 per cent), Jharkhand (16.5 per cent), Bihar (14.5 per cent) and Tripura (10.5 per cent), the CMIE data showed.

Madhya Pradesh recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 0.9 per cent, followed by Chhattisgarh at 0.9 per cent, Odisha at 1.1 per cent and Gujarat at 1.7 per cent.

The CMIE data further revealed that the rural unemployment rate



rose to 8.04 per cent in October from 5.84 per cent in September.

At the same time, the urban unemployment rate slid to 7.21 per cent in October compared to 7.7 per cent in September.

Monsoon crops are generally harvested between September and the middle of October. Winter crops sowing starts by November, resulting in a temporary rise in rural unemployment rate in the interim period. Rural unemployment rate was high even in the comparable year-ago period at 7.91 per cent, only to fall sharply the following month to 6.41 per cent.

HIGHEST IN	
31.8%	HARYANA
30.7%	RAJASTHAN
22.4%	J&K
16.5%	JHARKHAND
LOWEST IN	
0.9%	MADHYA PRADESH
0.9%	CHHATTISGARH
1.1%	ODISHA
1.7%	GUJARAT

The hiring activity during the month also reflected a similar trend as the monthly Naukri Jobspeak Index shows recruitment slowed owing to festivities and stayed flat compared to last year. At 2455, the index is at its lowest recorded 2,173. However, the report shows that it's still increasing when compared to the holiday window in November of the previous year.

9 middlemen arrested from AIIMS campus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The Commissionerate police Friday arrested nine middlemen from the campus of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar here for duping gullible visitors. The police also seized several mobile phones, motorcycles, cash and incriminating documents like Aadhaar cards, patient cards, and OPD requisition slips from the accused.

Following a tip-off, Khandagiri police and officials of special teams of the Commissionerate Police carried out a raid on the AIIMS campus and arrested 13 persons from the spot on the suspicion of engaging in illegal activities. However, four of them were let off after verification of their documents.

"The accused used to roam near the AIIMS and mislead patients, attendants and their family members by identifying themselves as AIIMS staff. They later used to collect the documents of patients like ID cards on the pretext of availing OPD tickets to them. They collected huge amount of money from the patients," said a police official.

ODISHA-ANDHRA BORDER ROW

Pradhan urges CM to call all-party meet



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to convene an all-party meeting for quick resolution of border issues with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

Though the Kotia cluster comprising 28 villages is presently located within Odisha, 21 villages have found a place in the newly carved Parvatipuram-Manyam district of the neighbouring state. The district headquarters is just 40 km from some villages of the cluster in Odisha.

Both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh governments are engaged in a five-decade-long political tug-of-war over the ownership of 21 out



of the 28 villages in the Kotia panchayat and the case is sub-judice at the Supreme Court since 1968.

In a letter to Patnaik written October 31 and released to the press Friday, Pradhan, who hails from Odisha, said the CM should also review the progress made by the inter-state committee and highlight the developmental activities taken up in the border villages.

Noting that in the past few days, administrative outreach has been reported in these villages by the Andhra Pradesh government Pradhan said: "This illegitimate and unfortunate outreach by Andhra Pradesh Government is now not only confined to Kotia but is also gradually spreading to other villages in south Odisha."

Continued on P4

State shines in school education

Odisha is among top 10 states as per the Performance Grading Index released by the Ministry of Education

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The performance of Odisha in the Performance Grading Index (PGI) released Friday by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, has seen rapid strides in all indicators in comparison to PGI 2019-20.

The PGI is a unique index for evidence based comprehensive analysis of school education system across states/UTs.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the School and Mass



Education department as Odisha has been placed among top 10 states in the PGI 2020-21. He said that with effective implementation of policies and initiatives, Odisha has jumped to Rank 10 in 2020-21 from Rank 14 in 2019-20.

The state has improved its scores in domains like infrastructure and facilities, equity, learning outcomes and quality, access to education,

governance processes and emerged as one of the top 10 ranked states. Odisha secured 877 points out of 1000 to make it to level-3 along with Delhi, Karnataka, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The state scored 138 out of 180 in learning outcomes and quality, 71 out of 80 in access, 133 out of 150 in infrastructure and facilities, 221 out of 230 in equity and 314 out of 360 in governance processes, totalling a score of 877. The state has steadily made progress under PGI framework reaching Level III (score 851-900) in 2020-21 as compared to Level VI in 2017-18 and Level IV in 2019-20 making a jump of 143 points within a span of four years. **Continued on P4**

Are bananas really 'radioactive'?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wollongong (Australia), Nov 4: The simple mention of the word 'radiation' often evokes fear in people. For others, it's fun to think a little exposure to radiation could turn you into the next superhero, just like the Hulk.

But is it true basically everything around us is radioactive, even the food we eat? You may have heard bananas are mildly radioactive, but what does that actually mean? And despite us not being superheroes, are human bodies also radioactive?

What is radiation? Radiation is energy that travels from one point to another, either as waves or particles. We are exposed to radiation from various natural and artificial sources every day. Cosmic



radiation from the Sun and outer space, radiation from rocks and soil, as well as radioactivity in the air we breathe and in our food and water, are all sources of natural radiation.

Bananas are a common example

of a natural radiation source. They contain high levels of potassium, and a small amount of this is radioactive. But there's no need to give up your banana smoothie – the amount of radiation is extremely small, and far less than the natu-

ral 'background radiation' we are exposed to every day.

Artificial sources of radiation include medical treatments and X-rays, mobile phones and power lines. There is a common misconception that artificial sources of radiation are more dangerous than naturally occurring radiation. However, this just isn't true.

There are no physical properties that make artificial radiation different or more damaging than natural radiation. The harmful effects are related to dose, and not where the exposure comes from.

What is the difference between radiation and radioactivity?

The words 'radiation' and 'radioactivity' are often used interchangeably. Although the two are related, they are not quite the same thing. **Continued on P4**

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You're finally impressed by the yogis. A degree course in Art of Living? Ganesha approves. You may even fulfill a desire to begin lessons in music or dance, or something that has interested you since long. A good, good day, and it smells of sweet success.

TAURUS

You may feel let down as your folks may not extend the support you expected from them, says Ganesha. You should try to remain practical and not get swayed by emotions. It is highly likely that family feuds may erupt today. Ganesha advises you to avoid confrontations and keep smiling to emerge a winner.

GEMINI

Your entire attention will be concentrated on the work-front today. You will be on the lookout for new projects and contracts to spur on your earnings. Opportunities for changing your job will come knocking on your door.

CANCER

Control your anger, counsels Ganesha. Or else, it will sadden your near ones. Writers may display creative output of high order. The day augurs well for artists, too. This is the time to take up new challenges, says Ganesha.

LEO

You will not be in the mood to take up significant tasks today. You will want to throw your responsibilities to the wind and pursue leisurely activities. However you will still need to tackle some pressing issues. It is easier to swim with the tide, than against, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

You will be bubbling with ideas today. You may face a dilemma between your obligations and present duties, which could prove to be very perplexing. New contacts turn out to be very useful. Ganesha says blood is thicker than water, and family and friends will cement their relationship with you.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will learn a lot from your past experiences for a shining future. You will be slightly possessive about some costly item that you own. There will be small concerns during the day about different matters, which will give you mental stress. On the whole the day will pass by nicely.

SCORPIO

No matter how rich and successful you become, it is very important to stay grounded. Never let your success go to your head, advises Ganesha. Rudeness and overconfidence may take away everything from you and may leave you empty handed. So be kind and spread kindness.

SAGITTARIUS

You become your own judge today. Through introspection, you try to find you the various causes that lead to troubles in your life. Though it may take time, eventually you achieve what you want and try to find reasonable solutions for the same. However, make sure you do not waste your entire day in pondering about the glitches; move on, Ganesha advises.

CAPRICORN

Mounting pressure of work and responsibilities during the day may drain your energy, but not your enthusiasm, feels Ganesha. The second half of the day will be tiring, as you will be fighting a tough battle with your competitors. You'll come out triumphant from the fight as you perform smartly and get your acts right.

AQUARIUS

You need not always put up a brave face, feels Ganesha. You can ventilate your emotions and speak your heart out in front of your loved ones. It will make the pain bearable and you'll probably get a way out of your problems. You will feel better by the evening, and a sweet smile will brighten up your face.

PISCES

You need to nurture your personal relationships carefully today, and give them the attention they are due. You need to control the outbursts of your temper and stop arguing with your partner or spouse over insignificant matters. Personal life will be smooth sailing as long as neither of you attempt to dominate over the other, says Ganesha.



JENNIFER LAWRENCE HAD COMMITMENT ANXIETY BEFORE GETTING MARRIED

Jennifer Lawrence says she is so happy she didn't cancel her wedding because she was experiencing commitment anxiety. The *Causeway* actress married art dealer Cooke Maroney in 2019 but she admitted she was hesitant about settling down after experiencing commitment anxiety.

JOHNNY DEPP FILES APPEAL IN AMBER HEARD DEFAMATION CASE

Johnny Depp's legal team have officially appealed the ruling that he needs to pay Amber Heard \$2 million in damages. The former couple were embroiled in a six-week trial earlier this year over an op-ed the *Aquaman* star wrote in 2018 about being a victim of domestic violence.



Hate culture is reflection of our society: Shruti

MUMBAI: Shruti Haasan recently opened up about the ongoing boycott campaigns against Hindi film industry. According to her, this hate culture is a representation of the society we live in.

Spilling some beans on the same, the actress told a news portal that it is not limited to the film industry. According to her, there are many layers to it.

She said, "We all need to take a step back and understand why people are behaving in certain manner"

Elaborating further, Shruti added that the cancel culture is an extension of bullying, exposing or attacking a group of people, and exposing or digging up words from the past.

"We are seeing it because of the film industry, but people need to realise that the culture online is a representation of what's happening in the society," the actress

pointed out. Talking about the kind of hate she herself has to face personally, she stated that she was called names such as 'chudail' (witch) in the past.

AGENCIES



Star-studded Nabakalebara enthralls viewers

The play will be staged in cities like Kolkata, Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai and in a few European countries in future, said producer Bini Samal

BHUBANESWAR: Sai Shraddha Production Trust, a well known production house of the City, presented *Nabakalebara*, a historical drama dedicated to Lord Jagannath, here at Rabindra Mandap, Friday.

Written by Shankar Tripathy, the play was directed by eminent director Dhira Mallick.

The play's theme was about the attack by Kalapahad, a Muslim General of the Bengal Sultanate on Srimandir. Having prior information about his invasion, the servants secretly shifted the deities to an island in Chilika. Despite the effort, Kalapahad managed to find the Trinity, thanks to the

handiwork of a traitor, and carried them on an elephant back. He burnt the idols on the bank of river Ganga. However, Bisara Mohanty, an ardent devotee of Lord Jagannath could collect the souls of the deities (Brahma), and handed it over to Gajapati Ramchandra Deb.

Though the multiple attacks on Srimandir and how the then kings and servants protected the shrine is not unknown to many, the way the play was presented with



A scene from the play staged at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

grandeur made all the difference. Many popular actors of television and cinema were among the cast. They include Kishore Khandual, Usasi Mishra, Akhil Pattanaik, Uma Bhattacharya, Subhasish Das, Rusi Pattanaik, Simanchala Patra, and Soumya Mishra.

Produced by Bini Samal, the play has its music scored by Malaya Mishra. Dignitaries present on the occa-

sion were Culture Secretary Satyabrata Sahu, film critic Dilip Hali, environmentalist Dilip Srichandan and MP Achyut Samant. The play will be staged for the next two days at the same venue and later it will be staged in cities like Kolkata, Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai, said Samal. There are also plans in place to take the play to Dubai, Canada and other European countries to spread Odia culture, she added.

PNN

'It takes two months to gain weight but over a year to lose'

NEW DELHI: In order to play a voluptuous woman in her latest release *Double XL*, actress Sonakshi Sinha took two months to gain weight but the toughest part was losing those extra kilos.

Double XL, which also stars Huma Qureshi, is a film based on self-love and body positivity, is directed by Satram Ramani. The film hit the screens November 4.

Talking about her body transformation for the film, Sonakshi said: "It took me two months to put on weight which was not a big deal but it took me a year to get rid of the weight I had put on. There are two ways to do it. You either do it the healthy way or the unhealthy way. However, I went the healthy way."

Life is a full circle for Sonakshi, who started off as a costume designer before making her debut in acting in the year 2010 with the Salman Khan-starrer *Dabangg*, as she plays Saira Khanna, a fashion designer in her latest movie.

She calls the film her "life story". The 35-year-old actress also shared her mantra to deal with trolls and body-shamers.

"Whether you are short, tall, thin, fat, dark or fair, you are likely to get body shamed. People say what they want to say just ignore it. Don't waste your energy," she said.

AGENCIES

Babushaan's Daman releases in 50 theatres

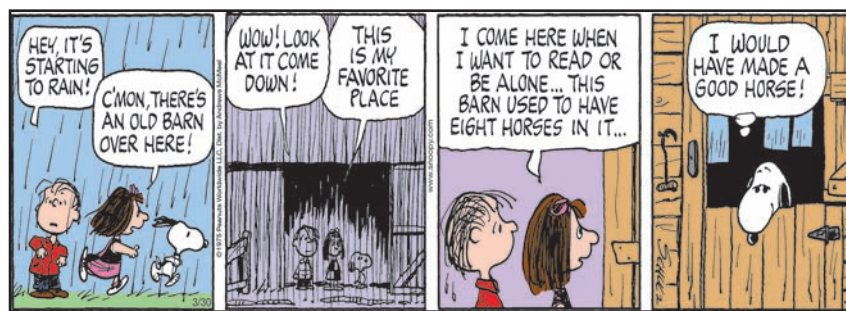
Bhubaneswar: *Daman*, a much awaited Odia film of 2022 with Babushaan in the lead, was released Friday in 50 theatres across the state. A special screening was organised at Maharaja Cinema on the occasion which was attended by the cast and makers of the movie.

Presented by JP Motion Pictures, *Daman* has been directed by Debi Prasad Lenka and Vishal Mourya while Deependra Samal is the producer. The plot revolves around a Bhubaneswar-based young doctor Siddharth, who is not happy to leave the city to work in a remote area which is infamous for Naxal dominance and has no basic facilities. However, he is obliged to render his service in a rural area or else he will have to refund the agreement fees.

How he deals with his rural posting and the changing circumstances forms the crux of the film. Dipanwit Mohapatra, whose movie *Pratikhya* recently made it to the Indian Panorama, has played an important role in the movie.

PNN

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

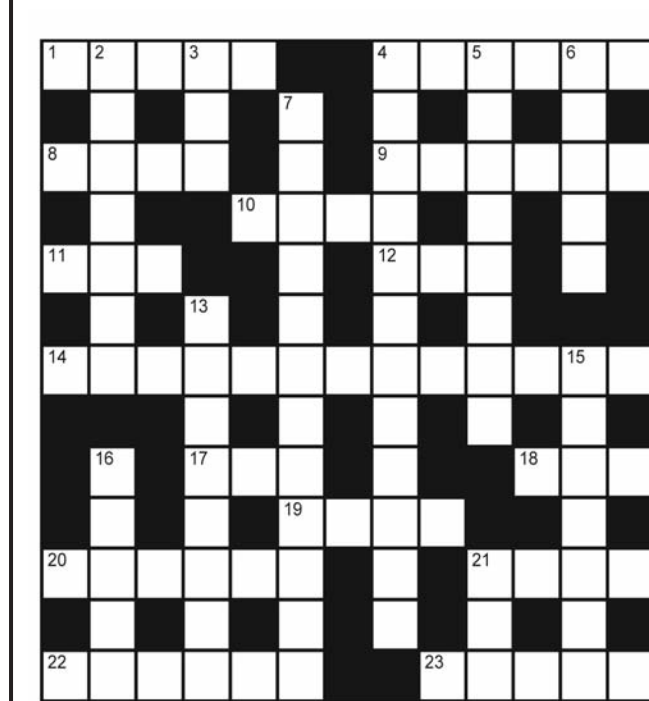


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

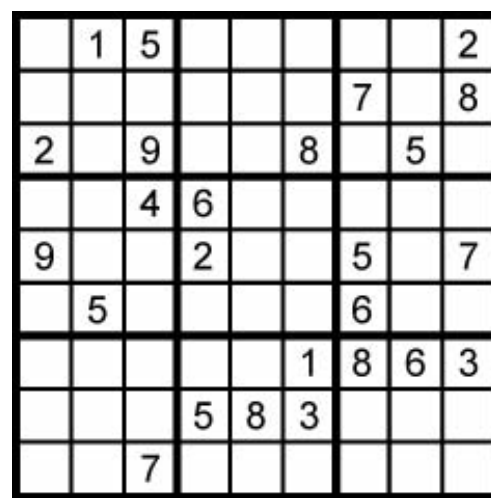


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- Across**
- 1 Duel, e.g.
 - 4 Scimitars
 - 8 Passionate
 - 9 Banner
 - 10 Olympic sled
 - 11 Bio stat
 - 12 Suds source
 - 14 Screaming meemies (6-7)
 - 17 Black cuckoo
 - 18 Furrow
 - 19 Milk source
 - 20 arduous
 - 21 Adorable
 - 22 More incisive
 - 23 Nine-headed monster
 - 3 Mortar porter
 - 4 Horse race type
 - 5 Nocturnal
 - 6 African lemur
 - 6 Tidal bore
 - 7 Sailing vessel type (6-6)
 - 13 Scrape
 - 15 Great circle
 - 16 In the know
 - 21 Coquettish
- Down**
- 2 Fashionable (2,5)

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

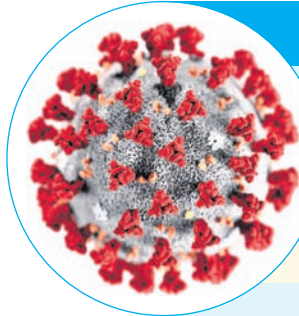
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DANCE FEST

Artistes and dignitaries pose for a photo during the inaugural occasion of international dance and song festival by Kala Vikas Kendra in Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,69,90,101	61,63,54,372	66,02,209
India	4,46,58,365	4,41,12,181	5,30,479
Odisha	13,36,232	13,26,809	9,203

68.98% turnout in Dhamnagar bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: A total of 68.98 per cent voters have exercised their franchise in the by-election to Dhamnagar Assembly seat in Bhadrak district, Thursday.

The final voting figures were reported after return of the polling officials.

As per the report, 79,011 out of 1,23,038 male voters and 85,452 out of 1,15,346 female voters and two of 33 transgenders have casted their votes in the bypoll.

Though the number of female voters in the Assembly constituency is lower than the male voters, more women voters turned out to the booths

Though the number of female voters in the Assembly constituency is lower than the male voters, more women voters turned out to the booths than their male counterparts.

It shows that women voters are going to play a crucial role in this election.

The voting was conducted between 7am and 6pm amid tight security at 252 polling booths. However, a few untoward incidents like booth rigging, group clash and death of a polling official reported during the bypoll.

Fate of five candidates will be revealed November 6.

While ruling BJD has nominated Abanti Das, BJP fielded Suryabanshi Suraj, son of late MLA Bishnu Sethi in the high-stake contest. Congress has nominated advocate Baba Harekrushna Sethi.



HOLY MONTH: Women draw rangoli on the first day of 'Panchaka' in Shankarpur area of Cuttack, Friday

Mall charges for carry bag, asked to pay ₹25K in aid

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: A consumer court has asked a Cuttack-based shopping mall to pay Rs 25,000 to a person for charging Rs 6 for a carry bag.

The district consumer dispute redressal commission, Cuttack has issued this order on a petition filed by Padmalochan Rout.

The court has directed the authorities of the shopping mall to pay the consumer Rs 10,000 towards compensation for his mental agony and harassment and Rs 15,000 towards his litigation expenses.

As per the complaint, Rout had purchased a T-shirt for a price of Rs 249 from the shopping mall December 28, 2020. While making the payment at the cash counter, he was asked about the requirement

of a carry bag, and the staff provided him a carry bag at a charge of Rs 6. Rout said he was neither intimidated about the additional charges for the carry bag nor anything about the price of carry bag has been mentioned in the bag or inside the mall, which is violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

"I had filed the complaint with the counselling centre attached to the State Commission. Counsellor BK Sinha, immediately admitted my grievances and issued notice (to the opposite parties). However, none from the opposite parties replied to the notice," he said.

Subsequently, he filed a case with the district consumer court, which issued the order in his favour.

The court has directed the shopping mall authorities to release the compensation within 30 days.

CLASS X SA-1 FROM NOV 23

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 4: The Summative Assessment (SA)-1 of Class X students will begin November 23 and conclude November 30, the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) announced Friday.

According to BSE vice president Nihar Ranjan Mohanty, over 5.32 lakh students will appear for the SA-1 which will be conducted at 3,029 centres across the state.

The practical examination will begin November 11 and continue till November 18, 2022. Students can download their admit cards from the BSE website from Friday. The Madhyama and the State Open School students can download their admit cards from November 17.

Adequate measures have been taken for the safe custody of question papers and other confidential materials in 316 nodal centres.

Compensate displaced Sundargarh tribals: SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 4: Exercising its special power under Article 142, the Supreme Court has directed the Odisha government as well as Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) to ensure compensation as per the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Act 2013 to the tribals, who have been displaced by land acquisition in Sundargarh district.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit asked the Claims Commission to determine the compensation to be paid to the displaced families of Tumulia, Jhupuranga, Ratansara and Kirpsara villages in Sundargarh district in accordance with the R&R Act 2013 within six months, it was learnt.

"Justice delayed is justice denied cannot apply with more force than in these proceedings. The writ petitioners have waited for roughly half the number of years that this republic has existed," the bench said Thursday.

The SC directed the Odisha government to deploy three nodal officers for ensuring that development of plots duly takes place to enable the Collector to make the necessary allotments within the time indicated.

"The Chief Secretary of Odisha shall select the officers and make sure that they are not posted out for at least three years or till the task of rehabilitation and resettlement is completed," the bench said.

In case, landowners are not interested for allotment of plots, they shall be paid Rs 25 lakh as one-



THE SC DIRECTED THE ODISHA GOVT TO DEPLOY THREE NODAL OFFICERS FOR ENSURING THAT DEVELOPMENT OF PLOTS DULY TAKES PLACE TO ENABLE THE COLLECTOR TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ALLOTMENTS WITHIN THE TIME INDICATED

IN CASE, LANDOWNERS ARE NOT INTERESTED FOR ALLOTMENT OF PLOTS, THEY SHALL BE PAID RS 25 LAKH AS ONE-TIME CASH SETTLEMENT

time cash settlement. Similarly, the leftover families would be entitled to the one-time compensation of Rs 25 lakh with interest of 7 per cent per annum for two years, the bench said, directing the MCL to grant employment benefits to the displaced families.

The bench observed that the members of the SC/ST communities shall be entitled to the preservation and protection of their status. It asked the collectors to issue

appropriate caste certificates in this regard, given that land owners have been moved involuntarily and would have to migrate to other areas.

Sources said the Centre had notified and later acquired the land in Gopalpur and 14 other villages in the tribal-dominated district for coal mining by MCL in 1988.

The displaced families approached the Orissa High Court for compensation. Taking cognisance, the HC asked the MCL to disburse compensation to the landowners. The MCL, however, moved to the Supreme Court challenging the HC order in 2007.

In its judgement in July 2010, the Supreme Court appointed a Claims Commission to determine the eligible beneficiaries and compensation to them within six months.

However, several landowners approached the apex court in 2019 stating that they were yet to get the compensation, it was learnt.

Blue tick: Verification or status symbol?

The story of Twitter's blue checkmarks — a simple verification system that's come to be viewed as an elite status symbol — began with some high-profile impersonations, just as the site began taking off in 2008-09.

Twitter's new owner and ruler, billionaire Elon Musk, wants to turn this verification system into a revenue source for the company he paid \$44 billion to purchase. It's a 180-degree turn from the stance he took earlier this year, before his buyout closed, when he said he wanted to "verify all humans" on Twitter.

After floating the idea of charging users \$20 a month for the "blue check" and some extra features, he appeared to quickly scale it back in a Twitter exchange with author Stephen King, who posted "If that gets instituted, I'm gone like Enron."

"We need to pay the bills somehow! Twitter cannot rely entirely on advertisers. How about \$8?" Musk replied.

Whatever the price, the idea of a paid



verification system is raising some complex questions and concerns — beyond the customary cheers and jeers that have accompanied Musk's every move since he took ownership of the social media company last week.

"Tapping into Twitter users to make more money may be the right strategy, but verification isn't the right feature to charge for," said Insider Intelligence analyst Jasmine Enberg. "Verification is intended to ensure the integrity of accounts and conversations on the platform, rather than a premium feature meant to elevate the experience. There is a growing appetite among some social

users to pay for features that add value to their experiences."

Instead of charging for authentication, though, Enberg said Musk should be looking at adding features to Twitter that get people to use it more and help them grow their follower base and find a way to make money from those.

"Turning users into customers isn't an easy sell, and the value exchange has to be right in order for it to pay off," she said. "Of roughly 300,000 verified accounts on Twitter we would estimate only about 25% would go down this path ultimately and pay the \$8 per month fee," Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives said.

That would mean only \$7.2 million a year in extra revenue for Twitter.

While Musk's exact plans are not clear, experts are raising concerns about the consequences of having a paid verification system that leaves anyone unwilling to pay vulnerable to impersonation.

AGENCIES

Conman nabbed in ₹74.97 lakh fraud case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The state Crime Branch Friday arrested a cyber fraudster from Alipore in Kolkata for allegedly duping an advocate here of Rs 74.97 lakh on the pretext of providing him insurance benefits worth Rs 3 crore.

The CB team led by inspector Abantimani Nayak produced the accused, Prasant Dwivedi, before the Alipore CJM court.

The conman is being brought to Cuttack on transit remand.

"Dwivedi was arrested in a case (4/2021) registered at Cyber Police station of CB on the basis of a complaint lodged by 63-year old Ramaballav Rath, who is residing in Forest Park area in Capital City," said the CB sources.

Rath, in his complaint in May 2018, had alleged that he received a call from the cyber criminal who told his policy in Kotak Mahindra insurance accrued a large sum.

Handicrafts Exhibition

At: Neelachal Haat Puri

Upto 10th November 2022
Daily 11 am to 9 pm

Sponsored by
Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles Government of India & Directorate of Handicrafts Govt. of Odisha

Organised by
Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Ltd., (Utkalika) Bhubaneswar

Be smart, Be prepared

Why to wait till the last minute?

Do's and Don'ts

1. BEFORE CYCLONE

- Ignore rumours, Stay calm, Don't panic.
- Keep your mobile phones charged to ensure connectivity; use SMS.
- Listen to radio, watch TV, read newspapers for weather updates.
- Keep your documents and valuables in water-proof containers.
- Prepare an emergency kit with essential items for safety and survival.
- Secure your house; carry out repairs; don't leave sharp objects loose.
- Untie cattle/animals to ensure their safety.

Fishermen Should

- Keep a radio set with extra batteries handy.
- Keep boats/rafts tied up in a safe place.
- Don't venture out in the sea.

2. DURING AND AFTER CYCLONE

A) IF INDOORS

- Switch off electrical mains, gas supply.
- Keep doors and windows shut.
- If your house is unsafe, leave early before the onset of a cyclone.
- Listen to radio/transistor.
- Drink boiled/chlorinated water.
- Rely only on official warnings.

B) IF OUTDOORS

- Do not enter damaged buildings.
- Watch out for broken electric poles and wires, and other sharp objects.
- Seek a safe shelter as soon as possible.

National Disaster Management Authority Government of India

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Call : 112 www.ndma.gov.in

Continued from P1

Are bananas ...

Radioactivity refers to an unstable atom undergoing radioactive decay. Energy is released in the form of radiation as the atom tries to reach stability...

Pradhan urges CM...

"It requires the Odisha government to be proactive on the ground, thereby bringing the government and administration closer to the residents of these border villages...



SEEKING NAT'L ATTENTION: People under the banner of 'Odisha Raja Paika Akhada Academy' and 'Khurda Bikash Mancha' take out a rally near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday...

AYUSH docs take to streets for regularisation of services

PUTTING FORWARD THEIR GRIEVANCES, 1,147 AYUSH DOCTORS, WORKING IN SOME 1,485 CHC OR PHCS OF THE STATE HAD GIVEN A MEMORANDUM TO THE CM OCTOBER 26 THIS YEAR



AYUSH doctors participating in a rally near the PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The All Odisha AYUSH Doctors' Association (AOADA), an association of ayurvedic, homeopathic and unani doctors working under National Health Mission (NHM), staged a peaceful rally in Bhubaneswar Friday for fulfillment of their demand of regularisation of AYUSH medical officers (MOs) working at co-located CHC or PHCs of the state on contractual basis for last 15 years.

1,485 contractual AYUSH doctors appointed since 2007 were not included in that. Through this one day peaceful rally, we are expecting the CM will fulfil our demand soon. Health and Family Welfare (OSH&FW) Society released an order as per 28th executive committee meeting to regularise the services of co-located AYUSH doctors, pharmacists, staff nurses, and ANMs.

State shines...

With effective implementation of policies and introduction of initiatives like Mo School, Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, digital learning programmes at the time of Covid pandemic, state-of-the-art infrastructure under 5T High School Transformation programme and prioritisation in areas of interventions have ushered in a visible transformation, thereby making it shine at the national platform.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit before the Notary Public, Rayagada Date 04.11.2022 That, I Bhubaneswari Patro married to Sri Santosh Kumar Patro, S/o. Sri Nityananda Patro in the year 1998. My permanent Resident Address At-Madhusudan Nagar, New Colony, PO/PS/Tahasil and District-Rayagada, Pin-765001, Odisha.

ASSI seeks KIIT-KIMS' support for spine treatment of tribals

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI) has expressed its willingness to tie up with KIIT-KIMS and offer spine-related critical care and treatment to the tribal people of Odisha.

Founder of the KIIT Group of Institutions Achyuta Samanta attended the function as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, ASSI secretary Gautam Zaveri enlisted the help of Samanta and his organisation to hold camps, examine patients and perform surgeries in tribal areas of Odisha.

Alcohol puts young adults at high stroke risk

People in their 20s and 30s who drink moderate to heavy amounts of alcohol may be more likely to have a stroke as young adults than people who drink low amounts or no alcohol, researchers have warned.



People who were moderate to heavy drinkers for two or more years of the study were about 20 per cent more likely to have a stroke than people who were light drinkers or did not drink alcohol.

People with two years of moderate to heavy drinking had a 19 per cent increased risk, people with three years had a 22 per cent increased risk and people with four years had a 23 per cent increased risk.

People with two years of moderate to heavy drinking had a 19 per cent increased risk, people with three years had a 22 per cent increased risk and people with four years had a 23 per cent increased risk

more per week were considered moderate or heavy drinkers. This is equal to 15 ounces per day, or slightly more than one drink per day. A standard drink contains about 14 grams of alcohol, which is equivalent to 12 ounces of beer, five ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of liquor.

App to provide real-time insights to fishermen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (FARD) department and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India launched a mobile application - 'Secure Fishing App' - here, Friday.



The application developed by the WFP in collaboration with the state government seeks to empower the fisherfolks by providing real-time information, insights and analytics that will contribute to betterment of their livelihood, thus contributing to the state government's vision.

their life and assets and improve their livelihoods," said Vashishth. The application provides fishers with access to critical and near real-time tailored climate and ocean state information services.

"We are very excited about this partnership with the WFP. The Secure Fishing App is focused on coastal fishing communities for improving their safety, resilience and daily catch as they are among the most vulnerable groups.

Global Mining Summit at Kolkata from Nov 16

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is going to organise its biennial flagship initiative Global Mining Summit (GMS) concurrently with the International Mining and Machinery Exhibition (IMME) at the Eco Park, Rajarhat, Kolkata, from November 16 to 19, 2022.

GOVT STRENGTHENING TRAUMA CARE FACILITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The Health & Family Welfare department, in pursuance to the observations of Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, has strengthened the trauma care facilities (TCFs) in the state in a bid to reduce road accident fatalities.



treatment can be available under the scheme are: Ashwini Trauma Centre, Cuttack; AMRI Hospitals, Bhubaneswar; KIMS, Bhubaneswar; Hi-Tech Medical College & Hospital, Bhubaneswar; Kalinga Hospital, Bhubaneswar; Uttal Institute of Medical Science, Bhubaneswar; Medicoever Hospital, Vishakhapatnam; Rama Krishna Care Hospital, Raipur; JP Hospital, Rourkela; IMS & SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar; SUM Ultimate, Bhubaneswar; Sunshine Hospital, Bhubaneswar; Care Hospital, Bhubaneswar; Blue Wheel Hospital, Bhubaneswar; Padmini Care, DRIEMS, Tangi, Cuttack; Sashi Bhusan Memorial Hospital, Cuttack; Sun Hospital, Cuttack and Trisha Hospital, Cuttack.

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3 killed in elephant attacks



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda/Angul, Nov 4: Elephant-human conflict continued unabated in Odisha. Three people including two children were killed in separate elephant attacks in the state.

A couple of animals trampled two children to death in Bhaunra village of Sundargarh district late Thursday night.

The deceased were identified as Dhananjay Satnami (9) and Ajay Satnami (11), sons of Umesh Satnami and his wife Leherabai belonging to the neighbouring state of Chhattisgarh. Both Umesh and Leherabai sustained injuries trying to save their kids from the marauding animals.

The entire family was sleeping under a polythene-covered shed in Bagdihi area Thursday night when two elephants attacked them. When the mother tried to drive away the animals she was attacked and suffered a fractured hand. Umesh was also injured trying to



save his family. Fortunately for them, locals rushed to the spot and managed to drive away the elephants. But by that time the kids were dead. Umesh and Leherabai were rushed to the district headquarters hospital where their conditions are stated to be stable.

District forest officer (DFO) of Jharsuguda, Lalit Patra said that two elephants had strayed into the Jharsuguda-Sundargarh border area Thursday night. Unluckily Umesh who was working in a brick kiln, and his family fell in the path of the marauding animals, the

DFO said. He added that a team has been formed to monitor the movement of the two pachyderms.

Reports from Angul said, an elephant trampled a forest guard, identified as Sarat Ghadei, to death Thursday night near Kulad village under Banarpal block.

According to reports, a herd of 30 elephants has been unleashing mayhem in the area for the last few days. The incident has triggered tension in the village.

As news about Sarat's death spread, residents of Kulad village staged a protest and did not allow police to send his body for post-mortem. They demanded a compensation of ₹20 lakh for the family of the deceased when senior Forest department officials and police personnel reached the village. Finally however, the irate villagers agreed to release the body after getting assurances that the matter would be looked into.

Residents of Kulad have been spending sleepless nights as elephants often stray into the villages at night and go on a damaging spree. On being informed about the jumbo menace, eight forest officials rushed to the village Thursday night and tried to chase away the animals. However, one elephant attacked Sarat, trampling him to death. When the Forest department officials tried to leave the spot, they were detained by the villagers.



TIME TO MAKE A QUICK BUCK: With the onset of winter, roadside vendors did brisk business in parts of Rayagada town

OP PHOTO

Irregularities mar pension distribution in Ganjam dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Nov 4: Implementation of social security scheme in Digapahandi block of Ganjam district has allegedly been marred by large-scale irregularities. The matter came to the fore during a public hearing and social audit of the scheme recently. Officials discovered that lakhs of rupees have been misappropriated by showing dead beneficiaries as alive in official records.

Sources said, the public hearing and social audit was held at the conference hall of Digapahandi block recently. Many people's representatives present there created ruckus, alleging that a large number of beneficiaries of old-age pension under social security scheme have died but the amount is still being withdrawn in their names. They urged the authorities to identify these ghost beneficiaries and initiate a proper probe in the matter.

Such irregularities have been reported from Badadubula,



Many people's representatives demanded a probe into misappropriation of funds by ghost beneficiaries

Kaithakhandi, Phasiguda and S Tikarpada panchayats.

Sources said that there are several instances of such irregularities. Kama Mallick, a resident of Kaithakhandi, died a long time back, but his pension of ₹3,500 was withdrawn for seven months. Similar was the case of Simanchal Goud of Badadubula panchayat who died nine months ago, but his pension amount of ₹4,500 is going to a ghost beneficiary. Sources alleged that pension amount to the tune of ₹11,100 have been misappropriated by people using the names of deceased Panchanan Pradhan, Kasi Nayak and S Simanchal Patra of

the same panchayat.

In Phasiguda panchayat, pension money of Hema Sethi and Dandasi Goud, who are dead, has been embezzled while ₹12,000 of deceased Kanchan Patra in S Tikarpada panchayat was withdrawn by a ghost beneficiary.

At the public hearing, a proposal was put forth in favour of an investigation into the scam in the presence of District Collector Subhashri Rath, BDO Haladhar Sabar, district social audit officer Rabindranath Malan, block chairperson Sumita Kumari Sethi, ABDO Prashant Kumar Rath, GPO Umesh Sethi, all panchayat executive officers and gram rozgar sevaks.

Mystery surrounds death of 64 goats in Gajapati district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Nov 4: Mystery surrounds the death of 64 goats that have been found dead at Kidinga village under Kashinagar block of Gajapati district Thursday night. Twenty eight other goats have been found grievously injured. The teeth marks on the body of the dead and injured goats point towards a carnivore involved in the act. However, the panic-stricken villagers have not been able to identify the animal.

Unable to identify the reason behind the deaths of a large number of goats, residents of Kidinga village have sought the help of the Forest department. They have alleged that the unidentified animal prowls around the village at night and kills goats. They asserted that the animal needs to be captured immediately or more domestic animals will die. Zilla parishad chairperson G Tirupati Rao visited the village and has intimated the district administration about the incident. He has also asked Forest department officials to keep a tab on the marauding animal and catch it.



SCINTILLATING PERFORMANCE: Odissi dance artistes strike a beautiful during a show at the 2nd International Dance and Music festival organised at Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district

OP PHOTO

Teachers booked for using fake documents to obtain college jobs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Belapada, Nov 4: Two lecturers belonging to the English departments of Binapani Mahavidyalaya at Dhumabhata and Mandal Jagannath Dev Mahavidyalaya, also in the same locality under Belapada police limits of Bolangir district are in a soup after it was found that they used fake certificates to bag the jobs. Police complaints have been filed against the two.

Debarchan Nag, principal of Binapani Mahavidyalaya has filed an FIR against lecturer Lalbahadur Rana, alleging that the latter has tampered with his certificates to get the job. The principal had sought details about the post graduation qualification of Rana from the university concerned. It was found that Rana had not taken admission to any university, but managed to obtain a PG certificate for MA in English in 1995. The role number (92 EMG11-(1992-94) found in Rana's eligibility certificate, in fact belongs to one James Sam.

The matter came to the fore after the principal asked Rana to send his certificate to the university concerned as per the guideline of the VIIth Pay Commission. Since then, Rana stopped attending college and this created suspicion among the officials of the institution.

In the other case, Narottam Behera, an English lecturer of Mandal Jagannath Dev Mahavidyalaya has allegedly tampered with his PG mark sheet. He was appointed lecturer by the governing body of the college in 1993. He received block grant in 2009, then GIA grant in 2018 and has been drawing a lucrative salary since the beginning of this year as per the VIIth Pay Commission.

Police have registered two separate cases against the two errant lecturers. Narottam has been interrogated in this connection, IIC Bulu Munda informed Friday.

Work on Sambalpur-Tileibani stretch of NH-53 botched up

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 4: The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has pumped in ₹400 crore for construction of the four lane road of Sambalpur-Tileibani stretch of National Highway-53, a report said.

However, travelling on the route has become a commuter's nightmare as the road is in very bad shape due to alleged sub-standard works on the route by the consultancy agency.

The construction of the road is yet to get completed but large potholes have come up on the con-

crete road. Earlier, Orissa POST had carried reports about sub-standard works on the highway which has only been substantiated after potholes started appearing on the road. Locals have demanded a probe into the shoddy road construction by the state Vigilance department or by a special team but their demands are yet to be realized.

On the other hand, the condition of the blacktopped road is more or less same where the condition of the road is undulated. As a result, commuters find it difficult to drive on the road and often lose balance of their vehicles while



travelling on the route.

Locals and various outfits have lodged several complaints with the district administration, Centre, state government and the NHAI

on the bad shape of the road but their pleas are yet to be addressed. It is alleged that the authorities instead of taking action against the consultancy agency are rather

showing favour to it. A private engineering agency engaged to conduct a quality check of the road has also come under doubt for messing up road construction. Rules mandates that the blacktopped roads should be of equal level at all places so that drivers do not lose balance while driving and meet with accidents.

However, the rule has been violated here. The road being built at an outlay of ₹398 crore is on its last leg. The agency has received most of its bill towards payment for the road construction works. However, cracks have developed

on the road at most places.

The NHAI has issued several notices to the consultancy agency asking it to undertake proper repairing of the road but the agency is acting on its whims and carrying out repairing works wherever it likes. Locals have been complaining about the sub-standard works but political persons are not coming forward to speak on the issue.

Contacted, NHAI, PD N Nageswar Rao confirmed the development stating that an agency has been asked to repair the potholes and undulated portion of the blacktopped road on the highway.

Evidence of Paleolithic civilisation found



■ TOOLS SUCH AS AXES, CHISELS, BLADES MADE OUT OF GRANITE, KHONDALITE AND QUARTZITE FOUND IN AND AROUND RAYAGADA TOWN

■ RESEARCHERS WANT PROTECTION OF THE AREA AS A HERITAGE SITE WHICH CAN LATER BE DEVELOPED INTO A TOURIST SPOT. THEY ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A DEEP RESEARCH ON THE ANTIQUITY OF THE PLACE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 4: Traces of an ancient civilization have been found on the outskirts of this town. Three independent researchers - Lokesh Durga, a PhD student of History department in Delhi University, his associate researchers Damayanti Bag and Pratap Kumar Biswal - carried out in-depth investigations in the area and discovered two ancient caves and recovered some stone tools from there.

Lokesh asserted that an ancient civilisation had once flourished along the Nagavali river basin hundreds of centuries ago. The research team scouted the area and in the initial phase. They stumbled upon

many stone-carved tools on the Dumaguda hill and later found two caves nearby.

Given the shape and style of carving of the stone tools, it appeared they belonged to Paleolithic Era or the Old Stone Age, said Lokesh. A research article on this discovery was published in quarterly journal of the 'Mythic Society', Bangalore.

The research team first located a cave 30 metres away from the hill top and another one just 200 metres away. They also found a stone platform linking the two caves. Among the tools discovered were axes, chisels and blades. These were made from granite, khondalite and quartzite stones. "This was just the primary research phase. It is too



early to comment whether ancient civilisation existed in this area. The tools need carbon dating to ascertain their age," said Lokesh.

The team has found a rock of unusual shape near the banks of Khanjabati river, 20km away from Rayagada town. The researchers asserted that such a shape could have only been given by human be-

ings who used to live there many centuries ago. They also said that there are several caves in the areas around this town. However, most of them have suffered damages due to infrastructure development. They said the entire area needs to be protected for historical purposes and can also be developed as a tourist spot in future.

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Adv. No. CSB/07/2022 **Recruitment Notice** Date: 05.11.2022

Applications are invited for following post on deputation basis:

#	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Classification	Scale of Pay
1	Assistant Director (Official Language)	1	Group-A	Level-10
2	Assistant Director (Statistics)	1	Group-A	Level-10
3	Assistant Director (Publicity)	1	Group-A	Level-10

Hard copy of the application for the above post should be submitted in the prescribed format along with all relevant documents Through Proper Channel to the Member Secretary at the above address.

Last date for receipt of applications: 60 days from the date of publication of advertisement in the Employment News. For details, refer CSB website www.csb.gov.in under the link "Job Opportunities".

CBC: 41109/12/22/2223 **Member Secretary**

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-AUCTION OF PARKING STAND OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

SL. STATION & LOCATION	AUCTION END DATE & TIME
1 KAIPADAR ROAD-2 WHEELER (Near circulating area)	18.11.2022, 1030 hrs.
2 KUHURI-2 WHEELER (Opposite circulating area)	18.11.2022, 1040 hrs.
3 BANBIHARI GWALIPUR PH-2 WHEELER (At PF-2 side)	18.11.2022, 1050 hrs.
4 BADABANDHA-2 WHEELER (Near PF-1)	18.11.2022, 1100 hrs.
5 BARANG-2 WHEELER (Near OFC room at PF-1 side)	18.11.2022, 1110 hrs.
6 TANGIRIAPAL-2 WHEELER (Near station building)	18.11.2022, 1120 hrs.
7 BHUSANPUR-2 WHEELER (Near pump house at PF-1 A side)	18.11.2022, 1130 hrs.
8 BOLAGARH TOWN PH-2 WHEELER (At PF-No. 1 side)	18.11.2022, 1140 hrs.
9 SOLARI-2 WHEELER (At station building side)	18.11.2022, 1150 hrs.
10 BRAHMANI PH-2 WHEELER (UP line side)	18.11.2022, 1200 hrs.
11 DANDIMAL PH-2 WHEELER (Near new Railway line)	18.11.2022, 1210 hrs.

Asset Description: Parking Stand (for Sl. No. 1 to 11). Auction Start Date & Time: 18.11.2022, 1000 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1 to 11).

Note: Prospective Bidders are advised to visit the website <https://www.ireps.gov.in> and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information with regard to this e-auction.

PR-669/N/22-23 **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ Khurda Road**

FOCUS OBITUARY

A LIFE LIVED FOR WOMEN



In Elaben Bhatt's departure, the world has lost a wonderful global citizen who epitomised Gandhi's philosophy all her life for building a non-violent society with women at the helm of affairs

Elaben Bhatt breathed her last on November 2, 2022 at the age of 89. She was quintessentially a Gandhian volunteer. She was a critical observer, careful analyst, and innovative constructive worker who designed and demonstrated a world where women tried successfully to build a non-violent, dignified and nurturing society.

She had to struggle hard to make space in the men's world of organised workers' unions. After graduating from Surat's MTB College, she obtained a degree in Law. She joined the Textile Labour Association (TLA) founded with the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi. Elaben joined as head of the women's wing of TLA. During her work, she realised that a large number of women were eking out a living as street vendors and were subject to Municipal and police excesses creating hurdles in carrying out their business. Then there were a host of poor women who worked as home-based workers. Elaben realised that the TLA could not give the status of a union to such working women. This led to the foundation in 1972 of the Self-Employed Women's Association, or SEWA which is now celebrating its Golden Jubilee. Today SEWA is a National Trade Union with around 2.1 million poor self-employed women workers as members in 18 States contributing to the strong informal economy of India. Elaben and her associates have always held that SEWA is a trade union and not a non-government organisation. SEWA's twin goals are full employment and self-reliance. It struggles for voice, visibility and viability. Elaben worked as the General Secretary for 24 years and from 1996 onward SEWA has seen young and dynamic General Secretaries from among the women who had come together and organized it.

Under Elaben's leadership, young professional women founded the SEWA Cooperative Bank. It was a struggle to get recognition as a Bank from the Reserve Bank of India. SEWA's strength and the genuineness of

the case led to amending the RBI rules. This is a rare feat for women workers in any country of the world. She founded 'Women's World Banking' with Esther Ocloo and Michaela Walsh in 1979 and was its Chairperson from 1980 to 1998. She also chaired Home Net, International Alliance of Street Vendors, and was a Board member of the Manchester-based Global Research Policy Network called Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO). She was bestowed with honorary degrees from various universities including an honorary Doctorate degree in Humane Letters from Harvard University in June 2001. She was honoured with many awards including the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1977 and at home with Padma Bhushan in 1986.

Elaben was a member of the Planning Commission in the 1980s. Her vision was big and encompassed humanity. She provided a novel interpretation of Gandhiji's Hind Swaraj. She had made a presentation to the UNDP before the Sustainable Development Goals appeared. She called it building a 100-mile community. Gandhiji's

Hind Swaraj discussed a self-reliant rural society based on nonviolence and love. Elaben gave a modern meaning to it and coined a word relating to the physical, social, economic, ecological and cultural environment within a radius of 100 miles and called it Anubandh, her word for correlation.

Addressing a national convention once she said, "While here, we must have a dialogue on building a nurturing economy in India. What we have in mind by 'nurturing' is: enhancing our daily life with nourishing food and better health. Ensuring we have the soil that nurtures the earth that nurtures the living beings, investing in the human mind that nurtures knowledge and technology, and promoting investments that nurture the neighbourhood and the next generation. We will deliberate on how to promote a nurturing finance that eliminates violence and inequalities and brings peace to the people, society and nature."

Elaben was appointed Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad and President of the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trusts (SAPMT)

known as Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram during the last decade of her life. She was reluctant to take up the Chancellorship as she was succeeding Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Morarji Desai and other prominent people, including her immediate predecessor, Narayan Desai. She wanted to educate the youth with the hands-on experience of producing food, and clothing with the help of sustainable and clean energy technologies. Had she lived longer, her vision would have had the chance of getting translated gradually into reality. She wanted to free Gujarat Vidyapith from a government grant-receiving higher educational institution to a public-supported vibrant place for the youth of the country to learn to build a non-violent society based on her philosophy of Anubandh by co-relating the individual, society and nature.

Elaben's motto was Women, Work and Peace. She said, "In my experience, women are key to building community. When we invest in women's participation, we have an ally who wants a stable community and roots for her family. Each woman is not only a worker, but also a provider, a caretaker, an educator, a net-worker, and a vital forger of bonds in a community. Moreover, women's participation brings constructive, creative and sustainable solutions to the community. I consider women's participation and representation an integral part of building stable and peaceful communities."

In Elaben's departure, the world has lost a wonderful global citizen who epitomised Gandhiji's non-violent human being volunteering all her life for building a non-violent society with women at the helm of affairs.

The writer is a noted Gandhian economist and the former Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad, a University founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920

THE BILLION PRESS



Sudarshan Iyengar

SHE USED TO SAY THAT EACH WOMAN IS NOT ONLY A WORKER, BUT ALSO A PROVIDER, A CARETAKER, AN EDUCATOR, A NET-WORKER, AND A VITAL FORGER OF BONDS IN A COMMUNITY

Be grateful for all ordeals, they are the shortest way to the Divine.
THE MOTHER



Delightful Bureaucracy!

The protests earlier this year by Central government employees who comprise the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) over delayed promotions and career-related issues have had an effect. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has reportedly constituted a committee to undertake the fourth cadre restructuring of the CSS. The panel will examine the current and future career progression of the CSS officers and suggest remedial measures to streamline the service.

According to sources, the four-member committee will be led by the Establishment Officer and Additional Secretary DoPT and will have a joint secretary each from the DoPT and the Department of Expenditure. A deputy secretary of DoPT will be the member secretary. The panel will also study the encadrement of posts of autonomous bodies and statutory organizations, and the relevance of the recommendations of the third restructuring panel, which have not been implemented yet. So, essentially a panel to replace a previous panel with the same task. How delightfully bureaucratic!

Further, the committee is also mandated to review the present training needs and examine any other issue that is referred to it by the cadre controlling authority of CSS and the central secretariat clerical services.

Babus who have Yogi's ear

After the loss, even if temporary, of former Additional Chief Secretary Home Awanish Awasthi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has moved quickly to show that he has always had more than one arrow in his quiver. So even as his favourite Awasthi is back in an advisory role, the Chief Minister has ensured that Team Yogi remains in charge.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Besides Awasthi, Yogi relies on the administrative talents of about half-a-dozen officers to run his "double-engine" sarkar. Clearly, the most influential among these is Shashi Prakash Goyal, additional secretary to the chief minister, and who sources have reported to DKB, weighs in on every file that reaches the Chief Minister's Office. Another key CMO official is principal secretary Sanjay Prasad, who took over most of Awasthi's erstwhile domain, except information and PR.

Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra has the additional "advantage" of being backed by the Centre, say sources. This is why, it is widely believed, that Mishra was named chief secretary and given an extension in service, barely two days before retirement. Meanwhile, Yogi's 'chosen one' D.S. Chauhan is acting Director General of Police (DGP) even as the Centre and UPSC continue to search for a full-time DGP. But Chauhan, who is also Director General of Intelligence and Director of vigilance, has the CM's ear when it comes to issues pertaining to law and order.

This then is the team that oversees the UP government's flagship welfare projects as well as muscular policing which keep it in the news.

Centre denies Kerala's plea

The ongoing rivalry between the Kerala government and the Centre and the state's Governor Arif Mohammed Khan adds a new chapter all too often. Even as Arif and the Pinarayi Vijayan government slug it out on various points of contention, the Centre remains a big challenge for the state government.

The most recent episode is the Centre turning down Kerala's demand to sanction more posts of the Director General of Police (DGP). At present, the state has four posts of DGO rank but wants the Centre's nod for two more.

Sources have informed DKB that the state's demand to increase the number of DGP posts arose after the Supreme Court ruled that once a person is appointed the head of state police, he should not be removed from the post for the next two years. Currently, in Kerala the state police chief and vigilance chief hold DGP ranks. While jails and fire services too have DGPs, they are not from the IPS.

The incumbent police chief Anil Kant is slated to continue in the post until June next year. This had delayed the promotion of senior Additional Director General of Police ADGP Anandakrishnan, who became eligible to be posted in the DGP rank 10 months ago. After him, K Padmakumar posted at the state police HQ became eligible for promotion to DGP.

The state government argued that the IAS cadre has eight posts that are equal to the DGP, but the Centre clearly did not buy this argument.

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

WISDOM CORNER

You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.
RABINDRANATH TAGORE

There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

WORDSWORTH

Allohistory

Other names for this idea are counterfactualism, virtual history, and uchronia, though the most common term is alternative history (alternate history in the US). It's a "what if" approach, which works out what might have happened if some nodal event in history had not occurred or had turned out differently — what if Napoleon had won at Waterloo, for example (it was "a damn close-run thing", you may recall). It has long been a staple plot type for science fiction, from Ward Moore's *Bring the Jubilee*, through Philip K Dick's *The Man in the High Castle* and Keith Robert's *Pavane*, to Orson Scott Card's *Pastwatch* and Kim Stanley Robinson's recent *The Years of Rice and Salt*. In scholarly historical circles, "what if" speculation has in the past been unpopular to the point of derision, though this is now changing, in particular in the field of military history. The British historian Niall Ferguson wrote a book in 1997 in which he defended allohistory — he argued that if the study of history is ever to be able to predict future events on the basis of past ones, it is important to analyze what might (or should) have happened, as well as what actually did. The prefix allo- is from Greek allos, "different, other", as in allegory and allergy.

Wassail

In Saxon times you would have used the original form of this word, *was hail*, to greet or say goodbye to somebody; it literally meant "be in good health". By the twelfth century, it had become the salutation you offered as a toast, to which the standard reply was *drinc hail*, "drink good health". *Hail* is an older form of *hale*, healthy, which is now mainly confined to the set phrase *hale and hearty* and is also closely connected with *hail* meaning "to salute, greet, welcome". The toast seems to have come over with the Danes; by the twelfth century the Norman conquerors of Britain regarded *was hail* as one of the most characteristic sayings of the country. Later on, the word came to be used also for the drink in which the toast was offered, especially the spiced ale or mulled wine that was drunk on Christmas Eve or Twelfth Night.

SPECTRUM INDO-BRAZIL TIES

Lula's victory good for India!



DK Giri

BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT-ELECT EARLIER TOOK SPECIAL INTEREST IN INDIA, AND SOUGHT TO COLLABORATE WITH INDIA IN BRICS. HE ENCOURAGED HIS OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT INDIA AND EXPLORE CONTRACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, popularly known as Lula, a 77-year old, Left-of-the-Center politician bounced back to be the President for the third time in just-concluded elections in Brazil. He was imprisoned for 18 months, three years ago on charges of corruption which were eventually dropped. His election victory is hoped to bring stability and vitality to Brazilian democracy.

However, the elections were close, bitterly fought and the margin of victory was wafer thin. Lula got 55.9 per cent of popular votes as against 49.1 per cent secured by the incumbent Jair Bolsonaro. The entire world was watching the Brazilian presidential elections, hoping for a new voice of negotiation and accommodation to emerge in the present polarising world. What would this victory mean for India, a partner of Brazil in world politics especially in BRICS?

Brazil's presidential elections drew international attention for a variety of reasons. Brazil is a middle power in the world, the biggest in Latin America with the largest population (215 million), maximum surplus land in the world, plenty of fresh water reserves, and the largest forest area. It has borders with ten countries without any territorial disputes with any. It has had no

war with any country in the last 150 years and has been free from the worldwide scourge of terrorism. Admittedly, it has, like any other country, its own share of socio-economic problems. Lula, the President-elect, would find greater challenges to address than when he left the office twelve years ago.

The world community has welcomed the election results and re-emergence of Lula in world politics. The Europeans, mainly the green parties and the climate activists were hailing Lula's victory as he would certainly arrest the deforestation and erosion in Amazon. On the economic front, Bolsonaro's protectionism was a hurdle to opening of trade. The trade and business community was also looking towards better prospects. The West is expecting Lula to lean towards Europe and America.

The pro-Western tilt of Lula is predicated on the basis of the anti-China tirade by both Bolsonaro and Lula, during the election campaign. Both of them attributed the de-industrialisation of Brazil to Chinese policies towards Brazil. Lula said that China was not occupying Latin America, China was actually occupying Brazil. Bolsonaro added that China was not buying from Brazil but buying Brazil. At the same time, the slowdown in

China has hurt Brazil as both countries had the biggest trade relations in Latin America. Brazilian economic growth is expected to be 0.6 per cent next year. The commodity boom is no longer there.

As for India and Brazil relations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to befriend Bolsonaro. He had invited the Brazilian President as the Chief Guest of the Republic Day parade in 2020, which was a special honour. During that visit, 15 MoUs were signed on oil, natural gas, trade, investment, health, medicines, science and technology etc. However, Bolsonaro's isolationist approach was a bottle-neck in building deeper and wider partnership with Brazil.

Brazil is India's largest trading partner in Latin America. India's export to Brazil in 21-22 was to the tune of 6.5 billion USD and imports during the same period were 5.7 billion USD. Indian companies have invested in oil fields, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, aluminium plants, auto parts and IT. Likewise, Brazil has invested in electrical motors, auto parts and IT. Brazil and India have similar world views on South-South cooperation, a multi-polar world and collaborating in WTO and UN etc. Lula took special interest in India, and sought to collaborate with India in BRICS. He encouraged his officials and businessmen to visit India and

explore contracts and opportunities. Lula himself visited India even after his presidency.

The challenge, however, for both countries would be to align their international policies, especially their reactions to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The democratic world is expecting the middle-powers like India, South Africa and Brazil, all members of BRICS, to speak for territorial integrity of countries. India has so far restrained herself in naming Russia as the aggressor and has abstained in UN resolutions in condemning Russia. South Africa has done similar.

It will be in the fitness of things towards formulating a third way, different from two power blocs — US-led NATO and China-Russia axis — that Brazil, India and South Africa and other like-minded countries take an international value-based approach to world issues. That will help restore and speak for a rule-based world order. India should find a credible and formidable partner in Lula, ideological differences notwithstanding. Will New Delhi approach Lula's regime with this fresh perspective?

The author is a professor in International Relations, JIMMC INFA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Impact of pesticides

Sir, Apropos the article 'Pesticide double standard' in Orissa POST, Nov 4. The pesticides are agrochemicals used in agricultural lands, public health programs, and urban green areas in order to protect plants and humans from various diseases. However, due to their known ability to cause a large number of negative health and environmental effects, their side effects can be an important environmental health risk factor. Residues of pesticides can be found in a great variety of everyday foods and beverages, including for instance cooked meals, water, wine, fruit juices, refreshments, and animal feeds. Furthermore, it should be noted that washing and peeling cannot completely remove the residues. In the majority of cases, the concentrations do not exceed the legislatively determined safe levels. However, these "safe limits" may underestimate the real health risk as in the case of simultaneous exposure to two or more chemical substances, which occurs in real-life conditions and may have synergistic effects. Pesticides residues have also been detected in human breast milk samples, and there are concerns about prenatal exposure and health effects in children. Against this backdrop, it is more obvious than ever that the society needs the implementation of a new agricultural concept regarding food production, which is safer for man and the environment as well. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Adopt PGSIT

Sir, The Aedes aegypti mosquito species, which is responsible for transmitting a variety of diseases such as dengue fever, chikungunya, and zika, is altered by the new precision-guided sterile insect technique (PGSIT), which modifies genes linked to male fertility and results in sterile offspring and female flight. PGSIT is a brand-new, scalable genetic control method that creates deployable, population-suppressing mosquitoes using cutting-edge technology. Male mosquitoes don't spread diseases, thus the plan is to release an increasing number of sterile males in order to control the population without using dangerous pesticides and chemicals. Many industrialised nations have adopted this technology, but in India we don't know anything about it, and even the national government hasn't spread the word about it as of yet. PGSIT, according to the researchers, is the first technology that is suitable for release in the real world and is effective in reducing mosquito populations. Therefore, our central government should investigate this and put it into effect as quickly as feasible through our nation. Vijay Kumar H K, RAICHUR

national

of the day quote

Youth from the coastal state are being trafficked to other countries with the promise of high-paying jobs

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

In the last 15 years, BJP has spread garbage everywhere and created mountains of garbage. On December 4, Delhiites will vote for cleanliness. They will vote to make Delhi beautiful. This time, Delhiites will choose the AAP in MCD

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

The Modi-Yogi factor in Uttar Pradesh has given a gift of curfew, crime and commission-free system to people

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

UP man dies in police custody

Prayagraj (UP): A 32-year-old man died in police custody in Prayagraj Thursday with family members alleging third-degree torture by policemen which they claimed is evident from several injury marks on his body. The man was identified as Lavkesh Sharma. He ran a general store, police said. Superintendent of Police (City) Santosh Kumar Meena said the police arrested Sharma for an altercation with a neighbour, chattered him and took him to Bailey Hospital for medical examination where his health deteriorated and he died.

ED conducts raids in J'khand, Bengal

Kolkata/Ranchi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday raided a dozen locations in West Bengal and Jharkhand as part of a money laundering probe into alleged use of forged papers for sale of defence land in these states, officials said. The federal agency searched about eight locations in Ranchi and adjoining areas, besides multiple places in Kolkata including the premises linked to arrested businessman Amit Agarwal. The ruling UP in the state, however, decried the raids saying they were conducted only to topple the Hemant Soren government. The officials said that some real estate dealers, private persons and linked entities were searched by the ED teams.

Stones pelted at Naidu's convoy

Amaravati: The chief security officer of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was injured when unidentified persons pelted stones on his convoy at Nandigama in NTR district on Friday. The incident occurred when the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president was addressing a road show as part of an anti-government protest in the town. Naidu's chief security officer Madhu Babu sustained bleeding injury when a stone hit him on the chin. He was provided first aid.

Ganja seized

Panaji: Goa Crime Branch has arrested one person for allegedly possessing ganja worth Rs 10, 50,000 approximately in the international market, police said. Superintendent of Police (Crime Branch) Nidhin Valsan said that police conducted raid at the residence of accused person Ravi Naik, 34, from Moira in North Goa and seized from his possession flowering and fruiting tops substance suspected to be Ganja weighing 5.042 kilograms.



Construction work of the new Parliament building is going on at a very fast pace

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS MINISTER

REVIEWING PREPAREDNESS

With two weeks left for the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' to enter Madhya Pradesh from Maharashtra, the state unit of the Congress headed by Kamal Nath reviewed preparations



Shiv Sena leader shot dead in Amritsar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar/Chandigarh, Nov 4: Shiv Sena (Taksali) leader Sudhir Suri was shot dead on Friday while he was taking part in a protest outside a temple in a busy Amritsar locality, police said.

More than five shots were fired at Suri after which he fell down and lost consciousness. He was taken to a hospital where he succumbed to bullet injuries, they said. The accused, Sandeep Singh, has been arrested and the weapon used in the crime seized, police said.

Suri was protesting against the management of Gopal Mandir on Majitha Road - one of the busiest places in the city - after some broken idols of Hindu deities were allegedly found on the roadside, which he termed a sacrilege act.

The Shiv Sena leader was in the hit list of several gangsters for a long time. He was provided security by the government with around eight Punjab Police per-



MORE THAN FIVE SHOTS WERE FIRED AT SURI AFTER WHICH HE FELL DOWN AND LOST CONSCIOUSNESS. HE WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL WHERE HE SUCCEMDED TO BULLET INJURIES

THE SHIV SENA LEADER WAS IN THE HIT LIST OF SEVERAL GANGSTERS FOR A LONG TIME. HE WAS PROVIDED SECURITY BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH AROUND EIGHT PUNJAB POLICE PERSONNEL BEING ATTACHED WITH HIM

sonnel being attached with him, they said.

He had allegedly been raising his voice against some Sikh fundamentalists as well. Speaking to reporters here, Amritsar Police Commissioner Arun Pal Singh

said, "Suri was staging a protest outside the Gopal Mandir at Majitha Road. The assailant arrived on the spot and opened fire at him. Multiple shots were fired at Suri leaving him seriously injured and he was shifted to a hos-

pital where he succumbed to injuries".

The assailant was identified and nabbed on the spot by Suri's security guards, he said. "The licensed weapon of the assailant was also seized," the police commissioner said. Police said the alleged accused was a resident of Sultanwind area of Amritsar city.

He is being interrogated by a team of Punjab Police officers and intelligence agencies officials to bring out the motive behind the killing, they said.

After the incident, opposition Congress and BJP targeted the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government in the state, with Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma alleging that the law and order situation has completely broken down in the state. "Political differences apart, violence is unacceptable. Culprits must be brought to book," Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said in a tweet.

Can't restrict woman's choice, says Kerala HC



After considering the opinion of the medical board that the continuation of the pregnancy may cause risk to the petitioner's life, the court permitted her to terminate the pregnancy at a government hospital

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Nov 4: The Kerala High Court Friday observed that there can be no restriction on a woman's right to exercise her reproductive choice, to either procreate or abstain from it.

The court took the route of an earlier apex court judgement where it was held that as per Article 21 of the Constitution of India, a woman has right to make reproductive choice as it is a dimension of her personal liberty.

"There can be no restriction on a woman's right to exercise her reproductive choice to either procreate or to abstain from procreating. A woman's right to make reproductive choice being a dimension of

her personal liberty, as understood under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," the order said.

It ruled in a petition of a 23-year-old MBA student seeking termination of her pregnancy from consensual sex with her classmate. The petitioner claimed after realising that she was pregnant, she was disturbed and moreover the classmate with whom she was in a relation had left the country for higher studies and she decided to terminate her pregnancy.

But none of the hospitals she approached was ready to do the termination as it had crossed 24 weeks and hence she approached the court.

After considering the opinion of the medical board that the continuation of the pregnancy may cause risk to the petitioner's life, the court permitted her to terminate the pregnancy at a government hospital and directed the hospital concerned to constitute a medical team for conducting the procedure.

In its order, the court also stated that if the baby is born alive, the hospital shall ensure that the baby is offered the best medical treatment available.

Man throws out wife, son on astrologer's advice

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ramnagar (Karnataka), Nov 4: The Karnataka Police booked an FIR against a man for throwing out his wife and three-year-old son over the pretext that the child would bring bad luck to the family after an astrologer told him so.

The astrologer had told the man, identified as Naveen, a resident of Manjunatha Layout in Channarayana city near Bengaluru that the kid was born in 'Moola Nakshatra', an astrological belief that would bring bad luck and tragedy for the family.

According to police, the complaint was lodged by Naveen's wife Shruthi in Ramnagar Woman's police station, police said on Friday.

Naveen and Shruthi were married for three years. The couple had a baby boy in 2020. The boy was named Ruthwik. The child was born on 12.42 p.m. on January 22, 2020. An astrologer had said that the kid was born in Moola Nakshatra and it would bring bad luck to the family.

After the visit to an astrologer, Naveen started harassing his wife and son. All the time Naveen cursed his son for being born under Moola Nakshatra and assaulted his wife.

Shruthi had also told police that Naveen and his family members had asked her to kill her son by pouring petrol and torching him. "Father of Naveen used to say I don't want this wretched kid and dragged and pushed him around." The police have taken up the investigation.



The officials said that some real estate dealers, private persons and linked entities were searched by the ED teams.



CBSE students wait for their turn to participate in the Oppana competition at the Malabar Sahodaya Kalosav, in Kozhikode

HP polls: Cong makes promises galore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kangra (HP), Nov 4: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Friday said her party will provide 1 lakh jobs, restore the Old Pension Scheme and provide financial assistance of Rs 1,500 to every woman in the state if it is voted to power in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Addressing a rally here, Priyanka said the Congress will also fight the drug menace, which is ruining the future of the youth and build English-medium schools in every Assembly constituency. She also targeted the state government, saying the state has "drowned" in debt under the BJP dispensation and 63,000 government posts are lying vacant.

Citing the work done by the Congress in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the only two states where the party is in power on its own, Priyanka said her party will fulfill its promises in Himachal as well. "The Congress will create 1 lakh jobs... Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is sitting here, he has provided 5 lakh jobs in three years. The Congress government in Rajasthan has provided 1.30 lakh jobs," she said.

Today, Chhattisgarh has the low-



AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addresses a public meeting ahead of Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls in Kangra district

est unemployment rate, she added. Priyanka said the Congress, if voted to power, will finalise the decision to provide 1 lakh jobs to the youth of Himachal Pradesh in the first cabinet meeting.

"We are also saying that we will try our best to provide 5 lakh jobs in five years. This is our guarantee," she said. She said the decision to restore the Old Pension Scheme will also be finalised in the first cabinet meeting if the Congress is voted to power.

The Congress leader said she understands the burden shouldered by women, who work at home

and outside. "This is why the Congress wants to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,500 to every woman. This scheme is called the 'Har Ghar Lakshmi Yojna,' she said. Besides, the Congress wants to build four English-medium schools in every Assembly constituency and fight the menace of drugs. Hitting out at the BJP, she said the party does not want to do anything for the people and works for its selfish interests.

She claimed 63,000 government posts in Himachal Pradesh have been lying vacant for the last five years and the state has a debt of Rs

When we say that we will provide 1 lakh jobs, their (BJP) Chief Minister says that is it not possible. But when they want to sell the country's assets, PSUs to their corporate friends, it is possible

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

70,000 crore. "When we say that we will provide 1 lakh jobs, their (BJP) chief minister says that is it not possible. But when they want to sell the country's assets, PSUs to their corporate friends, it is possible," she said.

The BJP says there is no money for restoring the Old Pension Scheme, Vadra said. "You have waived loans worth Rs 10 lakh crore of big corporates. You had money for that but do not have money for a worker's pension," she asked. Vadra said the Centre has failed to address issues like inflation and has in turn saddled people with more taxes. "The public is asking for freedom from inflation and you say, take GST and more tax. Even the GST on cartons used for packing apples has been increased. This is the answer you get," she said.

TERROR FUNDING CASE ED attaches J&K separatist's house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it has attached Jammu and Kashmir separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah's Srinagar house as part of a money laundering probe linked to a case of fuelling terrorist activities in the Union territory.



The house, worth Rs 21.80 lakh, is located in Botshah colony, Sanat Nagar, in Srinagar's Barzulla police station area, officials said. The money laundering case against Shah stems from an FIR filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in May 2017 against Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed and others under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

GRAP measures ineffective, environmentalists say

The CAQM banned the plying of four-wheeled diesel light motor vehicles in Delhi and adjoining NCR districts and the entry of trucks into the national capital as part of the final stage of GRAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Environmentalists called measures under Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan "ineffective" and said it was a "little too late" to ban diesel light motor vehicles in Delhi-NCR as the final stage of a central panel's anti-pollution action came into effect.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Thursday decided to implement measures under Stage IV of the Graded

Response Action Plan (GRAP) -- a set of anti-pollution measures followed in the national capital and its vicinity, according to the severity of the situation -- in view of the worsening air quality in Delhi-NCR.

The CAQM banned the plying of four-wheeled diesel light motor vehicles in Delhi and adjoining NCR districts and the entry of trucks into the national capital as part of the final stage of GRAP. However, BS-VI vehicles and those used for essential and emergency



services are exempted.

Delhi's overall air quality index (AQI) at 445 at 3 pm. Almost all air quality monitoring stations reported a 'severe' reading while 16 logged an AQI of more than 450. An AQI of above 400 is considered 'severe', which can affect healthy people and seriously impact those

with existing illnesses.

The anti-pollution measures under GRAP are classified under four different stages of adverse air quality in Delhi: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI >450).

Bharati Chaturvedi, founder and director of Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, claimed the entire GRAP initiative was problematic and that the measures should have been in place throughout the year.

"The action plan is problematic. It worked well as a concept when we had no access to data. But these measures should be in place throughout the year in order to bring down AQI levels to 100 or below," Chaturvedi said.

She further said construction workers were not being compensated enough and schools' vacation schedules should have been reworked earlier. "Construction workers in Delhi are not getting enough compensation. Most of them earn Rs 18,000 a month whereas the Delhi government is offering only Rs 5,000 a month."

The CAQM had on Saturday directed authorities to impose a ban on construction and demolition activities in Delhi-NCR, barring essential projects, under the third stage of GRAP.

Chaturvedi further said, "GRAP was implemented earlier too and shutting down schools under the action plan is nothing new. This happens every year, so why didn't the Kejriwal government re-work their vacation schedules?"

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said primary schools would be closed from Saturday in a bid to protect children from the effects of the deteriorating air quality. Environment Minister Gopal Rai ordered 50 per cent staff of Delhi government to work from home and said an advisory would be issued to private offices to follow suit.

Aaditya challenges rebel MLAs to quit and contest again

Thackeray launches a sharp attack on Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, accusing him of stealing 39 MLAs that ultimately led to the midterm collapse of the MVA government



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 4: Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray Friday dared the rebel party MLAs including Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to seek a fresh mandate, and said he too was ready to resign and contest an election afresh.

Speaking at the same event earlier, Chief Minister Shinde said Uddhav Thackeray should introspect as to why 40 of the Sena's 55 MLAs quit rather than calling them names. "I reiterate my demand that the 40 rebel MLAs should resign and seek fresh mandate. I will also resign from my seat and seek re-election. Let people decide," Aaditya Thackeray said at the India Today conclave here. "If I were the deputy chief minister (Devendra Fadnis), I would have walked out of this government and called for fresh elections," he added. His party believed in the ideals of the Constitution, the rule of law and justice, he said. "If two-thirds of the legislative party revolts and the rebellion is legitimised, there would be unrest in the country," he said, referring to the revolt by Shinde and others which brought down the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra government in June this year. Aaditya also criticised the state government for 'delaying' civic polls including the elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

"In the last 25 years, we have turned a civic body (BMC) with deficit into one with a surplus of Rs 80,000 crore and each penny is accounted for," he said. To a question about who should be blamed for the Shinde group's revolt, Thackeray

said, "I and my father (Uddhav Thackeray) take the blame for the blind trust in the people who we thought were our own. We did not play dirty politics." The Shinde faction petitioned the ECI seeking the 'bow and arrow' symbol only with the intention of damaging the Shiv Sena, he said, adding that if justice prevailed, his party would get the symbol back. Asked about claims that Uddhav Thackeray had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year to discuss possible rapprochement with the BJP, he said then deputy CM Ajit Pawar and minister Ashok Chavan had accompanied his father to Delhi. "Is it necessary to give political colour to normal meetings between a Chief Minister and Prime Minister just because a traitor says so," Thackeray added. To a question about the criticism that someone like him who speaks about climate change, urban planning and the environment was not suited to lead a party known for politics of aggression and intimidation, Aaditya said one can not be rigid, one has to be ready to adapt and open to ideas. "My grandfather (Bal Thackeray) raised the issue of sons of the soil and Hindutva because these issues were prevailing during that period, while my father focussed on developmental issues prevailing during the time," he said. Earlier, Chief Minister Shinde said during the event that Uddhav Thackeray had nothing new to say except calling him and the MLAs of his faction "traitors". "One can bribe two or three people, not 50 people," he said to the allegation by the Thackeray group that rebel MLAs received money to switch their loyalties.

Dog licks wounds of patient in UP hospital

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 4: Six health workers have been terminated after a viral video showed a stray dog licking blood of an injured person inside the emergency ward of Kushinagar district hospital. Kushinagar district magistrate, S Raj Lingam issued the termination orders. He has sought an explanation from the chief medical superintendent and two medical officers.

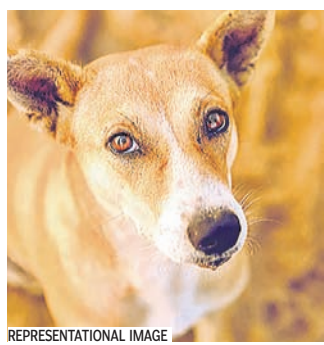
The district magistrate has also ordered an ADM-ranked officer to verify the incident and initiated the action after the report was received. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who is also the state's health minister, has ordered a probe into the glaring lapse.

The health department officials said, a 25-year-old, identified as Bittu, was injured in a road accident on the night of November 1 near a village under the Jathan police station of Kushinagar. He was admitted to the hospital's emergency ward.

A viral video showed a stray dog licking blood from his wounds. "The incident tarnished the image of the district and that is why services of six health workers were terminated," the district magistrate said.

Chief medical superintendent Dr SK Rai said that the patient had fallen down from his bed while the staff on duty were talking to other patients.

In the meantime, a stray dog sneaked inside the hospital emergency and someone made a video of the entire incident and uploaded it on social media.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE



Devotees take a holy dip in the Ganga on the occasion of 'Dev Uthani Ekadashi' in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

UP to get 700 urban wellness centres

THIS WILL ENABLE PEOPLE IN UTTAR PRADESH TO GET MEDICAL CONSULTANCY NEAR THEIR HOMES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 4: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is planning to set up over 700 urban health and wellness centres (UHWs) in the state.

This will enable people in Uttar Pradesh to get medical consultancy near their homes.

Yogesh Raghuvanshi, district health education officer, Lucknow, said, "The process has begun. We have identified the places where UHWs will be opened and we will issue advertisement to hire places in those areas."

As many as 108 urban health

and wellness centres are to be opened in Lucknow in phases, an official statement said on Friday.

At these centres, 14 diagnostic facilities will be provided to patients. Also, test for cervical cancer detection will be there once the medical staff is trained to conduct it.

The UHWs will also be providing tele-medicine facilities in which experts sitting at premier institutes will give consultancy for complicated medical cases.

"If the experts advise a test not conducted by UHWs, the sample collection facility for the particular test will be provided by UHWs," said the order issued to the chief



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

medical officers across the state.

According to health department officials, the selection of place for setting up UHWs had been done on the basis of vulnerability assessment and mapping of the urban areas, slums/vulnerable areas and areas with no primary

healthcare facility.

Dr Abhishek Shukla, secretary general, Association of International Doctors, said, "UHWs are being opened in areas with no primary health facility. Hence, the accessibility to medical services of people in these areas will increase and they will not have to travel to district hospitals for basic medical advice and diagnosis, thereby reducing load on bigger hospitals."

The UHWs will have an outpatient department (OPD) room, another room for vaccination, a waiting and registration area, one wellness room and a separate day care room.

BKU expanding its base among women

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 4: The Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) is expanding its base among women now.

The BKU organised a women's panchayat here a day ago to discuss issues related to their rights.

Sunita Tikait, wife of BKU national spokesman Rakesh Tikait, said, "We work in farmlands like other members of our family do, but we are not aware of our rights. Government policies directly impact women, who run a farmer's home. We should be provided in-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

formation and the benefits. "Under the circumstances, it has become important that we step up and assert our demands," she said. She said that the next 'Maha panchayat' will be held after two

weeks in which women from neighbouring states, such as Haryana, will also participate.

At the panchayat, several other issues were agreed upon.

It was decided that women

132-yr-old tunnel discovered under Mumbai's JJ hosp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 4: A 132-year-old tunnel-like structure has been found on the premises of the government-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai, officials said Friday.

The 200-metre-long structure was found under a building which originally housed the Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit Hospital for Women and Children. It was later converted into a nursing college.

The tunnel came to light during an inspection of the building following a complaint of water leakage, officials said.

The foundation stone of the British-era heritage building was laid by Lord Reay, then Governor of Bombay, on January 27, 1890, said Dr Arun Rathod, Medical Superintendent of the hospital.

Hospital Dean Dr Pallavi Saple told PTI that they have apprised the Mumbai collector and Maharashtra Archaeology Department about the discovery as the building is a heritage structure. Dr Rathod, who inspected the structure from inside, told PTI that it is 4.5 feet high and has several brick pillars.

The entrance is sealed with a stone wall, he said. They entered after opening what looked like a sealed ventilation duct, three ft-by-three ft in size. There are many such sealed openings on the front and the rear side of the structure, he said. According to some former hospital employees, another British-era building located behind this building has a similar structure underneath, but it was yet to be verified, said Dr Rathod.

The building under which the tunnel was found was designed by architectural executive John Adams and inaugurated March 15, 1892. The construction cost was Rs 1,19,351, Rathod said.



Gangster brings bottle filled with dead mosquitoes to court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 4: Gangster Ejaz Lakdawala wanted a mosquito net and created quite a buzz when he took a plastic bottle filled with dead mosquitoes to a court to highlight conditions in his prison cell. But the ploy did not work and his request for a net was turned down.

A sessions court here Thursday rejected the application by Lakdawala, a former associate of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim who is facing multiple criminal cases, including those under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Lakdawala was arrested in January 2020 and has been lodged at the Talaja prison in neighbouring Navi Mumbai since then.

He had recently filed an application in court seeking permission to use a mosquito net. In his application, Lakdawala said that in 2020 when he was remanded in judicial custody, he was permitted to use a mosquito net, but in May this year, the prison authorities seized the net citing security concerns.

On Thursday, when Lakdawala was produced before the sessions court, he showed a plastic bottle filled with dead mosquitoes and said the inmates of Talaja jail have to face this problem everyday. But the jail authorities opposed the plea citing security reasons.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

❖ Ejaz Lakdawala, a former associate of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, is facing multiple criminal cases, including those under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act

WHEN LAKDAWALA THURSDAY WAS PRODUCED BEFORE THE SESSIONS COURT, HE SHOWED A PLASTIC BOTTLE FILLED WITH DEAD MOSQUITOES AND SAID THE INMATES OF TALOJA JAIL HAVE TO FACE THIS PROBLEM EVERYDAY. BUT THE JAIL AUTHORITIES OPPOSED THE PLEA CITING SECURITY REASONS

The court, while rejecting the application, said the accused applicant (Lakdawala) could use Odomos and other mosquito repellents.

Apart from Lakdawala, several undertrials from the Talaja prison have also filed similar applications. In some cases, the request was allowed, while it was rejected in several others.

Gangster D K Rao was permit-

ted by the court to use mosquito net by one judge, but another judge did not permit the same to a few accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case and a direction was given to the prison authorities to take all necessary precautions to curb the mosquito menace.

In September this year, activist Gautam Navlalkha had also filed an application seeking permission to use a net, which is still pending.

Tigress Maya sighted with three-month-old cub at TATR in Maha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandrapur, Nov 4: Visitors to the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur have been treated to the sight of famous tigress Maya and one of her cubs moving to a safe location in the reserve, an official said Friday.

Home to 88 big cats, the TATR was thrown open to tourists on October 1 post the monsoon season and has since received more than 30,000 visitors in its core and buffer zones, said Mahesh Khore, assistant conservator of forest TATR (core area).

Tigress named Maya, aged more than 13 years, was spotted carrying her three-month-old cub in her mouth, as she is shifting to a safe place in the reserve, he said.

The big cat has been spotted by tourists at Navegaon Road and Kumbi Pat areas in the reserve and many have captured her movements on camera, and a footage has gone viral on social media, the official said. Maya had given birth for the fifth time at TATR and was mother to 15 cubs, but only a few of them were able to survive in the reserve, he said.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

BHARAT JODO YATRA

Maha Cong leaders go into fitness mode

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 4: Ahead of the arrival of Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Maharashtra, several senior party leaders in the state have been practising brisk walking and doing exercises to keep pace with Rahul Gandhi during the public outreach programme.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to arrive at Deglur in Nanded district of Maharashtra from neighbouring Telangana around 7 pm November 7.

Former state Chief Minister Ashok Chavan said he and other leaders have been practising brisk walk and exercising to match Gandhi's steps, while state Congress president Nana Patole said he has been doing warm up exercises and push-ups to keep himself fit for the yatra.

"Citizens in Nanded are all set to participate in the yatra. We are practising and exercising as and when we get time. Walking is good

for health," Chavan, who hails from Nanded, said.

Patole said that as the party's state unit chief, it was his duty to travel the entire 382-km-long stretch of the yatra in the state with Rahul Gandhi.

D P Sawant, Congress leader and MLA from Nanded, said the party leaders from the state will try to walk during the yatra as much as they can.

Chavan and other leaders are walking 5 kms every morning, Sawant said.

In Maharashtra, the Bharat Jodo Yatra will travel through 15 Assembly and 6 parliamentary constituencies during its 14-day sojourn. The yatra will reach Madnur Naka in Deglur Monday evening and the foot march will resume at 6.30 am the next day from the Deglur bus stand.

The Maharashtra Congress has made elaborate arrangements to welcome the yatra, where the entire state leadership will be present.

national

of the day quote

Everyone has a little bit of ambition in politics and it is reasonable that one should have ambition. It is the approach that makes some difference



ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

The Centre's 'Act East Policy' places emphasis on the northeast for improving the country's ties with the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region. Mizoram benefits from and also makes contributions to the nation's endeavour to engage with the neighbours in the region



DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

Several measures are being taken on a large scale to provide relief to the Northeastern states from the ravages of floods



GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Man ends life after killing four

Jodhpur: A 38-year-old man allegedly killed four members of his family and then committed suicide, police here said Friday. Friday, Shankar Lal killed his father Sonaram (65) with an axe, when he was working on the farm, and later murdered his mother Champa (55) and his sons Laxman (14), and Dinesh (8), SHO (Lohawat) Badri Prasad said. Following this, Lal dumped their bodies in a water tank at his house and took off to his relative's residence nearby, and committed suicide by jumping into a tank there, he said.

Woman, daughter killed in J&K

Jammu: Two persons of a family were killed and a third suffered serious injuries when their house collapsed in J&K's Poonch district, police said Friday. The dead included a woman and her daughter, while the woman's husband was critical. Official sources said a house collapsed in the Bafiaz area of Poonch district in which a mother and her daughter were killed while the daughter's father was seriously injured.

Two killed as boat capsizes

Bhopal: Two persons, including a six-year-old boy, drowned after a boat capsized in the Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district, police said Friday. The boat was ferrying at least 13 persons, of which 11 were rescued safely. All the people hailed from neighbouring Gujarat and were in Khandwa to offer prayers at Omkareshwar temple.

Driver flees with ATM cash vehicle

Hyderabad: In a daring money heist, the driver of a cash management company fled with the vehicle containing Rs 31 lakh in Hyderabad. The incident occurred on Thursday evening in Rajendranagar when the company staff came to Canara Bank ATM to refill the cash dispensing machine.

Body found

Katihar: The body of an Army jawan, who had come to his home in Bihar on a holiday, was found on Friday, four days after he was swept away by a strong river current, police said. Visual Kumar had come to his village in Manihari block of Katihar district where he was last seen on Monday, when he was taking a dip in the Ganges along with some friends after the Chhath festivities.

Isudan Gadhvi is AAP's anchor for Gujarat polls

The AAP has been campaigning aggressively in the BJP-ruled state, projecting itself as the main alternative to the saffron party. Gadhvi, who belongs to an Other Backward Class community, comes from a farmers' family based at Pipaliya village in Devbhoomi Dwarka district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 4: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Friday announced that former TV anchor and journalist Isudan Gadhvi would be its chief ministerial candidate for the next month's Gujarat Assembly elections. Gadhvi, 40, who belongs to an OBC community, received 73 per cent votes in a poll conducted by the party to choose its CM candidate, AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal said at a press conference here.

Gadhvi and Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann were present as Kejriwal made the announcement. Gadhvi was pitted against the AAP's state unit chief Gopal Italia, one of the prominent lead-



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann greets Aam Aadmi Party party's chief ministerial candidate Isudan Gadhvi during a public meeting ahead of Gujarat Assembly elections, in Ahmedabad

PTI PHOTO

ers in the Patidar quota agitation. The AAP has been campaigning aggressively in the BJP-ruled state, projecting itself as the main alternative to the saffron party Gadhvi, who belongs to an Other Backward Class (OBC) community, comes from a farmers' family based at Pipaliya village in Devbhoomi Dwarka district. OBCs account for 48 per cent of Gujarat's population. More than 16 lakh people voted in the poll conducted by the party and 73 per cent opted for Gadhvi, Kejriwal said. Last week, the Delhi chief minister had urged people to convey their choice for the CM through text or WhatsApp messages, voice mail and e-mail by November 3 evening.

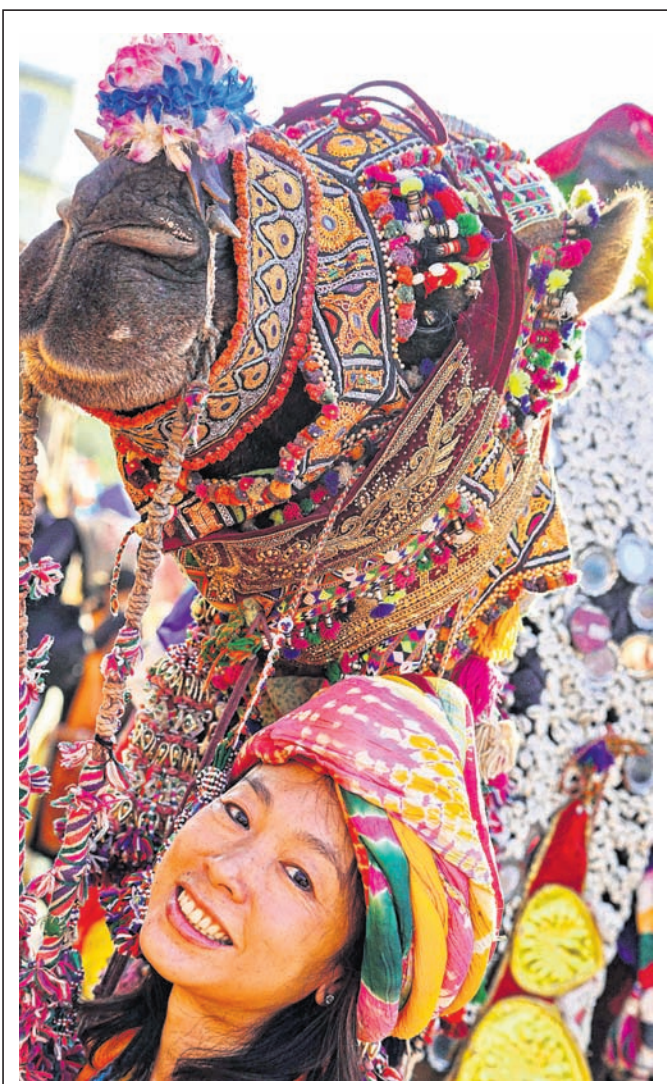
"It was people, not Kejriwal, who selected Mann as Punjab chief minister. During Punjab elections, we had asked people who should be the next chief minister. People named Bhagwant Mann by a huge majority. And as per the wishes of the public, we made him chief minister," Kejriwal said. Surveys predicting the AAP's defeat in the Gujarat elections were not correct because no one can predict the performance of a new party through such surveys, he claimed. "AAP secured 28 seats for the first time in Delhi when similar surveys had claimed that we will get zero seats. In Gujarat too all these surveys will eventually fail," said the Delhi CM.

COP27 should be COP for action in terms of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building. This is our overall approach. India will seek clarity as to what is being termed as climate finance -- whether it is grants, loans or subsidies. Public and private finance should be separated. These issues will be taken up strongly

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

PM CONGRATULATES NETANYAHU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday congratulated Benjamin Netanyahu for being re-elected as the Prime Minister of Israel



A tourist dressed in traditional attire poses for a photo with a decorated camel during the annual Pushkar fair

PTI PHOTO

IAS officer brings son to public event, sparks debate



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 4: Is it proper for a woman IAS officer to bring her child to a public function and address the gathering holding him in her arms?

This is the question being hotly debated by the netizens of Kerala over Pathanamthitta district Collector Divya S Iyer bringing her son to the valedictory ceremony of a private film festival and delivering the speech with the three-and-a-half-year old child in her arms.

While critics pointed out at 'propriety', those backing Iyer, including her husband, highlight the multiple roles women play and their right to have their moments with their children. The incident triggered a controversy after Deputy Speaker of the state Assembly, Chittayam Gopakumar, one of the organisers of the sixth International Film Festival of Adoor, shared a video of the Collector with her son attending the finale of the three-day event on October 30 on his Facebook page. However, he deleted the video from his FB handle later. In the video, Iyer could be seen sitting

with her child on the dais, cuddling him and later affectionately talking to him while standing up to deliver her speech.

While a large number of people came out criticising her, saying the act was improper for a high-ranking officer, several others voiced support to the Collector and pointed out to the example of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern who had made history by bringing her three-month-old daughter to the United Nations General Assembly in 2018.

While Ardern delivered her speech at a peace summit in the UN, her partner Clarke Gayford had held the infant on his lap, creating headlines worldwide. As criticism mounted against Iyer over the incident, her husband K S Sabarinadhan, former legislator and Youth Congress state vice-president, came out in strong defence of his spouse, saying she took the boy along with her as it was a holiday and the function was purely unofficial. In a Facebook post on Thursday, he said Iyer is a committed officer who completely dedicates her week days for official purposes but would try to spend Sundays with her son by avoiding travel, meetings and other programmes.

While critics pointed out at 'propriety', those backing Iyer, including her husband, highlight the multiple roles women play and their right to have their moments with their children

Migrant kid assaulted for leaning on car

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kannur (Kerala), Nov 4: A six-year-old migrant boy was brutally kicked by a youth for playfully leaning on his car in Thalassery in this north Kerala district on Thursday night.

As the shocking CCTV visuals of the cruel incident went viral on social media platforms and news channels started telecasting it, police took the 20-year-old accused into custody in the early hours of Friday and recorded his arrest later in the day. In the purported video, the boy, belonging to a migrant worker family from Rajasthan, could be seen standing leaning on a car parked on the side of a busy road here.

The angry man could be seen asking the child something and brutally kicking him following which the shocked boy walked away silently. In the visuals, some local people could also be seen questioning the inhuman act of Mohammed Shishhad, hailing from Ponnypalam near here, and he was heard justifying his act saying the boy was standing near his vehicle



As the shocking CCTV visuals of the cruel incident went viral on social media platforms and news channels started telecasting it, police took the 20-year-old accused into custody in the early hours of Friday and recorded his arrest later in the day

The injured child is currently under treatment in a nearby hospital. Local people complained that though the police were informed about the incident, they did not take the incident seriously

for some time. The accused soon left the place in the same vehicle.

The injured child is currently under treatment in a nearby hospital. Local people complained that

though the police were informed about the incident, they did not take the incident seriously.

However, Thalassery ASP Nithin Raj, who conducted a detailed probe,

rejected the charges and said the man was taken into custody soon after identifying him. Claiming that there was no delay in action in the case, he said the issues, being faced by migrant worker community, is seen with much seriousness by the police.

"In this case, we traced the number of the car first and thus identified the person, involved in the incident. After confirmation, we immediately taken him into custody and recorded his arrest later," he told reporters here.

The case was registered based on the complaint of the boy's mother and sections including IPC 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) were imposed against the accused, he said. The child is currently under treatment in a hospital and the doctors are examining his health condition, the police official added. The ASP did not give a clear reply when repeatedly asked whether the local police let off the accused in the night after taking him into custody.

Three siblings die in explosion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 4: In a gruesome incident, three siblings, including two women, were asphyxiated to death in Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu in the wee hours on Friday.

The deceased were identified as V. Girija (63), her sister, S. Radha (55) and their brother, Rajkumar (48). Rajkumar's wife Bhargavi (41) and daughter Aaradhana (7) are admitted to the hospital. Police said that the family had come to Chengalpattu to perform the first death anniversary rituals of Girija's husband Venkataraman who had passed away last year due to illness.



Girija was staying with her son in Dubai and had returned to the family flat at Guduvanchery on November 2 and her siblings and family had moved in on Thursday. The family was supposed to return to their place of work when a sudden explosion in the refrigerator occurred leading to asphyxiation and death of the three.

Bhargavi and Aaradhana were

sleeping in the bedroom while the three siblings were sleeping in the living room. The smoke that engulfed them after the refrigerator exploded asphyxiated Bhargavi and Aaradhana also. When the neighbour heard their cries for help, they broke open the flat's door.

A senior police officer at Guduvanchery police station said: "Doctors declared Rajkumar, Girija, and Radha brought dead on arrival at the hospital. Bhargavi and Aaradhana were unconscious when brought to the hospital and are now recovering." The bodies of the siblings are kept in the mortuary of Chengalpattu government hospital.

11 killed as SUV rams into bus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Betul, Nov 4: Eleven persons, including two children, were killed after the sports utility vehicle (SUV) they were travelling in collided with an empty bus at Jhallar in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh in the wee hours of Friday, police said.

The accident occurred on Bhainsdehi road, about 36 km from the district headquarters around 2 am, Betul police control room assistant sub inspector Shivraj Singh Thakur said. "Six men, three women, a five-year-old girl and a one-and-a-half-year-old boy died on the spot in the accident," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed grief over the accident. PM Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs two lakh each to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured persons from the Prime Minister National Relief Fund (PMNRF), the PMO said in a tweet.

Jhallar police station in-charge Deepak Parashar said all 11 occupants of the SUV died in the accident. According to police, the deceased were labourers, who were returning home here from Amravati in neighbouring Maharashtra. The severity of the accident was such that the front portion of the SUV was completely damaged and got stuck to the bus. The bodies of some of the victims had to be extricated from the mangled remains of the SUV with the help of gas cutters, Thakur said.

EIGHT FETUSES FOUND IN 21-DAY-OLD BABY

THE OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL AND THE BABY'S CONDITION IS NORMAL RIGHT NOW. THE BABY HAS BEEN KEPT UNDER OBSERVATION AND SHE WILL BE DISCHARGED IN A WEEK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 4: In a rare case, as many as eight fetuses were found in the abdomen of a 21-day-old baby during an operation in a private hospital here, doctors said.

The size of the fetuses range from three centimetres to five centimetres and they were settled inside a cyst in the abdomen. Dr Md Imran, who performed the surgery, said. In medical terms, it is called fetus-in-fetu (FIF), a rare entity in which one malformed vertebrate fetus is enclosed within the body of its twin, according to a journal of National Library of Medicine.



"As per the papers and journals available so far, one fetus was reported in most of the FIF cases. Case of eight fetuses has not been reported from anywhere yet," Dr Imran claimed. He added that FIF is very rare and it occurs in one in five lakh live births.

The baby was born on October 10 in a government hospital in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district. The doctors found a lump in the abdomen and suggested to the parents to operate it immediately, as it might cause problems in the stomach.

"The baby was admitted to the hospital when she turned 21 days. In initial diagnosis, a cyst or tu-

mour-like substance was found. It was located below the diaphragm. We decided to remove it through operation and it was performed on November 1. Then, we discovered eight fetuses one after another inside the part," he said.

The operation was successful and the baby's condition is normal right now. The baby has been kept under observation and she will be discharged in a week, he said. The head of Rani hospital, Ranchi, Rajesh Singh said, "Since it is a rare case, we are preparing it to be published in international journals."

international



Make no mistake, democracy is on the ballot for all of us
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

RAGING INFERNO

A massive forest fire in central Chile's Maule region has ravaged at least 3,600 hectares of land, damaged several homes and is yet to be brought under control, authorities said. The fire, which has been burning since Monday, presents a threat to nearby homes, Xinhua news agency quoted the country's National Forestry Corporation as saying



of the day quote

Now, more than ever, we have to support Ukraine, the Ukrainian people. They are fighting, defending their country, and we have the moral duty to support them

JOSEF BORRELL | EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

My personal position and the position of Ukraine was that if the leader of the Russian Federation takes part in G20 summit, then Ukraine will not take part

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

We facilitate the national dialogue that will take Myanmar out of the political crisis. And we know who can solve Myanmar's problem is the people of Myanmar, not outsiders

RETNO MARSUDI | INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

'Europe could risk gas shortage in '23'

Paris: Europe could face a shortage of as much as 30 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas during the key summer period for refilling its gas storage sites in 2023, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) warned. Gas storage sites in the European Union (EU) are now 95 per cent full, it noted.

Calif under winter 'triple-demic' fears

San Francisco: Experts have warned of a potential "triple-demic" in California this winter, with spikes in cases of Covid-19, flu and respiratory syncytial virus. The warning came amid the latest signs of statewide resurgence of coronavirus cases, with a daily case rate reported at 6.1 per 100,000 residents, said the California Department of Public Health in a weekly update Thursday.

Kenya: Hundreds of elephants, zebras die

Nairobi: Hundreds of animals, including elephants and endangered Grevy's zebras, have died in Kenyan wildlife preserves during East Africa's worst drought in decades, according to a report released Friday. The Kenya Wildlife Service and other bodies counted the deaths of 205 elephants, 512 wildebeests, 381 common zebras, 51 buffalos, 49 Grevy's zebras and 12 giraffes in the past nine months, the report states.

Pope blasts 'childlike' wars

Manama: With Russia's war in Ukraine raging, Pope Francis joined Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders Friday in calling for the world's great religions work together for peace, telling an interfaith summit that religion must never be used to justify violence and that faith leaders must counter the "childlike" whims of the powerful to make war.

Germany debates climate protests

Berlin: German officials urged environmental activists to engage in "constructive" protests and avoid endangering lives Friday as a panel of government-appointed experts warned the country risks missing its climate targets for 2030. A heated debate has broken out over activists' methods after road blockades caused by a Monday protest delayed a specialist rescue crew in reaching a cyclist fatally injured in a traffic accident in Berlin.

I was hit by 4 bullets: Imran

Khan suffered a bullet injury on the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him in the Wazirabad area, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government

AGENCIES

Lahore, Nov 4: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said he was hit by four bullets on his right leg during the assassination attempt by two shooters a day earlier, when he was leading a political march in Punjab province. Addressing the nation from the Shaukat Khanum Hospital here, in his first address since the assassination attempt, Khan said that he was aware of the plot to kill him.

"I'll come to the details of the attack later. I got to know the day before [the attack] that either in Wazirabad or Gujrat, they planned to kill me," the 70-year-old chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party claimed.

"I was hit by 4 bullets," Khan, whose right leg was plastered, said. Dr Faisal Sultan, who is treating the cricketer-turned-politician, said X-rays of Khan's right leg showed that his tibia was damaged and in fact fractured.

"In this scan, the line you see on right leg is the main artery. The bullet fragments were very near it," Sultan said.

Khan suffered a bullet injury on the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others mounting on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government.

He described the attack on his life and said he was on the container when a "burst of bullets" was directed at him, causing him to get shot in the leg and fall down. "Then a second burst comes, there



were two people," he said, narrating the incident.

He said that if the two bullet sprays had been synchronised, he would not have survived.

"Because I fell down, I think he [the shooter] thought I had died and fled," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Khan noted that one suspect, claiming to be an extremist, had been arrested.

"He is not an extremist. There was a plan behind the attempt [and] we will uncover it," he said.

The former premier said that three others, separate from the ones who he had named in a tape stashed abroad, had plotted to kill him.

"How did I find out? Insiders told me. The day before Wazirabad, they made the plan to kill me as they saw the number of people increasing using the script of religious extremism," he said.

He said Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Major General Faisal plotted to kill him.

Khan has alleged that the "government and its handlers" had planned to get him murdered in the same way as former Punjab governor Salman Taseer was killed.

"Firstly, they accused me of blasphemy [...] they made tapes and released them and PMLN projected it, I knew who was doing it... This [the attempted assassination] happened exactly according to the script," he said.

Khan, who was ousted from power in April after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, has talked about a "threat letter" from the US and claimed that it was part of a foreign conspiracy to remove him as he was not acceptable for following an independent foreign policy. The US has bluntly rejected the allegations.

He has been demanding early elections and he is leading the long march towards Islamabad to force his demands. The term of the National Assembly will end in August 2023 and fresh elections should be held within 60 days.

Iran marks 1979 US Embassy takeover

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Nov 4: Iran Friday marked the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran as its theocracy faces nationwide protests after the death of a 22-year-old woman earlier arrested by the country's morality police.

Iranian state-run television aired live feeds of various commemorations around the country, with some in Tehran waving placards of the triangle-shaped Iranian flag, other commemorations in the country appeared smaller, with only a few dozen people taking part.

But while crowds in Tehran looked large with chador-wearing women waving the Islamic Republic's flag, other commemorations in the country appeared smaller, with only a few dozen people taking part.

Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, speaking to people gathered in front of the former US Embassy, criticised

those protesting the theocracy. "Anyone taking the smallest step in the direction of breaching security and riots, must know that they are stepping in the direction of enemies of the Islamic Revolution," he said. "Americans think they can execute the plan they carried out in some countries like Syria and Libya here. What a false dream!" Those at the commemoration also waved effigies of French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Signs and chants from the crowd called out: "Death to America! Death to Israel!"



G-7 ministers back Ukraine support



AGENCIES

Muenster (Germany), Nov 4: Top diplomats from the world's major industrialised democracies Friday rallied support for Ukraine in its resistance to Russia's invasion, expressing "unwavering commitment" to Ukraine's defence, and expressed suspicion of China's increasing assertiveness amid a panoply of global crises.

Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven nations, wrapping up two days of talks in the historic western German city of Muenster, released a joint statement asserting common positions on Ukraine, Russia, China and recent developments in Iran and North Korea.

A year after warning Russia about the consequences of invading Ukraine, the G-7 ministers endorsed further punishments for the Kremlin, including setting a price cap for Russian oil exports in the coming weeks.

They also pledged additional backing for Kyiv by creating a new mechanism to assist with its reconstruction and other countries affected by food and energy shortages the war has exacerbated.

Xi, Scholz warn against 'irresponsible' N-threats

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz Friday condemned threats to use atomic weapons in Ukraine, with Scholz warning that Russia risked "crossing a line" in the international community by resorting to nuclear force. In the first visit by a G7 leader to China since the pandemic, Scholz pressed Xi to prevail on Russia to end the war in Ukraine, saying Beijing had a responsibility as a major power to do so.

"We reiterate our unwavering commitment to continue providing the financial, humanitarian, defense, political, technical, and legal support Ukraine needs to alleviate the suffering of its people and to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity," the statement said.

The ministers accused Russia of "trying to terrorize the civilian population" of Ukraine by targeting critical power, water and other infrastructure and demanded an end to the war.

NK, SK scramble warplanes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Nov 4: South Korea scrambled about 80 military aircraft, including advanced F-35 fighter jets, Friday after tracking about 180 flights by North Korean warplanes inside North Korean territory in what appeared to be a defiant show of strength.

North Korea's mobilisation of warplanes came after it test-fired around 30 ballistic missiles over the previous two days, including an intercontinental ballistic missile Thursday that triggered evacuation warnings in Japan, in an angry response to ongoing joint exercises by hundreds of US and South Korea military planes.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North Korean warplanes were detected in various areas inland and along the country's eastern and western coasts, but did not come particularly close to the Korean's border. The South Korean military spotted about 180 flight trails from 1 to 5 pm, but it wasn't immediately clear how many North Korean planes were in-

involved and whether some may have flown more than once.

None of the planes breached the South Korean military's virtual "tactical action" line, which is 20 to 50 kilometres (12 to 30 miles) north of the Korean's land and sea boundaries and is used for monitoring purposes to give the South enough time to respond to provocations or attacks.

South Korea still scrambled about 80 of its own warplanes, including an unspecified number of F-35 fighters. There weren't any immediate reports of clashes.

US and South Korea forces have been conducting joint "Vigilant Storm" aerial exercises involving about 240 warplanes, including F-35s. The exercises had been scheduled to end Friday, but the allies extended them to Saturday in response to North Korea's intensified testing activity this week.

The extension of the drills was announced Thursday after North Korea test-fired an ICBM, which triggered evacuation alerts and temporarily halted trains in northern Japan.



Racist incident in French Parl triggers condemnation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Nov 4: A Black lawmaker in France said Friday he was "deeply hurt" by a racist remark a far-right member of the French parliament made during a legislative session, a comment that has received condemnation from across the political spectrum. Gregoire de Fournas of the far-

right National Rally party was heard shouting the words "return to Africa" at his fellow lawmaker as Carlos Martens Bilongo was challenging the French government Thursday about migrants stranded at sea.

Other politicians, including France's president, said they were shocked by de Fournas' remark, which raised new questions about

xenophobia on the far right and in other parts of French society.

His words prompted an immediate uproar in the National Assembly, leading the legislative chamber's president to suspend the session and launch an investigation.

A meeting of the National Assembly's managing body was set for Friday afternoon to discuss po-

tential sanctions. Due to the uproar and the muffled of the words, it was unclear whether de Fournas said Bilongo should return to Africa or the migrants should.

De Fournas said he was referring to Europe-bound migrants rescued at sea and not, as some understood, to his fellow lawmaker.

Major glaciers to disappear by 2050: UN report

Major glaciers across the world, including those in the Dolomites in Italy, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and Yosemite and Yellowstone parks in the US, will be gone by 2050 even if global emissions are reduced, according to a UNESCO report

REUTERS

Paris, Nov 4: Some of the world's most famous glaciers, including in the Dolomites in Italy, the Yosemite and Yellowstone parks in the United States and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania are set to disappear by 2050 due to global warming, whatever the tem-

perature rise scenario, according to a UNESCO report.

The United Nations cultural agency UNESCO monitors some 18,600 glaciers across 50 of its World Heritage sites and said that glaciers in one third of World Heritage sites will disappear by 2050 regardless of the applied climate scenario. While the rest can be saved



by keeping global temperature rise below 1.5 degree Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) relative to pre-indus-

trial levels, in a business-as-usual emissions scenario, about 50% of these World Heritage glaciers could

almost entirely disappear by 2100.

"This report is a call to action. Only a rapid reduction in our CO2 emissions levels can save glaciers and the exceptional biodiversity that depends on them," Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO's Director-General, said in a statement.

She added that the UN's COP27 climate conference will have a crucial role to help find solutions to this issue. World Heritage glaciers as defined by UNESCO represent about 10 percent of the world's glacier areas and include some of the world's best-known glaciers, whose loss is highly visible as they are focal points for global tourism. The report's lead

author Tales Carvalho told Reuters that World Heritage glaciers lose on average some 58 billion tons of ice every year - equivalent to the total annual volume of water used in France and Spain together - and contribute to almost 5% of global observed sea-level rise.

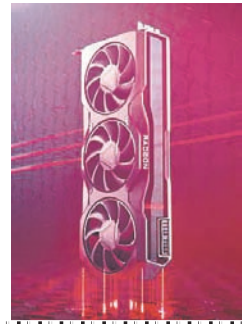
UNESCO recommends that given the inevitable further shrinking of many of these glaciers in the near future, local authorities should make glaciers a focus of policy, by improving monitoring and research and by implementing disaster risk reduction measures. "As glacier lakes fill up, they can burst and can cause catastrophic floods downstream," Carvalho said.



A fast growing economy like India needs greater investment in coal production and gasification projects as globally, energy prices especially that of gas, is going up
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED GRAPHICS CARD

Graphics chip giant AMD has introduced new graphics cards that are built on the high-performance and energy-efficient RDNA 3 architecture for high-end gaming experience. The RX 7900 XTX and RX 7900 XT are the first graphics cards powered by its new architecture, RDNA 3



of the day quote

India needs to become a quality conscious nation and adopt quality as an integral part of the process in preparing the foundation of becoming a developed nation by 2047
PIYUSH GOVAL | COMMERCE MINISTER

Ola Electric will miss its target to fully utilise installed production capacity in next six to eight months and will achieve only 50 per cent of it by November 2023
BHAVISH AGGARWAL | FOUNDER & CEO, OLA ELECTRIC

We will be spending upwards of ₹7,000 crore this year
AJAY SETHI | CFO, MARUTI SUZUKI

SHORT TAKES

IEX trade volume drops 13% in Oct

New Delhi: The total trade volume of Indian Energy Exchange dipped 13 per cent to 7,972 million units (MU) in October compared to a year ago. The Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) achieved 7,972 MU volume in October 2022, including Green Power trade of 403 MU, and 3.58 lac RECs (equivalent to 358 MU), an IEX statement said. "The total volume on the Exchange in October 2022 was lower by 13 per cent on YoY (year-on-year) basis due to high volume base of last year, and lower by 2 per cent on MoM (month-on-month) basis due to reduced REC (Renewable Energy Certificate) trading," it stated.

GAIL net profit falls 46% in Q2

New Delhi: State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd Thursday reported a 46 per cent drop in its September quarter net profit as it slashed petrochemical output after a former unit of Russian energy giant Gazprom stopped gas supplies. Net profit stood at ₹1,537.07 crore in July-September compared with ₹2,862.95 crore profit in the same period a year back, according to a stock exchange filing of the company. The profit for the firm that transports and sells natural gas to users like fertiliser plants and CNG retailers was sequentially down 47.2 per cent from ₹2,915.19 crore profit in the April-June quarter.

Amazon freezes corporate hirings

New Delhi: Amazon has announced to freeze new hirings in its corporate workforce, with the global economy "in an uncertain place". Beth Galetti, Amazon's senior vice president of people experience and technology, confirmed the move in a memo that the company had already begun pausing or slowing hiring in various corporate departments in "recent weeks". "We're facing an unusual macro-economic environment, and want to balance our hiring and investments with being thoughtful about this economy," Galetti wrote.

IndiGo loss widens to ₹1,583.34 crore

New Delhi: InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, Friday posted widening of loss to ₹1,583.34 crore for the September quarter as higher fuel costs and exchange rates impacted the bottom line. It reported a loss of ₹381.8 crore, excluding the foreign exchange loss of ₹1,201.5 crore, in the latest quarter under review. The airline had a loss of ₹1,435.66 crore in the year-ago period.

COMPLETE CHAOS

Musk's job cut hits Twitter India

Musk, the world's richest person, is looking to cut around 3,700 Twitter staff, or about half the workforce, as he seeks to slash costs and impose a demanding new work ethic



TWITTER TEMPORARILY CLOSES OFFICES AS LAYOFFS BEGIN
MANAGERS HAVE BEEN FORBIDDEN FROM CALLING TEAM MEETINGS
IT HAS SACKED THE ENTIRE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPT IN INDIA
SOURCE SAID THE LAYOFFS HAVE AFFECTED A 'SIGNIFICANT CHUNK' OF THE INDIA TEAM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, Nov 4: For some of the nearly 200-strong Twitter India workforce, the Friday morning came with utter chaos when they lost access to their official emails and internal Slack and group chats, as they were unfortunate to be part of the global sacking in the most brutal Elon Musk way.

Some of the employees who lost their jobs at Twitter India and did not wish to be named told IANS that when they logged in to their systems from home (Twitter is still in the work-from-home mode) Friday, they were denied access.

"Now we are waiting for the email with the subject line 'if your employment is impacted, you will receive a notification with next steps via your personal email', as mentioned by the company. We are clueless on our severance pay, etc.," they lamented.

It was still unclear how many of about 200 Twitter India employees have lost jobs in the global restructuring exercise. Those who are still with Twitter India are living in constant fear about losing their jobs in the next round, which

they think will happen sooner keeping Musk's intentions in mind. "It is one of the most inhumane ways to get rid of us. After spending so many years at Twitter India, we were left without any communication since Musk took over," the affected workers told IANS.

"Lay-off has started. Some of my colleagues have received email notification regarding this," a Twitter India employee said.

Sources said the layoffs are across engineering, sales and marketing, and communications teams. The entire marketing and communications department in India has been sacked, the sources said. The new CEO aims to cut roughly half of its 7,600-strong workforce,

about 3,800 employees. According to the company, the employee badge access to Twitter's offices has already been shut off "temporarily".

"To help ensure the safety of each employee as well as Twitter systems and customer data, our offices will be temporarily closed and all badge access will be suspended. If you are in an office or on your way to an office, please return home," Twitter said in an internal memo.

"We acknowledge this is an incredibly challenging experience to go through, whether or not you are impacted," the memo further read.

"Thank you for continuing to adhere to Twitter policies that pro-

BOYCOTTING CHINA

Apple adds new iPhone 14 supplier in India

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 4: Apple Inc's Taiwanese contract manufacturer Pegatron Corp has begun assembling the new iPhone 14 in India, Bloomberg News reported Friday, citing people familiar with the matter. The report comes as relentless controls and spot lockdowns across China, where majority of Apple's iPhones are manufactured, have hampered economic growth and taken a heavy psychological and financial toll on residents and companies.

Meanwhile, Foxconn, formally Hon Hai Precision Industry Co

Ltd, began production of iPhone 14 in India in September, making Pegatron the second producer of the model in India, the report added.

All of Apple's biggest Taiwanese suppliers, Foxconn, Pegatron and Wistron Corp, have ramped up iPhone assembly in India, boosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's financial incentives program, it said.

India and other countries such as Mexico and Vietnam are increasingly turning important to contract manufacturers supplying to American brands amid Covid-related lockdowns in China and simmering tensions between Washington and Beijing.

₹ slide effect: Importers hedge longer

THE 1-YEAR USD/INR IMPLIED HAS FALLEN TO NEAR 2.25%, HOVERING NEAR ITS LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 2011

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 4: The fall in the Indian rupee's forward premiums to the lowest level in more than a decade is prompting importers to hedge beyond the near term, analysts said Friday.

The USD/INR forward premiums have tumbled this year, fuelled by a jump in Treasury yields. US yields have surged in the wake of aggressive rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

The Reserve Bank of India's forward dollar sales aimed at man-

aging the rupee's volatility without impacting liquidity have further amplified the pressure on the currency's premiums.

The 1-year USD/INR implied has fallen to near 2.25%, hovering near its lowest level since 2011.

"Given the fact that the premiums have come down as much as they have, we see that some of our importer clients are more willing to elongate the hedges," a manager at a leading private sector bank said. "It's just that the lower cost of hedging has made importers open to the idea of covering beyond the



usual one to two month tenors." Considering that high rupee volatility and the fall in the cost of hedging, there is "definitely" less reluctance to hedge beyond the near months, Dipti Chitale, senior vice president - risk management ad-

visory at Mecklai Financial, said. "Importers are covering five to six months forward, which is a change from the past when they would do a maximum of two months."

For exporters, the story is the exact opposite, Chitale said, adding that they are now looking at only short-term hedges.

The inverted rupee forward yield was "an added encouragement" to look for longer term hedges, a trader at a separate private bank said.

Rupee short term forward yields are currently higher than long term yields.

ANOTHER PIECE OF THE PIE

Reliance to enter salon biz

Reliance Industries is in talks with the promoters of Naturals Salon & Spa, which operates over 650 salons across India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The country's largest retailer Reliance Retail is planning to enter the salon business by acquiring a 49 per cent stake in Chennai-based Naturals Salon & Spa, according to sources.

Reliance Retail, part of oil-to-chemicals conglomerate Reliance Industries, is in talks with the promoters of Naturals Salon & Spa, which operates over 650 salons across

India. Naturals Salon & Spa, founded in the early 2000s, had the target to expand to 3,000 salons by 2025.

After this acquisition, Reliance Retail would compete with players like HUL, which operates in the salon segment with the beauty brand Lakme.

Reliance Retail is evaluating the prospects to acquire Naturals, the sources said, without disclosing the amount in consideration.

On the development, a Reliance spokesperson said: "Our company

evaluates various opportunities on an ongoing basis".

Naturals Salon & Spa CEO & Co-founder CK Kumaravel in a LinkedIn post said this is the "largest turn" in the history of the company as "a multinational conglomerate is about to enter the salon industry". "Reliance Retail is yet to acquire the 49 per cent of Naturals' stake," he added. "And there is going to be huge growth from the total of 700 salons, there will be an increase of 45 times," Kumaravel said, adding "we'll be witnessing the tremendous changes in the Naturals Salon & Spa over the upcoming years". He also expressed his gratitude to those who helped Naturals to expand its successfully.

The beauty and salon industry was impacted during the pandemic. Now, it has almost come back to the pre-pandemic numbers.

Reliance Retail is a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, the holding company of all the retail companies under the RIL group.

Bol net profit rises sequentially by 71%

Mumbai: Bank of India, a leading public sector bank posted a rise by 71% sequentially in net profit at ₹960 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2022 (Q2FY23), driven by a steady rise in operating margins. However, the net profit has reportedly dropped almost 8% from ₹1051 crore (Q2FY22) to ₹960 crore (Q2FY23) on YoY basis. Operating profit has jumped to ₹3,374 crore up by 26% YoY and by 55% sequentially. Both Return on Assets (RoA) and Return on Equity (RoE) increased by 18 bps and 321 bps respectively on QOQ basis. With better credit off take, considerable growth is witnessed in NIM% that stood at 3.04% thereby improved by 49 bps sequentially. NII stood at ₹5,083 crore up by 44% YoY and 25% sequentially. Yield on Advances at 7.21%, increased by 63 bps sequentially and 20 bps YoY. RAM Advances grew by 15.57% on YoY basis and it constitutes 54.25% of Gross Advances. CASA deposits increased by 4.05% on YoY basis and CASA% is reported at 44.12% on Aggregate Deposits. On the recovery front, bank took several steps which has brought down Gross NPA% to 8.51% with a significant decline of 349 bps on YoY basis. The net NPA% has also declined and touched to 1.92%, down by 87 bps on YoY basis. Credit Cost stood at 0.60%, declined by 61 bps, sequentially and Slippage Ratio improved to 0.30% from 0.69%, sequentially. Cost to Income Ratio (Global) improved significantly on sequential basis to 48.10% (as on 30.09.2022) as against 58.22% (as on 30.06.2022) and 52.69% (as on 30.09.2021).



IOB observes Vigilance Awareness Week & Rashtriya Ekta Diwas



Bhubaneswar: Indian Overseas Bank, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has observed Vigilance Awareness Week and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. Gourav Bhardwaj, Chief Regional Manager led the programme. Staffs of Regional Office and Saheed Nagar Branch Office attended the programme and took oath in it. The pledge was about unity, integrity and security of the nation. Vigilance Awareness Week is observed to promote ethical business practices and foster a culture of honesty and integrity, said an official. It is not to offer or accept bribes, commit good corporate governance based on transparency, accountability and fairness, adhere relevant laws, rules and compliance mechanism in the conduct of business, he added. It is necessary to adopt a code of ethics for all employees, sensitize employees of laws, regulations relevant to their work for honest discharge of duties, provide grievance redressal and Whistle Blower mechanism for reporting grievances and fraudulent activities and protect the rights and interest of stakeholders and the society at large, noted the bank.

BYJU'S ropes in Messi as global brand ambassador for EFA

The engagement of BYJU's with Messi will enhance visibility of the edtech firm overseas as football has roughly 3.5 billion fans worldwide, and Lionel Messi has a social media following of nearly 450 million

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Edtech major BYJU's has roped in football star Lionel Leo Messi as the first global brand ambassador of its social impact arm Education For All, the company said Friday.

Messi, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain and captains the Argentinian football team, has signed an agreement with BYJU's to promote the cause of equitable education, BYJU's said in a statement. "We are honoured and excited to collaborate with Lionel Messi as our

global ambassador. He rose from the grassroots to become one of the most successful sports persons ever. That is the kind of opportunity that BYJU's Education For All (EFA) wants to create for the nearly 5.5 million children it currently empowers. No one represents the power of enhancing human potential more than Lionel Messi," BYJU's co-founder Divya Gokulnath said.

The engagement of BYJU's with Messi will enhance visibility of the edtech firm overseas as football has

roughly 3.5 billion fans worldwide, and Lionel Messi has a social media following of nearly 450 million.

"It is not really surprising that the greatest player of all time is also the greatest learner of all time. I am sure this partnership will inspire millions of people around the world to dream bigger and learn better," Gokulnath said.

Earlier this year, BYJU's became the official sponsor of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar.

"The long-term engagement, which begins as Lionel Messi em-

barks on his final campaign to win the FIFA World Cup 2022 as captain of Argentina's national football team, will see him feature in campaigns promoting BYJU's Education For All," the statement said. "High-quality education changes lives, and BYJU'S has transformed the career paths of millions of students worldwide. I hope to inspire young learners to reach and remain at the top," Messi said.



Swiatek in semis, Gauff ousted



COCO GAUFF



IGA SWIATEK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Worth, Nov 4: Tears gathered in Coco Gauff's eyes as she sat on the WTA Finals sideline during a changeover after giving away a lead in what would become a 7-6(8-6), 6-3 round-robin loss to Daria Kasatkina that ended the 18-year-old American's hopes of reaching the semifinals.

Gauff, who is ranked No.4, fell to 0-4 in her debut at the season-ending tournament for the best in women's tennis — 0-2 in singles and 0-2 in doubles with Jessica Pegula. The Floridian was the youngest participant in both events at the WTA Finals since Anna

Kournikova in 1999.

Earlier Thursday, top-ranked Iga Swiatek beat Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-2 by taking control with an eight-point run that launched a match-ending stretch in which she grabbed nine of 11 games. Swiatek has won all four sets she's played so far while dropping a total of just 10 games.

The results mean that Swiatek clinched a semifinal berth and that No.6 Garcia will face No.8 Kasatkina for the other spot available in their group.

Kasatkina, whose best Grand Slam showing was a semifinal run at the French Open in June, started slowly Thursday, trailing 4-1 against

Gauff, who was the runner-up in Paris. But Kasatkina began hitting more shots to Gauff's forehand, her weaker side, and that paid dividends.

Kasatkina quickly accumulated five of six games to lead 6-5; that was the score when Gauff used a white towel to wipe away tears during a changeover. Gauff briefly righted things, breaking to force a tiebreaker that she led 3-0 and 4-2. But after saving Kasatkina's initial pair of set points, Gauff relied on the third, putting a forehand into the net to close a 24-stroke exchange.

Gauff began the day 1-16 this season when ceding the first set, while Kasatkina came in 28-0 when

claiming it, and those trends did not change.

Swiatek's victory made her 14-1 against opponents ranked in the top 10 in 2022 — and those 14 wins were all in a row, the longest such single-season unbeaten streak on tour in 15 years.

Garcia is the only WTA Finals entrant who managed to defeat Swiatek this year — at the Poland Open in July, when Garcia was ranked just 45th — and the score was 3-all early Thursday. But Swiatek then raced through the end of that set and went up a break at 2-0 in the second.

Swiatek's topspin-heavy forehand is probably her most dan-

Alcaraz, Djoko sail through

Paris: Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the quarterfinals at the Paris Masters with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Grigor Dimitrov, when Felix Auger-Aliassime reached the last eight by winning his 15th consecutive match.

Alcaraz, the US Open champion, will next play Holger Rune for a place in the semifinals after the Danish teenager beat Andrey Rublev 6-4, 7-5 Thursday. It's the first time that teenagers — both are 19 years old — will square off in a Paris Masters quarterfinal. Auger-Aliassime defeated French veteran Gilles Simon 6-1, 6-3. Lorenzo Musetti upset US Open runner-up Casper Ruud 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, while American player Frances Tiafoe defeated Alex De Minaur 6-3, 7-6(7-5). The 20-year-old Musetti will play Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals after the 21-time Grand Slam champion beat Karen Khachanov of Russia 6-4, 6-1. Djokovic extended his winning streak in tour-level matches to 11 as he chases a seventh title at the tournament. American Tommy Paul beat Pablo Carreno Busta 6-4, 6-4 and will next face fifth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas, who eliminated French qualifier Corentin Moutet 6-3, 7-6(7-3).

gerous shot, but her backhand was up to the task on this day — producing passing shots when Garcia went to the net or closing lengthier baseline exchanges with winners — and her serve grew stronger as the match wore on, including finishing with a 108 mph ace.

This was Swiatek's tour-high 66th win of the year. The 21-year-old from Poland also leads with eight titles, including at the French Open and US Open.

Arsenal top Zurich, Man Utd also win



Arsenal players celebrate after their goal against Zurich, Thursday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 4: Kieran Tierney blasted home a winner for Arsenal to seal the top spot in their group and advance to the round of 16 of the Europa League with a 1-0 victory over Zurich.

The Premier League leader needed a win here Thursday to guarantee first place ahead of PSV Eindhoven. Tierney unleashed a fierce half-volley from the edge of the area in the 17th minute that left Zurich goalkeeper Yanick Brecher no chance. Arsenal won Group A with 15 points, PSV trailed by two in second following a 2-1 win at Norway's Bodø/Glimt.

Teenage winger Alejandro Garnacho scored his first goal for Manchester United in a 1-0 win at Real Sociedad in the Europa League but the visitors had to settle for second place in their group.

United needed to win by at least two goals to top Group E and avoid a knockout-round playoff tie that it must now play in February

against a team dropping out of the Champions League — with Ajax, Barcelona and Juventus being among the potential opponents.

Both teams were certain of a top-two finish but United needed the two-goal margin after losing to Sociedad 1-0 at Old Trafford at the start of group play. Both teams finished the group with 15 points. Moldova's Sheriff placed third with six after a 1-0 win over Omonia.

The beginning looked promising for the Premier League team. The 37-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo released the 18-year-old Garnacho on the left before the Argentine forward burst into the box to score high into the net past goalkeeper Alejandro Remiro 17 minutes into the game as United looked in control.

But the second goal didn't come despite in-form striker Marcus Rashford coming on as a substitute. Only the group winners advance directly to the last 16. Those in third place drop into the third-tier Europa Conference League.

Kiwis first to seal semis spot Approachable Kohli making everyone smile

AUSTRALIA STARE AT EXIT AFTER FAILING TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR THE WORLD T20 KNOCKOUT STAGE



JOB DONE: New Zealand players celebrate an Ireland wicket during their match, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Nov 4: New Zealand became the first team to book a semifinal berth in the T20 World Cup after Australia were restricted to 168/8 by Afghanistan in a crucial game here Friday.

After New Zealand beat Ireland by 35 runs in their final super 12 group, defending champions Australia needed to win against Afghanistan by an improbable 185 runs to overtake their Trans-

Tasman rivals on net run-rate.

The hosts, however, scored 168/8, courtesy Glenn Maxwell (54 n o, 32b, 6x4, 2x6), after being invited to bat by Afghanistan, paving the way for New Zealand to qualify for the knockout stage. Naveen-ul-Haq (3/21) was the standout among the Afghan bowlers.

Defending the total, Australia needed to limit Afghanistan to 106 or lower to get ahead of England in net run-rate. However, the Afghans managed to go well past

the score and, in fact, fell shot by only four runs, thanks to Rashid Khan (48 n o, 23b, 3x4, 4x6) and Gulbadin Naib (39, 23b, 3x4, 2x6).

By virtue of their narrow win over Afghanistan, Australia kept their semifinals hopes alive as they moved to the second spot with seven points but with a NRR of -0.173.

Earlier in the day, the win over Ireland saw New Zealand grab the top spot with seven points and a net run-rate of +2.113. England (5 points), who will take on Sri Lanka in their final super 12 game, are in the third spot with a net run-rate of +0.547. They will have to win on Saturday to make it to the knockout stage. If England lose to Sri Lanka, Australia will go through. The hosts will also make it in case the match is washed out.

New Zealand, led by Kane Williamson, began their campaign in the T20 showpiece with a dominating 89-run win over Australia, before thrashing Sri Lanka by 65 runs following a washout against Afghanistan.

Their only defeat came against England by 20 runs at the Gabba in Brisbane. New Zealand had reached the final of the last edition, where they lost to Australia by eight wickets.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Nov 4: Everything looks the same but something seems to have changed. Virat Kohli, who turns 34 Saturday, is back in his element and has again become the tormentor of the bowlers that he used to be three summers ago.

He is still the 'King Kohli' surrounded by people and his distinct swagger remains very much part of his personality but at the same time, he looks a completely different human being and very approachable.

Even if you are not a manic cricket fan, you would still like to break a barricade to go near him and may be just say 'hi'.

There is every possibility that you will get back a smile in return and that would seem very sincere, deep and genuine. Your day will be made and you will go home a happy man. Cricket is a 'performing art' and

as an artist, it is not just his achievements but the connection that he is slowly creating with his fans which will contribute immensely to his rich legacy.

It is not just about eulogizing the alpha-male who you see on TV screens every night as you savour your dinner. Now the relationship seems far more organic where the adulation from fans and the reciprocation from their hero has become a two-way street.

Success teaches you a lot but failure most certainly is the biggest teacher. It makes you perhaps explore your vulnerabilities and you start relating more with the common public.

In these 14 days across different Australian cities, watching Kohli connect with his fans, give autographs, selfies, stand for a group picture or a share a moment or two with familiar faces from the media group would make one feel that he

no longer wants to alienate people. Noted actor Will Smith after the Oscar-gate had referred to what colleague Denzel Washington had told him, "At your highest moment, be careful, that's when the devil comes for you."

It is not that he did not stop by for selfies, autographs or a chat earlier but the same Kohli in Australia (2015), in England (2017) or in 2019 looked like a man from another planet.

During his peak, if one looks at some of the selfies that Kohli gave, it seemed like another mandatory exercise. Perhaps the three years of unconditional support as he battled a lean patch made him realise the need to carry people along.

In Melbourne, in Sydney in Perth and in Adelaide, this correspondent met at least 10-15 different people who showed their selfies with Kohli while a few others showed autographs on caps. A few also met him at a mall and some caught hold of him by the coffee shop.

One Indian from Canberra, who had come to watch a game in Adelaide, said: "We saw him at the coffee shop with some of the support staff. We were a bit apprehensive if we should approach him but he called us and

posed with us." A junior women's club hockey team in Melbourne got to pose with the former India captain in the middle. If he now sees familiar faces from the media, he would greet them with a smile and check on their well being.

He smiled at a journalist turned Youtuber and also spoke to him for a minute while walking back from the practice. The journalists and youtubers (there are way too many) surrounded him.

He was very livid with a freelancer in New Zealand back in 2020 for an article that he had written. He saw the same journalist and asked him to join the group for a photograph.

As he celebrates his 34th birthday Saturday, he has hit his second peak and one can bet his last shirt that even if another dip comes, rest assured, a few million pure fans will also join his bandwagon of 'Viratians'.

Men's squash team win 1st gold at Asian C'ships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cheongju (South Korea), Nov 4: The Indian men's team, led by the seasoned Saurav Ghosal, clinched its first-ever gold at the Asian Squash Team Championships with a 2-0 win over Kuwait in the final here Friday.

Star player Ghosal sealed the victory after Ramit Tandon had given India the lead with a fluent straight games win over Ali Aramezi (11-5, 11-7, 11-4). Ghosal then made short work of Ammar Altamimi 11-9, 11-2, 11-3 to give the team an unassailable lead.

The third match between Abhay Singh and Falah Mohammad was not played as the tie had been decided following wins for Tandon and Ghosal.

Having finished with the silver medal on two previous occasions,

the Indian men, seeded one, justified its billing and emerged victorious with a dominant performance.

They topped Pool A with an all-win record, recording victories over Qatar, Pakistan, Kuwait, South Korea, and Chinese Taipei 3-0 before edging out Malaysia 2-1 in the semifinal.

The women's team settled for the bronze medal after losing 1-2 to Malaysia in the semifinals. The women's Indian team finished second in Pool B with two wins and a loss. The women beat Iran and Singapore 3-0 before going down 0-3 to Hong Kong in the preliminary phase.

Results: Men (Final) India beat Kuwait 2-0 (Ramit Tandon beat Ali Aramezi 11-5, 11-7, 11-4; Saurav Ghosal beat Ammar Altamimi 11-9, 11-2, 11-3).

Rohidas credits Tokyo show for evolution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: India's historic bronze medal-winning feat at the Tokyo Olympics has changed the face of hockey in the country and inspired youngsters to take up the game, feels ace defender Amit Rohidas.

Rohidas said a lot of village kids are eagerly waiting for the FIH men's World Cup, to be jointly hosted by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, from January 13 to 29.

"The bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics has changed a lot of things. Youngsters who didn't play hockey earlier have now taken to the sport in the villages," Rohidas said on Hockey Te Charcha — a podcast series initiated by Hockey India.

"When I visit home and see such a sight, it makes me feel very good. Almost every school has seen an increase in youngsters picking up hockey."



Rohidas, who hails from Odisha, said playing the World Cup on home turf is an emotional affair for any player. "Playing at home is very different feeling, because the crowds are very supportive and they really cheer for you and mo-

tivate you. We have Indian fans to watch us outside India as well, but in Odisha, the fans bring a different level of energy, which gives us extra motivation."

Rohidas said a step-by-step approach leading up to the World

Shiva in last 8 at Asian Elite Boxing meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Five-time Asian Championships medallist Shiva Thapa showed his mettle in a hard fought 3-2 win over Mongolia's Byambatsogt Tuguldur to progress to the quarterfinals of the ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan Friday.

Thapa (63.5kg) and Tuguldur went toe-to-toe right from the start. In the end, it was the distinguished Indian boxer's experience and quick movement that helped him prevail over his opponent and secure a 3-2 victory by split decision.

Thapa will now take on the winner of the bout between Haidara Alasaly and Minsu Choi in the quarterfinals.