Actor Priyanka Chopra says too much credit is given to actors whereas they

BEING HONEST

just infuse life in a script LEISURE



FRESH MISSILE ATTACKS

Russia again unleashes missile attacks on energy facilities, while its forces steps up attacks in eastern Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL P10



FIRST T20I TODAY

India aim to shed their archaic playing style for good with a young and fearless bunch when they face NZ in first T20I

SPORTS P12

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BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 2022

SHORT TAKES

FORMER DIPLOMAT **BEURIA NO MORE**



BHUBANESWAR: Noted Odiya litterateur and former Indian Ambassador, Abasara Beuria died in a private hospital here in the early hours of Thursday, family sources said. He was 80 and is survived by his wife and two daughters. Beuria breathed his last following a cardiac arrest. He had served in Indian diplomatic missions in Japan, Russia (formerly USSR), the US, the UAE, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Madagascar. President Droupadi Murmu, who had met Beuria at a government function during her Odisha visit November 11 here, condoled the former diplomat's death. "Saddened to learn about the demise of Shri Abasar Beuria, former diplomat. Condolences to his family and

Republicans set to stall Biden's agenda

friends," Murmu tweeted.

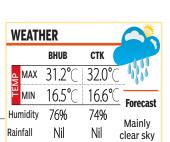
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's Republican Party has wrested control of the 435-member US House of Representatives from the ruling Democratic Party with a razorthin majority, setting the stage for a showdown with Joe Biden in the next two years of the latter's presidency. The Republicans now have 218 seats as against 211 of the Democratic Party. The counting of six seats is still going, the outcome of which would determine the final size of the House. The Republicans – who had hoped to win back control of both chambers – underperformed expectations in the November 8 mid-term elections. But they won the seat they needed for their House majority Wednesday when California's 27th district went to incumbent Mike Garcia.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My inner voice is telling me to withdraw from the elections

MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION SENSEX **61750.60** 🖊 230.12 **1** ₹0.07 DOLLAR **81.05** ₹0.18 EURO ₹192 GOLD ₹1051 SILVER ₹60,946



Demands unfulfilled: SKM to resume stir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) will hold nationwide marches to Raj Bhawans November 26, alleging breach of assurance by the Centre on farmers' pending demands, the organisation announced Thursday SKM, a body of farmers' unions that spearheaded the agitation against the new farm laws later repealed by the Centre, has called a meeting December 8 to decide the future course of the movement.

The farmers will also celebrate November 19 as 'Fateh Diwas' or 'Victory Day' as the Centre had ordered the repeal of the new farm laws following their agitation.

"Marches to offices of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs of all political parties will be held from December 1 to 11," SKM leader Darshan Pal said at a press conference here. "It is high time that the Centre makes an effort to fulfil the assurances it had given when we had called off the farmers' agitations," he added.

The SKM also expressed disappointment at the Union government and accused the Centre of completely reneging on the written promises to the farmers when the protest was lifted December 11, last year. The farmers' body claimed that neither the committee on minimum support price (MSP) had been formed nor the 'false' cases registered against farmers during the agitation were withdrawn. It also accused the government of not being ready to consider the biggest demand of the farmers – a legal guarantee on MSP.

It should be stated here that the farmers' strike which began August 9, 2020 continued for more than 16 months and was finally withdrawn December 11, 2021 after the Centre agreed to fulfil their demands. The main demand was the repeal of the three farm laws that were termed 'draconian' by most of the farmers' unions.



LAST DAY RUSH: With Thursday being the last day of the Baliyatra, huge crowds thronged the fair ground in Cuttack for some last minute fun and shopping

BJD, BJP spar over crop insurance dues

It has been alleged that Bargarh farmers have suffered the most with the majority of them not getting their claims as the 2 parties play blame game

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Ahead of the Padampur by election, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and BJP have engaged themselves in a tug of war over delay in disbursement of crop insurance to farmers of the state especially in Bargarh district which suffered due to drought during the kharif 2021 crop season.

The delay in disbursing crop insurance claims under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and input subsidy has become a major issue for the Padampur bypoll. The drought-hit farmers of the district have been protesting for some time now for fulfillment of their demands.

To please the farmers, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, had announced November 15 ₹200 crore for the distressed farmers of the

drought affected areas of the state. While announcing the input subsidy, Patnaik had blamed the Centre for the delay in paying of insurance.

Despite continuous follow up and pursuance by the Odisha government with the technical advisory committee (TAC) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. many of the affected ones have not vet received their crop insurance dues, the CM had said in a statement.

Countering Patnaik's statement, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said Thursday that Centre has disbursed the majority of the claims. In the letter Tomar said that in the nine disputed districts, ₹723 crore is the total payable claim out of which ₹622 ₹622 crore of the ₹723 crore due for crop The BJD has said that

Tomar claims the

Centre has cleared

the state government by releasing ₹200 crore for distressed crore has been settled. The Union

been settled at the TAC and complete settlement is expected by this week. In the letter, Tomar also said that the responsibility of floating the bids for the implementation of PMFBY, allocating cluster of districts to insurance companies (ICs) and agreement of premium rates vests with the state government as per the norms of the Revamped Operational Guidelines **Continued on P4**

Minister further informed that

after due follow up, majority of

claims in disputed districts have

12 students expelled for ragging Khadanga were present. A decision ■ Ragging has reared its

ugly head in Odisha time and again with two students dying by suicide due to physical and mental torture this year

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 17: A day after a video of an alleged molestation and ragging of a Plus-II first year girl of the state-run Binayak Acharya College here in presence of students went viral on social media platforms, a decision has been taken to rusticate 12 of the youths seen in clipping, officials said Thursday. The in-

cident drew flak from all walks of life and people termed it as the most shameful in the history of Silk City. Bada Bazaar police have arrested five vouths involved in the ragging of the girl.

A meeting was held in the premses of the college Thursday in which Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M, Bada Bazaar IIC Prashant Bhupati and principal Pramila

was taken to rusticate all the 12 students seen in the video, the SP said. It was also decided that an anti-ragging committee will be formed which will probe whether other students are involved in the incident. The SP also informed that senior women police officers will counsel the survivor while district police will take care of her security and studies

Among the five arrested, two are minors. Three of the accused were identified as Abhishek Nahak, 22, Sridhar Nahak, 19 and Aditya Kumar Sahu, 20. They were produced in court and remanded to judicial custody. The two minors were produced before a juvenile justice board and sent to a probation home.

Continued on P4

BMC to frame pet rules soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Following a spate of dog-bite incidents and fights between dog owners and victims, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has swung into action.

The BMC will soon be introducing guidelines for animal lovers who keep pets at home. Those have to be followed strictly and any deviation

will invite action. Pet lovers, especially dog owners have welcomed the move as they feel it is necessary for a city

like the Odisha capital. There will be detailed rules for domesticated pets like dogs, birds, cats etc. A senior BMC official said Thursday that rules will be framed for animals when they are at home and when they are taken out. BMC will also have to be informed if someone is keeping a pet at home.

last week. Malala had spoken out

strongly. *Joyland* is a love letter to

Pakistan, to its culture, food, fashion

and, most of all, its people. How

tragic that a film created by and for Pakistanis is now banned from the

screens because of claims that it

does not 'represent our way of life'

or 'portrays a negative image of our

country'. The opposite is true — the

film reflects reality for millions of or-

dinary Pakistanis, people who yearn

for freedom and fulfillment, people

who create moments of joy every

day for those they love, but do not get

PADAMPUR BYPOLL **HEAVYWEIGHTS FILE** PAPERS ON LAST DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: On the last day of filing nomination for by election to Padampur Assembly constituency, 13 candidates including the nominees of all the three major political parties, the BJD, BJP and Congress filed their nominations Thursday before the sub-collector. As Thursday was the last day for filing nominations, candidates queued up to file their papers.

BJD's Barsha Singh Bariha, Pradeep Purohit from BJP and Satya Bhushan Sahu from the Congress filed their nominations for the bypoll. which has been necessitated following the demise of sitting BJD MLA Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha.

While the BJP and Congress candidates are former MLAs of the constituency, Barsha from the ruling BJD, is the daughter of the deceased BJD MLA and daughterin-law of senior BJP leader Rama Ranjan Baliarsingh.

Although filing of nominations was open from November 10, no contestant filed papers till Wednesday evening as agitating farmers of the region resorting to dharna since November 1 demanding payment of crop insurance, had requested the political parties not to file papers till their problems are resolved. Barsha who filed her nomina-

tion paper first was accompanied by former MP Prasanna Acharya, sitting MLAs -Debesh Acharay, Snehangini Chhuria, Susant Singh, Alaka Mohnaty, Rita Sahu and several other party leaders. "I will fulfil the unrealised dreams of my father," Barsha said after filing her nomination. Continued on P4

Joyride for Malala's 'Joyland' in Pakistan

Los Angeles, Nov 17: Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai's film Joyland is all set to have a joy ride in Pakistan. This development came Thursday, after the film was initially banned in Pakistan. Even though Joyland is Pakistan's official entry to the Oscars, the film was banned in the country as the main character of the movie was an ambitious dancer and trans-woman played by Lahore actress Alina Khan. A section of the critics said last week that such a film does not portray the values of Pakistan society. Malala incidentally is the executive producer of the film.

Finally however, all that has changed. Pakistan has reversed its ban on Saim Sadiq's Canneswinning Joyland, according to a senior advisor to the government, 'Variety' reported Thursday.

Salman Sufi, the head of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's strategic reforms unit revealed the news on Twitter. He said that the film would now be allowed to release in Pakistan, albeit with some minor cuts November 18 onwards.



'The decision is a simple yet powerful message that the Pakistan government stands by freedom of speech and safeguards it, and cannot allow mere smear campaigns or disinformation to be used as choking creative freedom," Sufi

was quoted by 'Variety' "The entire life of Malala sym-

bolises the struggle for freedom. She has always propagated freedom of thought, of speech, of oppression against woman. Hence her film should be screened all across Pakistan. I personally do not believe in banning films that highlight issues faced by marginalised segments of our society. People should be trusted to watch Joyland and

make their own mind." he added. When the ban was implemented

it," Malala had said. Pakistan's censor board had granted 'A' (adult) certificate to the film August 17. but that was overturned November 11 by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on the basis of written complaints that the film was 'repugnant' and contained 'highly objectionable material which does not conform with the social values and moral standards' of Pakistan society.

However, in another twist to the tale late Thursday evening, Pakistan's Punjab government banned the movie as it promotes homosexuality, an official notification from the government said.



leisure



PARIS HILTON DENIES THAT SHE'S 'STRUGGLING' TO GET PREGNANT

Socialite Paris Hilton has shared that she isn't struggling to start a family. The 41-year-old's mom, Kathy Hilton, recently declared it 'breaks her heart' seeing her daughter and her husband, Carter Reum, be so 'desperate' to have a baby of their own.

MEL GIBSON WON'T TESTIFY IN HARVEY'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TRIAL

Director-actor Mel Gibson, will not be called to testify in Harvey Weinstein's criminal trial. Gibson would have been brought onto the stand to corroborate parts of a story from a Jane Doe in the case, who said she confided in Gibson after she was allegedly sexually assaulted by Weinstein.



GaneshaSpeaks.com FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

You may want to meet up with friends you haven't met in a long time, and the stars indicate that you will have great fun. Your enthusiasm will add a glow to whatever you do. Your sincerity in approach is what makes it special, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

You will put your heart and soul into whatever you do today, says Ganesha. But there may still be dark clouds hovering over the results. Don't let that bother you You must keep up the hard work through out the day. Finally, you will hit the deck with a feeling of happiness and satisfac tion, predicts Ganesha

GEMINI

You will let your personal likes and dislikes cloud your judgement today. Don't let that happen, or you may lose a worthy friend. You are likely to have a chance meeting with your soul mate or maybe even your ex-sweetheart. A romantic evening is on the anvil.

Today may not be a productive day for you. Though there may not be any major loss, you may feel a little lost and would like to be left alone. If you have kids, you may suffer from the empty nest syndrome with your kids not at home

LEO

Even an emperor, when struck with an ailment, is not a pretty sight. Bearing this in mind, today you shall make health your number one priority, says Ganesha You will do wise to chart out some sort of a workout regime for yourself, and inculcate a sense of discipline in maintaining it, even if it is anything as simple as a

Get out of your self today

for a change, and try to look at things from a loved one's perspective. It's good to be confident. but over confidence is a different matter altogether, reminds Ganesha.

Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good find yourself standing at a cross roads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many paths to choose from, And, who knows the art of balancing better than you.

SCORPIO

Ganesha feels that your intuitive feelings will rule your actions today. You will need to break past your stress threshold and tackle work with zeal and zest. Follow your instincts and relax to some good music when the burden of work is overwhelming. At the end of the day, it is not the thought that matters but how that thought was implemented into action.

SAGITTARIUS

A demanding day today, as you find yourself in charge of arranging and attending high-voltage meetings. Those dealing in stock and share will have profitable returns in the afternoon. But don't count your chickens before they hatch, says Ganesha

CAPRICORN

If trouble happens to knock at your door today, your guardian angel will come to your rescue, foresees Ganesha. Unlike many others who waste life running after impossible goals, you will be content with your achievements. But that does not, by any means, imply that you aren't ambitious. Just like yourself, your ambitions will be simple in nature, to the extent that it may elicit awe among people.

AQUARIUS

The game is set; you are put up against those who are holding a grudge against you and are waiting for an opportunity to pull vou down. But, vou are confident, skilful, and know your strengths very well. No matter how hard the opponents try, they will be no match to you, predicts Ganesha.

PISCES

You will find yourself in a philosophical state of mind today. You will be able to see things for what they really are, rather than what they appear to be. You are unlikely to try and swim against the flow today, given your mental state



Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra is a global icon! In a recent interview, PeeCee was asked how it feels working with the biggest names in the world. In response, she said that working with the best filmmakers has taught her how to be the best actor. She further talked about how actors are given way too much credit, and that their job is just to infuse life

in a script "We give too much credit

dressed by somebody, hair and to actors; actors do nothing

by the way. I've always said this. Actors do nothing," said Priyanka. Further elaborating on it, she

said "We say out somebody else's words, we are working on a script that is written by someone else, we are lip-syncing and singing songs that are in someone else's voice. We're dancing steps that are choreographed by somebody else. We are doing marketing, where questions are asked by somebody else. We are

makeup are done by somebody. So what am I doing?" asked Priyanka. She further added that as an actor, her job is to take what is written in a script and



Mumbai: Elli AvrRam is an ardent social media user who often treats her fans and followers with her sultry pictures and videos. Recently, the Starlet got papped as she stepped out to attend an awards function in a gravity-defying white dress.

A video of the actress is going viral on internet where she can be seen having a narrow escape from an 'oops



In the video Elli can be seen wear ing a revealing outfit. And the strapless outfit that Elli was wearing was slightly tough to carry but she managed it well. As soon as the video went viral in cyberspace, netizens took to the comments section of the post to troll her. A user wrote. 'tauba tauba' while another wrote, 'ye kya pehna hai behaya'.

Meanwhile there was a section of netizens who dropped heart emoiis expressing their love for her. Elli's dress came with an excessively plunging neckline that was made to stuck on her body with fashion tape. She flaunted her confidence and that fabulous physique in that super glamorous

SURE MISS

SCARFING

THOSE

COOKIES

YOU ONLY WENT TO

SEE HER BECAUSE SHE

GAVE YOU COOKIES!

infuse life into it. "So my job only

comes in between action and cut. Those 30 seconds of a scene, is where I come in. And then when I talk about the movie etc. So I have a very lim-

Nucleya to perform in City at 'Casa Bacardi On Tour'



Bhubaneswar: Music lovers will have a unique experience here as influential independent artist Nucleya and one of the most popular DJs Gurbax are set to perform in the City, Saturday. Well-known beverage brand BACARDÍ will present 'Casa Bacardi On Tour' at Concerts, Embassy Symphony mall from 5 pm onwards.

Nucleya aka Udyan Sagar is single-handedly responsible for building a lexicon of bass music unique to India. His tracks Let's Nacho and Paintra have featured in mainstream Hindi movies like Kapoor and Sons and Mukkabaaz. With over 1.48M subscribers on YouTube, he's garnered a unique audience for his music. Elaborating more on the

event, Sameeksha Uniyal

Senior Manager, Brand BACARDÍ, said, "We've been very eager to bring Nucleya to Bhubaneswar as the City has a crowd that adores music. We could sense the excitement amongst locals ever since the event was announced. The response has been absolutely phenomenal, and we can't wait to bring more such experiences to the city with CASA BACARDÍ on Tour."

The programme is being produced by WMS with promotion partner Signature 24 Productions. To catch the Bass Raja live at his concert and enjoy a unique experience concert-goers can book their tickets on https://insider.in/casa-bacardi-ontour-2022-bhubaneswarnov19-2022/event

How Varun prepped to play a wolf

Mumbai: Actor Varun Dhawan, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming movie Bhediya, recently opened up about his preparation to play a wolf in the film in an episode of The Kapil Sharma Show.

Varun spoke about his transformation from a person to a Bhediya (Wolf) and how much time the process of make-up consumed.

He said: "For this role, I had been with an animal flow teacher for around 6 months. Too much hard work has gone into getting the physique right as

the director (Amar Kaushik) didn't want my body to be tight and asked to cut down on the muscles. He had asked for a flexible body.' Kriti Sanon, his co-

actor in the movie, goes on to praise and share how before the film started Varun was instructed to grow hair on his entire body and one can see his hard work in the film.

Varun added iokingly: "People usually apply sprays on their head when they have a hair fall but I was applying it on my ear to grow hair.

CROSSWORD



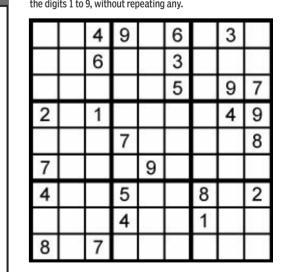
FUN

SUDOKU

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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



CALVIN AND HOBBES

PEANUTS

YOU NEVER

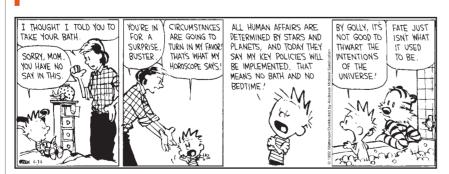
LOVED TRUFFLES

THE WAY I

DID!

I LOVED HER

AS A PERSON



BREVITY



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5 Bank job

2 Deadly snake

23 Fencing move

24 Heavy iron

lever

25 In reserve

26 Appearance

- 3 Hangs around
- 17 Park feature 19 Flip over 21 Mosey

14 Atones

6 Crack shot

7 Fancy tie

8 Recurrent

events

13 Fishing gear

16 Vessel stoppers

- 22 White heron
- SUDOKU

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SUTURE HASSLE

FEATUREFILM

MALARIA

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

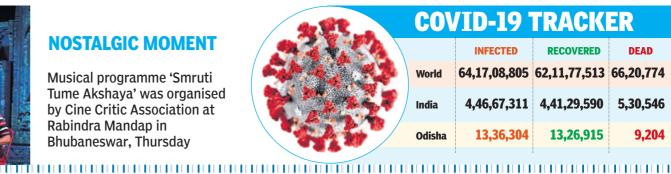


downtown



NOSTALGIC MOMENT

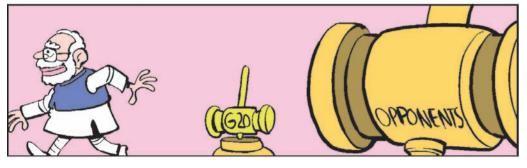
Musical programme 'Smruti Tume Akshaya' was organised by Cine Critic Association at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



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POLITICKLE by MANJUL





Birsa Munda stadium to be world cup-ready by Nov 30

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Ahead of the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup 2023, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Thursday visited the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and directed the offi cials concerned to complete the construction work by November 30.

The world cup is scheduled to be held at Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium and Kalinga Stadium here from January 13 to 29 next year.

Leading a three-member highlevel team, Mahapatra visited Rourkela on the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and reviewed the progress of the work at the stadium and the Rourkela

Other members of the team were Sports and Youth Services Secretary R Vineel Krishna and Managing Director of Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco) Bhupender Singh Punia.

After taking stock of the work the Chief Secretary said the construction of Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium is in final stage. The turf has been laid in the main and practice stadium. The work of the visitors



he Men's FIH Hockey World Cup is scheduled to be held at Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium and Kalinga Stadium from Jan 13 to 29

gallery and the place for the staying of players and officials is going to be completed soon, he added.

Mahapatra said a practice match would be held after the work is completed. A modern parking place is being developed around the stadium as a large number of football lovers are expected to throng Rourkela from in and outside the state to watch the World Cup Hockey which is being organised for the first time in the

In addition, arrangements have been made for drinking water and toilets inside the stadium, he said. Steps are being taken to put up

he Chief Secretary said the construction of Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium is in final stage

LED screens at strategic points of the steel city to enable people who cannot make it to the stadium to watch the tourney

Around 20 matches will be played at Rourkela, said sources. Direct charter flights will be arranged for the smooth movement of players from Bhubaneswar to Rourkela.

Keeping this in view, the expansion of the Rourkela airport is going on very fast. A target has been fixed to complete the work by November 30. Various roads connecting Rourkela with the airport are also being developed, the Chief Secretary added.

Leveraging innovation key to tackle climate risks: Neha

Amid a galaxy of climate activists and experts attending this year's 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2022: The Power of Youth', there will be a young woman who was selected for UN India's 'We The Change' campaign, which aims at showcasing climate solutions pioneered by young Indians. Meet **Neha Shivaji Naikwade**, a mechanical engineer and co-founder of Parvaah, a youth cell working towards zero-waste initiatives

young Indians. This marked the

celebration of India's climate

leadership. All the 17 young cli-

mate champions have done pio-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: It was

in 2021, when Neha found a place

amongst the 17 Promising Young neering work in diverse sectors Environmental and have waged a war against global Activists selected for UN India's warming. Neha has worked extensively on policy mak-Change' campaign ing and Corporate Social Responsibility which (CSR) initiatives aims at showthrough her corpocasing rate work and exclimate perience as a 'policy solutions in action fellow' at pioneered Young Leaders for

Citizenship (YLAC). Neha was

Global Policy, Diplomacy and Sustainability Fellowship. She currently works with the Climate Collective Foundation as

a project man-

ager where she helps develop and strengthen climate-oriented startups and earlystage climate-tech entrepreneurs.

One of India's few environment-oriented data scientists. Neha used her skill set to help launch over 140 green startups. Neha built the Climate Data Program which aims to support startups tackling climate change with data technologies such as AI-ML, Big Data and Advanced

"I believe that in order to support mitigation, adaptation and resilience to our changing world, it is important to leverage innovation and technology to help understand and manage climate risks.

Startups will play a key role in developing these new technologies and solutions." Neha said.

"I hope to bring attention to the need for youth driven climate innovation to address climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries. To keep global warming under 1.5 degrees, every sector of the global economy needs to transform in just over two business cycles," the young

89th birth anniversary of Baxipatra held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The 89th birth anniversary of Late Harishchandra Baxipatra was organised by Harishchandra Baxipatra Smruti Committee at Soochana Bhawan here, Thursday.

On the occasion, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan delivered the Harischchandra Baxipatra Memorial Lecture. He said that a person's noble work makes him unforgettable even after his death and Baxipatra was one of them. He also said a politician should always be ready to sacrifice for others. Former minister and president of Harishchnadra Baxipatra Smruti Committee Panchanan Kanungo said, "Harishchnadra Baxipatra always worked for the development of language and upliftment of its status in

the country." Veteran journalist Arun Kumar Karji were felicitated on the occasion.



Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Born November 17, 1933, Baxipatra was a member of Orissa constituency in 1974 and in 1990, and

became a minister. He was an activist and writer who had actively par-Baxipatra joined CPI in 1959 during

ROW OVER FARMER ISSUES

BJP's stir in front of

Assembly from today

student career. He was a trade unionist and also head of AISF of the in 1973. He died October 27, 2000.

Mid-Term Assessment for Class III-IX begins

Bhubaneswar: School and Mass Education secretary Aswathy S Thursday directed all the district Collectors and district education officers (DEOs) to properly oversee the conduct of Mid-Term Assessment for students of Class III to IX in all government and government-aided schools. The test that started Thursday across the state is being conducted in connection with Learning Recovery Programme (LRP). Earlier, in a letter, Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) state project director Anupam Saha had directed all the DEOs for conduct of Mid-Term Assessment for students of Class III to IX in all the government and government-aided schools from November 17 to 19, 2021.

Man gets 14-yr RI for rape bid on daughter

Bhubaneswar: A fast-track special POCSO court here Thursday handed down 14 years of rigorous imprisonment to a 46-year-old man for trying to rape his daughter. The convict was identified as Mohd Tafique alias Papu of Alisha Bazar under Lalbag police limits in Cuttack. The convict, who had a garage in the Capital city, was staying along with his family in Jadupur area under Khandagiri police limits here. The shameful act of the convict came to the fore when his wife and elder daughter spotted him forcefully trying to rape his 17-year-old daugther in their residence September 17, 2020. The victim's mother along with her elder sister had gone to her grandparent's house for some reasons when the incident occurred. Upon seeing his wife, Tafique fled the spot. Subsequently, the victim along with her mother went to Mahila police station and lodged a complaint against the accused.

CRUT bags national award for mobility

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has bagged the 'Most Innovative Bus Transit System in India' award in the category of 'Transit & Mobility' at the Second Urban Infra Business Summit & Awards 2022 Sharing the news in its official

Twitter account, CRUT said, "It

gives us immense joy to share that CRUT has been awarded as the 'Most Innovative Bus Transit System in India' in the category of 'Transit & Mobility' at the 2nd Urban Infra Business Summit & Awards 2022". The award recognises outstanding performance in bringing

about positive change and development in urban infrastructure projects and initiatives, it added. Dipti Mahapatro, GM (P&A),

CRUT received the award. Recently, CRUT, which operates

popular public transport service 'Mo Bus', has achieved a new milestone by recording all-time highest ridership in a single day. The CRUT has

achieved the milestone November 14 with ridership of 2, 54,460.

Earlier, transport wing informed that it will add 40 more electric buses to its current fleet in view of the rush during Men's Hockey World Cup scheduled to be held from January 13 to 29 next year.

According to sources, the fleet of 40 new e-buses will reach here around two weeks before the quadrennial world championship.

It is clear that people believe fi-

nancial institutions are failing in

their responsibility to protect their

Asked about how such data is get-

ting compromised, the majority

felt it was the weak internal and ex-

ternal governance at the financial

institutions that was leading to it.

the service providers of these in-

stitutions that compromise their

personal data, while 38 per cent

felt employees were involved

A sizable 43 per cent also felt that

the institutions themselves were

Also, 53 per cent felt that it was

personal data.

Kalia money distribution.

Harichandan further alleged that the farmers were getting Rs 4,000 under the Kalia scheme instead of Rs 10,000 as promised,

He alleged due to irregulari-

The BJP general secretary fur-

of the state government, the farmers of the state produce 1.5 to two

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: To woo farmers ahead of the Padampur bypoll, BJP will launch an indefinite dharna in front of the

Assembly here from Friday over

POST NEWS NETWORK

various farmers' issues. Addressing a press conference here, state BJP general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan said they will launch the protest over several issues concerning farmers including farm assistance, crop insurance, supply of fertilisers and

'The potato mission and onion mission have completely failed in the state. But despite that, there is no policy in place to help farmers recover losses," he said.

referring to the 2019 elections.

ties in opening of mandis, the farmers are forced to sell their paddy at Rs 1,250 per quintal against the MSP of Rs 2,040 per quintal. The BJP leader said though the farmers constitute a majority of population, they always suffer due to the government's anti-farmer policy. "Odisha is the only state where no incentive is given to the farmers who incur losses. Instead of being given high yielding seeds, they are given low quality and fake seeds." said Harichandan.

ther added that due to the apathy

times less than the farmers of Puniab. There is a shortage of cold stor-

ages in the state, yet the government is not taking any initiative in this regard. He further alleged that the input subsidy is not being given to farmers since 2018 in the state and the government is also not taking any steps in this regard. Harichandan demanded the

state government to give Rs 100 bonus per quintal to farmers as announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Sohela in 2016 from this Kharif season.

"The farmers are forced to take loans from money lenders and self help groups at high rate of interest as they are not getting cooperative loans. There is largescale black marketing of fertilisers under the nose of the government and shortage of fertilisers is being

artificially created," he alleged. Reacting to BJP's announcement to sit on a dharna, BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra said in stead of resorting to dharna before Odisha Assembly, the BJP should stage a dharna before the Parliament.

Be it procurement or lifting of rice or even fixing of MSP and crop insurance, all these responsibilities lie with the Centre. "It would be good if the BJP stages a sit-in before the Parliament to ask their own government at the $\overline{}$ Centre to renounce their antifarmer attitude," Patra said.

60% Indians report data breach by loan service providers

s many as 6 in 10 Indians report personal data breach by their loan service providers while 4 in 10 blame insurance providers or banks, a new report has revealed.

Nearly 59 per cent with existing loans have been approached by alternate service providers to switch to another lending institution either via email, phone call, SMS and WhatsApp in the last five years, while 40 per cent of those with existing insurance policy/policies have been approached with detailed competitive offer, according to the report by online community platform LocalCircles.

Meanwhile, 34 per cent with bank accounts have been approached with offers to open a similar bank



account. Out of them, 23 per cent had been approached several times and 11 per cent once or twice.

"This indicates a massive data breach as the sender has access to

an individual's personal loan data which is being used to send unsolicited loan offers," the report showed. "Citizens whose data got compromised by loan agencies, in-

financial institutions data got compromised are failing in their responsibility to agencies, protect their personal data insurance companies

and banks 53% feel that it is the believe it is service providers of these institutions weak data that compromise protection their personal data, while 38% feel that governance internally and employees are externally involved as well

surance companies and banks believe it was due to their weak data protection governance internally and externally," the findings

compromising their information or selling it, a big enforcement or communication gap that the financial institutions must plug.

as well.

Continued from P1

BJD, BJP spar ...

The responsibility of conducting transparent crop cutting experiments (CCE) through the CCE app also rests with the state government, he added.

Meanwhile the BJD on the other hand alleged that Tomar's letter is flawed and has been written keep ing in mind the upcoming Padampur bypoll. Patra stated that the letter is based on distorted facts and halftruths. The letter does not mention the CM's letter and State Cooperation Minister's meeting with Tomar. "Now the farmers of Padampur and Odisha know that the PMFBY as the name goes is naturally of the Centre and only it can take the final decision on any claims as admitted in the letter today. Only they can direct the insurance companies to pay the Fasal Bima. The state has no role as far as the final decision is concerned." Patra said.

12 students ...

Further investigations are on and if anyone else is found involved in the dastardly act, he or she will be arrested, Saravana informed. It should be stated that one of the accused, Abhishek is a habitual offender. He was arrested in March this year for molesting another girl of the college, police said, but had been out on bail.

In the video Abhishek can be seen ordering the girl and a boy to behave like a couple. He is heard hurling abuses after the girl refuses to do so. Another boy is seen kissing the girl on her hand while others are seen tugging her hair. Abhishek is also seen physically preventing the girl from leaving the room when she tries to.

Padampur bypoll...

BJP candidate Pradeep Purohit accompanied by party MP Suresh Pujari, MLAs Jayanaraym Mishra, Nauri Naik, state president Sameer Mohanty and senior leader Kanak Bardhan Singhdeo filed his nomination. "I will fight the election with local issues like delay in release of claims under PMFBY, input subsidy, separate district for Padampur, irrigation, etc. Will reach the voters with these issues and seek their blessings. After being elected, will put forth these demands before the State Government," Purohit said.

Similarly, state Congress president Sarat Pattnayak, senior Congress leaders Narashinga Mishra, Santosh Singh Saluja, Prasad Harichandan were with Congress candidate Satya Bhusan Sahu, a three-time MLA of the party from the constituency.

Congress candidate Satya Sahu said he will raise all the problems the people of Padampur area are facing now. "Whatever work has been done in the area during my regime as an MLA, has not been done during any other MLA's tenure," claims Sahu.

As per schedule, the scrutiny of nominations will be held November 18 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is November 21. The voting will be conducted from 7am to 4pm December 5 and the counting of votes and declaration of results will be conducted December 10. Worth mentioning, the by-election was necessitated following the death of sitting BJD MLA Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha October 3.

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I Malatilata Sahoo, D/o-Kata Sahoo of Vill. Balipada, Ghanteswar, P.S.- Bansada, Dist. Bhadrak hereby declare that I lost my sale deed No. - 4522, dt.23.09.2011 of Mouza - Mathasahi, Plot No. - 1766, A0.030 decimal under Bhadrak Tehsil at anywhere which was not traced yet now. It has been informed to Bhadrak Town P.S. as per diary No. 4, dt.15.11.2022. If anybody use it for any purpose legally action should be taken against him and I

will be not liable for this.

Sd./- Malatilata Sahoo

3 held over cyber fraud

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested three persons including a transgender for duping a businessman of Rs 31,000 impersonating as the private secretary and mother of a state government minister. The accused cyber criminals were Soumya Ranjan Pradhan alias Lucky alias Manisha, 30, of Kishore Nagar in Angul district, Sunil Kumar Samantara, 32, of Tinigharia, Badapur under Jarada police station of Ganjam district and Tushar Kanti Bai alias Santu, 29, of Kabata Bandha, under Jenapur police limits of Jajpur.

The accused transgender Manisha and his aide Sunil are currently residing at Boudh Town area and Berhampur city respectively.

"November 12, a businessman identified as Bikash Sehgal lodged a complaint at the Cyber crime police station alleging that one unknown person identifying himself as the PA of a political leader contacted him over phone. The accused told Sehgal that an occultist or tantrik named 'Maa' was going to perform some havan for the political leader and she needed money for the purpose. The alleged PA said that she would call the victim asking for some financial help to purchase important materials required for the havan. Later, another person impersonating as occultist called Sehgal and convinced him to give away Rs 31,500" told a senior police official.

The victim later found that there was no such havan taking place and the callers are not related to the

'Need to protect kids from tobacco'

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of Child Rights Week, People's Cultural

Centre (PECUC), a volunteer organisation, in cooperation with Coalition

for Tobacco Free Odisha organised a programme on 'Children's Right to

exposure, prevent smoking initiation and make the environment free of

tobacco industry marketing. Rajya Sabha MPs Muzibulla Khan and Sulata

Deo, along with other dignitaries Ranjit Singh, advocate, Supreme Court

and GS Mishra, state consultant to Directorate of Public Health, Tobacco

control graced the occasion. Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, PECUC

gave welcome address and introductory note while Anuradha Mohanty,

executive director, PECUC gave vote of thanks. As many as 500 children

from various schools and slums participated in the programme and took

of the programme was to protect children from second-hand smoke

Tobacco Free Environment' at Ekamra Haat, here Thursday. The objective

Two nabbed from **Bihar in fraud case**

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested two persons from Bihar in a real estate frauc case involving Rs 18 lakhs. The accused identified as Bimal Kumar. 60, and Manoj Kumar alias Balaji, 52 are the residents of Baraha area in Patna district of Bihar. Police claimed that the complainant, Subash Ganj who also hails from Bihar has been staying at Bhubaneswar for the past several years. Subash knows the accused duo for more than 30 years. In 2017 the duo asked the complainant to invest in their real estate business promising high returns on the invest ment. Accordingly, Subash gave Rs 20 lakhs to the accused persons. The accused initially paid Rs 2 lakhs but later started avoiding him. Even, they did not respond to the legal notice sent by the complainant. Finding no other way, Subhash lodged a complaint with the Chandrasekharpur police who registered a case and arrested Manoj and Bimal from their native place. They were Thursday produced before the court that sent the duo to judicial custody.

political leader: Subsequently, Sehgal sought the help of Cyber crime and Economic Offence police to nab the cyber criminals.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case and arrested the accused Thursday. The trio was later produced before the court that sent them to judicial custody.

Police during the course of investigation came to know that the accused were duped two other businessmen of lakhs using similar



UP IN ARMS: Unemployed civil engineers of the state staging a sit-in protest in Bhubaneswar demanding rollback of the decision made by Water Resources Department to recruit candidates through GATE, Thursday

Nat'l conclave to focus on traditional medicines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, is organizing a twoday national conclave with the theme 'Ethnopharmacology-Translational perspectives towards modern medicine,' in collaboration with Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, and the Society Ethnopharmacology, Bhubaneswar chapter.

The programme is being held at the ILS, November 17 and 18, with a focus on the role of ethnic medicine in the modern world.

ILS director Pulok Kumar Mukheriee "Ethnopharmacology essentially refers to an interdisciplinary branch of science that is dedicated to the

survey of biologically active agents that are traditionally employed by local people for their general well being and for curing common ail-

Our country is a rich source of medicinal plants that have high

However, most of the knowledge about the medicinal use of these resources has been lost over the years since these are usually passed on through generations by traditional healers, a community that is de-

clining. Therefore, the focus of this

conclave is to revitalise traditional

portantly traditional healers from tribal pockets of Odisha, the director added. More than 250 people are par-

alogue between scientists, scholars,

pharmacologists and most im-

ticipating in the conclave to learn about how ethnic medicine is still relevant in modern times and how it can be incorporated for community health.

The highlight of the conclave is the 30 healers from different tribal pockets of the state who will share their knowledge on plants and herbs that could be the source of the next miracle drug. A handicrafts mela is happening on the sidelines of the conclave with colourful display of various art forms from indigenous tribes like Lanjia Saora, Dhokra and Sabai.

Care Hospitals organises free diabetes screening

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Care Hospitals organised free diabetes screening and health awareness sessions at Bhubaneswar on the occasion of World Diabetes Day

In the City, more than 2000 people were screened in major parks like Buddha Park, Forest Park, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Park Madhusudan Part and Karvela Park. The institute's aim was to conduct one lakh free random blood sugar test across the Care group of hospitals to engage with the citizens of the respective locations.

Care Hospitals Group is a multispecialty healthcare provider operating 16 healthcare facilities serving 8 cities across 6 states in India. The network has its presence in



Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Vishakhapatnam, Raipur, Nagpur, Pune, Indore and Aurangabad. A regional leader in South and Central India and counted among the top 5 pan-Indian hospital chains, Care Hospitals delivers comprehensive

care in over 30 clinical specialties. with over 2650+ beds. Presently. Care Hospitals operates under the aegis of the Evercare Group, an impact-driven healthcare network extending its services across South Asia and Africa.

Walkathon for diabetes awareness by AIIMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Right nutrition, therapy, exercise, self-administration of insulin, proper foot care and the use of CGM (continuous glucose monitoring) are essential to the control of diabetes and prevention of diabetes-related complications, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas at a walkathon organised on diabetes awareness_

The walkathon, held in the morning, had the theme of 'education to protect tomorrow.' It started from the Biju Patnaik Police Training Academy gate and concluded at the AIIMS campus. It witnessed huge participation of doctors, medical and nursing students as well as NSS volunteers from the insti-

Encouraging all the participants, Biswas joined the walkathon, walking alongside the students and faculty members

"AIIMS, with a dedicated endocrinology unit, has improved access to diabetes care for people of the state and the region. People with suspicion of having diabetes can now check themselves at the NCD clinic at the hospital," said the executive director.

Speaking on the occasion, head of Endocrinology department, Kishore Kumar Behera reiterated the institution's commitment to spread awareness among people about access to diabetes care. "Endocrinology department is engaged in serving approximately 200-250 diabetic patients per week,' informed Behera.

Among others, medical superintendent SN Mohanty, Manoj Mohanty, Binod Patra, Debasish Hota, MC Sahoo, Prabhash Ranjan Tripathy, along with faculty members, staff and student volunteers participated in the walkathon.



Honey shown to improve blood sugar: Study

oney intake improves blood sugar and cholesterol levels, a study has found.

oath against using tobacco.

Researchers have found that honev intake improves kev measures of cardiometabolic health, including blood sugar and cholesterol levels especially if the honey is raw and from a single floral source. The researchers at the University of Toronto conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical trials on honey, and found that it lowered fasting blood glucose, total and LDL or 'bad' cholesterol, triglycerides, and a marker of fatty liver disease; it also increased HDL or 'good' cholesterol.

These results are surprising, because honey is about 80 per cent sugar," said Tauseef Khan, a sen-

ior researcher on the study. "But honey is also a complex composition of common and rare sugars, proteins, organic acids and other bioactive compounds that

very likely have health benefits," Khan added.

Previous research has shown that honey can improve cardiometabolic health, especially in in vitro and animal studies. The current study, published in the journal Nutritional Reviews, is the most comprehensive review to date of clinical trials, and it includes the most detailed data on processing and floral source, the study said.

"The word among public health and nutrition experts has long been that 'a sugar is a sugar'," said John Sievenpiper, principal investigator of the study.

"These results show that's not the case, and they should give pause to the designation of honey as a free or added sugar in dietary guidelines,' said Sievenpiper. Sievenpiper and Khan emphasized that the context of the findings was critical: clinical trials in which participants followed healthy dietary patterns, with



triglycerides, and a marker of Honey is also a complex composition of common and rare sugars,

at the University

of Toronto found

lowered fasting

blood glucose,

total and LDL

cholesterol,

or 'bad'

proteins, organic acids and other bioactive compounds that very likely have health benefits, Tauseef Khan, a senior researcher said

added sugars accounting for 10 per cent or less of daily caloric intake.

'We're not saying you should start having honev if you currently avoid sugar. The takeaway is more about replacement — if you're using table sugar, syrup or another sweetener, switching those sugars

for honey might lower car-

diometabolic risks," said Khan. The researchers included 18 controlled trials and over 1.100 participants in their analysis. They assessed the quality of those trials using the GRADE system and found there was a low certainty of evidence for most of the studies, but that honey consistently produced either neutral or beneficial effects. depending on processing, floral source and quantity.

GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations) is a transparent framework for developing and presenting summaries of evidence and provides a systematic approach for making clinical practice recommendations.

The median daily dose of honey in the trials was 40 grams, or about two tablespoons. The median length of trial was eight weeks. Raw honey drove many of the beneficial effects in the studies, as did honey from monofloral sources such as Robinia (also marketed as acacia honey) - a honey from False Acacia or Black Locust Trees and clover, which is common in North America.

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SHEER JOY: A man was seen afloat on a rubber tube angling on a wintry morning in Harada creek in Sambalpur, Thursday

BDO MAKES SURPRISE MIDNIGHT RAID AT HOSTEL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Nov 17: Daringbadi BDO conducted a surprise verification at the student's hostel of Welfare department at Greenbadi under this block in Kandhamal district late Wednesday night after a video showing ragging of a Class-VII boy went viral on social media platforms.

The video shows a hostel inmate being beaten up by a Class-X student staying in the same hostel run by the state Welfare department.

Daringbadi BDO Gadadhar Patra reached the hostel Wednesday midnight and conducted a surprise check of the hostel and various amenities available to the inmates. He enquired about the quality of food being served to the inmates, their studies, boarding facilities and lifestyle in the hostel.

He also held discussion with the



hostel superintendent and the school headmaster Rohit Kumar Pradhan about the students and the facilities available to them. He urged the students to concentrate on their studies and lead a life of discipline in the hostel. He also talked to them on maintaining good health and not to fall sick.

When contacted, Patra said that night patrolling will be undertaken in hostels on a regular basis adding that he himself or the tehsildar will make surprise visits to keep tabs on the issues. Action will be

taken through discussion with the school authorities whenever prob lems are noticed.

Moreover, a review meeting of the issues plaguing the hostels and schools will be held every month at the Daringbadi Panchayat Samiti conference hall by involving the headmasters, teachers, wardens and hostel superintendents of all hostels in the 25 panchayats of the block. Community welfare officer AB Patra Majhi and other officials accompanied the BDO dur-

ABEO slapped ₹15K penalty

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baisinga, Nov 17: The assistant block education officer (ABEO) of Betanoti block in Mayurbhani district has been asked to pay a penalty of ₹15,000 for violating RTI rules.

According to reports, Radhamohan Mohant, an RTI activist from Nahandashola village, had filed an RTI application seek ing information about cluster resources centre coordinators (CRCCs) from the block education office January 15, 2020.

However, the authorities of the block education office failed to reply to the queries of Mohant. Upset, Mohant had again ap-

plied for the same, but the block education office did not respond. Later, the RTI activist filed a complaint at Odisha Information

Commission (OIC) in this regard. The OIC admitted the complaint July 19, 2022 and had asked the ABEO of Betanoti Balaram Nayak to submit his replies.

However, the ABEO, who is in charge of the BEO, failed to reply satisfactorily. The OIC directed the district education officer to recover ₹15,000 from the ABEO for violating the RTI norms.

CORRUPTION IN 2 JAJPUR PANCHAYATS

2 ex-BDOs, 8 others get Lokayukta notice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 17: Lokayukta has sought replies from two former BDOs and eight others over their complicity in the irregularities in nearly 40 projects of two panchavats under Dasarathpur block of Jajpur district.

Reports said, large-scale irregularities have been committed in various projects and schemes in Gramnandipur and Biruhan panchayats under Dasarathpur block. It was earlier alleged that attempts had been made to suppress such corruption by burning files related to some projects in the two panchavat offices

Acting on a Lokayukta directive, the Vigilance department had earlier looked into the wrongdoings. On the basis of its report, the Lokayukta has served notices two former BDOs of Dasarathpur block and eight other officials and people's representatives seeking their replies by December 9.

Those who were served with notices are former Dasarathpur BDOs Naravan Chandra Navak and Debrai Sethi, GPTA Pradosh Ranjan Das, accountant Benudhar Nayak, former panchayat execu-



officer had alleged Akshay Kumar Bal, former sarpanch of Biruhan Bhanumati Mallick, panchayat executive officer Rajnan Kumar Behera, GPTA Amiya Kumar Rout,

sarpanch of Gramnandipur Nabakishore Mallick. Locals had alleged rampant corruption in projects under MGN-REGS, Mo Guhal Yojana, housing,

Manas Ranjan Panda and former

former junior engineer

tion works in irregularities in Gramnandipur and Biruhan MGNREGS, Mo Guhala panchayats. Yojana, housing, road and Taking serious note of plantation projects under the irregular-**Gramnandipur and** ities, then project director of Biruhan panchayats DRDA, Vishal

Singh had set dates to look into the alleged scams at the panchayat offices. However, prior to that, (April 17, 2021) all files related to the projects and schemes marred by irregularities were found burnt in the two panchayat offices.

Some RTI activists had filed complaints against the BDO and sarpanches at the Mangalpur police station alleging sabotage aimed at scuttling the investigation.

Earlier, locals like Bijay Ketan Mohapatra and Pratap Kumar Navak had alleged that the district administration was not conducting investigations into the scam properly. The two filed a petition (703/2021) at the Lokayukta in this regard.

The Lokayukta then directed the Vigilance department to look into the irregularities and submit a report. On the basis of the Vigilance report, the Lokayukta has directed the 10 people to submit their replies about the irregularities and file burning.

In the report, the Vigilance has detected irregularities in 20 projects in Gramnandipur panchayat and 18 projects in Biruhan panchayat. The Vigilance, vide letter 1175 dated September 28, 2022, has recommended the state government and the Jajpur district administration for appropriate action against those involved in the

Jaga Mission to benefit 17K BeMC slum dwellers

ing the visit.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 17: There is good news for slum dwellers living under the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC). The civic body has started a drone survey to locate vacant spaces and map slum areas. The aim is to provide land to the slum dwellers under the 'Jaga Mission'.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recently launched the drone survey in the Silk City

It was learnt that there are 163 slums spread over 42 wards of the BeMC area and these have been included in the 'Jaga Mission'. Those who have built their houses

on government lands will be provided pattas. The BeMC is preparing a list of slum dwellers and will submit a report to the Revenue de-

beneficiaries It is expected that 17,457 families living in these slums will benefit from the 'Jaga Mission'.

partment for land allotment to the

HM suspended for siphoning off MDM rice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandbali, Nov 17: The district education authorities in Bhadrak Tuesday suspended a headmaster of a school under this block on charge of siphoning off rice meant for mid-day meal (MDM) programme. The suspended headmaster was

identified as Sashadhar Sethi of Government UGME School at

Tentulidiha panchayat under this block. The authorities while suspending him also stopped 50 per cent of his salary and served him a nonengagement certificate. He has been asked to report at Bidyutprabha Primary School.

The action was taken on the basis of a report filed under OCA and CCA rules-1962 over allegation of siphoning off rice meant for MDM for the students.

Choked by dust pollution, villagers warn of agitation

Keonjhar, Nov 17: Palaspanga-Bamebari road is one of the lifelines for mineral transportation in Keonjhar district. Thousands of trucks, tipper trucks and dumpers loaded with iron ore operate on this route on a daily basis.

Locals said the road is in very bad shape and full of potholes because heavy vehicles operate over years with authorities paying no heed to its routine maintenance. Owing to plying of trucks on this route, dust particles are floating about in the ambient air, causing severe pollution in several villages. People living in the villages along this route feel suffocated with the dust pollution, it was alleged. As the administration is doing lit-

tle to sort out the dust pollution issue. resentment is brewing among locals. Upset over the lingering issue,



Kandarapasi sarpanch Sabitri Navak, ward members and villagers have apprised Collector Ashish Thakare about the inconvenience faced by them in a letter. They have warned of agitation if the issue is not resolved within seven days.

'The road is in miserable condition despite the fact that the route facilitates transportation of minerals in heavy vehicles from Joda

roofs of houses, gardens, farm-

mining area. As the road is full of potholes and dust, commuting on the road is a nightmarish task for us. No step is being taken to repair the road. Dust emanating from the road always keeps the air hazy. People are affected by respiratory diseases. Too much dust settles on lands and water bodies making our lives miserable," they lamented.

POST NEWS NETWORK Chhatrapur, Nov 17: Ganjam district tops the list of fatalities due to road accidents in Odisha However, sources said Monday that the lack of trauma care centres in the district is also con-

tributing to the number of deaths

due to road accidents. Various reports have pointed out to the rising number of accidents in the district. Similarly fatalities have increased due to road mishaps. The national highway which passes through the district witnesses accidents every day. The district administration has formed a Road Safety Committee on the basis of directions issued by the Supreme Court. However, it has not had any visible effect.

Sources said the decisions taken by the committee are not being implemented for the safety and security of the commuters. Hence accidents and related casualties are on the rise.



Road deaths on the rise in Ganjam dist

LACK OF TRAUMA CARE CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT ADDS TO ACCIDENT FATALITIES $oldsymbol{\perp}$

The committee was asked to convey its decision and plans on reducing road mishaps to the Odisha government and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). However, with the committee having just one meeting during the year, it has not been effective enough to check the rate of accidents.

The Supreme Court has said that treatment of persons injured in road mishaps should be the first

priority of officials. However, it is not happening due to the lack of trauma care centres. Those which are available in some hospitals of the district lack modern equipment. There is a trauma care centre at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. However, it is small and needs ur-

gent upgrading. Local intelligentsia called for setting up of more trauma care cenThe district admin has formed a Road Safety **Committee on the basis** of directions issued by the Supreme Court. However, it has not been effective

tres in the district for urgent treatment of seriously injured persons within the 'golden hour', the first hour after a road accident, so that their lives can be saved. The Supreme Court has also advocated for establishment of more trauma care centres in various important places.

The Road Safety Committee has also discussed this issue and has sent a request to the Odisha government to set up trauma care centres. However, despite several trauma care centres coming up in other places, there is no such proposal for Ganjam district.

Vedanta pat on matric toppers' back

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Nov 17: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, felicitated 79 meritorious students from 21 government schools across Jharsuguda on Children's Day for securing A-1 position in the High School Certificate (HSC) Examination 2022, conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha.

Envisioned as an opportunity to laud the hard work put in by the students and encourage them to aim for higher achievements, the programme was organised in collaboration with the District Education Office, in the presence of Jharsuguda DEO Pushpa Minz

and ADEO Pradipta Kumar Sa.

Congratulating the students, Sunil Gupta, CEO, Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda said, "Our education initiatives for the community strive to ensure that students hailing from rural communities enjoy better access to quality primary education, which is fundamental to shaping a bright future. It is heartening to see a rise in literacy levels of Jharsuguda, reflected in the rising higher matriculation/higher secondary passing percentage in the region and the number of students securing A-1 position in the HSC examination. Vedanta Aluminium will continue to help bridge the literacy divide and unlock new horizons for our communities.





FOR A CAUSE: Denizens formed a human chain from Petrol Pump Square to Railway Station Square in Titilagarh of Bolangir district demanding district status

Lawyers stage stir seeking HC bench in Bolangir district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Nov 17: The lawyers of Bolangir district resumed their agitation Thursday and staged a demonstration over their demand for establishment of High Court (HC) bench in the district.

The District Bar Association and Bolangir Action Committee have decided to boycott court works on third Thursday of every month to press their demand. Besides, no legal work would be done in the courts across the district on the day.

All the government offices remained closed here as residents extended their support to the lawyers of western Odisha.

However, all the essential services along with educational institutions were kept out of the purview of the bandh. Various outfits and lawyers have longbeen pressing for this demand by holding protests.



God who cannot smile, could not have created this humorous

SRI AUROBINDO



Gernot Wagner

It is still

politically

impossible at

Who Pays?

f there is one issue that has taken center stage at this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), it is money. Delegates, climate activists, and the rapidly increasing number of private-sector attendees are discussing who should pay for climate change, and how

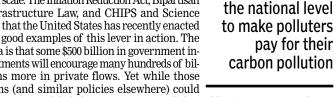
The focus on money is past due. While the annual climate talks are ultimately about cutting greenhouse-gas pollution, the transition to a net-zero economy requires massive financing, as will adapting to a world of rising average temperatures and sea levels, increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather, and all the other costly effects of burning fossil fuels.

Ever since COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, a key figure in this debate has been "\$100 billion." That is how much the world's advanced economies promised to provide to developing countries every year by 2020. But it was never clear whether this target referred only to public money, or whether it could include a mix of public and private flows. While most of the Global South interpreted it as a commitment of public funds, most of the Global North preferred the broader definition. If one takes the latter view, the rich world was already on track to providing \$97 billion in annual climate finance flows back in 2011, according to a widely cited study from the Climate Policy Initiative.

And yet, 13 years on from the 2009 pledge, few would make the mistake of

mixing public and private funding, while everyone recognises that the global energy transition will require not billions but trillions of dollars per year. Ahead of the COP26 talks in Glasgow last year, Mark Carney, the UN's special envoy for climate action and finance, concluded that at least \$100 trillion of external finance would be "needed for the sustainable energy drive over the next three decades if it is to be effective." And there is considerable convergence among international bodies, consultancies, and banks around this number. Massive amounts of private spending will need to be directed away from fossil-fuel investments and toward low-carbon infrastructure, energy, and transportation.

But that doesn't let governments off the hook. Public funds are the lever for rechanneling private money at the necessary pace and scale. The Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and CHIPS and Science Act that the United States has recently enacted are good examples of this lever in action. The idea is that some \$500 billion in government investments will encourage many hundreds of billions more in private flows. Yet while those sums (and similar policies elsewhere) could jump-start a global clean-energy race, all the public investments and most



of the private ones will be spent domestically. That leaves the Global South still wanting. The global picture fits a similar pattern. Since annual foreign direct investment

dwarfs development aid, much of the money to cut carbon-dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse-gas pollution will come from private sources, regardless of what governments agree to do. Unlocking these funds will require what climate negotiators call "creative" solutions, which means, "We know that much more money is needed, but we can't be the ones who provide it.

Thus, John Kerry, the US climate envoy, came to COP27 with a proposal to use carbon credits to fill at least some of the financing gap. Under this approach, rich countries and companies would get some credit not just for cutting their own pollution, but for paying others to do so.

The idea is not new. The US proposed a similar system ahead of COP3 in Kyoto in 1997. At the time, much of the rest of the world, including the European Union, opposed the plan. Yet, ironically, the EU now has the world's largest carbon market, while the US, aside from California and a dozen northeastern states, does not. To this day, it is still politically impossible at the national level to make polluters pay for their carbon pollution. That is why President Joe Biden's administration has focused instead on spending money to aid the energy transition at home, and it is why Kerry is proposing a voluntary carbon credit system.

Carbon credits, especially voluntary ones, are no substitute for meaningful fforts by companies and countries to cut their own pollution. For one, car bon-credit systems have plenty of problems of their own. While California's carbon market trades billions worth of credits per year, it also has allowed some \$400 million in apparently fraudulent forest offsets into its system. If California's mandatory market struggles this much with compliance, just imagine the problems that would plague a voluntary global system.

The US and other rich, large polluters still have a responsibility to pony up direct aid on a much larger scale than they are currently doing. That goes both for unconditional aid to help the poor weather climate change, and for funding to help them cut their own pollution. Germany and Austria deserve credit for leading the charge with promises of €170 million (\$175 million) and €50 million, respectively, in aid for the most vulnerable countries. And a new commitment from the US, the EU, and Germany to invest \$500 million in renewables in Egypt is a good step (even though the gas thus freed appears to be set for export to the EU). But given that these sums all fall in the millions, they still miss the mark by orders of magnitude.

There is clearly something to the idea of hitching billions in much-needed aid flows to private financial flows in the trillions. The first order of business is for governments to help guide trillions in private investments toward the Global South. "Creative" solutions should focus on making loans and investments less risky for private investors, with rich governments and multilateral funds providing loan guarantees and other assurances to help reduce sovereign credit and other risks.

Carbon credits could similarly play a role in helping scale up sorely needed investments, provided that voluntary carbon credits are seen only as a stepping stone to making polluters pay to cut their own pollution. Ultimately, building more momentum behind the global clean-energy revolution is what really matters. If allowing rich companies to boast of their green credentials means that they will fund more clean energy in the Global South, that is not a bad thing. Often, the best way to ensure that necessary work is done is not to care too much about who takes the credit.

The writer is a climate economist at Columbia Business School.

WISDOM CORNER

We all want to be famous people, and the moment we want to be something we are no longer free.

A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer.

No one gets away with anything, ever, so take responsibility for your

WORDS**WORTH**

■ Crap

Crap is actually Middle English. It seems to be a mixture of two older words — one thread comes from Dutch krappen, to pluck off, cut off, or separate; the other may be from Old French crappe, siftings or waste or rejected matter, from medieval Latin crappa, chaff. The first sense in English was indeed "chaff", and was also used in some places as the name for weeds that infested cereal crops, such as darnel, rye-grass, or charlock. Later it took on an extra meaning of the waste residue that was left after rendering fat. Its application to excretion appeared in the 1840s. There's an example in the Oxford English Dictionary from 1846 that refers to a crapping ken, a privy, where ken means a house.

FOCUS POLLUTION

DELHI'S WINTER WOES



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

IN WINTER, THE COLD AIR IS **GENERALLY HEAVIER AND SINKS TO THE BOTTOM NOT ALLOWING THE POLLUTANTS TO DISPERSE**

he Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi in the winter months following Diwali has steadily deteriorated passing to the 'Severe' and 'Very Poor' categories primarily owing to the increase of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPM) in air. The average level of the deadliest particle i.e. PM 2.5 in the National Capital Region (NCR) reached over 300 µg/m3 which is over eight times the safe limit. These particles are so fine that they can travel deep into our respiratory tracts settling in the lungs causing severe breathing problems. Exposure to such fine particles can cause short-term health effects such as eye, nose, throat and lung irritation, coughing, sneezing, runny nose and shortness of breath. The long-term hazards include elevated susceptibility to respiratory diseases, including acute respiratory distress, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and even lungs cancer. These alarming pollution levels led the Delhi government to close primary schools and impose restrictions on vehicular traffic, movement of trucks and activities at construction sites.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered 'Good', 51-100 'Satisfactory', 101-200 'Moderate', 201-300 'Poor', 301-400 'Very poor', 401-500 'Severe' and above 500 is 'Severe-plus emergency' category. As per a study carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO), among 1600 cities of the world, Delhi is one of the worst cities in terms of air pollution. According to another estimate, air pollution alone accounts for the death of nearly 10,500 people in Delhi every year

In winter, the cold air is generally heavier and sinks to the bottom not allowing the pollutants to disperse. The slow wind speed at the surface in winter also worsens the problem. The

ecades of progress on re-

ducing food insecurity are



One of the key non-point sources of pollution is the particles blown away by the farm stubble burning by the farmers from the vast surrounding areas like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

geographical location of Delhi makes the matter even more complicated as it is surrounded by mountains on all sides hindering the easy dispersal of pollutants. Delhi is not the only city in the world battling with winter air pollution every year. Although cities like Beijing and Los Angeles also share the same geographical setting as of Delhi, the problems in those cities are easier to handle primarily because of the point sources of pollution as the major polluting factor. Point sources of pollution include emissions released from specific sources like industries or vehicular traffic located within the city limits itself which are easier to handle and control. However, Delhi has far more complicated situations with a maiority of the pollutants coming from non-point sources located outside the city stretched over a vast region.

One of the key non-point sources of pollution is the particles blown away by the farm stubble burning by the farmers

from the vast surrounding areas like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The farmers in these regions generally cultivate paddy in their farms during the monsoons, it being a highly waterintensive crop. Paddy is generally harvested after the monsoon following which sowing of wheat immediately begins in the same fields in early October. Therefore. the farmers have very little window of time between the harvesting of paddy and the sowing of wheat and, therefore, to get rid of the crop residues of paddy in their fields quickly, they set fire to the farm stubble and then clear the residue. This is a widespread practice prevailing among the farmers of the region. This is indeed a huge problem to deal with which is not there in the case of the other cities like Beijing and Los Angeles battling with air pollution. The problem stems from the fact that the socio-economic conditions of our farm-

ers are very different who are

generally poor and lack neces-

sary funds and technologies to dispose of their stubble in an eco-friendly manner.

First, most farmers lack highcost machineries like crop bailers. happy seeders, and super seeders which are generally rented out to them by local cooperatives. But, cooperatives don't exist in all villages. Second, the process after harvesting requires a series of steps like mulching, ploughing, application of cultivation machines with each step requiring fuel and labour for four to five days, which is a lengthy process. But if they opt for stubble burning, they can directly burn the farm residues immediately after the harvesting of the crop which is a far quicker and cheaper process. Hence this practice is widely followed because of the low operation cost Thirdly, there is no crop substitute for paddy. For instance, out of the four million hectares of land cultivated in Punjab, three million hectares are for paddy. Rice and wheat are the only crops for which the government provides a fixed minimum support price. Alternative crops like cotton, maize, mustard, sugarcane, and even Basmati rice are largely avoided due to their fluctuating selling prices. Lastly, farmers find stubble management less rewarding as it needs additional expenditure to manage their bailed stubble and take to factories for safe disposal.

Given these complex ground realities in the case of a developing country like India, it is a challenging task to convince the farmers to refrain from stubble burning. The government must find a way out to reach out to the farmers with funds and technologies to mitigate the problem and enable Delhi to breathe clean air.

> The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

SPECTRUM COP27

Naoko Ishii &

Ioshua Omonuk

AGRICULTURE

RESPONSIBLE FOR

ABOUT ONE-THIRD

GREENHOUSE-GAS

EMISSIONS AND IS

THE PRIMARY

BIODIVERSITY

DRIVER OF

LOSS

ALONE IS

OF GLOBAL

A movement for food-system change

being reversed. The number of undernourished people is rising again, and in Africa alone, 310 million people are projected to be chronically hungry by 2030 if urgent action is not taken. Worse, a host of factors threatens to push the world's food systems toward collapse. Dangerous climate tipping points are approaching faster than predicted, and tens of millions of people are suffering from a cost-ofliving crisis, ongoing global conflicts, biodiversity loss, and the continuing effects of COVID-19.

There is still time to put the global food system on a fairer, more sustainable, and more resilient path, but the window is closing quickly. Fortunately, the Egyptian government has placed food and nutrition center stage at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, which means the issue will get more attention than it has received at any previous COP. The World Leaders Summit at the outset of the conference focused on the food security crisis, and the Food Systems Pavilion (another COP first) has ensured that food and agriculture remain high on the agenda throughout the two-week event.

Agriculture alone is responsible for about one-third of global greenhouse-gas emissions and is the primary driver of biodiversity loss. It is also linked to 92% of the global

water footprint, because the sector is the largest user and polluter of freshwater. Perversely, even as the number of people facing acute food insecurity rises, one-third of all food produced globally is either

Discussions about the nexus of food systems and climate at COP27 should focus on four priority areas. The first is political leadership. November 7-8, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi convened heads of state and government to discuss the global food security crisis and the world's response to it. Political, business, and philanthropic leaders thus had a rare opportunity to come forward with major commitments and clear roadmaps for reforming food systems, emphasising not only financing but also support for smallholder farmers and adoption of digital technologies in agriculture.

The second priority is to close the significant and unjust global climate financing gap, which reflects a failure by many countries in the Global North to meet their past commitments. African countries have rightly called for a major increase in financing for climate adaptation. The international community must meet this request head-on and at the scale required. Only 3% of current global climate finance is targeted at agriculture and land use. Far more is needed to ensure sustainable food production, which in turn would bring benefits to billions of people, as well as to the climate and other species.

Smallholder farmers are especially in need of support. Under 2% of climate finance makes it to this cohort, even though it produces almost one-third of the world's food and works one-quarter of the world's agricultural land. Developing a better food system requires political, private sector, and philanthropic leadership at scale to help smallholder farmers adopt more climate-resilient agricultural practices

A third area of focus should be national commitments and their implementation. A year ago, the Glasgow Climate Pact called on all countries to revisit their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and strengthen their emissionsreduction targets for this critical decade. With only a few having done so, however, there is a risk of further drift and delay.

Moreover, while many NDCs do refer to food and land use, only a few countries - such as Colombia and the United Arab Emirates - have actively committed to sectoral targets and concrete action. All countries will need to strengthen their work on the "practicalities of implementation" by supporting locally driven strategies and integrating NDC commitments into national planning and budget frameworks.

The fourth priority area is private-sector and civil-society activity, which is no less important than

policymaking and investments by_ national governments. Businesses should be adopting science-based targets to deliver on their climate commitments and to protect their own economic future. This is esnecially true of the world's commodity and trading companies, lest they end up backpedaling from their sustainability commitments, including to reduce deforestation.

Regions and cities also can adopt ambitious food-system plans, and local communities can do remarkable work from the ground up to make their food systems more just and resilient - whether by reducing food loss and waste, pursuing landscape restoration, or securing alternatives to charcoal. And, of course, the world's major philanthropies can and must dramatically increase their funding for food systems.

Our hope is that all these players will come together this month to launch a collective movement for food-system change - which is crucial to both the Paris climate agreement targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Egypt could be a turning point for food and the climate. Leaders from all sectors have a collective responsibility to make it so.

Naoko Ishii is Director of the Center for Global Commons at the University of Tokyo. Joshua Omonuk is a climate justice activist.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

rissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Vernacular MBBS

Sir, As part of an ambitious project to impart medical education in Hindi, the Madhya Pradesh government got Hindi-translated textbooks of three subjects: Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry for first-year MBBS students and they were unveiled with much fanfare October 16, 2022. Students from rural areas who were unable to get medical education because of lack of knowledge of English will not lag behind and will be able to pursue MBBS in Hindi. The initiative is a welcome step but it raises concerns over mapping education in accordance with nationally and internationally acceptable standards. It will help students to become more patient-friendly as graduate doctors would know the medical terms in regional languages. However, it may be difficult for students to match the skills of literature reading and presentation at different platforms, compared to students doing MBBS in English. Other than the Hindi textbooks designed for this initiative, most medical literature available is in English and therefore it will pose a difficulty in comprehension and knowledge incorporation. In a multi-lingual country such as India, the challenges of imparting education in mother tongue are numerous. However, proper planning and effective implementation should be done carefully to make the pilot project a success. *Bhagaban Nayak*, BERHAMPUR

8 billion people

Sir, The world's population has reached the significant milestone of eight billion. According to UN estimates, the increase in global population from 7 billion to 8 billion took place over a 12-year period. This achievement may be credited to the longer life expectancies made possible by improvements in nutrition, sanitation, public health, and medicine. Only seven nations—China. India, the United States, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Brazil have more than half of the world's population. But it's estimated that another half a billion people will be born by 2030. According to the current estimates, India is expected to surpass China to become the world's most populous nation in 2023. Demographic trends around the world show that life is getting better in many ways. We are living longer thanks to a decrease in child and maternal mortality, treatments for fatal diseases, better healthcare, and other causes. Furthermore, universal healthcare and longterm care systems must be established in order to accommodate the growing number of older people. Social security and pension systems must also be strengthened to ensure their long-term *Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma*, HYDERABAD

national



Agnipath is a very dangerous scheme. The Centre should withdraw it immediately and bring back a full-time job scheme with facilities like pension

SATYA PAL MALIK FORMER MEGHALAYA GOVERNOR

HARYANA NOTIFIES E-VEHICLE POLICY

The Harvana government said it has notified the Electric-Vehicle Policy, under which 12 schemes have been made live, Additional Chief Secretary of Industries and Commerce Anand Mohan Sharan said Thursday. He said the aim of the policy is to promote the manufacturing of electric vehicles and their components in the state



planning to meetings in the Northeast region



Being the administrative minister incharge -- the Election Commission of India reports to the law ministry -- I want to say that the Election Commission of India is an impartial, transparent,

empowered and independent body KIREN RIJIJU UNION LAW MINISTER

We are yet to get the confirmation from Prime Minister's Office (PMO) over the date of

commissioning of Mopa International Airport. Tentatively, we are prepared to inaugurate it December 11

PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

ED arrests TMC's **Anubrata Mondal**

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested senior Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal in a cattle smuggling case after a marathon interrogation at Asansol Correctional Home where he has been lodged, the agency officials said. He was earlier apprehended by the CBI in the same case in August and is in judicial custody. The CBI is investigating the criminal aspect of the cattle smuggling case, while the ED is probing the money laundering angle. ED sources said the agency will now seek custody of Mondal. The central agency interrogated Mondal in the correctional home after his daughter Sukanya Mondal during interrogation had said "his father was aware of all the financial accounts and transactions".

Azam's name removed from voters list

Bareilly (UP): Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan's name has been removed from the electoral roll in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur, officials said Thursday weeks after he was convicted in a 2019 hate speech case. This means the former minister who has already been disqualified as MLA after his conviction, will not be able to vote in the December 5 byelection to his traditional seat of Rampur Sadar (urban). The decision to remove his name from the list was taken by the Rampur Electoral Registration officer (ERO) on a complaint by BJP bypoll candidate Akash

Two dozen women sterilized without anaesthesia

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Nov 17: The negligence of the Bihar health department was in full view in Khagaria district Wednesday when around two dozen women were sterilized without anaesthesia.

The women went to the Alauli and Parbatta health centres in the districts for a family planning operation Wednesday. The medical staff pinned them down on the bed, held their hands and legs tightly, put cotton in the mouth and performed the operation without anaesthesia.

The victims suffered unbearable pain during and after the surgery.



Amarnath Jha, the civil surgeon of Khagaria said: "We have initiated an inquiry into the matter and asked for an explanation

from the NGO responsible for the inhuman act.

The health department has given the contract for family planning opTHE WOMEN WENT TO THE ALAULI AND PARBATTA HEALTH CENTRES IN THE DISTRICTS FOR A FAMILY PLANNING OPERATION WEDNESDAY

THE MEDICAL STAFF PINNED THEM DOWN ON THE BED, HELD THEIR HANDS AND LEGS TIGHTLY, PUT COTTON IN THE MOUTH AND PERFORMED THE OPERATION WITHOUT ANAESTHESIA

erations to the NGO named Global Development Initiative.

"We have sought clarification from the NGO and also initiated the process of blacklisting it. Preliminary investigation reveals that the NGO was involved in an inhuman act," Jha said.

The NGO is using a process called "tubectomy" to make the patients unconscious. The official said that it has not worked on the patients at the time of an operation. The state government is paying Rs 2100 for every tubectomy.

The official said that this act of the NGO is a criminal offence as they have risked the life of patients.

A similar incident took place in Araria district in 2012 when 53 women underwent family planning operations without anaesthesia. At that time, an FIR was registered against the errant medical officials and three of them were jailed.

ED Director gets one-year extension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Union government Thursday extended by one year the tenure of ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra, according to an official order.

The order issued by the Personnel Ministry said the 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer has been given the extension till November 18, 2023. Mishra, 62, was appointed director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a period of two years by an order November 19, 2018. Later, by an order of November 13, 2020, the appointment letter was modified retrospectively by the Central government and his term of two years was replaced by three years.

The government last year brought an ordinance allowing that the tenure of the directors of the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) can be extended by up to three years after the mandated term of two years. Mishra was subsequently given a one-year extension then, his second.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in tenure of Shri Sanjay Kumar Mishra, IRS (IT:84006) as Director of Enforcement in the Enforcement Directorate for a period of one year beyond 18.11.2022, ie upto 18.11.2023 or untill further orders, whichever is earlier," the Thursday order said. The ED functions under the Union Finance Ministry and it enforces the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act that was brought by the Modi government in 2018, and the civil sections of the Foreign Exchange Management Act

SC to hear plea against **Collegium system of** appointment of judges

The apex court had October 16, 2015 struck down the ambitious NJAC Act, 2014 which had sought to replace the 22-year-old collegium system of judges appointing judges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to consider listing a petition against the collegium system of appointment of judges to the apex court and high courts, days after Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju said people were not happy with the practice of judges appointing judges.

The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud.

Advocate Mathews J Nedumpara, who mentioned the matter, referred to the 2015 verdict of the apex court which had struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act and the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014, leading to the revival of the collegium system of existing judges appointing judges to constitutional

The bench, also comprising Justices Hima Kohli and J B Pardiwala, assured the counsel it. will consider the request in due course after perusing the petition.

system of appointment of judges has resulted in denial of equal opportunity to thousands of lawyers who are eligible, meritorious and deserved to the considered.

The NJAC Act, 2014 would have accorded a major role to the executive in appointing judges to the higher judiciary. The apex court had October 16,

2015 struck down the ambitious NJAC Act, 2014 which had sought to replace the 22-year-old collegium system of judges appointing judges.

Last month, Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju had said the people of the country are not happy with the collegium system and, according to the spirit of the Constitution, it is the government's job to appoint judges.

On November 13, former Chief Justice of India UULalit had, however, said there is nothing wrong with the collegium system.

"The collegium system is here to stay and it is an established norm where judges choose judges," he had said while speaking to the PTI, adding the fundamentals of the system can be fine-tuned.





FOR A CAUSE: An Iranian woman reacts during a protest against the government of Iran over the death of Mahsa Amini, who was arrested by the morality police for not wearing the 'hijab' properly, at Church Street in Bangalore

Bank union to go on strike Nov 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Operations of public sector banks (PSBs) may be impacted as bank union AIBEA has given a strike call for Saturday to oppose incessant outsourcing of jobs.

Although the officers are not part of the strike, there may be some impact on cash deposit and withdrawal, clearing of cheques etc.

Several banks, including Bank of Baroda and Punjab & Sind Bank, have already informed their customers about the potential impact on services if November 19 strike materalises.

If the strike materialises, a certain section of the Bank's employees may participate in strike on the said date, in which case, it is likely that the normal functioning of the branchesoffices of the bank may get affected, Punjab & Sind Bank said in a regulatory filing Thursday. Outsourcing of jobs by some of the banks are putting privacy of customers and their money at risk apart from reduction in recruitment at the lower level, All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) general secretary CH Venkatachalam said.

GYANVAPI CASE

Court dismisses Muslim's side plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, Nov 17:A Varanasi court Thursday rejected Gyanvapi Masjid committee's objection to a petition seeking right to worship 'Shivling' claimed to have been found in the mosque complex and fixed December 2 for hearing the case.

Fast-track court Judge Mahendra Kumar Pandey found the petition filed by Kiran Singh worth hearing and fixed December 2 for taking up the matter, Assistant District Government Counsel Sulabh Prakash said.

The court rejected the objection filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee questioning maintainability of the Singh's plea.

The mosque committee had objected to the plea citing the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. The Act states that the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August

15, 1947, must be maintained. Prakash said lawyers of the Hindu side argued that Waqf Act is not applicable to them. The fasttrack court had on Monday post-

poned its judgement on the matter till November 17. After hearing the arguments of both the sides to the dispute, the court had, October 27, reserved its order on the suit for November 8. As the judge was on leave November

November 14. On May 24, plaintiff Kiran Singh, general secretary of the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, filed the suit in the Varanasi district court, seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims into the Gyanvapi complex, handing over of the complex to the

Sanatan Sangh and permission to

8 the matter was posted for

offer prayers to the 'Shivling'. On May 25, District Judge A K Vishvesh had ordered the transfer of the suit to the fast-track court.

The Varanasi district magistrate, the police commissioner, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which manages the affairs of the Gyanvapi mosque, and the Vishwanath Temple Trust were made respondents in the suit. However, the Muslim side has maintained that the structure was part of the fountain mechanism at the "wazookhana" reservoir, where devotees carry out ritual ablutions

before offering "namaz".

RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION CASE

THE CENTRAL **GOVERNMENT SAID** THAT THE DECISION TO RELEASE THE

CONVICTS IN THE RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION CASE WAS A "MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Facing criticism from the Congress, the government on Thursday moved the Supreme Court seeking a review of its order for premature release of six convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

The Centre said the order granting remission to the convicts, who had assassinated the former prime minister, was passed without affording it adequate opportunity for hearing despite it being a nec-

essary party to the case. The government highlighted the

Centre challenges release of convicts alleged procedural lapse, saying

the convicts seeking remission did not formally implead the Centre as a party which resulted in its nonparticipation in the case. "Thus absence of any assistance

by the Union of India, due to procedural lapse of convicts/petitioners, while the present matter was being finally heard and decided has prevented this Court from appreciating the crucial and important evidence in the matter, which if presented, would have assisted this court to arrive at a just and correct judgment in the matter," it said. On November 11, the top court

had ordered premature release of six convicts, including Nalini Sriharan, who had hosted the assassin, noting the Tamil Nadu government had recommended remission of their sentence.

Besides Nalini, R P Ravichandran, Santhan, Murugan, Robert Payas and Jayakumar walked out of the jail following the Supreme Court order.

In its review plea, the central government said certain facts were in its possession but could not be



to arrive at a correct judgment and to do complete justice in the "peculiar and shocking" facts and circumstances. It said four out of the six convicts granted remission are Sri Lankans On November 11, the top court

while ordering the release of the

convicts had noted their conduct

was satisfactory during incarcer-

ation and they had undertaken

various studies.

The apex court said its earlier judgement in the case of A G Perarivalan, one of the convicts released earlier, was equally applicable in the matter of six others.

Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had on May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail. Under Article 142, the top court may issue any verdict or order necessary to provide "com-

The Tamil Nadu government had earlier favoured the premature release of Nalini and Ravichandran, saying its 2018 advice for remission of their life sentence is binding upon the governor.

In two separate affidavits, the state government had told the top court that in a cabinet meeting held on September 9, 2018, it had considered mercy petitions of seven convicts in the case and resolved to recommend to the governor remission of their life sentences invoking the power granted under Article 161 of the Constitution. Nalini and Ravichandran had moved the top court seeking premature release.

Both of them had challenged a June 17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected their pleas for early release, and cited the apex court judgment ordering the release of co-convict Perarivalan.

Nalini, Santhan, Murugan, Perarivalan, Robert Payas, Jayakumar and Ravichandran were sentenced for life.

Court allows police to quiz accused for 5 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: A Delhi court Thursday permitted the city police to question Mehrauli killing accused Aaftab Amin Poonawala for five more days in its custody, while another judge allowed his narco analysis test to unravel the sensational case after he consented to un-

dergo the forensic procedure. Metropolitan Magistrate Aviral Shukla passed the order after the accused was produced before him through video conferencing, considering threat perception to Poonawala due to surcharged atmosphere in the court premises which also witnessed protest from around 100 lawyers.

The lawyers assembled in the court premises shouting slogans against Poonawala and demanded death penalty for him.

Prior to the production of the accused before the court on expiry of his earlier five-day custodial interrogation, Delhi Police moved a plea before the judge in a packed courtroom, seeking the accused's

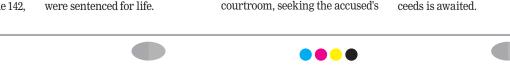
MEHRAULI KII



production before the court virtually, due to the possibility of attack by "some religious outfits and miscreants" on the accused, which

was allowed. "I am aware of the sensitivity of the matter, the media coverage and the public traction," the judge said, while allowing police plea. The hearing of his further custody was held in the absence of media and

those unconnected to the case. After the proceedings, the court sources informed that the accused was sent to five more days of custodial interrogation at the hands of police which had sought 10 days of custodial interrogation in the case. The detailed order of the pro-



FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 18 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

100 start-ups registered with ISRO: Somanath Families of TN sailors worried

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 17: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath Thursday said about 100 start-ups have registered with them and were working closely in various domains of the space sector.

Addressing a plenary session Thursday here at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022 on 'R&D of India Innovation for Global Impact, he said ISRO has signed Memoranda of Understanding with companies to work closely which include hand holding in space technology and building processes from start to finish.

He said a significant number of companies have the potential to become big players in the space sector and ISRO is playing the role of facilitator and helping in building technologies.

least 10 of them are working on developing satellites and rockets. Somanath announced that Chandrayaan-3 mission will be in orbit in a few months adding that ISRO is working closely with NASA

He said out of 100 start-ups, at



in space technology areas. He said the computer that was used in the rocket was made in India.

In his presentation, he said space tourism has picked in the world with start-ups evincing interest in various applications which impact the day-to-day activities. According to him, ISRO is playing an important role in smart city projects and smart

manufacturing processes.

announced that Chandrayaan-3 mission will be in orbit in a few months adding that ISRO is working closely with NASA in space technology areas

e said a significant number of companies have the potential to become big players in the space sector and ISRO is playing the role of facilitator and helping in building

He said some of the areas that ISRO is working on include bringing back satellite technology, propulsion systems used in engine manufacturing which have been successfully tested, green and hybrid propulsion system, nuclear propulsion. launch of small rockets with the use of additive technologies, energy storage systems, functional materials, carbon fibre technology, electronic devices, robotics, drone tech nologies, quantum technology used in encryption and disruptive

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 17: The families of three sailors from Tamil Nadu, who are among the 16 Indians onboard the Norwegian oil tanker MT Heroic Idun detained by the Nigerian government on charges of oil theft and other violations, are anxiously awaiting their return.

The three sailors are Prispan Xavier from Thoothukudi, Ramapuram Sukumaran Harsha from Ambur and Deepan Babu from Chennai.

According to sources, the crew was produced before a Nigerian court in Port Harcourt and the sailors pleaded not guilty and were sent back to the oil tanker.

Salo, wife of Prispan, told mediapersons that they are expecting an early release of the Indian sailors from the captivity of the Nigerian authorities.

She said that the family was worried about the fate of Xavier and called upon the Indian authorities to secure the release of her husband.

Deepan's wife Soumya said that her husband's parents have not been informed about the incident.

292 of the UN convention for the release of the ship and the 26 crew in the tanker including the 16 Indians

> on board. The oil tanker was in the custody of Equatorial Guinea since August and was recently transferred to

the custody of Nigeria. Nigerian authorities have ac-



Notably, an application has been filed in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea under Article

Prispan Xavier from

Ambur and Deepan

Babu from Chennai

Thoothukudi, Ramapuram

Sukumaran Harsha from

cused the crew of the ship of having made wrong and false charges that they were under attack from pirates.

STALIN VISITS KIN OF FOOTBALLER PRIYA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 17: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Thursday visited the family of a 17-year old girl, a football player, who died following an amputation of her leg after a minimally invasive procedure at a government facility to treat a ligament tear.

The Chief Minister visited the family at their north Chennai residence here and extended his condolences and sympathies to them. He handed over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh as financial assistance to the

Stalin gave an appointment order to the deceased sportsperson's brother to work in the National Health Mission-Tamil Nadu as a Data entry operator. Also, he gave an order providing a flat for the

family in a Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board developed facility here.

R Priya, first year student of BSc Physical Education at the Queen Mary's College was a footballer. She had an injury on her right leg and underwent a minimally invasive procedure, arthroscopy, to treat her torn knee ligament. Government hospital doctors at Periyar Nagar here performed the procedure.

However, her leg had to be amputated later at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and she died of multiple organ failure on November 15. The Perivar Nagar hospital doctors who did the procedure were accused of medical negligence. The government suspended them and assured further departmental and legal action.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin offers his condolences to the parents of footballer R. Priya, who died allegedly due to medical negligence of doctors at a government hospital in Chennai

VIKRAM-S SET FOR LAUNCH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai/New Delhi, Nov 17: India's space programme will soar into new skies Friday when the country's first privately developed rocket, Vikram-S would be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from its spaceport in Sriharikota, about 115 kms from Chennai.

Decks have been cleared for the four-year-old startup Skyroot Aerospace to make the maiden launch of its Vikram-S rocket. marking the foray of private sector into the country's space industry, dominated by the staterun ISRO for decades.

Skyroot Aerospace has become the first private company in India to give wings to the Indian space programme, after the sector was opened to private players by the Centre in 2020.

The lift off of the first Vikram-S rocket has been scheduled at 11.30 am with clear weather paying the way for the launch as against

the earlier planned November 15. Vikram-S will soar to an altitude of 81 km after its launch from

Satish Dhawan Space Centre. The launch vehicle has been named so as a tribute to the father of Indian Space programme, the

late Vikram Sarabhai. The Mission titled 'Prarambh' (the beginning) would carry three payloads belonging to two domestic customers and a foreign

The six-meter tall rocket is one of the world's first few all-composite rockets that has 3-D printed solid thrusters for spin stability of the launch vehicle, a Skyroot

functionary said. The launch of the rocket is expected to demonstrate flight proving of avionics systems in Vikram series like telemetry, tracking, inertial measurement, Global Positioning System, on-board camera, data acquisition and power

India's space regulator IN-SPACe Wednesday authorised the launch of Skyroot's Vikram-S sub-orbital

systems.

Congress alleges voter ID scam

Congress national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala demanded the resignation of Bommai, alleging he is directly responsible for the corrupt electoral practice by assigning a private entity, Chilume Educational and Rural Development Institute, to collect door-to-door voter information

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 17: The Congress in Karnataka on Thursday charged the Chief Minister with "corrupt electoral electoral practice" vis-avis an "awareness programme," a charge rejected outright by Basavarai Bommai who said the opposition party was bankrupt with

The CM asserted he was ready to face an enquiry and also get investigated, Congress' allegation that a private firm engaged in voter survey in the city collected details, including on individuals' caste and their Aadhaar.

As the issue erupted into a political row, the city's civic body announced terminating the permission granted to the NGO involved in the programme and authorities said action will be taken against it if it was found to be involved in vi-

Congress national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala demanded the resignation of Bommai, alleging he is directly responsible for the corrupt electoral practice by assigning a private entity, Chilume Educational and Rural Development Institute, to collect door-to-door voter information.

Dismissing Congress' allegation,

Bommai said it has got bankrupt ideas due to which it was making baseless charges without any proof. He said he was ready to get the matter investigated.

'What I feel is that the Congress has got bankrupt ideas. It is a matter between the Election Commission of India, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the NGO," Bommai said. He added that if the NGO has misused its position, then it will be inquired and action will be taken.

What is the proof that which private information has been given to whom. There is nothing on paper. It is a baseless allegation. I am really astonished the way Congress is bankrupt with ideas...There is no proof at all," Bommai added.

He said he was ready for an inquiry. "Let the inquiry be done and the truth come out. We are not shying away from any inquiry. I ask the BBMP commissioner to file a case." the CM said. Earlier in the day, Surjewala said the BBMP authorised a private firm in August to carry out a door-to-door survey of voters 'free of cost' and it gathered information about their gender. mother tongue and collected voter ID and Aadhaar details

"Chilume Educational and Rural Development Institute applied for permission to conduct voter aware-

ness drive of the Election Commission. Firstly, the permission was given for Mahadevapura Assembly constituency and it was then extended to all 28 assembly constituencies of Bengaluru vide a government order dated August 20, 2022," the AICC general secretary claimed in a press conference. Further, Chilume is connected with and owned by common owners and directors of two other entities, including Chilume Enterprises Private Limited, he said.

"Chilume Enterprises claims to be an 'Election Management Company' including working for 'EVM preparation etc for political parties'. This is unique. I have never heard this before," Surjewala

Alleging "the chief minister was the conduit of the electoral fraud," he said, "there has to be an FIR against Basavaraj Bommai and he should be arrested." The cache of data was not fed into the Garuda application of the government but into an application 'Digital Sameeksha' of the private firm, Surjewala charged.

The firm also appointed hundreds of Booth Level Officers (BLO), which technically should be government appointed persons, said Surjewala, adding these BLOs were also given identity cards resembling those possessed by govern-

ment employees. The AICC general secretary also sought to know how a private entity was permitted to collect personal voter information like caste, religion, age, gender, mother tongue, marital status, Aadhaar number, phone number, address, voter ID number and email address

Devotees gear up for pilgrimage to Sabarimala



Chennai, Nov 17: Thousands of devotees Thursday flocked various temples across Tamil Nadu to receive a ritualistic initiation from gurus to embark on a pilgrimage to the Sabarimala hill shrine of Lord Ayyappa Swamy in Kerala.

People thronged temples here inpopular Mahalingapuram Swami Ayyappa temple and the Annamalaipuram shrine to adorn the 'Maalai,' provided by gurus following prayers, which signified the beginning of the pilgrimage and

devotees said they now also have the option of choosing the traditional forested route to the hill shrine. said on Wednesday that special buses would be operated to Kerala

In this context, 'Maalai' in Tamil means a string of small round pieces of wood-like material, similar to a rosary bead and worn by

in view of the annual Mandala and Makaravilakku poojas in the all its associated rituals and practices. Lord Ayyappa Swamy temple. The Mandala pooja is from November 16 to December 27. The Makaravilakku pooja is from December 30 to January 19, 2023.

pilgrimage. People remove it after

Across the State, people thronged

temples in keeping with the tra-

dition to begin the pilgrimage

prayers and initiation on the first

day of Tamil month 'Karthigai'

Devotees made a beeline to noted

temples in Kanyakumari,

Rameswaram, Tiruchirappalli,

Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem,

Kancheepuram and Courtallam

to get initiated on the pilgrimage.

view of the coronavirus pandemic,

After two years of restrictions in

The Tamil Nadu government

(November-December).

completing the spiritual trip.

Over 3,800 rural libraries in TN to get facelift

With the rural libraries gearing up for a new facelift with the funds allocated and buying new books and magazines, these libraries could turn once again into vibrant centres of culture and reading in villages

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 17: The Tamil Nadu Rural Development department has sanctioned an amount of Rs 84 crore for repairing and maintaining 3,808 rural libraries in the state.

The development had come following widespread complaints about the dream project of former Chief Minister, late M. Karunanidhi waning off due to lack of proper maintenance and management. During the last leg of the rule of M.



Karunanidhi, the government sanctioned the opening of 12,525 libraries under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam (AGAMT) project.

The project was aimed at students, women, and senior citizens who are not in a position to go to district headquarters to access public libraries. This was considered the grandiose project of 'Kalaignar' Karunanidhi and the government had then purchased books worth several lakhs of rupees.

However, within two years, the

smoothly as fund allocation came down after the DMK government lost power, and the rural libraries which were opened with much fanfare turned into remnants of their old glory.

project was not functioning

Gradually, the number of rural libraries that were functioning came down and by 2015, only 2,000 libraries were functioning. Most of the libraries had gathered dust and dirt, and the buildings turned into dens for anti-social activities.

After the DMK government re-

turned to power, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the revival of rural public libraries and had earlier sanctioned an amount of Rs 91 crore under the AGAMT for

repairing 4,116 rural libraries. The Rural department has now sanctioned an amount of Rs 84 crore for repairing and maintaining 3,808 rural libraries. The library department has also announced sanctioning of Rs 50,000 for each library for the purchase of books. However, the department has directed the honorary librarians in charge of these libraries to rope in some corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds and also support from NGOs for the purchase of weeklies and magazines.

With the rural libraries gearing up for a new facelift with the funds allocated and buying new books and magazines, these libraries could turn once again intovibrant centres of culture and reading in villages.



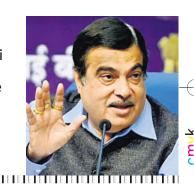
national



approve of **Rahul Gandhi's remarks** on Savarkar. We have immense respect and faith for Swatyantra **Veer Savarkar and it** cannot be erased UDDHAV THACKERAY | FORMER MAHA CM

GADKARI FALLS ILL IN SILIGURI

Union Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari fell ill Thursday afternoon after an official function in West Bengal's Siliguri district, but is said to be stable now. Gadkari complained of not feeling well as he came down from the stage after laying the foundation stone of a proposed road connecting Siliguri with Sevak Cantonment



(back) to the have to stay in politics and if justice is to be done to

Pradesh...unless you ensure our victory in the next election...that

could well be my last election N CHANDRABABU NAIDU FORMER AP CM

What I feel is that the Congress has got bankrupt ideas. It the Election Commission of India,

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the NGO

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI KARNATAKA CM



across the country about what Rahul Gandhi wants -inflation, unemployment should be reduced and there should be politics of peace, love and brotherhood

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Delhi court refuses bail to Satyendar

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday refused to grant bail to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Satyendar Jain and two others in connection with a money laundering case. Special Judge Vikas Dhull of the Rouse Avenue Court pronounced the order which was deferred earlier. The same judge was scheduled to pronounce the order Wednesday. However, the court deferred the matter, citing the order was not ready. A detailed order will be made available later in the day.

Int'l drug racket **busted in Ludhiana**

Chandigarh: An international drug racket having links across the border was busted following the recovery of 20 kg heroin and the arrest of one person in Puniab's Ludhiana. said the Narcotics Control Bureau Thursdav. Besides heroin. cash amounting to Rs 5.86 lakh, foreign currency (Dirham) worth Rs 2,850, two bullets, 20 branded watches, 250 grams of silver coins, 17 grams of opium, two laptops, five pen drives, seven sim cards, five mobile phones and some documents have been recovered by the NCB's Chandigarh unit. a senior official said.

PM to visit AP, **UP tomorrow**

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Arunachal Pradesh and Uttar PradeshNovember 19. His visit to Arunachal Pradesh is being seen as a key step towards boosting connectivity in the northeast region. Modi will inaugurate the first greenfield airport called Donyi Polo airport at Itanagar, during his visit.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Union Health Ministry Thursday termed as "misleading" and "fallacious" media reports which claimed that regulatory approval for Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin was rushed due to political pressure.

It said scientific approach and prescribed norms were adhered to in approving Covid-19 vaccines for emergency use authorisation.

'These media reports are completely misleading, fallacious and ill-informed.It is clarified that Government of India and the national regulator i.E. CDSCO have followed a scientific approach and prescribed norms in approving Covid-19 vaccines for emergency use authorisation," the ministry stated.

The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

RAHUL GANDHI

SPARKS NEW

CONTROVERSY

Akola (Maharashtra), Nov 17:

Unfazed by the controversy over his

recent statement against VD

Savarkar, Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi targeted Thursday the late

Hindutva ideologue again,

claiming that he helped the British

rulers and wrote a mercy petition

However, Rahul's comments

drew criticism and triggered

protests from both the Shiv Sena

and the BJP. Savarkar's grandson

Thursday lodged a police

complaint against Rahul in Mumbai

Rahul's fresh attack on Savarkar

comes just two days after he called

the freedom fighter a symbol of

the BJP and the RSS. He was al-

ready under fire of the BJP and the

Eknath Shinde-led faction of the

Former Maharashtra CM Uddhav

Thackeray said Thursday that he

does not approve of Rahul's remarks on Savarkar (made Tuesday)

and maintained that his party has

immense respect for the freedom

fighter. Thackeray made the state-

ment at a press conference in

Mumbai some time before Rahul in-

teracted with mediapersons here.

at Wadegaon in this, Rahul showed

documents dating back to 1920 to

mediapersons, claiming that they

contained a letter written by

says 'I beg to remain your most

obedient servant and is signed V

D Savarkar, which shows he helped

the British', Rahul said at the media

interaction during his Bharat Jodo

Yatra that is in the last leg in

"I will read the last line, which

Savarkar to the British.

Maharashtra.

Addressing a press conference

Shiv Sena for those remarks.

for 'insulting' his grandfather.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

to them out of fear.

met January 1 and 2, 2021 and after due deliberations made recommendations in respect of proposal for Restricted Emergency Approval of Covid-19 virus vaccine of Bharat Biotech.

Before Covaxin was approved for restricted emergency use in January 2021, the Subject Expert Committee reviewed the data on ■ There have been media reports claiming that Bharat Biotech, manufacturer of the indigenous COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin, "had to skip certain processes" and "speed" up clinical trials due to political pressure, the ■ The reports further claimed that there were several irregularities in the three

for the vaccine

safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine and recommended for grant of permission for restricted use in emergency situation in public interest as an abundant precaution, in clinical trial mode, to have more options for vaccinations, especially in case of infection by mutant strains. The SEC's approval for commencement of phase 3 clinical trial of proposed dose of Covaxin was based on scientific data presented by Bharat Biotech and established practices in this regard, the ministry said.

phases of the clinical trials conducted

Moreover, the purported 'unscientific changes' in clinical trials of Covaxin, as claimed in the news reports, were made after submission made by Bharat Biotech in CDSCO, compliance of due process in CDSCO and with approval from the DGCI. Based on further submission made by Bharat Biotech and assessment of interim efficacy and safety data by SEC of CDSCO, the condition of administration of Covid-19 vaccine in 'clinical trial mode' was removed March 11, 2021, the ministry said.

Authorisation to Covid-19 vaccines including Covaxin for restricted use in emergency situation with various conditions and restrictions were granted by the national regulator only on the recommendations of the Subject Expert Committee of CDSCO.

The Subject Expert Committee consists of domain knowledge experts from the fields of pulmonology, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology, paediatrics, internal medicine, etc.

'ILLEGAL' MINING CASE Charges against me baseless, says Soren



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 17: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday claimed that the allegations leveled against him in a mining case are "baseless"

Addressing reporters before leaving for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office in Ranchi, where he is set to face questioning in connection with the matter, Soren claimed that he was a "victim of conspiracy" by the Opposition. "The central agency should level allegations only after a detailed investigation into the matter." he said. The ED summoned Soren at its regional office here for interrogation in a money laundering case linked to alleged illegal mining in the state.

The agency has said it has "identified" proceeds of crime relating to illegal stone mining in the state to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore till now. Soren, talking to reporters, said, "If we calculate the yearly revenue from stone chips mining, it would not touch Rs 1.000 crore. How they estimated the figure is beyond understanding. I am going to ED office and want to see how they arrived at that figure.'

"I am the Chief Minister of the state and hold a constitutional post. But the way summons were issued, it seems I will flee from the country. In my political career, I haven't found any political leader leaving the country, but businessmen have done so," he said.

The chief minister said that such actions create uncertainty in the state. "The Opposition has been hatching a conspiracy to topple this government ever since we came to power. The conspirators who were working like a submarine,



RISKY ATTEMPT: People cross a railway track under a parked train in Patna, Bihar

C V ANANDA BOSE APPOINTED Terror funding increasing BENGAL GOVERNOR

PRESS TRUSTOF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Former bureaucrat C V Ananda Bose was Thursday appointed the Governor of West Bengal, a communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

Bose (71) is a 1977 batch (retired) Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Kerala cadre.

He last served as an administrator in the National Museum here before superannuating in

"The President of India is pleased to appoint Dr C V Ananda Bose as regular Governor of West Bengal," the communique said.

His appointment will take effect on the date he assumes charge of his office, it said. Manipur Governor La Ganesan had been holding the additional charge of



West Bengal since July this year after incumbent Jagdeep Dhankhar was nominated as the vice president candidate by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

West Bengal BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar had Wednesday claimed that the state would soon get a new governor who would follow the footsteps of Dhankhar, who had frequent run-ins with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government. Prior to his election as the vice president of India, Dhankhar was the governor of West Bengal for nearly

He had engaged in tussles with the Mamata Baneriee government on multiple occasions over the law and order situation and other issues in the state. La Ganesan, however, shares a cordial relationship with

the state government. Banerjee had travelled to Tamil Nadu earlier this month to attend a family function at the invitation

of La Ganesan Bose has worked both in his cadre state Kerala and in the Centre in different positions. He has been the district collector of Quilon district (now Kollam) in Kerala, served as the secretary to the then chief minister of the state and as additional secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, among others, according to his official records.



■ *Director General of the* NIA, Dinkar Gupta said that measures to curb such cases of terror funding would be discussed in the 'No Money for Terror' ministerial conference, being held in Delhi November 18-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: India has evidence social media platforms are being used to raise terror funds, NIA Director General Dinkar Gupta said Thursday, underlining that the issue will be deliberated during a two-day international ministerial conference

on countering terror financing. Addressing a press conference ahead of the meeting beginning Friday, Gupta also said Pakistan and Afghanistan were not participating in the conference, while China was vet to confirm. The third 'No Money for Terror Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing' hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by Union Home

Minister Amit Shah, among others. Asked if Pakistan, China and Afghanistan were invited to the conference, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Sanjay Verma said, "China has been invited." He, however, remained silent on the other two neighbouring countries.

Giving details of the conference, Gupta made it clear that no country-specific discussion is part of the agenda but representatives of 73 nations, including ministers of over 20 of them, will discuss with an open heart all issues, be it the source of terror, the threat or its funding.

"Every participating country has full right to express its views," he said. Gupta said terror activities have declined in India during the last eight years, and there is a "huge reduction" in terror activities in all "theatres of conflicts", be it Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, the northeast or the areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.

He said it was a battle to be fought, and the country has to strengthen its infrastructure, mechanisms, and frameworks to fight this menace of global terrorism and its financing.

To a question on the inclusion of social media platform regulation in the agenda of the terror financing conference, Gupta said social media platforms are being used to raise financing, funding or as crowdfunding platforms.

The director general said terror financing was a critical issue and it needed to be discussed, be it the traditional modes of funding terror activities like hawala, wiretransfers or cash couriers, or the new ways that are developing.

Cervical cancer 4th most common among women: WHO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 17: The World Health Organisation and its member states in the South-East Asia Region and across the world marked the second Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action Thursday.

The cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women with an estimated 604,000 new cases and 342,000 deaths in 2020, of which the South East Region accounted for 32 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively, said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia.

"Vaccination of girls against human papillomavirus (HPV), screening and treatment of pre-cancer lesions, and improved access to diagnosis and treatment of invasive cancers are critical, cost-effective measures that pol-



icy makers should urgently apply to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem," WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia said on the occasion.

Dr Singh said that the countries of the region continue to make

against cervical cancer, in line with the Region's Flagship Priority on preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, as well as the 2021 Regional Implementation Framework on eliminating cervical

The cervical cancer is the fourth most common

cancer among women with an estimated 604,000 new cases and 342,000 deaths in 2020, of which the South East Region accounted for 32 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively

cancer as a public health problem. "Five Member States - Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand - have introduced nationwide HPV vaccination, which Bangladesh, India and Timor-Leste will soon also introduce. HPV vaccination has been introduced in several provinces of Indonesia, protecting tens of millions of girls, Dr Singh said. The gaps and challenges never-

theless persist, which if unaddressed, will prevent the Region from achieving the global 90-70-90 targets: that is, by 2030, ensure that 90 per cent of girls are fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine; that 70 per cent of women are screened using a high-performance test by 35 years of age, and again by 45 years of age; that 90 per cent of women identified with cervical disease or pre-cancer are treated; and that 90 per cent of women with invasive cancer are effectively managed, said South East Director.

Dr Singh said that WHO has called for action in several key areas to achieve the elimination target of four or less cases per 100,000 women.

international



The Pakistan government is planning to amend the Army Act of 1952 to have greater authority over the appointment and retention of the Army chief KHAWAJA MUHAMMAD ASIF | PAKISTAN

HISTORIC LOW

New Zealand's smoking rate has fallen to a historic low of 8 per cent, down from 9.4 per cent a year ago, ahead of the country's goal of being smoke-free by 2025

Kyiv, Nov 17: Russia again un-

leashed missiles Thursday against

Ukrainian energy facilities, while

its forces stepped up attacks in

eastern Ukraine, reinforced by

troops pulled from Kherson city

in the south which Kyiv recap-

NATO and Poland concluded

that a missile that crashed in Poland

on Tuesday, killing two people, was

probably a stray fired by Ukraine's

air defences and not Russian.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy contested this view in a

rare public disagreement with his

As the winter's first snow fell

in Kyiv, authorities said they were

working hard to restore power na-

tionwide after Russia earlier this

week unleashed what Ukraine said

was the heaviest bombardment of

civilian infrastructure of the nine-

Explosions resounded in cities

including the southern port of

Odesa, the capital Kyiv, the cen-

tral city of Dnipro and the south-

eastern region of Zaporizhzhia,

where officials said two people

right now," Interfax Ukraine news agency quoted Prime Minister

Denys Shmyhal as saying. Zelenskyy

posted video footage, apparently

shot from a car cam, showing a

driver's journey through Dnipro

being interrupted by a huge blast

ahead that sent flames and black

smoke pouring into the sky."No

matter what the terrorists want,

no matter what they try to achieve

we must get through this winter and

be even stronger in the spring than

we are now, even more ready for the

liberation of our entire territory

At least 15 people were wounded

in Dnipro, three were hurt in the

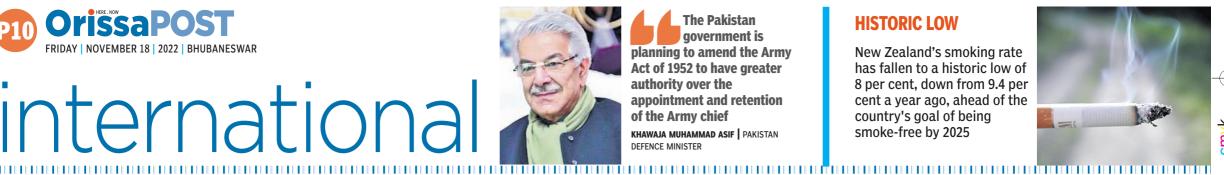
"Missiles are flying over Kyiv

tured last week.

Western allies.

month war.

were killed.





The United Nations is fully committed to removing obstacles that have impeded the export of food and fertiliser from

Russia, which is one of two agreements struck between the two countries and Turkey in July ANTÓNIO GUTERRES U.N. SECRETARY-

In Canada, we believe in free and open and

continue to have JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADA PM







SHORT TAKES

Two dead in building collapse

Nairobi: A multi-story building under construction collapsed on a neighbouring home in the outskirts of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, killing two people Thursday, authorities said. Three other people have been rescued alive from the family home that was next to the collapsed building located in the Ruaka suburb. A son of the couple killed in the collapse, Fredrick Kamau, said that "by the time the ambulance came they had already died.'

Nepal general election Nov 20

Kathmandu: Nepal's election commission on Thursday announced a raft of measures, including bolstering security at polling stations, air patrolling and closing the Nepal-India border to ensure a "free, fair and peaceful" general election on Sunday. Voting for the twin elections -parliamentary and provincial assemblies -- in Nepal will November 20. More than 17.9 million people are eligible to vote in seven provinces across the country. Out of a total of 275 members of the federal Parliament, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportionate method.

Court junks petition against Imran Khan

•••••

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court Thursday dismissed a petition to stop the protest march of former Prime Minister Imran Khan by observing that it was a political issue and should be resolved politically. Senator Kamran Murtaza of the ruling coalition had filed the petition against the long march by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, which 70-year-old Khan has billed as 'Hageegi Azadi' (real freedom) march. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justices Athar Minallah and Ayesha Malik heard the plea.

14 fishermen held

Colombo: Sri Lanka Navy has arrested 14 Indian fishermen and a trawler for allegedly poaching in Sri Lankan waters. an official statement said Thursday. The Navy said they were arrested off the coast of Vettilaikerni in the northern Jaffna district on Wednesday "Sri Lanka Navy has stepped up its patrols and operations in Sri Lanka's waters to curb illegal fishing practices of fishing trawlers", the Navy said. A report from Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu said that an Indian fisherman. identified as Johnson. sustained injuries to his eye after being allegedly attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy during the operation.

Republicans get House, US gets 'divided' govt

Washington, Nov 17: Donald Trump's Republican Party has wrested control of the 435-member US House of Representatives from the ruling Democratic Party with a razor-thin majority, setting the stage for a showdown with Joe Biden in the next two years of his

The Republicans now have 218 seats as against 211 of the Democratic Party. The counting of six seats is still going, the outcome of which would determine the final size of the House. The Republicans - who had hoped to win back control of both chambers - underperformed expectations in the November 8 midterm elections

But they won the seat they needed for their House majority on Wednesday when California's 27th district went to incumbent Mike Garcia. A day earlier, the party lawmakers had elected its leader Kevin McCarthy for the position of House Speaker. McCarthy would replace Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of the Democratic Party as the House Speaker.

are ready to deliver," McCarthy said in a tweet on Wednesday. Democrats will keep control of the Senate when the new Congress secured 50 seats in the 100-member Senate with the opportunity to

MH17 crash: Three

Amsterdam, Nov 17: Dutch judges

Thursday convicted three men of

murder for their role in the 2014

shooting down of Malaysia Airlines

flight MH17 over Ukraine, and sen-

tenced them to life in prison. A

MH17 was a passenger flight

that was shot down over eastern

Ukraine on July 17, 2014, killing all

"Only the most severe punish-

ment is fitting to retaliate for what

the suspects have done, which has

caused so much suffering to so

many victims and so many sur-

viving relatives," Presiding Judge

Hendrik Steenhuis said, reading a

Families of victims stood weep-

ing and wiping away tears in the

courtroom as Steenhuis read the

verdict. The three men convicted

were former Russian intelligence

agents Igor Girkin and Sergey

Dubinskiy, and Leonid Kharchenko,

a Ukrainian separatist leader. A

fourth, Russian Oleg Pulatov, was

At the time, the area was the

scene of fighting between pro-

Russian separatists and Ukrainian

forces, the precursor of this year's

conflict. Russia invaded Ukraine in

February and claims to have an-

nexed the Donetsk province where

the plane's wreckage and victims'

remains were once scattered across

eniov any immunity from prose-

cution as they were not members

of the Russian armed services.

Steenhuis said the men did not

acquitted on all charges

fourth man was acquitted.

298 passengers and crew.

summary of the ruling

men sentenced

to life in prison

"Americans are ready for a new direction, and House Republicans convenes in January. They have

BIDEN CONGRATULATED HOUSE MINORITY LEADER McCarthy wednesday evening, saying in a statement that he is READY TO WORK WITH HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO DELIVER **RESULTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES**

THE HOUSE RESULT COMES A DAY AFTER FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP, 76, ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO RUN FOR PRESIDENTIAL FLECTION AGAIN IN 2024

gain one more in the Georgia runoff next month.

The House result comes a day after former president Trump, 76, announced his intention to run for presidential election again in 2024. Biden congratulated House Minority Leader McCarthy Wednesday evening, saying in a statement that he is "ready to work with House Republicans to deliver results for working families.'

"Last week's elections demonstrated the strength and resilience of American democracy. There was a strong rejection of election deniers, political violence and intimidation. There was an emphatic statement that, in America, the will of the people prevails," Biden, 79, said in a statement

The President said in this election, voters spoke clearly about their concerns: the need to lower costs, protect the right to choose, and preserve democracy." As I said last week, the future is too promising to be trapped in political warfare. The American people

Pelosi to step down from US House leadership

Washington: US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the first woman to hold that influential post, said Thursday she will step down as the Democratic leader in the chamber a day after Republicans secured a narrow majority following the midterm elections. Pelosi, an 82-year-old liberal from California who has served two stints as speaker, said she will remain in Congress, representing San Francisco in the House as she has done for 35 years. Representative Hakeem Jeffries of New York may seek to take her place as the top Democrat in the House. Jeffries would be the first Black lawmaker to lead one of the major parties' caucuses in Congress.

them. They want us to focus on the issues that matter to them and on making their lives better. And I will work with anyone -- Republican or Democrat -- willing to work with me to deliver results for them," Biden said

The Republican Party gained control of the House of Representatives after a gap of four years. In 2018, it lost the majority to the Democrats. The Republicans had last won a majority in the House in 2010 and remained in control for eight years till 2018. In 2020, the party picked a net of 12 seats and defeated 13

Fighting rages in

eastern Ukraine

Russia again targets power infrastructure - Ukraine's PM ■ Redeployed Russian forces challenge Ukraine in east

Ukraine seeks to restore power after Russian strikes on grid

■ Top US general does not see

near-term Ukrainian war victory

northeastern city of Kharkiv and at least one was injured in Odesa, local officials said. State energy company Naftogaz said gas production facilities in eastern Ukraine had been damaged or destroyed. Other sites struck included the huge Pivdenmash defence plant in Dnipro.

The United Nations' humanitarian office (OCHA) warned of a serious humanitarian crisis in Ukraine this winter."Millions are facing constant power cuts, and the lack of energy is also affecting water pumping," it said in a state-

GRAIN DEAL EXTENDED

On a happier note, a deal aimed at easing global food shortages by facilitating Ukraine's agricultural exports from its southern Black Sea ports was extended for 120 days, though Moscow said its own demands were yet to be fully ad-

President Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, which helped forge the Black Sea grain deal, said he had been informed after U.S.-Russia talks in Ankara earlier this week aimed at reducing tensions over Ukraine that neither party would_ use nuclear weapons, according to readout of his comments to re-

The Kremlin later said that no Russian officials were considering the use of nuclear weapons. It also accused Kyiv of moving the goalposts regarding possible peace talks and called on Washington to push Ukraine towards diplomacy.



PLAYING WITH FIRE: Polish PT-91 Twardy, German Leopard 2 and Italian Ariete tanks of NATO Enhanced Forward Presence battle groups attend live fire exercise, during Iron Spear 2022 military drill in Adazi, Latvia

than we are now." he said.

Hunt hikes taxes, squeezes spending

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 17: Britain is now in recession and headed towards further shrinkage, the country's finance minister re vealed Thursday

get the economy back on track following the shockwaves of a rolled back mini-budget of predecessor Liz

Truss in September. The independent Office **There** Budget is a global energy Responsibility (OBR) foreas he tabled his crisis, a global inflation crisis and a global economic crisis. But much-anticicast pub pated emertoday with this plan for stability, growth lished gency and public services, we will face into the along budget storm. We do so today with British with tax resilience and British compassion. Because the rises imnew of the difficult decisions we take in our pacting milbudget/ plan, we strengthen our public finances. lions pointed bring down inflation

and protect jobs

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt tabled the Autumn Statement in the House Commons, cheered on by British

prices driven by BRITISH FINANCE MINISTER the Russia-Ukraine conflict as largely to blame for the downturn, with economic Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, to growth not expected until 2024. "There is a global energy crisis,

a global inflation crisis and a global economic crisis," said Hunt."But today with this plan for stability, growth and public services, we will face into the storm. We do so today with British resilience and British compassion. Because of the difficult decisions we take in our plan, we strengthen our public finances, bring down inflation and protect jobs," he said

The UK Treasury said the plan

outlined by him is a targeted package of support for the most vulnerable, to get debt and government borrowing down and to fight inflation in the face of unprecedented global pressures brought about by the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The total amount of savings from the budget has been costed at GBP 55 billion, through raising taxes and cutting government spending.

With a cut to the top-rate of income tax threshold and freezes on several other taxes, it means millions are set to pay more in taxes in the coming years. The 45-pence higher rate of tax will now be payable from GBP 125,140, as opposed to the current GBP 150,000. The income tax personal allowance and higher rate thresholds are frozen for further two years, until April 2028.

N Korea fires missile

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Nov 17: North Korea launched a short-range ballistic missile toward its eastern waters Thursday, hours after the North threatened to launch "fiercer" military responses to the US bolstering its security commitment to its allies South Korea and Japan.

The missile fired from the North's eastern coastal Wonsan area at 10:48 am landed in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, according to its neighbours. After detecting the launch, South Korean, US and Japanese militaries quickly condemned the launch that they say threatens stability in the region.

It was North Korea's first ballistic missile firing in eight days and the latest in its barrage of tests in recent months.

bilising mechanism to keep tem-

peratures suitable for life."But it has

never been demonstrated from

data that such a mechanism has con-

sistently controlled Earth's cli-

Earth has its own temperature regulating mechanism: Study

to higher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 17: Earth has its own stabilising mechanism that can keep global temperatures within a steady, habitable range, helping bring climate back from the brink.

Scientists have long suspected that silicate weathering plays a major role in regulating the Earth's carbon cycle."Silicate weathering" is a geological process by which the slow and steady weathering of silicate rocks involves chemical reactions that ultimately draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and into ocean sediments, trapping the

gas in rocks, the study explained. The mechanism of silicate weathering could provide a geologically

lay out the government's plans to

constant force in keeping carbon dioxide - and global temperatures in check. But there has never been direct evidence for the continual operation of such a feedback, until now, the study said.

The results, produced by scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, are the first to use actual data to confirm the existence of a stabilising feedback, the mechanism of which is likely silicate weathering, the study, published in the journal Science Advances, said.

This stabilising feedback would explain how the Earth has remained habitable through dramatic climate events in the geologic past."On the one hand, it's good because we know that today's global warming will eventually be cancelled out through this stabilising feedback," said study author Constantin Arnscheidt.

"But on the other hand, it will take hundreds of thousands of years to happen, so not fast enough to solve our present-day issues."Scientists have previously seen hints of a climate-stabilising effect in the Earth's carbon cycle Chemical analyses of ancient rocks

have shown that the flux, or the flow, of carbon in and out of Earth's surface environment has remained relatively balanced even through dramatic swings in global tem-

perature. Models of silicate weathering predict that the process should have some stabilising effect on the global climate. And finally, the fact of the Earth's enduring habitability points to some in-

that we need some sort of sta-

herent, geologic check on extreme temperature swings. 'You have a

planet whose climate was subiected to so manv dramatic external changes. Why did life survive all this time? One argument is mate," Arnscheidt said. Arnscheidt and Rothman sought to confirm whether a stabilising feedback has indeed been at work, hv looking at data of global temperature fluctuations through geologic history. They worked with a range of global temperature records compiled by other scientists, from the chemical composition of ancient

marine fossils and shells, as well aspreserved Antarctic ice cores, the study said.

business



The National Stock Exchange is likely to introduce trading of electronic gold receipts. Sebi is also ironing out some taxation issues related to the product with the government

MCLAREN ENTERS INDIAN MARKET

McLaren Automotive Thursday unveiled its new 765LT spider model of its high-performance supercar, marking its entry into the Indian market. The British supercar maker also launched its first car showroom in Mumbai





(Russian oil when it happens. I have no fear or anxiety. The market will deal with the

logistics issue if it arises. Whatever happens, will be dealt with

HARDEEP SINGH PURI OIL MINISTER

I do believe that some form of selfregulation within the media and entertainment



PIYUSH GOYAL



The FRRB (Financial Reporting Review Board) is also looking into

DEBASHIS MITRA PRESIDENT, ICAI

SHORT **TAKES**

Windfall on local crude oil raised

New Delhi: The Central government has hiked windfall tax on domestic crude oil and reduced the tax on export of diesel. The tax on crude oil produced by State-owned ONGC was hiked to ₹10,200 per tonne from ₹9,500 per tonne, with effect from Thursday, according to a notification. The revision in windfall tax is done every fortnight. The government has also reduced the rate on export of diesel to ₹10.5 per litre, from ₹13 per litre. The levy on diesel includes ₹1.50 per litre road infrastructure cess. The export tax on jet fuel though has been left unchanged, which stands at ₹5 a litre.

Sandhya appointed **India head of Meta**

New Delhi: Meta Platforms appointed Sandhya Devanathan as its India head Thursday, days after Ajit Mohan quit to join rival Snap Inc. WhatsApp's India head Abhijit Bose and Meta Platforms's public policy director in India Raiiv Aggarwal also resigned earlier this week. Devanathan's appointment comes at a time when Facebook is facing regulatory challenges in India with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration tightening laws governing Big Tech companies.

ABFRL partners with **Galeries Lafayette**

New Delhi: Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL) Thursday announced a strategic partnership with leading French department store player Galeries Lafayette, to open luxury department stores and a dedicated ecommerce platform in India. Their flagship stores in Mumbai and Delhi will have more than 200 luxury and designer brands under one roof, said a joint statement. The 90,000 square feet flagship store in Mumbai is expected to be operational by 2024. While 65,000 square feet of store in Delhi is expected to be operational in 2025, it added.

DSPIM to buy 10% stake in Equitas SFB

Mumbai: DSP Investment Managers Private Ltd (DSPIM) will buy a nearly 10 per cent stake in Equitas Small Finance Bank for an undisclosed amount, following approval from the Reserve Bank of India. The bank has received an intimation from the RBI November 16, 2022, that it has granted approval to DSP **Investment Managers Private** Ltd to acquire up to 9.99 per cent of the paid-up equity capital of the bank through the schemes of DSP Mutual Fund (DSPMF), Equitas SFB said.



VS SUNDARESAN | ED, SEBI

SHRINKING UNICORNS

\$18bn gone: Harsh reality of five famed tech IPOs

Analysts feel that some IPOs fail because they may have been priced aggressively, though the share performance also depends on various other parameters including industry outlook, quality of business and management

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 17: India's five of the most-hyped technology initial public offerings have floundered since listing, shedding more than \$18 billion in value over the past 16 months, a report said Thursday.

The main reason behind this slump is concerns over valuations and rising global rates which have taken the biggest toll on the parent of Indian digital payments

giant Paytm. The other victims include delivery startup Zomato, the owner of beauty e-retailer Nykaa, logistics firm Delhivery and the operator of online insurance marketplace Policybazaar.

Indian IPOs raised a record \$18 $\,$ billion in 2021 on government efforts to foster startups combined with easy-money policy and a surge in retail trading during the pandemic. But investors have since dumped high-profile tech shares,



even as the broader Indian stock market has outperformed global peers and scaled new peaks.

"Valuations of these companies were not supported by fundamentals and the balance sheets. and their cash burn was high," said Arun Malhotra, a portfolio man-

Valuations of these companies were not supported by fundamentals and the balance sheets, and their cash burn was high. As large investors curtail their holdings, unlocked shares are adding to supply and this is accelerating the price

ARUN MALHOTRA | PORTFOLIO MANAGER. CAPGROW CAPITAL ADVISORS LLP

ager with CapGrow Capital Advisors LLP. As large investors curtail their holdings, unlocked shares are adding to supply and this is accelerating the price de-

ndia has an evolving

eveloped regions

are pushing to include

many new subjects

not directly related to

these new issues

ndia discussing

like EU and the UK

framework on most

regulatory

new issues

Paytm parent One 97 Communications Ltd plunged as much as 11% Thursday after early investor SoftBank Group Corp 4.5% sold stake in Paytm through block deals for \$200 million following the end of its IPO lock-up period.

Uber Technologies Inc, an early investor in Zomato Ltd, similarly exited the online food-delivery firm in August. It sold its entire 7.8 per cent stake in the food delivery aggregator for about Rs 3,087 crore.

"New investors should not bottom fish in these stocks if the company has no clear path to profitability," said Abhay Agarwal, a fund manager at Piper Serica

Polarisation in performance of **Indian banks to** persist, says S&P

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Polarisation in the performance of Indian banks will persist as many large public



leading private sector banks have largely addressed their asset quality challenges, and their profitability is improving more sharply than the banking system. In its Global Banking Outlook-

2023 report, S&P said economic recovery is driving credit costs to cyclical low levels and stronger balance sheets and higher demand should boost bank loan growth, but deposit growth will lag.

said, adding the return on average assets would be 'adequate' at 1 per cent.

than that of major private sector banks," it added.

rate sector, the agency added.

It said real GDP growth is likely to moderate as monetary conditions tighten and consumers grapple with higher inflation. However, India's economic growth prospects should remain strong over the medium term, with GDP expanding 6.5-7 per cent annually in fiscal

"India's growth rates remain among the strongest outcomes that universe," S&P added.

Amazon begins mass layoffs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 17: Amazon has begun mass layoffs in its corporate ranks, becoming the latest tech company to trim its workforce amid rising fears about the wider economic environment.

On Tuesday, the firm notified regional authorities in California that it would lay off about 260 workers at various facilities that employ data scientists, software engineers and other corporate workers. Those job cuts would be effective beginning January 17.

Amazon would not specify how many more layoffs may be in the works beyond the ones confirmed through California's Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, also known as WARN, which requires companies to provide 60 days' notice if they have 75 or more full-time or part-time workers. Amazon employs more than 1.5 million workers globally, pri-

marily made up of hourly workers. The company like other tech and social media giants, saw sizable profits during the pandemic boom. But revenue growth slowed as the worst of the pandemic eased and consumers relied less on ecommerce.

The retail behemoth follows other tech giants that have cut jobs in the past few weeks - a reversal from earlier this year, when tech workers were in high demand. Facebook parent Meta said last week it would lay off 11,000 people, about 13% of its workforce. And Elon Musk, the new Twitter CEO, slashed the company's workforce in half this month

SHIFTING FROM TRADE

FTAs may hit India's exports

INDIA'S ALREADY "WEAK" FTA OUTCOMES MAY WORSEN IF IT TAKES OBLIGATIONS IN THE **NEW ISSUES LIKE ENVIRONMENT, LABOUR AND SUSTAINABILITY**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 17: Taking binding commitments on new issues like environment, labour and sustainability in the proposed free trade agreements (FTA), being negotiated by India, may hamper the country's exports in the future, according to a report by Global Trade Research Initiative.

India's already "weak" FTA outcomes may worsen if it takes obligations in the new issues, the report -- FTAs: Fabulous, Futile, or Flawed? An evaluation of India's FTAs with ASEAN, Japan and South Korea - said. It added that like many developing countries, India has an evolving regulatory framework on most new issues.

"International commitments must be taken only after the domestic regulatory framework is in place. And both must be in sync. New non-trade issues may serve as non-trade barriers and hamper our exports in the future," GTRI (Global Trade Research Initiative) report said.

Developed regions like European Union and the UK are pushing to include these new issues in the

proposed trade pact with India. Former Indian Trade Service officer Ajay Srivastava is the co-founder

of GTRI. He took voluntary retire-

India's weak export performance with FTA partners should not surprise us. It happened because of high tariffs in

lower tariffs in its FTA partners, the report noted

India and significantly

ment from the Government of India in March 2022. He has a rich experience in trade policy making, and issues related to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and FTAs. He was involved in the negotiations process of India's free trade agreements with Japan and Australia.

The report said that in the FTAs under negotiations, India is discussing many new subjects not directly related to trade.

The subjects have been included at the request of developed countries and that include environment, labour, intellectual property rights, data governance, digital trade, gender, SMEs, anti-corruption, good regulatory practices, and sustainable food systems. Most of these subjects are important and are being discussed in the specialised multilateral and regional institutions where most countries, including India, are active participants, it said.

'Commitments on these issues in FTAs may prove too onerous and would increase the cost of manufacturing and services," it added

Citing an example, it said, if India's exports fail to meet the stringent environment or labour obligations specified in the agreement, India's

apparel exports may become ineligible for benefits under the pact. "Similarly, taking commitments

in data flows and digital trade when the domestic policy frameworks are not ready may not be in India's best interests," it added.

This report also claims to dispels eight myths surrounding these agreement such as FTAs weaken WTO, lead to accelerated increase in exports. promote domestic manufacturing, and that countries are rushing to do FTAs and such agreements promote investment and lower price.

On the existing trade agreements of India, it said, the increase in trade deficit pattern as noticed in the FTAs with ASEAN (Association of South east Asain Nations), Japan and South Korea will continue in the new agreements.

"The key reason would remain higher import duties in India compared to new FTA partners," it said, adding that less than 20 per cent of world trade happens at concessional customs duties and because of that India needs additional strategies to promote its trade happening outside of such agreements.

"India's weak export performnce with FTA partners should not surprise us. It happened because of high tariffs in India and significantly lower tariffs in its

sector banks are still saddled with weak assets, high credit costs, and poor earnings, S&P Global Ratings said Thursday.

It said State Bank of India and

"Polarisation in the performance of banks to persist," S&P

"Many large public sector banks" are still saddled with weak assets, high credit costs, and poor earnings. Similarly, we expect a mixedbag performance for finance companies (fincos). The asset quality of these fincos is often weaker

S&P expects loan growth to stay somewhat in line with the trajectory of nominal GDP, and loan growth to the retail sector to continue to exceed that of the corpo-

we expect, in our emerging markets

AM/NS unveils Reimagineering

MUMBAI: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) - a ioint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, two of the world's leading steelmakers- today

launched its first corporate brand campaign. The campaign is titled 'Reimagineering', a fusion of the words reimagination and engineering - key levers that will shape India's growth and development over the coming decades. It aims to promote the AM/NS India brand as being aligned with India's ambitions and serves as a strategic business assetto the company. The brand is accompanied by a new positioning statement: 'Smarter Steels, Brighter Futures'. The theme and focus of the multi-channel campaign were determined following comprehensive research with internal and external AM/NS India stakeholders, conducted by a leading global branding agency. The new brand campaign and positioning statement also draw on the unique attributes of AM/NS India's parent companies, which are globally recognised for their leadership in research and development, embrace of new technologies, and efforts to decarbonise the steel industry

Food and fuel remain the main drivers of inflation in India because they represent a larger share of the consumption basket

and have contributed to almost half of the growth in headline inflation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 17: A combination of weak growth in advanced economies, persistent inflationary pressures, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, tight financial conditions, and a subdued growth outlook for

China will create a difficult environment for emerging markets (EMs) in 2023, said Moody's Investors Service.

In a report, Moody's said next year will present a challenging backdrop for EMs.

"Our negative outlook on credit conditions for EMs will permeate to sovereigns, companies and banks. Although higher-rated EM issuers have the credit fundamentals to weather the turn in the cycle, weaker entities with ratings of B or below are vulnerable given their limited financing options and reduced capacity to absorb shocks.' the credit rating agency said.

Relatively deep domestic financial markets and proactive mone-



tary policies will support the resilience of most EM sovereigns with ratings of Ba or higher.

Lower-rated sovereigns in particular will experience credit stress amid higher borrowing costs and diminished market access, Moody's said.

As regards India, food and fuel remain the main drivers of inflation because they represent a larger share of the consumption basket. For example, rising food prices

have contributed to almost half of the growth in headline inflation this year in India, Moody's said. With rupee depreciating against

ion taken by the central bank (Reserve Bank of India) ensures an orderly and limited depreciation. Moody's said that Indian banks' asset quality will continue to im-

the US dollar, Moody's said the act

prove on recoveries and write-offs of legacy nonperforming loans. In India and China, wind and solar power are the least expensive energy sources, and governments are supporting the transition in the form of mandatory consumption targets or prioritising

renewable versus fossil fuels in

dispatching energy.

India moves towards uniform smartphone chargers

ADOPTION OF THE USB-C CONNECTORS, USED BY MANY ANDROID BASED **DEVICES, IS EXPECTED** TO HURT APPLE INC WHOSE IPHONES ARE **CHARGED USING A** LIGHTNING CABLE **CURRENTLY**

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 17: Electronics industry stakeholders in India have agreed to a phased roll-out of USB-

C type uniform charging ports for devices including smartphones and laptops, the Indian government said Wednesday. Adoption of the USB-C connec-

tors, used by many Android based devices, is expected to hurt Apple Inc whose iPhones are charged using a Lightning cable currently. The iPhone maker has to change the charger for its phones in the European Union from autumn 2024,

"A broad consensus emerged among stakeholders on adoption of USB Type-C as a charging port for electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets, laptops etc," the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said

in order to comply with new rules

that mandate a single charging

port for most electronic devices.



in a statement after a government task-force meeting with industry groups representing smartphone players. Further, it was deliber-



Industry should overcome inertia in adopting a uniform charging port in the interest of consumer welfare and prevention of avoidable e-waste

ROHIT KUMAR SINGH CONSUMER AFFAIRS SECRETARY

ated that a different charging port may be adopted for feature phones.

A different charging port may be adopted for phones lacking the more advanced features of a smartphone, such as being able to use the web to download applications, the ministry said.

A group will also be formed to examine the feasibility of a uniform charging port for wearable devices like earphones and smart watches, the government said.

The statement did not name any companies that attended the meeting or agreed to the proposal of a phased roll-out. The government would conduct a study to assess the environmental impact of switching to a uniform charging port, it said.

The uniformity in charging ports is a step towards LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP-26, which calls for 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' by people worldwide instead of 'mindful

and wasteful consumption'.



ANOTHER FRESH Laxman hints at change of approach START FOR INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wellington, Nov 17: Having not learned from their mistakes, India will aim to shed their archaic playing style for good with the help of a 'young and fearless' bunch in the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, beginning here

After the World Cup debacle in the UAE last year, India did adopt an aggressive batting approach but by the time the next edition came knocking, the top-order was found wanting and failed to take the attack to the opposition.

India found themselves running in circles as the wait for their first ICC trophy in nine years got longer. With the next T20 global event two vears away, India have enough time to identify and groom the players for an attack-at-all costs approach displayed by England.

Hardik Pandya, who could lead the team in the next T20 showpiece, will be captaining the side in Rohit Sharma's absence.

Stand-in head coach VVS Laxman has indicated that the management will be keen to add only T20 specialists to meet the requirement of the modern game. Though the focus has shifted to ODIs ahead of the World Cup next year, India would like to make most of the T20 games here and the nine more they play before the 50-over mega event.

Though Virat Kohli was in sublime touch Down Under, the lack of 'intent' from Rohit and KL Rahul

THE SQUADS

INDIA: Hardik Pandya (C), Rishabh Pant, Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshal Patel. Mohammed Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik.

NEW ZEALAND: Kane Williamson (C), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway (wk), Lockie Ferguson, Darvl Mitchell, Adam Milne, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Ish Sodhi.

in the powerplay was criticised heavily. There is a strong possibility that all three will not play the shortest format till the 2024 edition, and therefore, India need to plan for the future.

Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill will be the likely openers for the first game here but the management can also give Rishabh Pant another opportunity at the top of the order.

Though India are fielding a secondstring team in New Zealand, the squad members still have a decent amount of international experience.

The highly rated Gill, who rose to prominence with his exploits in the U-19 World Cup in New Zealand four years ago, will be

hoping to make his T20 debut here. Kishan has already been tried at the top regularly over the past 12

months and the series presents

him a good opportunity to make a strong case for the team's preferred

Sanju Samson has been handed another chance and he would be desperate to make it count. The series also marks the return of Washington Sundar after his injury issues and he would be expected to deliver both with bat and ball.

One major reason for India's T20 troubles has been their inability to take wickets in the middle overs through finger spinners. The New Zealand games could reunite the wrist spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, whose exclusion from the World Cup XI baffled many.

India also need an express pace bowler alongside Jasprit Bumrah and on that front Umran Malik seems to be their best bet. He did not have the best of times on his maiden tour of Ireland and England and will be eyeing more accuracy, without compromising on raw

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Arshdeep Singh are expected to share the new ball, like they did in Australia. Harshal Patel, who warmed the bench in the World Cup, and Mohammad Siraj, could also get a game over the course of the series

New Zealand, on the other hand will field a near full-strength side under Kane Willamson's leadership. Like India, they too would be smarting from another loss in a World Cup knockout game, and would look to bounce back strongly.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wellington, Nov 17: Stand-in head coach VVS Laxman Thursday said India will be looking to pack the side with T20 specialists as it seeks course correction after yet another World Cup failure.

England, who won their second T20 World Cup title in Australia Sunday, have set the benchmark with their fearless brand of cricket. They bat till No.11 and in the final against Pakistan, they had as many as seven bowling options even in the absence of lead pacer Mark Wood. Speaking to media ahead of the New Zealand limited overs tour, Laxman said multi-dimensional players are the need of the hour in T20 cricket.

"In white ball cricket, you need specialist players and going forward, in T20 cricket, you will see a lot more T20 specialists. T20 cricket has shown us over the years that you need multi-dimensional cricketers," said the current NCA chief ahead of the opening T20I

"We have bowlers who can bat and batters who can bowl. More number of bowlers who can bat allows the team to have depth and batters to have freedom to go out and express themselves.

"I think that's the need of hour and more and more teams will get that into their selection process and identify multi-dimensional

The next T20 World Cup is two years away but India will hit the reset button with the three games against New Zealand, followed by as many ODIs.

In the absence of Rohit Sharma, Hardik Pandya will lead the side and he is seen as the future captain of the T20 unit. Virat Kohli and KL Rahul are the other top-order batters who have been rested for the series.

'T20 cricket requires to play with a lot of freedom and clarity of thought and whatever time I have spent with these players and watch them grow in international cricket, that is their strength. It is impor-

tant to play with that freedom but also you need to assess conditions and fulfill the needs of the team," said Laxman

The top order's approach copped criticism in Australia and Laxman expects the likes of Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan to bat fearlessly in the absence of senior players.

"We have a top order that has capability to bat fearlessly. My message to top order is to bat fearlessly and express yourself but also change your strategy as per game situation. Yes we don't have KL, Rohit and Virat here but who are here are also experienced enough

Laxman also added that the series could see the reunion of Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav in the playing eleven as India aim for wickets in the middle overs.

Though India's vast pool of talent has not led to a major title since 2013, Laxman feels the team is blessed to have fringe players who are ready for the highest level, allowing all format players to take rest when needed amid a packed international calendar.

A hectic schedule also means that he needs to fill in for head coach Rahul Dravid from time to time. Laxman doesn't mind that

Messi on target as Argentina rout UAE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abu Dhabi, Nov 17: Lionel Messi played the entire game in Argentina's final World Cup warmup and scored in a 5-0 rout of the United Arab Emirates as the pretournament favorites stretched their unbeaten run to 36 games.

Messi scored his team's fourth goal right before the break, having also set up Julián Álvarez to open the scoring in the 17th minute. Angel di Maria scored twice in between.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni made four changes at halftime but opted against resting his star player, leaving Messi on for the full 90 minutes. Messi has now scored 10 goals in his last five appearances for Argentina and took his overall tally to 91 goals.

Inter Milan forward Joaquín Correa scored the visitors' fifth goal on the hour mark. Argentina start their World Cup tournament against Saudi Arabia November 22. It also faces Mexico and Poland in Group C.

FULLKRUG RESCUES GERMANY

Niclas Fullkrug scored on his Germany debut as the four-time World Cup champion earned a 1-0 win over Oman in Muscat. It was far from a convincing performance from Germany, which looked susceptible in defense and prone to mistakes

But Fullkrug's introduction for the second half brought a new dimension to an attack that had failed



Argentina players celebrate a goal against Saudi Arabia

time champion

Novak Djokovic

eased into the

final four of the

ATP Finals with

Rublev and make it

two wins out of two

in Turin to qualify

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to spark in the first half. The 17-yearold Youssoufa Moukoko became Germany's youngest debutant since Uwe Seeler, who was younger by 16 days in 1954. Kai Havertz set up Füllkrug to score what proved the winner in the 80th.

LEWANDOWSKI LEFT OUT

Robert Lewandowski watched from the bench as Poland edged Chile 1-0 in a bruising encounter thanks to a late goal from Krzysztof Piatek in Warsaw. Mexico lost their

final warmup game 2-1 to Sweden in Girona, Spain.

CROATIA BEAT SAUDI

Andrej Kramaric's late goal was enough for Croatia to beat Saudi Arabia 1-0 in Riyadh. Croatia star Luka Modric played only the last 25 minutes, enough to set up Kramaric for the winner in the 82nd. Kramaric still had to elude five Saudi defenders before scoring his 20th international goal inside the far post.

FIFA WC ROUND-UP **CR7** misses training

LISBON: Cristiano Ronaldo missed a training session with Portugal because of a stomach bug that will rule him out of a World Cup warmup match against Nigeria, the team said. Portugal are scheduled to play against Nigeria in Lisbon Thursday before flying to Qatar and coach Fernando Santos said Ronaldo will not feature in the game. Ronaldo's build-up to the World Cup has been fraught following the release of excerpts of a TV interview in which the soccer great said he feels "betrayed" by Manchester United and does not respect manager Erik ten Hag. Portugal's opening group game at the World Cup is against Ghana

Son determined

DOHA: Son Heung min suffered a fracture around his eye during a match for Tottenham but remains determined to play in Oatar. Son says he is willing to risk his health to bring joy to Korea Republic's fans at the FIFA World Cup after being pictured training in a protective mask. Son's participation in Qatar was in doubt when he suffered a fracture around his left eve in Tottenham's Champions League win at Marseille earlier this month. However, Son was named in Paulo Bento's 26-man World Cup squad. "I just want to give our fans joy and hope. I am more than willing to bear those risks. Everyone who comes to the World Cup wants to play well, but it takes more than that. Speaking realistically, it's more important to be prepared for matches than to just have the desire to play well. I can't predict the future, but I want to make this a special World Cup, using every last ounce of energy that I have.

Batters fail as Odisha suffer loss vs Baroda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Odisha batters continued their disappointing run despite having experienced Biplab Samantray and Govind Poddar in the playing eleven as they suffered a massive 148-run defeat against Baroda Thursday in their Elite Group D match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy in Mumbai.

Odisha skipper Abhishek Raut won the toss and opted to field first. The decision proved to be right until experienced Ambati Rayudu joined the crease in the 11th over with Baroda having only 32 runs on the board losing both the openers in the process

Baroda skipper Rayudu (33, 50b, 5x4), along with No.3 batter Pratyush Kumar (69, 80b, 6x4, 1x6) held their nerves and guided their side past 100. Odisha captain Raut broke the dangerous-looking stand in the 28th over dismissing his opposition skipper. The duo added 83 runs for the third wicket.

Pratvush too got out after a 44run fourth wicket partnership with Vishnu Solanki (69, 63b, 7x4, 1x6). The latter then got an ally in Bhanu Pania (55, 36b, 7x4, 1x6) as the pair forged together a game-changing 109-run stand for the fifth wicket as Baroda posted 284/7. Rajesh Mohanty (2/32) bowled well for Odisha in his 8-over spell.

In response, Odisha failed to deal with Lukman Meriwala's bowling(4/35) as they were reduced to

10/4 inside 7 overs, which almost sealed the fate of the game. However, a valiant 97-run partnership between Kartik Biswal (44, 76b, 4x4) and Rajesh Dhuper (49, 64b, 7x4, 1x6) for the fifth wicket guided Odisha past 100 and gave some respectability to their total.

However, the stand just delayed the inevitable as Odisha were bundled out for a paltry 136 in 35.3 overs. Atit Sheth (2/20) and Varun Aaron (2/31) also bowled well for

TENNIS TOURNEY

Odisha's Sai Swastik Mohanty and Ronnie Vijay Kumar of Tamil Nadu reached the final of boys' U-12 singles in MOSF AITA OTA Championships series tennis tournament at the Kalinga Stadium tennis complex here. In the semifinals Sai Swastik defeated his Odisha counterpart Aahaan Mishra 6-3, 6-, while Ronnie thrashed Swapneel Ghosh of West Bengal 6-3, 6-3.

In the girls' U-12 singles segment. T Janhavi of Andhra Pradesh emerged champion beating Padma Priya Ramesh of Karnataka 6-4, 6-0. The girls' U-14 singles final will see West Bengal's Drimi Biswas

go against Janhavi. In boys' U-14 singles category, Odisha's Mayank Modi will meet Sai Swastik in the final. In the semifinals, Mayank defeated Abhivadya Mishra of Karnataka 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(7-3), while Sai Swastik beat his statemate Aniket Sahoo 7-6(7-4), 6-4.



decision because the ground for canceling the visa no longer existed. The visa ban could have lasted for three years. "Djokovic has subsequently been granted a temporary visa to enter Australia." Giles said in a statement. The 35-year-old from Serbia is clear to compete at the Australian Open, which runs from January 16-29 in Melbourne.

less second set."

In a first set dominated by serving on the fast indoor court, the first break point didn't come until the final game and when Djokovic hit a return down the line to take the opener; Rublev threw his racket down in frustra-

Djokovic broke early in the second set and took a 3-0 lead with no way back for Rublev. The Russian won two points in the final two games as Djokovic broke again and went on to take the

match. Djokovic beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in the players' opening match. The second-seeded Tsitsipas will face Rublev Friday in their final group match with a spot in the semifinals at stake as both players are now at 1-1 in the Red Group after the Greek player beat Daniil Medvedev. Tsitsipas squandered three match points in the second set but managed to win 6-3, 6-7(11-13), 7-6(7-1).

Top-seeded Rafael Nadal was eliminated Tuesday after his second loss of the tournament, while Casper Ruud booked his place in the semifinals. Felix Auger-Aliassime and Taylor Fritz will play each other on Thursday, with the winner set to secure the other semifinal spot from Green Group.

clothing regulation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 17: Wimbledon is relaxing its requirement for all-white clothing to allow female players to wear coloured undershorts to be more comfortable on their periods.

Wimbledon eases

off eves' all-white

Wimbledon's strict policy about all-white attire for players is one of the best-known features of the grass-court Grand Slam tournament, but the All England Club said it decided to update the rules after discussions "with the WTA, clothing manufacturers and medical teams on how best to support women and girls competing at the championships.

The new rules state that women can now "wear solid, mid/dark-colored undershorts provided they are no longer than their shorts or skirt."

All other requirements for clothing and accessories remain unchanged, including the stipulation that "competitors must be dressed in suitable tennis attire that is almost entirely white.

"We are committed to support ing the players and listening to their feedback as to how they can perform at their best," said Sally Bolton, the chief executive of the All England Club.

"It is our hope that this rule adjustment will help players focus purely on their performance by relieving a potential source of anxiety."