



FASHION ICON

Actor Janhvi Kapoor, in her latest look, was compared to American socialite Kylie Jenner by netizens

LEISURE P2



'WORKING ON UK-INDIA FTA'

Rishi Sunak says UK remains committed to working 'as quickly as possible' towards the ongoing FTA talks with India

INTERNATIONAL P10



BEER BANNED IN FIFA

FIFA and Qatar Friday banned beer sales around the eight World Cup stadiums

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

MEA driver arrested on espionage charge

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Crime Branch team has arrested a driver working in the Ministry of External Affairs on the charges of espionage for allegedly leaking confidential details to a Pakistan-based person, sources said Friday. According to a source, the arrest was made Friday from the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan here. The suspect allegedly used to pass "confidential and sensitive" information related to national security to a person based in Pakistan. The source said the driver was honey-trapped by an ISI agent who pretended to be a woman when he spoke with him. Police, however, refused to share any details of the case citing concerns over national security.

BCCI sacks senior selection committee

Mumbai: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has initiated the process to re-constitute the selection committee for the senior men's team and invited applications to appoint five selectors. The board has reportedly scrapped the selection committee led by former cricketer Chetan Sharma, whose tenure was nearing end. The other members of the panel were Sunil Joshi (South Zone), Harvinder Singh (Central Zone) and Debashish Mohanty (East Zone). The move came days after India's semifinal exit in the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia. **P12**

Put Navlakha under house arrest: SC

New Delhi: Trashing NIA's apprehensions, the Supreme Court Friday ordered social activist Gautam Navlakha, accused of having links to Maoists and Pakistan's spy agency ISI, to be placed under house arrest 'without fail' within 24 hours. Navlakha is under judicial custody in Taloja Jail in Navi Mumbai in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case. A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy passed the order after sharp exchanges between the prosecution and the court. "Our order of November 10 shall be given effect to without fail within 24 hours," the bench said. **P7**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



They can't be released just like that. They are killers of a former PM & not some rapist-murderers

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	61663.48	↓ 87.12
NIFTY	18307.65	↓ 36.25
DOLLAR	81.34	↑ ₹0.29
EURO	84.40	↓ ₹0.03
GOLD	₹52,708	↓ ₹135
SILVER	₹60,880	↓ ₹98

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	30.2°C	29.5°C
MIN	17.4°C	17.0°C
Humidity	75%	71%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Mainly clear sky



AWESOME AVIAN: Painted storks on the bank of Pulicat Lake near the spaceport of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Policies for children, ports get Cabinet nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: In an aim to bring more investment to the port sector and provide hand holding support to children in need, the state Cabinet Friday approved two policies for ports and children.

The state government has formulated the Odisha Port Policy, 2022 for the holistic development of the entire maritime ecosystem of Odisha. This policy aims to provide comprehensive guidelines for integrated development of non-major ports and inland waterways, said Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra.

The port policy will facilitate the promotion of private sector investments in the maritime sector of the state, help make Odisha a favoured investment destination and provide employment opportunities to the youth of Odisha, he said.

Currently, the state has 14 notified non-major ports, out of which the ports at Dhamra and Gopalpur are already functioning, while the ports at Astaranga and Subarnarekha Mouth (Kirtania) are under construction.

This policy seeks to aid and promote development of ports and port-led industrial development through improved port linking infrastructure.

The policy also promotes other maritime ventures such as coastal shipping, promotion of marine



RELIEF FOR SINGLE DQ ALLOTTEES

Bhubaneswar: The state Cabinet decided to exclude the genuine single allottees under the discretionary quota from the purview of the Task Force report. The government has decided to exclude from the purview of the Task Force Report the allotment made under the discretionary quota which have been made in terms of the brochure and schemes to persons who are single allottees by BDA, CDA and OSHB which can be considered as genuine and which is in sync with judgement rendered by the court, the Chief Secretary said.

tourism, multipurpose harbours, introduction of sea-plane connectivity, promotion of facilities and creation of infrastructure for ship-building, ship-breaking and related activities.

Similarly, the Cabinet led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has also approved PRARAMBH-the Odisha State Policy for Children, 2022. The policy envisions the best interests of children by means of a blueprint which focuses on children's right to survival, protection, physical health, mental health, upholding the right to education, participation and other milestones required to achieve their optimal development, Mahapatra said.

For this policy and in line with UNCRC, childhood includes the

period from conception till 18 years of age. The policy will further strengthen the state's commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring rights of children and will significantly improve their overall well-being, he said.

One of the guiding principles of the policy emphasises the protection and wellbeing of children from adverse or exceptional circumstances. Affected by climate induced natural disasters, orphaned, disabled, or with special needs, children require additional protection, care and support from the state and society to lead a dignified life and to realise their full potential, according to the policy. **MORE ON P3**

Woman beheads paramour, held along with hubby

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Nov 18: A woman allegedly beheaded her paramour after he frequently assaulted her under the influence of alcohol and tried to kill her minor son at Khannagar under Sadar police limits in Balasure district, police said Friday.

The deceased was identified as Sridhar Dalabehera of Nayagarh district. Police arrested Sumitra Nayak and her husband Fakir Nayak on charges of murder. After killing Sridhar, Sumitra informed her husband Fakir over phone who then helped her disposing the torso and the severed head.

The duo dumped the torso under a cactus bush in Khannagar and the decapitated head near an under-construction bridge at Chhatabar under Bhandaripokhari police limits in Bhadrak district. Sadar police recovered the torso from Khannagar ground and the severed head from Chhatabar.

Sridhar, Fakir and Sumitra were working in a Basudha Scheme project for the past few months. During the period, Sumitra had an extramarital affair with Sridhar. They decided to stay together. Fakir after discovering the affair went back to his village. However, Sridhar's behaviour towards Sumitra changed. He would often come home drunk and assault her and even tried to kill her minor son.

Unable to endure the torture anymore, Sumitra beheaded Sridhar when he was sleeping, November 6. Later, Fakir and she dumped the torso and severed head.

Centre for easing data transfer rules



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 18: The government Friday proposed a new data privacy law that allows the transfer and storage of personal data in some countries while raising the penalty for violations.

The draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill 2022 will be a great relief for Google, Amazon, Facebook and other global firms as it replaces an earlier version that had alarmed Big Tech companies over its stringent restrictions on cross-border data flows.

The government will "notify such countries or territories outside India to which a data fiduciary may transfer personal data," according to the draft unveiled Friday for public feedback.

The new draft will become law once Parliament approves it. The proposed legislation stipulates consent before collecting personal data and provides for stiff penalties of as much as ₹500 crore on persons and companies that fail to prevent data breaches including accidental disclosures, sharing, altering or destroying personal data.

Companies are allowed to store the collected data for only specified periods.

The draft also gives powers to the central government to exempt state agencies from provisions of the bill "in the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India" and to maintain public order.

The draft bill covers personal data collected online and digitised offline data. It will also apply to the processing of personal data abroad if such data involves profiling Indian users or selling services to them.

The new draft legislation comes in place of the Data Protection Bill, which was withdrawn by the

Naveen declares 'Daman' tax-free

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: With an aim to promote Odia movie 'Daman', which is based on the malaria eradication programme of the state government, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday announced that the feature film would be exempted from entertainment tax.

The hit movie, starring Babushaan and Dipanwit Dashmohapatra in lead roles, has shown the struggle of a young doctor in providing medical services in remote areas of tribal-dominated and Maoist-hit Malkangiri district.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the movie will encourage the employees of the Health department and other government employees posted in remote areas to serve the public. The Chief Minister has expressed his strong belief that if various departments of the state government can work collaboratively like they did during the Covid-19 pandemic period, a healthy and sensible society could be built.

Apart from different cities of Odisha, the movie has also been running in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Raipur, and Ahmedabad for a week. All the shows within the state and outside are witnessing packed houses.



'Language of SC English,' not Hindi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court Friday told a litigant, who appeared in person and started arguing his case in Hindi, that the language of this court is English.

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy provided petitioner Shankar Lal Sharma, who is an elderly man, with a legal-aid counsel after finding that he was not able to understand what the court was saying.

As soon as his matter was called up, Sharma started arguing in

Hindi, saying that his case has travelled to different courts, including the top court, but he has not got any relief from anywhere.

"We have read the case file. This is a very convoluted matter, but we are not able to understand what you are saying," Justice Joseph told Sharma.

"The language of this court is English. If you wish, we can provide you a lawyer who will argue your case," the judge said.

Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Divan, who was appearing in another court, rushed to the



help of Sharma and translated to him what the bench was saying.

After talking to Sharma, Divan told the bench that the petitioner

is willing to accept the court's proposal to have a legal-aid lawyer, who can argue his case.

The bench then asked another lawyer who was sitting just behind Sharma, whether he can assist the petitioner.

After he agreed, the bench told the lawyer: "Hope, you are doing it pro bono."

"Yes, I will be doing it pro bono," the lawyer said.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing December 4 and asked the lawyer to go through the case file.

leisure



HEMSWORTH HAS HIGH CHANCE OF DEVELOPING ALZHEIMER'S

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth is genetically predisposed to Alzheimer's disease and has been told by medical experts that he is "between eight and ten times" likely to develop the condition than the general population. He said that the health warning has been unsettling for him.

AMY RECOLLECTS BEING NERVOUS WHILE WATCHING ENCHANTED

Hollywood Actress Amy Adams, whose musical fantasy movie *Disenchanted* released on OTT Friday, has shared that she was really nervous and scared while watching *Enchanted* (the prequel to *Disenchanted*) for the first time with the audience. "It was very quiet for the first bit of the movie", she said.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
A plain Jane day. Work goes on as usual, and there is progress. But as Ganesh says, it's an ordinary day. Hum, whistle, doodle, and sip your green tea. While day dreaming, start planning your dream home. After all, that's where the first plan takes shape.

TAURUS
Luck is a four-leaf clover in your pocket. You might get the long desired success in education related matters today – a favourable result of a competitive examination, maybe. You will proudly smile at your power of resilience and sense of proportion, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will be afforded full co-operation by your relatives and friends. You will also be able to provide a solution to their problems by utilising your practical thinking. You will be influenced by your emotions while choosing between multiple alternatives. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of any decision you make today, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Your speech will today explode your thoughts. You will ponder over new deals and decide to act only after much thought. Ganesh feels that you met with success in your ambition to achieve a breakthrough.

LEO
You will feel a little uneasy today. You will feel that nothing is going right. You will try to organise yourself and concentrate your scattered energies today. This phase of uncertainty will be gone in a few days, assures Ganesh.

VIRGO
A day to look inside and contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesh. Clam up like those oysters and discover the pearl within you. A fine helping hand you shall lend today to those who need it, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh has a feeling that today may not be the best day to undertake any government dealings. Call it red-tapism, or bureaucratic procrastination, but it is highly unlikely that such tasks shall be fruitful today. This may test your patience, and in doing so, bring out your competency and efficiency to the fore, especially if you happen to be a public servant. Touché!

SCORPIO
If you have recently started a joint business venture, today you may take your first step towards sealing a profitable deal. However, you should buy some time before signing any contract today; also, be cautious that you do not get the short end of the stick.

SAGITTARIUS
You wake up with a smile today. According to Ganesh, you have a knack of solving problems, which you may use it to the optimum. Be cautious of people around you, as their envious nature may affect your work. Ignore them and keep the optimism alive.

CAPRICORN
Singles, you may meet the one of your dreams today and plan about a future together. You will feel and enjoy the exciting feeling of meeting your life partner and letting your heart open in front of somebody, says Ganesh. All of this will not be one sided. Your sweetheart will also shower love and affection upon you unconditionally.

AQUARIUS
Listen to your inner voice, follow what your heart says and you will not need any one else guiding you on your path. At work, you will have a smooth sailing today, as superiors will be supportive of your actions and decisions. Go on a romantic date in the evening, and mark a perfect ending to the day, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
If you are the leader of a project or a team, then today is your day. Your enthusiasm and creativity will give a sense of purpose and direction to your colleagues. You are more concerned about the means rather than the ends. Today is a good day to progress on the work-front. While no remarkable events are likely to occur in your personal life, your family will expect you to pay attention to their needs, says Ganesh.

Janhvi shells out Kylie Jenner vibes

MUMBAI: Actress Janhvi Kapoor turned heads at the Elle beauty awards 2022 and looked like a princess straight out of a fairytale. Her new pictures are shelling out Kylie Jenner vibes to her fans. However, Janhvi said it is inspired by something else. She wore a blue sequined mermaid gown with a plunging sweetheart neckline. She further elevated her look with matching embellished gloves. Her look is a blend of painter Sandro Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* and Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*.

She posted new pictures from a photoshoot and wrote, "The vision was Botticelli's Venus meets *The Little Mermaid*". Reacting

to them, a fan wrote, "You are gorgeous." "Next Kylie Jenner," added some other fan. Many also dropped heart and fire emojis in the comment section.

This is not the first time that Janhvi has been compared to Kylie. But, did you know once Kylie wished Janhvi on her birthday? While speaking with cousin Shanaya about Kardashians, Janhvi received a sweetest gift from Kylie.

When asked about the gift that she got from Kylie, the Dhadak actor pulled out her phone. She showed her a video. "Hey Janhvi, it's Kylie! We love you," Kylie said in the video and blew her a kiss.

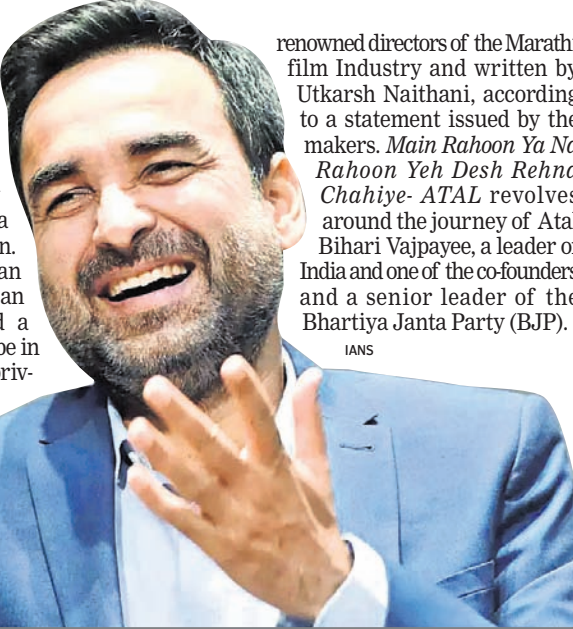


Pankaj roped in for Vajpayee's biopic

MUMBAI: Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi will be starring in the biopic of India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Pankaj said, "It's my honour to portray such a humane politician on screen. He was not just a politician but so much more, he was an excellent writer and a renowned poet. Getting to be in his shoes is nothing but a privilege for me".

The film will be helmed by three times National Award winner Ravi Jadhav, one of the



renowned directors of the Marathi film industry and written by Utkarsh Naithani, according to a statement issued by the makers. *Main Raahon Ya Na Raahon Yeh Desh Rehna Chahiye- ATAL* revolves around the journey of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a leader of India and one of the co-founders and a senior leader of the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP).



Kartik to perform at IFFI opening event

MUMBAI: Indian actor Kartik Aaryan, who has had quite a successful run at the box-office, is set to perform the closing act of the inaugural ceremony of 53rd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), in Goa. The festival, which opens November 20 and will run through November 28, will see the actor shaking a leg to some of the hit numbers from his films as a part of the opening ceremony.

Recently, the song *Kaala Jaadu* from *Freddy* was released to a positive response from the audience. He will be performing on the very song for his act along with the title track of his movie *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*.

Kartik Aaryan is currently making headlines for his upcoming film *Freddy*. After its intriguing teaser, the superstar made the nation groove on this recently released song *Kaala Jaadu* and now he is all set to bring the magic of his dancing spectacles on the stage of IFFI 2022.

Alaya on her real time preparation for Freddy

MUMBAI: Actress Alaya F, who will be seen opposite Kartik Aaryan in the upcoming streaming movie *Freddy*, didn't get time to prepare for her role in the movie owing to a tight-rope of a schedule.

She was shooting for a project in Chandigarh which got extended. Hence, she didn't have enough time at her disposal as she was on the sets of *Freddy* the very next day after the shoot wrapping up in Chandigarh. Elaborating on the same, the actress said, "Usually, I'm a very preparation-heavy actor. I find a lot of comfort in preparation. But for *Freddy*, it was completely different. I was shooting for another film in Chandigarh at the time and that schedule got extended. So, as soon as I wrapped that shoot and came back to Bombay, I was on the sets of *Freddy* the very next day. There was zero time in between".



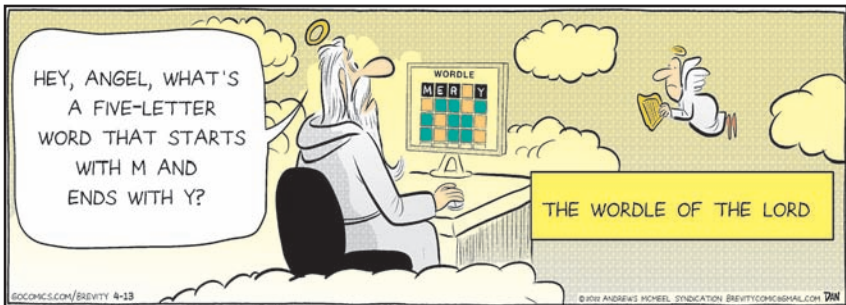
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

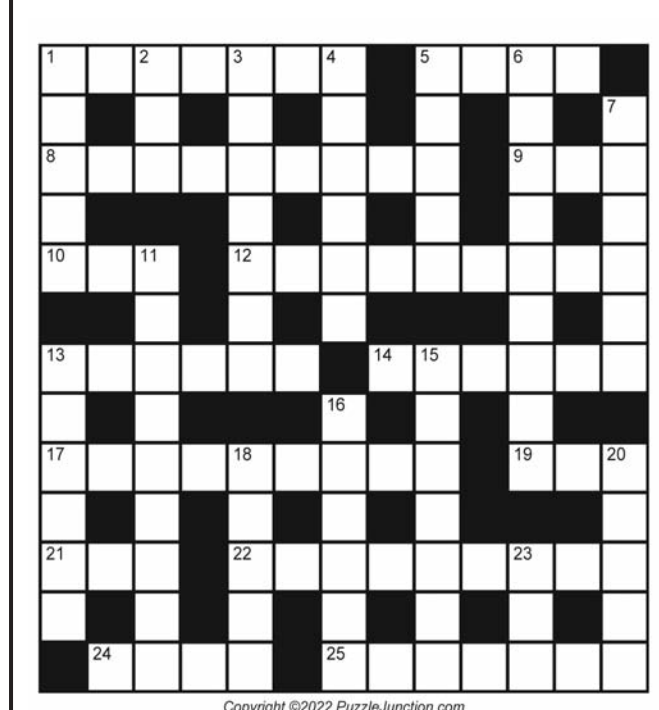


BREVITY



FUN post

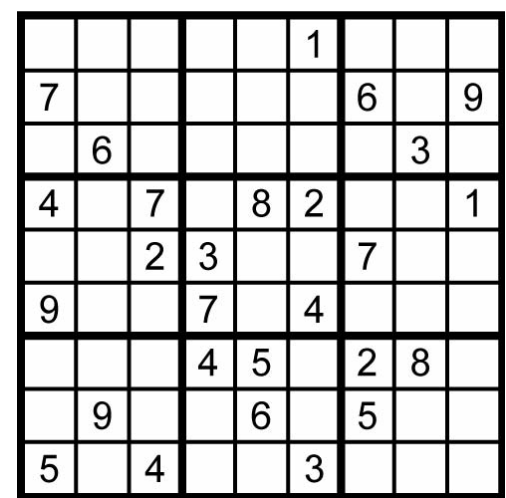
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Big talker?
 - 5 Notability
 - 8 Hospital vehicle
 - 9 Tourist's aid
 - 10 In shape
 - 12 They show up in hair (5,4)
 - 13 Type of excuse
 - 14 Evil spirits
 - 17 Embellish, as a story
 - 19 Congeal
 - 21 Swedish shag rug
 - 22 Gala affairs
 - 24 Theories
 - 25 Astronaut's concern
 - 4 Docile
 - 5 Armada
 - 6 Kind of occasion
 - 7 Twitches
 - 11 Fast sailboats
 - 13 Felt hat
 - 15 Blight
 - 16 Recipe direction
 - 18 Gravy type (2,3)
 - 20 Delicious
 - 23 Young newt
- Down**
- 1 Pier
 - 2 Collar
 - 3 Small round soft masses

SUDOKU

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

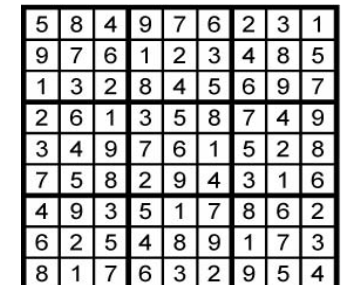


SOLUTIONS

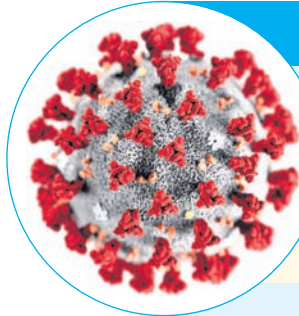
CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,21,17,235	62,14,80,136	66,22,212
India	4,46,67,967	4,41,30,380	5,30,553
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

PACT INKED

An MoU was signed between Odisha Police and National Law University of Odisha in Cuttack, Friday, to boost police-law student professional relationship



ED: Archana got SUV from politico as gift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has reportedly elicited startling facts about Archana Nag sextortion case. During interrogation of Archana's aide and business partner Khageswar Patra, who has been on a 10-day remand, the ED sleuths learnt that some influential political leader had gifted a costly Ford Endeavour (an SUV) to the lady blackmailer.



Following this, ED has stepped up efforts to trace the SUV which was bought from Capital Ford showroom in the City. The SUV was registered in the name of Archana with a payment of Rs 33 lakh in 2020.

Meanwhile, the ED officials Friday grilled the vehicle showroom owner's son for around one hour and collected various documents related to the purchase of SUV. ED has also reportedly written letters to the authorities of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to trace the vehicle.

On the other hand, the Central agency sleuths Friday carried out searches at three places including the used 4-wheeler showroom 'Supreme Car Bazar' owned by Patra, Archana's Satya Vihar residence and an apartment in Palasuni area. However, it failed to find out the SUV.

Sources in ED revealed that it would interrogate Archana and her husband Jagabandhu Chand in Jharpada jail Saturday.

RJ Varsha spreads green message through the air

Varsha Raikwar, a 25-year-old radio jockey from a non-descript village in Madhya Pradesh, is using community radio - Radio Bundelkhand - to spread awareness about climate change. Varsha will be attending 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2022: The Power of Youth'. In 2021, She found a place among 17 Promising Young Environmental Activists selected for UN India's 'We The Change' campaign

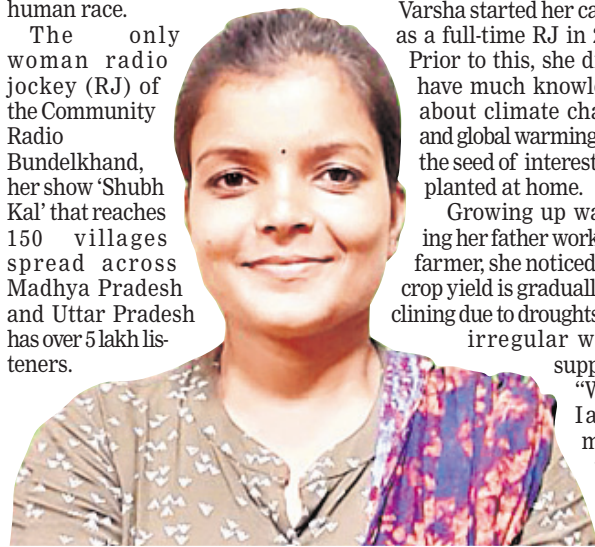
In the small town of Orchha - located in Madhya Pradesh's Bundelkhand region - Varsha's compering is heard loud and clear when she spreads the message of protecting the mother earth. The young broadcasting climate activist has been educating hundreds of villages about the repercussions of climate change and environmental degradation on the human race.

The only woman radio jockey (RJ) of the Community Radio Bundelkhand, her show 'Shubb Kal' that reaches 150 villages spread across Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh has over 5 lakh listeners.

In areas where her voice cannot reach, the team resorts to narrowcasting - taking radio to the people. The team brings together a group of people and plays the recorded programme for them. In the last five years, Varsha along with her colleagues has made multiple radio programmes to educate people about the pivotal role of environmental safety in people's lives.

Varsha started her career as a full-time RJ in 2017. Prior to this, she didn't have much knowledge about climate change and global warming. But the seed of interest was planted at home.

Growing up watching her father work as a farmer, she noticed that crop yield is gradually declining due to droughts and irregular water supply. "When I asked my father



why that was happening, he simply said that this was God's wish. But I wasn't convinced, and wondered why it had to be like this."

This provided her the food for thought and prompted her to search for answers. The more she understood how the changing environment is affecting farming, the more her interest piqued. She also understood the immense importance of forests, rivers and natural ecosystem around her.

Environment is a burning issue today, but there is very less awareness among people about it. "Even if we put rural areas aside, there's not much curiosity amongst the metropolitan cities as well," she said.

Cabinet nod to ₹1,500cr master plan for OUTR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The state Cabinet Friday approved the master plan of Rs 1,500 crore for development of the Odisha University of Technology & Research (OUTR) by upgrading the College of Engineering & Technology (CET), Bhubaneswar.

With this, the university intends to extend its advanced technological facilities to the poor and meritorious students of the state by enhancing the existing student strength from 5,000 to 10,000 within the next five years, said Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra.

The proposed university will promote education, research and training in engineering and technology, including information technology and its application, architecture, planning, management and applied sciences for betterment of the society.

The implementation of the master plan for transformation of OUTR will broaden the horizon and give impetus to multi-disciplinary teaching and research. This will also help in introducing new generation industry oriented and employment linked courses, he said.

The Cabinet, which has approved a total of 17 proposals, has given its nod to a budget of Rs 929.55 crore for implementation of Crop Diversification Programme for three years (2022-23 to 2024-25), Mahapatra said.

The programme is supported through the State Plan Scheme. It will be implemented in all the 30 districts.

In three years, altogether 3.7 lakh hectare rice fallow areas will be covered under pulse crop, 1.5 lakh hectare upland & medium land paddy areas will be diverted to non-paddy & high value crops and an area of 0.5 lakh hectare



Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena during the Cabinet meeting in Bhubaneswar, Friday

₹929.55 CRORE WILL BE SPENT UNDER CROP DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAMME IN THREE YEARS

TWO IRRIGATION PROJECTS WORTH ₹521 CRORE APPROVED FOR CUTTACK, JAJPUR, KEONJHAR DISTRICTS

GOVT TO PROVIDE ₹4.04 CRORE ASSISTANCE TO JD CENTRE OF ARTS, KHANDAGIRI

The project envisages a reservoir across Hadua river near village Kharod in Cuttack district with construction of a 387-metre long and 43.825-metre high concrete dam besides a central ogee crest spillway as proposed.

A tender of Rs 297.13 crore has been approved for construction of Left Bank Canal structures as part of Rengali irrigation project. The project will provide irrigation facilities to 19,835 hectare cultivable command area (CCA) through Korei branch canal and Barapada branch canal in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts.

The state government has decided to provide Rs 4.04 crore assistance to JD Centre of Arts, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, towards construction and extension of its buildings. The financial assistance sanctioned by the state government will help JDCA to be built as a museum of international standard, the Chief Secretary said.

The Cabinet also approved a one-time settlement scheme for captive electricity consumers to clear their long pending dues.

regular cultivated paddy areas will be diverted to indigenous aromatic paddy of export potential.

Similarly, two tenders worth over Rs 521 crore for construction of two dams have been approved by the panel.

Tender worth Rs 221.43 crore with maintenance cost of Rs 3.35 crore has been approved for Hadua Medium Irrigation Project, which is contemplated for integrated development of Narsinghpur, Badamba and Tigiria blocks of Cuttack district.

HC stays OPSC decision on promotion of DSPs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The Orissa High Court has stayed the July 22, 2022 decision of the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) regarding the relaxation of minimum service period for promotion of Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) to the rank of Additional SP.

While hearing a plea filed by Gumanidhi Mallik, the HC stayed the decision till the next hearing, sources in know of the development said.

As many as 15 Odisha Police Service (OPS) officials got direct appointment to the post of DSP in 2016.

On June 26, 2018, the OPSC issued a notice (4962/PSC) declaring that OPS officers can be promoted to the post of Additional SP after completion of five years of service as DSPs. While those who had become DSPs after promotions from sub-inspector (SI) may be promoted to the rank of OPS (SB) or Additional SP after completion of three years in service as DSP.

On July 22, 2022, the commission, however, issued another notification (6769) tweaking its earlier norms. It relaxed the necessary service period for promotion to six months from three years for the promoted DSPs.

The commission's move brought resentment among the OPS officials who were directly appointed to DSP posts in 2016.



The OPS officials alleged that although they have completed the mandatory five years of service period as DSPs, the state government did not take them into consideration for the promotion to the post of Additional SP. "However, the OPSC tweaked the rules to promote the cops who had joined as sub-inspectors and got promoted to DSP post in 2021 and subsequently to Additional SP post just after serving six months in service as DSP," said sources.

The court posted the next hearing of the case to second week of December this year.

Theft handiwork of insiders: Sura

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Jatin MLA of Congress Suresh Routray Friday said that outsiders won't dare to steal materials from Congress Bhawan and that it could be the handiwork of some insiders.

Unidentified miscreants stole a voltage stabilizer, electric wire and some electronic materials from Congress Bhawan, the state headquarters of Congress party here, police said Friday. Congress party office secretary Baidyanath Swain lodged a complaint at Capital police station regarding the theft, the police said. Routray termed the incident as unfortunate and blamed his own partymen for the theft.

Mo Bus runs over minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: A 13-year-old school student was run over by a Mo Bus here Thursday.

Sources said Sambit Kumar Nayak, a resident of Satabdi Nagar area under Khandagiri police limits, was returning from tuition at Delta Square around 6am when a two-wheeler hit him.

He escaped unhurt but stopped there for a while due to panic. Soon, a speeding Mo Bus hit him.

Sambit was rushed to Capital Hospital and then to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack where he succumbed.



FACE-OFF OVER EVICTION: Dwellers of Salia Sahi in the City oppose the eviction drive being carried out by civic authorities to give way for a new road through the slum, Friday

Meet over Daya river sub-basin inconclusive

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 18: The meeting between Odisha, Chhattisgarh and assessors, as directed by the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal for the delineation of Mahanadi basins, remained inconclusive on whether Daya river sub-basin forms part of Mahanadi basin.

The meeting between technical experts of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and assessors could not arrive on a consensus with respect to lower Mahanadi sub-basin and Daya sub-basin. Sources said there were discrepancies in the shape files prepared by the assessors and the party states. According

MAHANADI WATER DISPUTES

to Odisha and Chhattisgarh, there were certain areas which were part of Mahanadi basin as per the ground reality but not getting depicted through satellite data.

Sources said the tribunal has been informed that the issue needs more technical inputs. Therefore, it could not be resolved in the meeting and further meeting is required in coming days. Significantly, the tribunal will hear the case Saturday.

Earlier, the tribunal had asked the two assessors appointed by it to hold meeting with Odisha and Chhattisgarh to delineate the Mahanadi river basin and sub-basin boundaries and clear the controversy whether Daya river forms part of Mahanadi Basin.

Now, tech to turn ACs into affordable air purifiers

Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, have developed a one-of-a-kind technology to turn air conditioners (ACs) into affordable air purifiers during the winter season.

With smog and pollution posing grave danger across several cities, especially during the winter, this invention is expected to be a boon for many, officials said.

Ankush Sharma, Professor in-charge (Innovation and Incubation) at IIT-Kanpur, said, "This technology comes as a simplistic handy tool, which can be easily mounted atop regular ACs and utilised by switching on the 'fan mode'. The air filters are equipped with 'Anti-Microbial Air Purification Technology' developed by the researchers."



"It has been tested at NABL Accredited Lab and has proven to be able to successfully deactivate SARS-CoV-2 (Delta variant) with an efficiency of 99.24 per cent," he added.

Co-Professor-in-charge (Innovation and Incubation) Amitabha Bandyopadhyay said, "This indigenous revolutionary innovation has tremendous po-

tential to succeed in the global market. This launch is indicative of technology catering to critical world problems."

The existing air filters in the market work on a particle capture mechanism. However, with continuous use, the filter itself becomes a breeding ground for germs like a Petri dish. "The minimum cost of such air

purifiers in the market is around Rs 10,000, which usually comes with a fan and an air filter to clean the air. On the other hand, this new type of air filter has proven to restrict microbial growth and is capable of capturing PM2.5, PM10, dust, pollen, allergens and germs from the air while purifying," Bandyopadhyay said.

The technology has been licensed to AiRTH, a start-up incubated at IIT-Kanpur, for marketing.

"It has been launched in the form of a product as 'Clean Air Module' and comes at an affordable price of Rs 2,000. One 'Clean Air Module' is claimed to be as effective as 10 normal AC filters. The product is now available for purchase through AiRTH's website and other e-commerce sites," said Ravi Kaushik, an IIT-Bombay alumnus and CEO of AiRTH.



CASUAL COMMERCE: People purchase kitchenware from makeshift shops set up in the Balyatra lower ground after conclusion of the trade fair in Cuttack, Friday

BJP holds 'satyagraha' near House; laughable says BJD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: With the by-poll in Odisha's agrarian Padampur constituency drawing near and the BJD and BJP dubbing each other as "anti-farmer", the saffron brigade Friday launched an indefinite 'satyagraha' near the state Assembly highlighting farmers' issues.

Odisha BJP general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan said the 'satyagraha' has been launched against different issues affecting the farmers like farm assistance, crop insurance, and supply of fertilizers and seeds.

The ruling BJD rejected BJP's allegations calling it "laughable," and suggested that BJP should instead shift its 'satyagraha' to near the Parliament.

Holding the BJD government responsible for farmers not getting the benefit of crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Harichandan said the 'satyagraha' will be extended to other parts of the state if government doesn't take any actions.

"The crop insurance claim settlement was delayed as the state government did not support the crop cutting report at the right time and because of the unholy nexus between some officials and the insurance companies," Harichandan claimed.

During natural calamities, like floods and cyclones, farmers cut their crops and the reports show the actual loss caused by the disaster.

The state has been witnessing allegations and counter allegations over the delay in the payment of crop insurance claims to farmers, particularly those of Padampur in Bargarh district where voting is scheduled to be held December 5. The by-poll in Padampur was necessitated following the death of BJD MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha October 3.

"The state government cannot escape its responsibilities as the PMFBY is a central scheme,"



Dubbing the saffron party as "anti farmer", BJD MP Sasmith Patra questioned the status of the BJP's announcement to increase the MSP by 1.5 times of production cost in its election manifesto

Harichandan said.

Alleging that the Potato Mission has completely failed in the state, Harichandan blamed the state government for not being helpful to farmers.

He said the state government has given only ₹4,000 to each farmer though it had earlier announced that it would pay ₹10,000 as agriculture assistance to small and nominal farmers every year under its KALIA scheme, citing the 2019 polls. The rest ₹6,000 was given from the Pradhan Mantri Krushak Nidhi Yojana, he alleged.

The BJD leaders also claimed that about 90 per cent of the fertilisers available in the markets in Odisha are duplicate.

"The BJD government doesn't even have a database of all the farmers of the state," Harichandan alleged. Earlier, senior BJP leader and union minister Dharmendra Pradhan urged his counterpart in the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare departments, Narendra Singh Tomar, to order a probe into irregularities in the implementation of the PMFBY in the state, partic-

ularly in Bargarh's Padampur area. Rejecting BJP's allegations, BJD MP Sasmith Patra said "It is laughable. The BJP should instead shift its 'satyagraha' venue to Parliament and urge its party at the Centre to give up its anti-farmer attitude. It should seek justice for farmers of Odisha."

He said the BJP MLAs had unanimously supported the resolution to increase the MSP of paddy to ₹2,930 along with all BJD and Congress MLAs in Assembly in 2018. "The BJD should ask the Centre to implement the resolution," Patra said.

Dubbing the saffron party as "anti farmer", Patra, who is an MP, questioned the status of the BJP's announcement to increase the MSP by 1.5 times of production cost in its election manifesto and the Swaminathan Commission report, whose recommendations it had promised to implement.

The BJD leader alleged that the BJP was "simply attempting to mislead the people". He also accused the Centre of attempting to stall the implementation of the state government's KALIA scheme, which is a package for farmers' welfare and stands for Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation.

Tomar has cleared the procedure for settlement of the crop insurance claims, while Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced ₹200 crore package for the payment of input subsidy for the drought affected farmers.

Jammu Mayor visits City to learn about waste processing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: A team from Jammu, headed by Mayor Rajindar Sharma, visited the City Friday to gain exposure on decentralised waste management and the role of community in the process.



The team showed interest in the role of community in the waste management process

The team visited two Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) and a Micro Composting Centre (MCC) at TTS near Sainik School. At Lingraj railway over-bridge the team members saw two MCC and one MRF Jammu, currently having traditionally single processing unit needs to adopt decentralised processing units keeping the growth of city in mind.

The team appreciated the way of waste collection, management of MCC and MRF with active and ward wise involvement of Swachha Sathis. They also learnt about management and market linkage of Mo Khata, its cross district reach and pace of consumption by individual and organisational users.

Weekly collection and management of electronics and domestic hazardous waste through active involvement of gated communities, resident welfare association, commercial pockets and sanitation agencies, its management were discussed during the visit.

An interaction meeting with the team was organised in presence of BMC Mayor Sulochana Das and Commissioner Vijaya Amruta Kulange.

Members discussed about the citizen centric activities like public interface, Mo Ward Meeting, five metre radius cleaning, night sweeping and no advertisement on tree, pole, and wall like new initiatives.

Das focused on inclusive development policies like women empowerment, e-office initiative, grievance redressal and ward wise feedback mechanism. Kulange briefed about ward office structure and decentralised administration as well as budget allocation.

Team BMC honoured the guests with Uttariya, Konark wheel filigree work along with the coffee table book "The Speaking Stone" and annual report Awahan.

Now, Capital Hospital OPD services from 9am to 5pm

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Now, patients can visit the outpatient department (OPD) of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) and Capital Hospital here between 9am and 5pm, an official said Friday.

According to a recently released notification of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department, the OPD timing of PGIMER and Capital Hospital will be from 9am to 5pm with an hour of lunch break from 1pm to 2pm.

Earlier, the OPD timing of the premier healthcare facility was from 8am to 12noon and 4pm to 6pm.

"Besides, regular OPD hours, emergency services would be available from 5pm to 9am," read the notification undersigned by H&FW department commissioner-cum-secretary Shalini Pandit. Sources said the state govern-



Besides, regular OPD hours, emergency services would be available from 5pm to 9am

ment has established the PGIMER and Capital Hospital here for imparting PG courses in 11 clinical and four non-clinical or para-clinical disciplines.

Among the clinical departments, the National Medical Commission has approved for admission in 24 PG seats in six departments from the academic year 2022-23.

Minister distributes motorised wheelchairs

Bhubaneswar: Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Minister Ashok Chandra Panda distributed motorised wheelchairs to the differently-abled during a programme organised by 'Swabhiman' at Terapanth Bhawan here, Friday.

Addressing the programme, the minister said, "Odisha is proud to have a son of the soil who has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair attachment NeoBolt, and a personalised wheelchair called NeoFly that aims to enhance the health and lifestyle of the differently-abled." He also congratulated the youth with disabilities for having been selected for such unique modes of transport. He was speaking in a programme that has been associated with IITM Incubation Cell and NeoMotion. The first eight smart rides 'NeoBolt' developed by NeoMotion Assistive Solutions Private Limited - IITM Incubation Cell, IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai will help wheelchair users move around independently even outside the house.

Workshop in City on ways to improve child nutrition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Child in Need Institute (CINI), an organisation working for health, nutrition, child protection and development of children in the country with the support of UNICEF, organised a Media Workshop on "Accelerating Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), including complementary foods and feeding practices to improve child nutrition and to prevent malnutrition in Odisha" here Friday.

The experts at the workshop threw light on many aspects of IYCF practices which could be addressed with the help of media, such as prevention of malnutrition, stunting and wasting in children.

Speaking on the importance of Infant and Young Child

Feeding practices, Sunil Kumar Agarwalla, professor, SCB Medical College and Hospital, said, "The first 1,000 days from the time of pregnancy till 2 years are the crucial time to provide quality life to a baby. Adequate nutrition during this time is essential to ensure the growth, health, and development of the child to its full potential."

Putting a lens on the proper IYCF practices, nutrition specialist Sourav Bhattacharjee, said, "India is home to one-third of the 156 million stunting children which makes India the global capital of stunting."

To combat child malnutrition, the state government, in partnership with UNICEF and CINI, has started many flagship programs.



Dignitaries during the workshop on 'Role of media in enhancing optimal infant and young child feeding practices in Odisha' at a hotel in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Virtual exposure to greenery benefits pregnant women

Pregnant women who were 'virtually' exposed to greenery experienced decreases in blood pressure and improvements in mental health and well-being, a new small-scale study found.

The research team from University of California, US, found that visual exposure to a virtual reality (VR) green space environment was associated with lower systolic blood pressure, reduced salivary alpha-amylase (an indicator of stress), improved positive emotions and decreased negative emotions compared to the non-green space environment.

The parklike setting received the highest positive reaction out of the three five-minute, 360-degree videos of urban environments that the women were shown in the study, the researchers said. The

findings have been published in the journal Environmental Research.

"Even short exposure to a virtual green space environment showed physiological and affective stress reduction among pregnant women," co-corresponding author of the study Jun Wu said.

"It's not the same as the real world, but this study helps inform city planners who are creating urban spaces. It proves the importance of green space to the well-being and mental health of the population living in those spaces," said Wu.

According to the study, there is extensive research on the positive impacts of green space exposure on health and well-being, including reduced risk of mortality, cardiovascular disease and Type 2 diabetes; improved pregnancy outcomes such as decreased risk

THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF EXPOSURE TO GREEN SPACE ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING INCLUDES REDUCED RISK OF MORTALITY, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES AND TYPE 2 DIABETES

FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, THE POSITIVE IMPACTS INCLUDE STRESS REDUCTION, IMPROVED PREGNANCY OUTCOMES SUCH AS DECREASED RISK OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT AND PRETERM BIRTH

EMOTIONS SUCH AS FEELING ATTENTIVE, ACTIVE, ALERT, EXCITED, ENTHUSIASTIC, DETERMINED, INSPIRED, PROUD, INTERESTED OR STRONG WERE COUNTED UNDER 'POSITIVE'

of low birth weight and preterm birth; and enhanced mental health.

However, exploration of the link between physiological mechanisms and green space among special populations, like pregnant women, has been lacking, said the study.

Researchers recruited 63 healthy

pregnant women from Beijing to participate in the double-blind, randomized study. They began by triggering anxiety among them via a lab-developed stress test.

Then the women were shown three five-minute, 360-degree videos of urban environments: one de-

picting a parklike setting, the second consisting of a street view with green space, and the third featuring a street view without green space.

Before and after the videos, researchers measured participants' blood pressure, heart rate and skin



conductance level, collected saliva samples.

They also administered a questionnaire to the participants about the positive or negative emotions they were experiencing following watching the videos.

Emotions such as feeling attentive, active, alert, excited, enthusiastic, determined, inspired, proud, interested or strong were counted under 'positive'. Emotions such as feeling hostile, irritable, ashamed, guilty, distressed, upset, scared, afraid, jittery or nervous were considered as 'negative'.

The researchers suggested that future studies of a similar kind might consider different "dosages" of urban green space, computer-generated scenarios versus actual nature environments, and short-versus long-term impacts.

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Elephant emergency in Keonjhar

VIRAL RAGGING VIDEO

Higher Education dept begins probe in college

Keonjhar, Nov 18: Elephant population is on a decline under Keonjhar forest division due to rising man-animal conflict and other reasons.

According to details available from the Forest department, as many as 31 pachyderms have died in Keonjhar forest division during last six years. While only eight of the animals died a natural death, the rest 23 deaths were unnatural. Among those, four died in train accidents, three in road mishaps, five electrocuted while 11 died of diseases.

Two jumbos died in 2017-18, three in 2018-19, six in 2019-20, seven in 2020-21, seven in 2021-22 and six in 2022-23 so far. The figure could go up towards the end of the year if adequate measures are not taken to protect the animals from the harsh fallout of man-animal conflicts.

Similarly, humans are equally falling prey to the lingering conflicts with elephants. As many as 47 people have lost their lives in elephant attacks from 2018-19 so far. As per sources, 14 persons died in 2018-19, nine in 2019-20, six in 2020-21, 14 in 2021-22 and four so far in 2022-23.

The Forest department has spent around ₹1.88 crore towards payment of compensation. During this period, over 200 were injured in elephant attacks while eight



persons suffered physical disabilities. The injured have been paid ₹17.60 lakh towards compensation.

Elephant menace has become a regular affair in Keonjhar district where the animals often stray into human habitats and cause mayhem by destroying crops and pulling down houses of the villagers.

They also kill people when they come face to face with them. This has led to a rise in animosity between villagers and animals. The common people look towards the Forest personnel to protect them but the latter fail to do their bit due to

inadequate staff under Keonjhar forest division.

Illegal poaching is also another reason to blame for the sharp decrease in number of elephants. People either kill these animals out of vengeance for the destruction they cause in their villages or poach the tuskers for ivories.

The inability of the Forest department to protect the villagers has sparked resentment among the villagers. Locals alleged that the compensation they receive in exchange for their loss is much less in comparison to the actual loss they incur

Out of 31 elephant deaths in last 6 years in the district, only eight died a natural death and the rest 23 deaths were unnatural

Train and road accidents, electrocution, poaching, and diseases are the leading factors of such unnatural casualties

As many as 47 people have lost their lives in elephant attacks since 2018-19 till now

Staff shortage has been a hurdle for the Forest department in this division to check the man-elephant conflict

Jumbo herds are robbing the livelihood of farmers by destroying their paddy and vegetable crops. They are also pulling down the houses of villagers and pushing them to penury. A farmer Sanjay Panda of Nelung village said that the affected farmers and villagers are being paid compensation but they receive very less in exchange due to lack of proper assessment of their loss.

Forest officials said that 13,329 farmers have suffered crop loss on 10,732 acre land since 2018-19. They have been paid ₹3,82,52,276 towards compensation, Forest officials said. Similarly, 781 persons suffered partial damage to their houses while 308 had complete loss of houses. These

people have been paid with ₹4,09,600 towards compensation.

Severe staff crunch is impacting tracking of elephant movement. Forest officials have been engaged to keep a track of jumbo movement daily and file a report to this effect to their senior authorities. However, staff crunch has hit the plan. There have been many occasions when Forest officials come to know about the elephant deaths much later. The Forest department also has other responsibilities to look after apart from checking elephant menace. It is also keeping a tab on mineral and timber smuggling, poaching and working on plantation programmes and various other developmental works under MGNREGS.

The department has posts for 237 employees but has to manage with only 125 of them. The rest 112 posts are lying vacant. Maximum posts are those of forest guards who work on the ground zero. There are 139 posts of forest guards under the forest division. However, it has only 60 forest guards while the rest 79 posts are lying vacant. Many of the forest guards have to look after two to three forest beats making it difficult for them to track the movement of the elephants and take steps to prevent any impending danger to the animals.

Ragging rocks Keonjhar



Keonjhar: A day after 12 students were rusticated from a government-run college in Ganjam on the charges of ragging a girl student, another incident of ragging has allegedly taken place at Odisha School of Mining Engineering in Keonjhar. Some senior students allegedly did ragging with juniors at a hostel of the institute last Friday. Following a complaint from some students, the school authorities have started an investigation into the allegation. The matter has triggered worries among the guardians. They expressed their displeasure over such an unfortunate incident and are concerned about the future of their wards. It was also alleged that the principal of the school is playing truant most of the time, which has caused mess and indiscipline in the school. On the other hand, principal Gyana Ray did not term the incident as ragging. "Senior students made some junior students sing songs and dance. After receiving the complaint, an investigation has been ordered. After the probe report is available, stern action will be taken against the students if they are found guilty of ragging. For personal problems, I have to be absent sometimes. However, examinations are being conducted in time," he said.

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 leave.

NON-PAYMENT OF PMFBY DUES

Bargarh farmers to continue stir

Farmers constitute about 82 per cent of the 2.59 lakh voters in the assembly seat



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bargarh, Nov 18: Despite the Odisha government and the Centre announcing measures to resolve the issues related to crop insurance claims and input subsidy, the agitating farmers at by-poll-bound Padampur assembly seat in Bargarh district have decided to continue their stir which entered its 18th day Friday.

Hundreds of farmers, under the banner of Rajaboda Krushak Sangathan, who were sitting on dharna in front of the sub-collector's office at Padampur said they do not have faith in the announcements as the community has earlier been "cheated several times".

"The agitation will continue till the farmers get crop insurance claims and drought input subsidy in their bank accounts," Sangathan president Banchnidhi Nayak, conveyor Ashok Sahu and others told reporters at Padampur.

Noting that the government announcements had no impact on the farmers, the Sangathan leaders said the cultivators will give a befitting reply to the political parties in the ensuing December 5 by-poll in the

Padampur assembly constituency.

"We have been staging the agitation demanding crop insurance claims since September 21 and now in mid-November, just before the by-poll, the Centre announces that the matter has been settled. We have no trust in the announcements. The farmers will call off the stir only after getting the money in their bank accounts. We are not begging, but demanding our insurance claims," said Ramesh Mohapatra, the farmer leader of the outfit.

"The announcements made by the Central and the state governments simply indicate that the politicians are only interested in votes and nothing else. The farmers had paralysed the functioning of the Padampur sub-collector's office for 20 days besides resorting to road and rail blockades. But the government did not listen and suddenly woke up before the elections," he said.

Claiming that the farmers will be the deciding factor in the ensuing bypoll at Padampur, Mohapatra said that the Sangathan is in no way linked to any political party and will not tell a farmer to vote for a particular camp.

Man grows veggies on rocky soil of Joda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Nov 18: Joda in Keonjhar district is a mineral-bearing area. As the soil is rocky and full of mineral gravels, farming here is a risky gamble. However, Ganga Munda, a tribal resident of ward no-6 under Joda municipality, has set an example for others by growing vegetables successfully despite the adverse soil condition.

As a successful farmer, he has carved a name for himself in the locality. He has shown the way to others to take up farming on the soil by dint of sheer hard work.

By producing vegetables, he has become self-sufficient while scores of fellow men are dependent on the mines for their livelihood.

Ganga grows and sells brinjals, cabbage, cauliflowers, beans and tomatoes in the nearby market. Talking about the soil condition of the Joda mining area, Niranjan Bohidar, president of the Joda Vikash Parishad, said that earlier about 90 per cent of the localities



were eking out their earning by working in the mines. But the situation has changed in the last few years with ever growing use of machines, leaving the manual labourers redundant. Thousands of workers lost their jobs. While many are sitting idle,

others are struggling to find jobs outside the state. In such changing situation, Ganga mustered the courage to try his hand in vegetable farming and became successful, he added.

Retired teacher Somanath Mohanty said that locals are not getting any work as all mining-related works are increasingly getting mechanised. "Due to rampant mining, environment is getting polluted and soil is losing its fertility. Despite all such odds, Ganga has established himself as a successful farmer with his steely will power and hard work," he observed.

Sumitra Munda, Ganga's wife, said that they took up farming after failing to get any scope of manual labour. "We can carry our cultivation forward if we are provided with government assistance," she noted.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS (STBA)

Notice No. SDCM/KUR/STBA/Notification/Phase-XVII, Dated: 15.11.2022

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF 'STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS' (STBA), ON COMMISSION BASIS AT THIRTEEN (13) "NSG-4, 5 & 6" CATEGORY STATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION, OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR ISSUING UNRESERVED TICKETS, THROUGH COMPUTERIZED UNRESERVED TICKETING SYSTEM (UTS). INTERESTED PERSONS FULFILLING THE STIPULATED CONDITIONS MAY APPLY IN THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT TO SENIOR DIVISIONAL COMMERCIAL MANAGER, EAST COAST RAILWAY, KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

NAME OF 'NSG-4' CATEGORY STATIONS (FOR A PERIOD OF 01 YEAR): (1)JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD (JKRR), (2)CHHAPURAM (IPM).

NAME OF 'NSG-5' CATEGORY STATIONS (FOR A PERIOD OF 03 YEARS): (1)SOMPETA (SPT), (2)JHARPAHAR (JHP).

NAME OF 'NSG-6' CATEGORY STATIONS (FOR A PERIOD OF 03 YEARS): (1)JHOTARI (MWO), (2)CHARBATIA (CBT), (3)JHADUPUDI (JPI), (4)KEREJANGA (KPG), (5)SUMMADEVI (SUDV), (6)BARUVA (BAV), (7)BHUBANESWAR NEW (BBSN), (8)BAJAPUR (BJR), (9)TOMKA (TMKA) & (10)KHURDA TOWN (KURT).

Applications for the above stations duly filled in should reach the office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road by 1100 hrs. on or before 14.12.2022. If the last day i.e. 14.12.2022 happens to be or is declared to be holiday, applications will be received by the same time on the next working day.

COMMISSION PAYABLE: The applicants fulfilling the eligibility conditions and the candidate(s) who opts for the least commission (on the 4% commission slab) will be selected as STBA. The Commission payable shall be as follows:

- Slab-1: ₹1 to ₹20,000/- 25% (minimum ₹2,500/-)
- Slab-2: ₹20,001/- to ₹1,00,000/- 15%
- Slab-3: ₹1,00,001/- and above: 4% in case of NSG-6/NSG-5 category stations and 2% in case of NSG-4 category stations) or the rate quoted whichever is lower.

Closing Date of submission of Applications: 1100 hrs. of 14.12.2022.

Opening Date and Time of Application Box: 1130 hrs. of 14.12.2022.

For detailed terms & conditions and application format, please visit website www.eastrail.indianrailways.gov.in or contact the office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road Division, PO: Jatni, Dist: Khurda, Pin: 752050.

PR-718/N/22-23 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road

STATE BANK OF INDIA

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), Plot No.: 778, First Floor, Maharshi College Road, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property) [Rule-8 (1)]

Publication of Notice regarding possession of Properties u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice under section 13(2) was issued on the date mentioned against below accounts and stated hereinafter calling upon the following Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on the date mentioned against below accounts. The Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, for an amount stated below with interest, costs and expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Account / Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors	Owner of the Property	Description of the Properties Mortgaged / Charged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Dues Amount
Borrower: M/s. Pratistha Automobiles, Prop. Mr. Prabir Kumar Sasmal, At: Plot No.: 236/800, (By the side of NH-16, Naharkanta, P.S.: Baliaanta, Bhubaneswar- 752101, Dist: Khurda / Guarantors: 1) Sri Pranab Kumar Sasmal, S/o.: Laxmidhar Sasmal, 2) Laxmidhar Sasmal, 3) Smt. Nirupama Swain, W/o.: Laxmidhar Sasmal, All are At: Plot No.: 414/3353, Bajrang Vihar, KIIT Koel Campus, Patia, Bhubaneswar- 751024, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha	Smt. Nirupama Swain	All that Part and Parcel of the property consist of Residential House situated at Plot No.: 414/3353, Plot Area: 2483 sq.ft. and constructed area ground Floor: 1622 Sq.ft. and First floor: 1660 sq.ft., Khata No.: 474/1593, Mouza: Patia, P.S.: New Capital No.: 22, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Bounded by [East: Sub Plot No.: 7, West: Road, North: Sub Plot No.: 3, South: Road	17.01.2020	18.11.2022	₹1,26,08,771.04 as on 17.01.2020 + further interest from 17.01.2020, costs, etc. thereon

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 18.11.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India SARB, Bhubaneswar

Bank of India

Bank of India BOI Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jaydev Bihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.:0674-2362249

Gold Auction Notice

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, person engaged in the business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges/expenses) by 01.12.2022, their pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned at Concerned Branch Premises and / or Sriram Automall India Ltd. (SAMIL), Cuttack, At: Sriram Automall Yard, Nuapatna, NH-42, Choudwar-Angul Road, Cuttack-754007 on 03.12.2022 at 11.00 AM, Contact Person: Sri Prabhat Kumar (Mob-8658738320), Sri Debasis Subudhi (Mob-9861342494). For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reason in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if needed be Bank reserves the right to change the date and time of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. Purity and net weight and reserve price of gold ornaments / coins etc. will be available to interested bidders on auction date and auction venue/auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Gross Wt. in Gram	Net Wt. in Gram	Balance Outstanding as on specified date	Present Outstanding (Excluding interest & expenses)
IIT BHUBANESWAR ARGUL BRANCH, AT/PO.: ARGUL, VIA JATNI, DIST.: KHURDA-752050						
1.	511977610000114	Srikanta Pradhan, At: Jamuna, PO: Argul, Via: Jatni, Dist.: Puri	8.4	7.5	₹17,419.60	₹20,798.84
2.	511977610000336	Kabindra Guru, At: Bolakana, PO: Gualipada, PS: Delang, Dist.: Puri	11.9	10.7	₹34,000/-	₹35,213.91
3.	511977610000203	Mahammad Kefatula, At: Benapanjari, PO.: Tirimal, PS.: Jatni, Dist.: Khurda	3.8	3	₹8,296/-	₹9,186.13
4.	511977610000307	Kabita Mangaraj, At: Jharapada, P.O.: Rengala, Via: Delang, Dist.: Puri	17.5	15.5	₹44,000/-	₹45,572.26
PATIA BRANCH, KANAN VIHAR, PLOT NO.: 203, PHASE-II, PATIA, MIG-II, BHUBANESWAR-751024, ODISHA						
1.	556777610000209	Lingam Kishore Kumar, Flat 6 Core C Block 4, LIC Colony Maitri VIHAR, Bhubaneswar-751023, Odisha	163	155	₹5,68,500.00	₹5,90,535/-
2.	556777610000210	Lingam Kishore Kumar, Flat 6 Core C Block 4, LIC Colony Maitri VIHAR, Bhubaneswar-751023, Odisha	108.2	55	₹2,01,700.00	₹2,09,518/-
CHAKEISIANI BRANCH, PLOT NO.: 441/7185, CHAKEISIANI, P.O.: RASULGARH, BHUBANESWAR-751010						
1.	513377610000360	Gopendra Kumar Jena, Plot No.: 3170, Samegiadia, P.O.: Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar-751010	48.85	44	₹1,68,459.59	₹1,71,372.61
SATYABADI BRANCH, MAHAJAN COMPLEX, SATYABADI, PURI						
1.	517377610001317	Rabindra Goud, S/o- Janarddan Goud, At: Unashadiha, P.O.: Pentapada, Satyabadi	9.24	7.15	₹24,000/-	₹24,220/-
KUHUNDA BRANCH, KUHUNDA						
1.	558877610000531	Ghanshyam Sethy, C/o- Natbar Sethy, Kuhunda, Jaypur, Benupura	4.95	3.3	₹11,120/-	₹11,620/-
2.	558877610000532	Ghanshyam Sethy, C/o- Natbar Sethy, Kuhunda, Jaypur, Benupura	20.22	15.92	₹53,285/-	₹55,785/-

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 18.11.2022

Zonal Manager, Bank of India

2 from MP killed in road accident

Berhampur: At least two persons hailing from Madhya Pradesh died when their truck hit a tree in Ganjam district, police said Friday. The incident took place Thursday night after the vegetable-laden vehicle they were seated on smashed against a tree near Kokalaba. The deceased, who came from Sendhwa area of Madhya Pradesh, have been identified as Dibakar Khaute (40) and Raju (30), said Pradipta Kumar Das, Inspector-in-Charge of Tarsingi police station. After conducting the post-mortem, the bodies were handed over to the family members, who arrived in the district Friday, he said.

Nominated Authority

Ministry of Coal, Government of India

Room No. 120, 'F' Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001 (Ph: 23384106)
Email: nomauthority.moc@nic.in
Website: <http://www.coal.nic.in/welcome.html>

NOTICE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS IN RELATION TO SCHEDULE I COAL MINES

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Rule 15 of The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014, claims are invited afresh from the Central Government, State Government and Local Authorities for dues from the prior allottee in relation to the Schedule I Coal Mines as on 01.04.2015 (in respect of Schedule - II Coal Mines) and 24.09.2014 (for remaining Schedule - I Coal Mines) and having become due and payable within twelve months immediately before that date.

Detailed notice regarding submission of claims can be downloaded from the website of Ministry of Coal (<http://www.coal.nic.in>).

Last date and time for submission of claims is 5.00 P.M. of 20.12.2022. Claims lodged by Secured Creditors, Central Government, State Government & Local Authorities against earlier advertisements in respect of Schedule I Coal Mines are also required to be lodged afresh. For any query/clarification kindly contact the Nominated Authority at contract details mentioned above in the Advertisement.

CBC 04107/12/0002/2223

Reason always sets one thing against another and compels you to make a choice. People whose thought and reason are clear see all the differences between things

THE MOTHER



A Hasty Retreat

The Uttarakhand government has moved swiftly to revoke the recent ban announced by Uttarakhand Ayurveda and Unani Licensing Authority on the production of five products of yoga guru Baba Ramdev. A fresh order issued by Uttarakhand drug regulator Dr GCN Jangapangi now states that the previous order has been 'amended' and the production of the five products can continue as earlier.

Typically, the hasty retreat is blamed on a babu snafu. Apparently, according to Jangapangi, the ban order was issued in haste and the company manufacturing the products should have been given time to explain its stand. Not surprisingly, again, Ramdev's company reacted sharply stating that the "error" is due to an "indiscreet error of an officer". It claims that the ban order was instigated by a "drug mafia" and threatened legal action against those responsible for attempting to "malign its image".

Interestingly, some have forgotten that besides the state authority, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), had also taken a firm view on advertisements of these products. But if the manufacturer happens to be close to the current political dispensation in the state and, more importantly, at the Centre, it is easy to lay it all on a mistake by a bungling babu.

India's G-20 Agenda

Next month, India will assume the presidency of the G-20 from Indonesia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Bali, accompanied by Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. He held extensive talks with G-20 leaders on critical issues including the state of the global economy, energy, environment, agriculture, health and digital transmission. Clearly, these are the key areas where India is aiming to reset the agenda and prepare the world for the future.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

The G-20 presidency is being seen as a unique opportunity for India to drive a global narrative. During India's presidency, almost 200 meetings are expected to be held at different locations in the country. As is the tradition, India will invite some guest countries and international organisations to its meetings and the summit. It's going to be a busy schedule for the MEA and the diplomatic corps.

Much of the groundwork for India's takeover of the presidency has already been done by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), led by former Foreign Affairs Secretary and Chief Coordinator for India's G-20 presidency Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who was joined by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant. While the priorities of G-20 are in the process of being firmed up, MEA watchers say that the focus of the ongoing conversations will revolve around inclusive growth, energy security, disaster risk reduction, developmental cooperations, agriculture, climate financing, digital public infrastructure and multilateral reforms. There's a lot to keep the MEA diplomats on their toes throughout the year-long Indian G-20 presidency.

No takers for Waqf Board CEO post

The Telangana Waqf Board has been searching in vain for a CEO. Sources say that the board may well be the most shunned due to its reputation for misgovernance and the state government's apparent disinterest in its functioning. Recent efforts of the Waqf Board, DKB has learnt, to persuade Muslim officers of deputy secretary rank to head it, have drawn a blank.

Telangana has six Muslim officers of the rank of deputy secretary and above, including Abdul Hameed, Additional Collector, Jangaon; MA Mannan, Joint Secretary, Law Department; and B Shafiqullah, Secretary, Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS).

These officials, sources have informed DKB, have shown little interest in the Waqf Board probably because of the Board's reputation for intense politicking. In the past, CEOs have requested the government to repatriate them to their parent departments. Moreover, CEOs have often had inquiries initiated against them.

The Waqf Act requires that the CEO should be a Muslim and not below the rank of a deputy secretary. But in practice, officers of the rank of deputy collector are posted, and in many instances, they are not even full-fledged CEOs. Many observers feel that a lesser rank official is often a mute spectator and even sometimes hand-in-glove with "undesirable acts" of the board members. Only the presence of an IAS or IPS officer would be a deterrent, it is widely believed. And here things stand unless Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao decides to do something about this unhappy situation.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- If you cry because the sun has gone out of your life, your tears will prevent you from seeing the stars. - RABINDRANATH TAGORE
- If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain. - EMILY DICKINSON
- It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend. - WILLIAM BLAKE

WORDSWORTH

Anadiplosis

This is yet another term from that repository of extraordinary expressions, the field of rhetoric. It refers to the trick of repeating the last word of a sentence, line, or clause, at or near the beginning of the next. An example will make the idea clearer and to give it I call upon that fortune-cookie philosopher, Yoda from Star Wars: "Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering." Understanding you are? A more sanctified appearance is at the start of the Gospel according to John in the King James Bible: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Anadiplosis derives from Greek diplos, double, from which also come diploid, diploma and diplomat (the last two from the idea of a doubled or folded paper, hence an official document). The prefix ana- is also Greek, meaning back or anew. Do not confuse this figure of speech with epianadiplosis, in which a sentence begins and ends with the same word. A famous example is in a speech by Malcolm X: "You bleed when the white man says bleed. You bite when the white man says bite, and you bark when the white man says bark." The extra prefix that appears in epianadiplosis derives from the Greek preposition epi, "upon, in addition". Another rhetorical term for a similar trick is antistrophe (which is also known as epiphora or epistrophe — there's disagreement over terms), which refers to repeating a word at the end of successive clauses or sentences ("government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth"). Both antistrophe and epistrophe derive from Greek strephein, to turn.

LOL

What was its name?

Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?" "Outstanding," Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques—visualization, association—it made a huge difference for me."



"That's great! What was the name of the clinic?" Fred went blank. He thought and thought, but couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?" "You mean a rose?" "Yes, that's it!" He turned to his wife. "Rose, what was the name of that clinic?"



Dani Rodrik

DESPITE PREVIOUS ASSURANCES, CHINA HAS MILITARISED SOME OF THE ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS IT BUILT IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. IT IMPOSED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON AUSTRALIA WHEN THAT COUNTRY CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO COVID-19'S ORIGINS

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

DON'T KILL GLOBAL ECONOMY



The trouble with hyper-globalisation was that we let big banks and international corporations write the rules of the world economy. It is good that we are now moving away from that approach, given how damaging it was to our social fabric

and block Chinese production of its own semiconductor manufacturing equipment by barring supplies of US components.

The approach is motivated by the Biden administration's view, on which there is broad bipartisan agreement, that China poses a significant threat to the US. But a threat to what? Here is how Biden expresses it in the preface to his recently released National Security Strategy: "The People's Republic of China harbours the intention and, increasingly, the capacity to reshape the international order in favour of one that tilts the global playing field to its benefit."

So, to be clear, China is a threat not because it undermines any fundamental US security interests, but because it will want to exercise influence over the rules of the global political and economic order as it gets richer and more powerful. Meanwhile, "the United States remains committed to managing the competition between our countries responsibly," which really means that the US wants to remain the unchallenged force in shaping global rules in technology, cybersecurity, trade, and economics.

By responding this way, the Biden administration is doubling down on US primacy instead of accommodating the realities of a post-unipolar world. As the new ex-

port controls make clear, the US has given up on distinguishing between technologies that directly help the Chinese military (and hence might pose a threat to US allies) and commercial technologies (which might produce economic benefits not just for China but for others as well, including American firms). Those arguing that it is impossible to separate the military from commercial applications have won.

The US has now crossed a line. Such a broad-brush approach raises significant dangers of its own — even if it can be partly justified by the intertwined nature of China's commercial and military sectors. Correctly viewing the new US restrictions as an aggressive escalation, China will find ways to retaliate, raising tensions and further heightening mutual fears.

Great powers (and indeed all countries) look out for their interests and protect their national security, taking countermeasures against other powers as necessary. But as Stephen M Walt and I have argued, a secure, prosperous, and stable world order requires that these responses be well-calibrated. That means they must be clearly linked to the damage inflicted by the other side's policies and intended solely to mitigate those policies' negative effects. Responses should not be pur-

sued for the express purpose of punishing the other side or weakening it in the long run. Biden's export controls on high-tech do not pass this test.

The new US approach toward China also creates other blind spots. The National Security Strategy emphasises "shared challenges," such as climate change and global public health, where cooperation with China will be critical. But it does not acknowledge that pursuing an economic war against China undermines trust and the prospects of cooperation in those other areas. It also distorts the domestic economic agenda by elevating the objective of outcompeting China over worthier goals. Investing in highly capital- and skill-intensive semiconductor supply chains — on which US industrial policy currently focuses — is just about the costliest way of creating good jobs in the US economy for those who most need them.

To be sure, the Chinese government is not an innocent victim. It has become increasingly aggressive in projecting its economic and military power, though its actions have mostly been confined to its own neighborhood. Despite previous assurances, China has militarized some of the artificial islands it built in the South China Sea. It imposed economic sanctions on Australia when that country called for an investigation into COVID-19's origins. And its human-rights violations at home certainly do warrant condemnation by democratic countries.

The trouble with hyper-globalization was that we let big banks and international corporations write the rules of the world economy. It is good that we are now moving away from that approach, given how damaging it was to our social fabric. We have the opportunity to shape a better globalization. Unfortunately, the great powers seem to have chosen a different, even worse path. They are now handing the keys to the global economy to their national-security establishments, jeopardising both global peace and prosperity.

The writer is President of the International Economic Association

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SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Counting benefits of G-20 Presidency



DK Giri

INDIA BEGINS THE PRESIDENCY OF THE MOST ADVANCED ECONOMIES AT A TIME OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS AND POLITICAL POLARISATION IN THE WORLD

In the G-20 Summit at Bali, India was handed over the presidency of the most powerful economic group and will host the 18th summit next year. Before taking off to Bali to participate in the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "India's G-20 presidency will be grounded in the theme, *vasudheva kutumbakam* (the world is a family).

India may transmit such a message to the world body, as Swami Vivekananda did in his iconic speech on 11 September 1893, to "world's parliament of religions", at Chicago. His address to Americans as sisters and brothers shook as well as touched their hearts. However, the moot point is how much India benefits economically from Modi's leadership of the G-20 for a year?

There is a troika of leadership consisting of the past president of G-20, the current and the future. For now, the troika is made by Italy, Indonesia and India. The next one will consist of Indonesia, India and Brazil, marking the transition of leadership from the North to the South.

The slogan of the Bali summit was 'recover together and recover

stronger'. It comprised three sessions: food and energy security, health partnerships for global infrastructure, and investment and digital transformation. Besides these working sessions, the G-20 leaders discussed key issues of the global economy, environment, climate change and agriculture. To highlight the concerns about climate change, President Jokowi invited and escorted his guests to the Indonesian mangroves and planted mangroves at the Ngurah Rai forest park; mangroves act as bio-shields against extreme climate change.

The summit took place against a backdrop that was neither desirable nor conducive to world peace, progress and security. The challenges in the environment, especially that of climate change, lack of progress in the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the perilous impact of Covid pandemic, the struggle for economic recovery, debt vulnerabilities, and to top it all, the ongoing war in Ukraine and its tragic consequences on food and energy security and inflation etc.

All eyes were on the war on Ukraine, which loomed large on the summit. The declaration said,

"Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stress it is causing, immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy — constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks. Recognising that the G-20 is not the forum to resolve security issues, we acknowledge that security issues can have significant consequences for the global economy". The second assertion made in para 4 of the declaration is, "It is essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability... The use or threat of nuclear weapons is inadmissible. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, efforts to address crises, as well as diplomacy and dialogue, are vital. Today's era must not be of war". The last sentence echoes and reiterates verbatim the argument made by Modi to Russian President Vladimir Putin at Samarkand in Uzbekistan. He said, "I know that today's era is not an era of war, and I spoke to you on phone about this."

Now, on India taking over the presidency, what we should expect

as New Delhi's contribution to G-20 and the benefits it will accrue for the country? On his departure to Bali, Modi had suggested that India's presidency will focus on green development, Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), digital transformation, inclusive and resilient growth, women-led development, a greater voice of developing countries in the global south in the economic world order and the need to reform the 21st century world institutions.

Admittedly, India begins the presidency of the most advanced economies at a time of economic hardships and political polarisation in the world. A positive signal that came from Bali is that a joint declaration could be produced despite differences and divisions on the war in Ukraine. India had obviously a hand in drafting this declaration and its leadership has played a balancing and reconciling role in many such summits. Hopefully, it will maintain that pragmatic role while hosting the G-20 and SCO in 2023 as their president.

The writer is a Professor in International Relations, at JIMMC

INFIA

Onus on rich nations

Sir, Apropos, editorial 'Who pays', Orissa POST, Nov 18. During the COP27 summit in Egypt, India rightly put the onus on rich countries to substantially enhance the quantum of climate finance to developing countries, while observing unsparingly that the commitment of \$100 billion made over a decade ago by developed nations is not only minuscule, given the scale of needs, but has also not been achieved yet. India and other developing countries are insisting that the wealthy nations should agree to a new global climate finance target, which ought to be in trillions instead of billions, considering that the costs of adapting to climate change have grown exponentially. The World Bank, which uses money from affluent nations to offer loans and grants to poorer countries, has a major role to play in facilitating climate-linked funding. The World Bank Group gave \$31.7 billion in climate finance to various countries in 2021-22, but it continues to face criticism over not doing enough to help developing nations make the shift to clean energy. While developed nations must be held accountable for brazenly polluting the planet to make huge profits and half-heartedly fulfilling their climate finance commitments, the menace of greenwashing — making misleading claims on net-zero emissions — needs to be dealt with strictly.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Timely intervention

Sir, The Supreme Court's recent intervention on 'forced religious conversions' is timely as some fringe Hindutva outfits have long been using this bogey to harass the minority communities in India. While the Indian constitution guarantees the right to freedom of religion, it does not explicitly mention the right to conversion. The notion that freedom of religion in India does not contain the freedom of religious conversion seems absurd and illogical. One certainly has the right to religious conversion, provided there are no elements of fraud, coercion and allurements. The conversion is indicative of collective resentment and insecurity on the part of the Hindutva groups at the perceived injustice and rejection of the Hindu faith by the converts. The reality, however, is that the minority communities do not pose any threat to the demographic and philosophical might of Hinduism. But the political ideology of Hindutva leverages this paranoia for electoral gains.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

The Haryana government has not kept its promise of withdrawing all the cases filed against farmers during their movement against the now-repealed agri laws

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | CONGRESS LEADER

I've come to know that some farmers' outfits only want to stage a sit-in to make their presence felt. They also have to show that they incurred expenses and for that, they have to collect funds from different sources

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

We demand High Court Chief Justice monitored judicial probe to expose the real culprits behind #OperationVoter scam. Why is the govt afraid of initiating a judicial probe? Why is @BSBomma in a hurry to brush the case off? It is a blot on the democracy as BJP infringes upon the privacy of innocent people. @BSBomma & his cabinet should resign for cheating people

SIDDARAMAIAH | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Farooq Abdullah to step down

Srinagar: Veteran politician and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah Friday announced that he would step down as president of the National Conference next month, saying it is time to hand over the mantle to the new generation. Holding the post for nearly four decades except for seven years beginning 2002, the 85-year-old Abdullah is expected to continue as patron of the party and guide it especially during the first assembly elections after the state was downgraded to a union territory. No dates for the polls have been announced so far. There is widespread speculation that his son Omar Abdullah, currently the party's vice-president, is likely to succeed him as the new chief.

12 dead, 3 injured

Dehradun/Gopeshwar: Twelve people, including two women, were killed and three injured as a passenger vehicle fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Friday, the State Disaster Response Force said. A Tata Sumo carrying 17 passengers fell into a gorge at Urgan in Joshimath area of the district at 4 pm, said the SDRF.

3 soldiers killed

Srinagar: Three soldiers were killed in an avalanche in J&K's Kupwara district Friday, police said. Police said that three personnel of 56 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) died as the avalanche hit the Almorah post of Machil sector in Kupwara. "The bodies have been brought to Military Hospital Drugmulla. Further details are awaited," a police official said.



The opposition feels pain in stomach seeing the popularity of this government, which is currently resolving all rural issues. When they found no other way, they put the blame of their old misdeeds on the current government

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

KHARGE ATTACKS PM

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Friday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue of jobs, claiming that 30 lakh posts are vacant in various government departments but the PM distributed just 75,000 appointment letters



Launch of India's first pvt rocket successful



A historic moment for India as the rocket Vikram-S, developed by Skyroot Aerospace, took off from Sriharikota today! It is an important milestone in the journey of India's private space industry. Congrats to @ISRO & @INSPACeIND for enabling this feat

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sriharikota (AP), Nov 18: India Friday successfully launched its first privately made rocket, developed by a four-year-old startup, marking the entry of the private sector into the country's space ecosystem which is currently dominated by the state-run behemoth ISRO. The rocket, Vikram-S named in a befitting tribute to the father of the country's space programme Vikram Sarabhai, tasted success in its maiden mission. In the process, the firm became the first privately held company in India after the space sector was opened for the private players by the Centre in 2020.

The three payloads that rode piggyback on the rocket are from Chennai-based start-up SpaceKidz, Andhra Pradesh-based N-SpaceTech and Armenian BazoomQ Space Research Lab.

Later in the day, a Skyroot Aerospace official, said "this is suborbital mission and it (the payloads) is never meant to deploy. Those payloads were sent (along with the rocket) to check certain parameters..." "Payloads were not deployed into the orbit", he said without elaborating.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACe) Chairman, Pawan Goenka from ISRO's Mission Control Centre, said, "I am happy to announce the successful completion of Mission Prarambh, The Beginning, by Skyroot aerospace".

The rocket achieved an altitude of 89.5 km and a range of 121.2 km, "exactly what was planned by Skyroot Aerospace," he said. It "worked as planned" and Skyroot Aerospace has demonstrated various capability of sub-systems that

will go into the orbital launch vehicle, he added.

The vehicle integrated into the launcher soared after lifting off at the prefixed 11.30 am from the sounding rocket complex at the Indian Space Research Organisation's Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), here, about 15 km from Chennai.

The Mission unveiled by ISRO Chairman Somanath had three payloads with two belonging to domestic customers and one from a foreign client. The 6-metre tall rocket is one of the world's first few all-composite ones that has 3-D printed solid thrusters for spin stability of the launch vehicle.

"This is a new beginning for the Indian private sector entering aerospace and a historic moment for all of us," Goenka said. Pawan Chandana, Skyroot Aerospace co-founder said all the required mission objectives were completed.

"This Prarambh mission as the name signifies is the beginning of a new era in the Indian space ecosystem. Team Skyroot dedicates this successful mission to Dr Vikram Sarabhai, who boldly started the Indian space programme in the 1960s, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for unlocking the space sector to private players," Chandana, also the Mission Director for Friday's launch, said. "This Prarambh mission symbolises not only India's first private rocket launch, it also symbolises the potential of new India," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the launch as "historic" and said the accomplishment bears testimony to the immense talent of India's youth who took full advantage of the landmark space sector reforms of June 2020.

For Navlakha, SC relief on house arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Trashing NIA's apprehensions, the Supreme Court Friday ordered social activist Gautam Navlakha, accused of having links to Maoists and Pakistan's spy agency ISI, to be placed under house arrest "without fail" within 24 hours.

Navlakha is under judicial custody in Talaja Jail in Navi Mumbai in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case. A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy passed the order after sharp exchanges between the prosecution and the court.

The bench, however, ordered some additional security measures to be put in place at the building where Navlakha will be kept under house arrest. "Our order of November 10 shall be given effect to without fail within 24 hours," the bench said. The NIA had moved the SC on Thursday seeking vacation of its order for house arrest, saying Navlakha, being a charge-sheeted accused in a case involving threat to national security and integrity, does not deserve any extra leeway.

"From the investigation carried out, it is established that the pe-



Social activist Gautam Navlakha is under judicial custody in Talaja Jail in Navi Mumbai in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case

titioner delivered speeches at different forums & programmes on many issues related to the Kashmiri separatist movement and Maoist movement and supported it. "During scrutiny of the documents seized from the petitioner it is evident that they are related to CPI (Maoist) strategic documents, documents in connection with the formation of the CPI (Maoist) party, important press releases of CPI (Maoist) party, critical secret communications with underground senior leaders

of the party which establishes his deep involvement in the activities of CPI (Maoist) party," the agency said in its plea.

The bench, however, went ahead with its November 10 order of placing the 70-year-old activist under house arrest. The top court said a kitchen door leading to the exit should be locked and sealed along with the grille windows whose keys can be kept by the NIA and another CCTV camera

shall be installed at the southern door which leads to the exit.

It also allowed the NIA to monitor the CCTV camera feed from the place of their choice. At the nearly half hour hearing, which saw some heated exchanges, the court told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, "If you are trying to find out some loopholes to see that our order is defeated, we will take a serious view of it".

Raju, appearing for the NIA, said it is not he who is trying to find loopholes but claimed Navlakha suppressed "crucial facts" from courts. "This man (Navlakha) has suppressed crucial facts from the court and therefore he should not be considered for house arrest," he said. The bench wondered whether Raju and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, also appearing for the NIA in the fresh application for recall of the court's November 10 order, meant to say with the entire might of the State and the police force they will not be able to monitor or keep an ailing 70-year-old man under house arrest.

Over 30 students fall ill after gas leak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 18: Over 30 girl students of a college in Hyderabad fell ill after a suspected gas leak in the college lab Friday.

The affected girl students of Kasturba Gandhi College in West Maredpally, Secunderabad were hospitalised with complaints of breathlessness and dizziness. The college authorities denied that there was any gas leak from college lab. They said foul smell from garbage dump on the college boundary wall led to students falling ill. The school staff with the help of locals rushed the affected students to Geetha Nursing Home. Police officials rushed to the college and began investigation.

After students complained of gas leak from lab, the college authorities surveyed the premises. They claimed that there was no gas leak.



Hunger relief packages placed for the world record for longest line of hunger relief packages in Chennai PTI PHOTO

Rahul's remarks could end alliance, warns team Uddhav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/Shegaon, Nov 18: The Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of the Shiv Sena Friday warned that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "unwarranted" comments on Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar can affect the unity of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance.

Earlier in the day, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh defended Rahul Gandhi, saying that he did not target the Hindutva ideologue but only highlighted a "historical fact", but also said it would not impact the MVA alliance. Protests were staged across Maharashtra by the BJP and other right-wing organizations against Rahul Gandhi.

A shut-down was observed at Bhagur, Savarkar's birthplace in

Nashik district. Sanjay Raut, key leader of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena, said Jairam Ramesh called him and the two had a long conversation on the issue.

Talking to reporters, Raut said any defamatory remarks against Savarkar were unacceptable to the Shiv Sena. He said Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra is getting good response all over the country, mostly in Maharashtra, and raising important issues like unemployment and farmers' problems.

"There was no reason to raise the issue of Veer Savarkar. This could lead to cracks in the MVA because we idolise Veer Savarkar," he said. The MVA also includes the Nationalist Congress Party. Rahul Gandhi, during a press conference at Wadegaon in Akola district on Thursday, alleged that



Savarkar had helped the British and written a mercy petition to them out of fear.

Two days earlier, he had made similar remarks. Rahul Gandhi's consistent attacks on Savarkar

have put Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena in a spot.

"This (Gandhi's comments) has not only impacted the Shiv Sena, but also some of the Congress leaders in Maharashtra. People in Maharashtra and a large section of people in the country have respect for Veer Savarkar," Raut further said.

Addressing a press conference in Maharashtra's Buldhana district in the morning, Ramesh said, "Rahul Gandhi had mentioned Savarkar in context of how tribal leader Birsa Munda did not compromise with the British while Savarkar signed a mercy petition, which is a fact." It was a fact that Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse was influenced by Savarkar and it was Savarkar's ideology that was behind the killing

of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress leader claimed. The Bharatiya Janata Party, meanwhile, continued to hit out at Rahul Gandhi as well as Thackeray-led Shiv Sena over the issue.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis accused Rahul Gandhi of speaking selectively against Savarkar to secure his vote bank. Former prime minister late Indira Gandhi and many other Congress leaders had called Savarkar a staunch nationalist and even communist leader Shripad Dange had described Savarkar as a revolutionary, he claimed. He also referred to the words used by Mahatma Gandhi at the end of his letters to British rulers such as "I beg to remain your Royal highness's faithful servant".

10 yrs of POCSO: 3 acquittals for each conviction, finds study

Uttar Pradesh has the highest pendency with more than three-fourths or 77.77 per cent of the total POCSO cases that were filed between November 2012 and February 2021, according to the data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: There are three acquittals for every conviction in a POCSO case, according to a study on the decade-old law to protect children.

The analysis revealed that Chandigarh and West Bengal are

the only states where the average time taken for convictions is within the statutorily prescribed period of one year under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Titled 'A Decade of Pocsos', the study was carried out by the Justice, Access and Lowering Delays in India - an initiative by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, an independent think tank doing research to make better laws and improve governance.

It was done in collaboration with the Data Evidence for Justice Reform (De Jure) programme of the World Bank. The study collected metadata for nearly 4 lakh POCSO cases and analysed 2.31 lakh cases to understand the pendency and disposal patterns.



Uttar Pradesh has the highest pendency with more than three-fourths or 77.77 per cent of the total POCSO cases that were filed between November 2012 and February 2021, according to the data. At 80.2 per cent, Tamil Nadu

has the highest disposal out of total filings during the period. "For every one conviction in a POCSO case, there are three acquittals. Acquittals are significantly higher than convictions for all of the states studied," it said. For example, acquit-

tals are seven times more than convictions in Andhra Pradesh, while it is five times more than convictions in West Bengal.

Kerala is the only state where the gap is small as acquittals constituted 20.5 per cent and convictions constituted 16.49 per cent. The study finds that though the number of pending POCSO cases was increasing gradually over the years, their proportion was on a decline till 2019.

However, there was a sharp increase of 24,863 cases in the number of pending cases between 2019 and 2020, the study stated, adding that it could be attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the functioning of courts across the country. On an average, it takes 509.78 days or nearly 1 year and five months for a POCSO case to be

disposed of as against the one-year time period stipulated by Section 35 of the Act, it said.

Chandigarh and West Bengal are the only states where the average time taken for convictions is within the statutorily prescribed period of one year, according to the study. "In most states, courts spend more time in hearing cases that ultimately end in conviction as compared to cases that end in acquittal," it said. Over 56 per cent of all the POCSO cases correspond to the offences of penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault, which prescribe the most stringent punishments under the Act, the data revealed. Convictions are lowest in cases of sexual harassment with a rate of 18.16 per cent, the study states.

Bomma's PA honey-trapped

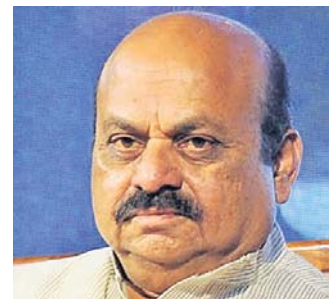
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 18: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavraj Bomma's Personal Assistant was honey-trapped and confidential documents were extracted from him, police sources said Friday.

Nataraja Sharma, president of Janma Bhoomi Foundation, a registered public organisation that has exposed scams, lodged a case in this regard with the Vidhana Soudha police station here. The complainant alleged that a well-organised honey-trap gang is operating in the Legislative Assembly.

A D-group woman employee working in Vidhan Soudha honey-trapped Bomma's PA Harish. The gang members recorded their videos, blackmailed Harish and extracted confidential documents pertaining to the administration of the government, police sources added. The complainant alleged that documents signed by the Chief Minister have been given to opposition leaders.

Land worth crores of rupees was purchased by Harish in the name of the accused woman near Kanakapura Road near Bengaluru, police sources added.



Punjab Cabinet approves OPS

THE DECISION OF THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT CAME AT A TIME WHEN MANY FINANCIAL EXPERTS ARE WARNING AGAINST THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD PENSION SCHEME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 18: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Friday said that the state cabinet has approved the reimplementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), which was discontinued in 2004.

In another decision of the cabinet, a meeting of which was held here under his chairmanship, Mann said a notification to fix sugarcane rate at ₹380 per quintal has also been approved.

Asked about the Old Pension Scheme, Mann, who was addressing a news conference after the cabinet meeting, said, "OPS has been approved by the cabinet. Details will be given. Many employees will be benefited under the old pension scheme. Notification has been issued." An official statement said the decision will directly benefit more than 1.75 lakh government employees. In order to ensure that the scheme remains financially



According to the new scheme, employees contribute 10 per cent of their basic salary towards pension while the state government contributes 14 per cent.

The AAP government's decision came days before Gujarat Assembly polls, where AAP is trying its luck and had promised to restore the old pension scheme for state government employees if voted to power

sustainable for the exchequer in future also, the state government will be contributing proactively towards creation of a pension corpus which will keep on serving the pensioners.

The contribution towards the pension corpus will be ₹1,000 crore per annum initially and will gradually be increased.

In addition to this, the current accumulated corpus with the New Pension Scheme, or, NPS, is ₹16,746 crore, which the state government will request the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), a central body, to refund. In the cabinet meeting held nearly a month ago, the Punjab government had decided to restore the scheme for its employees, which has been their major demand. State

Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema had last month said employees will be given the option to join the old pension scheme.

The scheme is expected to benefit more than 4,100 employees in the next five years alone.

The scheme is aimed at safeguarding the future of government employees and recognising their immense contribution towards the State, it said. The cabinet reiterated its firm commitment that the scheme will be made self-sustainable from the resources available with the exchequer adding that under no circumstance, the future of employees' will be jeopardised.

The Cabinet also accorded approval to enhance the upper age limit for direct recruitment of prin-

cipals from 45 years to 53 years enabling associate professors/professors to apply for these posts up to the age of 53 years. These posts will be filled through the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC).

The age relaxation will provide a pool of competent and eligible persons to the government from among whom the selections can be made by PPSC, the state government said. In another decision, the Cabinet greenlighted waiving of electricity bills totalling ₹9.31 crore till October 31, owed by 366 registered 'gaushalas', including 20 government cattle ponds.

The step is aimed at helping gaushalas check the problem of stray menace, the statement said. The adjustment will be made from cow cess collection which currently lies with Punjab State Power Corporation Limited.

The Cabinet also gave approval for amending the Punjab e-stamp Rules, 2014 to start online e-stamping up to ₹500 in addition to existing provision.

The online option of e-Stamping is running successfully in other states and the online version of e-Stamp certificate can also be printed on plain paper, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Mann said that an amount of ₹5 lakh each has been given to 624 families, whose next of kin died during the farmers agitation against the now repealed farm laws. He said that so far 326 such families have been given jobs. The remaining families will also be compensated with jobs soon, he added.

Raj bypolls: Maken made star campaigner despite resignation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Nov 18: Congress leader Ajay Maken, who recently tendered his resignation as the party in-charge in Rajasthan for inaction against rebel leaders, has been made a star campaigner for the December 5 Sardarshahar bypolls.

Maken has been named in the list of 40 star campaigners released Thursday. But three Ashok Gehlot loyalists - state ministers Mahesh Joshi, Shanti Dhariwal and RTDC chairman Dharmendra Rathore - do not feature in the list.

Meanwhile, Gehlot and former deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot are also among the 40 names.



In his letter to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge November 16, Maken expressed his inability and unwillingness to continue in the position and referred to events that took place in the state September 25, said that instead of taking action against the three leaders guilty of indiscipline September 25, they were being given attention in Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Congress high command had called a CLP meeting September 25.

Punjab lauded for healthcare facilities



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Nov 18: The Central government has hailed the Punjab government led by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for taking several path-breaking initiatives to provide quality healthcare facilities to people.

The Centre regularly monitors the progress of National Health Mission in the states through different mechanisms.

The most important mechanism is Common Review Mission (CRM) undertaken every year. Under CRM, a team comprising government officials, public health experts, representative of development partners and civil society organisations undertake the field visit in different states.

The focus of the CRM is to assess the implementation of the programmes for the citizens.

The 15th Common Review Mission Team comprising of 16 members under the leadership of A. Raghu, Deputy Director General, AYUSH, MoHFW, visited the state

The Centre regularly monitors the progress of National Health Mission in the states through different mechanisms

from November 4-11 during which it visited the districts of Ferozepur and Rupnagar.

Expressing satisfaction over the initiatives being taken by the state government, the team lauded the state by asserting that institutional delivery in the state is quiet good and diet was being provided to pregnant women in all facilities and most of the women received JSY Payments through the DBT route.

Similarly, family planning commodities were available in most of the facilities. Family participatory care was being practiced at district hospitals. Breast-feeding corners have been established in district hospitals.

90.4% increase in domestic tourist arrival in Raj: Report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 18: Rajasthan has seen a 90.4 per cent increase in the number of domestic tourists compared to last year, an official statement said, adding that 1.64 lakh foreign tourists have visited the desert state till this September.

The tourism department told a review meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Thursday that there has been an unprecedented increase in the arrival of tourists in the state after the coronavirus pandemic. "The number of domestic

The number of domestic tourists in the state has increased by 90.4 per cent this year compared to last year

Apart from this, 1.64 lakh foreign tourists have come to visit Rajasthan till September this year

tourists in the state has increased by 90.4 per cent this year compared to last year. Apart from this, 1.64 lakh foreign tourists have come to visit Rajasthan till September this year," the statement said.

Talking about the importance of tourism for the state's economy, Gehlot said the sector generates employment on a large scale, while the income received from it accelerates the development of the state.

He said his government will soon organise Rajasthan Folk Art Festival for the protection and upliftment of the distinctive folk arts and culture of different regions of the state.

The Chief Minister also announced that the Town Hall of Jaipur will be developed as a museum. For this, the state government has allocated a budget of ₹96 crore.

Rajasthan Tourism is returning to World Travel Market (WTM) post-Covid, this year it is being held at ExCeL London from November 7 to November 9. The WTM is the leading international travel event. With the principles and ethos of 'Atithi Devo Bhava', Rajasthan Tourism returns with a warm and open arm for tourists to come and explore the colourful desert state of Rajasthan.



A foreign tourist with Girdhar Vyas, who claims to sport the longest moustache in the world, at Junagarh Fort in Bikaner, Rajasthan

Rajasthan reels under cold wave

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 18: The night temperature has further dropped below 10 degree Celsius in many parts of Rajasthan, according to the Meteorological Center.

Fatehpur in Sikar district recorded a minimum temperature of 6.8 degrees Celsius Thursday night - the lowest in the state.

FATEHPUR IN SIKAR DISTRICT RECORDED A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 6.8 DEGREES CELSIUS THURSDAY NIGHT -- THE LOWEST IN THE STATE

The minimum temperature in Churu was 7 degrees in Churu, 8 degrees in Sikar, 8.2 degrees in Karauli, 8.7 degrees in Sangaria, 9.2 degrees in Bhilwara, 9.3 degrees in Piplani and 9.4 degrees in Alwar on Thursday night.

In the capital Jaipur, the maximum temperature was recorded at 26.8 degree Celsius while the minimum temperature at 12.8 degree Celsius in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am Friday.



'VICTORY DAY' CELEBRATIONS Congress announces support to farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 18: The Punjab Congress Thursday extended its support to farmers who have decided to hold 'Victory Day' celebrations November 19 to commemorate the withdrawal of the three contentious farm laws by the Centre. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) earlier in Delhi said it would celebrate November 19 as 'Fateh Diwas' or 'Victory Day' as the Union government had on that day last year ordered the repeal of the farm laws following their year-long agitation.

The Congress suggested that along with 'Victory Day', the farmers should also observe it as a "betrayal day", saying the BJP government at the Centre had "betrayed" them and "completely backed out" of all the commitments it made to them before they called off the 'dharna'. "While November 19 will always be remembered as a day of victory, sadly, it has turned out to be a day of betrayal as well, as the BJP government has completely betrayed the farmers," Punjab Congress chief

Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said in a statement here.

The SKM had also said it would hold marches to Raj Bhavan across the country November 26, saying it would be a protest against the Centre "for not keeping its promises on farmers' demands".

Warring said the Congress will continue to support and stand by the farmers until the Centre fulfills all their demands. "We will not let them back out, come what may," he asserted. He questioned the silence of the Aam Aadmi Party government on the issue. He pointed out that the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government was in power in Punjab for eight months but it never raised the matter with the Centre.

"It is the duty and responsibility of the Punjab government to watch the interests of farmers since it represents a predominantly agrarian state, but sadly, it has failed miserably," he said.

Warring also pointed out that the Punjab government did not even write a single letter to the Centre to fulfill the commitments it made to the farmers.



Punjab: New initiative to manage stubble

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Nov 18: Punjab government November 13 announced to make it mandatory for brick-kilns across the state to use 20 per cent of straw as fuel.

It was disclosed by Environment, Science and Technology Minister Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer here. He said under the guidelines of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the government has issued a notification that 20 per cent of straw pellets for brick-kilns must be used as fuel.

He also said brick-kiln owners



have been given six months to prepare for this new management and action will be taken against those who do not implement these instructions after May 1, 2023.

Hayer said in-situ and ex-situ works are being done by the government to help farmers in stub-

The farmers of Punjab have been provided 1.25 lakh machines on subsidy for in-situ stubble management whereas under ex-situ, industries are being encouraged to use stubble as fuel

Efforts are being made to generate CNG, electricity and other energy sources from straw, said the minister

Hayer said with the new decision regarding the use of straw as fuel will give a big boost to straw management and farmers will also get financial help by selling straw.

He said the Department of Environment and Science and Technology will provide all technical assistance to the brick-kilns. Besides, all Deputy Commissioners have also been asked to follow these instructions under the notification issued in this regard.

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Satellite-tagged vultures spark curiosity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Nov 18: As winter nears, sightings of vultures with tiny transmitters on their backs in the desert state often raise curiosity among people, but their questions are met with complete silence from the officials concerned.

According to environmentalists, vultures displaying a tiny gadget over their back feeding over the carcass of livestock has become a common sight here.

These tiny objects are satellite transmitters fixed in the birds' home range in Kazakhstan. These emit beep-signals which are relayed by the satellite and picked up by scientists in remote areas.

One of these species are Egyptian vultures, which were fitted with transmitters in Karatau mountains in Kazakhstan a few weeks ago. They covered a distance of 1,923 km., to reach Jorbeer;

an arid plain land used as municipal dump, about ten kilometers south-east of Bikaner in Rajasthan. The area is declared as a 'Conservation Reserve' by the state's forest department, as per them.

The experiment on the species is part of an ongoing project undertaken by the Russian Raptor Research and Conservation Network. Dau Lal Bohra, an independent researcher serving as lecturer in a private college in Rajasthan, joined the team to gain know-how of transmitter application called as "tagging."

About 15 Egyptian vultures were tagged in Karatau mountains to learn about the nature of migration, ascertain their path, duration of their stay and the place of their return. The experiment revealed that the said vulture is a resident species in India ie, it breeds within the country, and that its overseas population too reached India.



Vultures play a significant role in ecology as they consume dead bodies to act as cleansing-agents in nature

They faced the most severe decline in their population over the past 25 years across India

The first mortalities were reported from Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan

To the surprise of many, the officials remained tight-lipped about the entire exercise.

Expressing his displeasure over absence of measures for the study

of these feathered creatures, environmentalist Harsh Vardhan said, "Despite the country having continued MoUs and new agreements on several new fronts, why

is the Centre not taking any initiative for wildlife centric understanding with overseas experts and their governments?"

Since the Centre has done precious little in this regard, the private hands continue to experiment with wild species and details remain non-existent in the Government quarters, he said.

Total count of vultures at Jorbeer presently can be a thousand. These include Red-headed Vulture (single or two), Egyptian Vulture (200+), Indian Vulture (less than a 100), White-rumped Vulture (less than 20), Cinerous Vulture (about 10), Eurasian Griffon (a few hundred), Himalayan Vulture, earlier called as Himalayan Griffon (a few hundred).

While Eurasian Griffon reaches from Europe, the Cinerous comes from Mongolia. They reach annually to this nondescript area and return to their breeding grounds by the end of winter.

of the day quote

Office of ITDC Chairman Sambit Patra should also be sealed as he is spokesperson of the BJP

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

Along with al Qaeda, organisations in South Asia like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed continue to spread terror

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

There would be no climate crisis if emissions of the entire world were at the same per capita level as India

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Five killed

Mumbai: Five persons were killed and another 4 critically injured when their speeding SUV rammed into a trailer truck on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway just before midnight on Thursday, police said Friday.

Miscreant held

Noida: A miscreant was arrested near the Parthala Pushta road in Noida following a clash with the police. The accused, identified as Yogesh, was arrested late Thursday night in an injured state after being shot.

Man sentenced to death

Vadodara: A special POCOS court sentenced a man to death for raping and murdering a minor girl in 2019. Special Judge JA Thakkar on Thursday awarded capital punishment and also slapped a fine of ₹1.30 lakh on Sanjay Baria.

Karnataka Cong MLA threatened

Mysuru (Karnataka): Former minister and Congress MLA Tanveer Sait has lodged a police complaint alleging that he has received a life threat for announcing to install the tallest statue of Tipu Sultan here, police said Friday.

12 arrested in Ayush scam

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) has arrested 12 persons in connection with Ayush admission scam. The Uttar Pradesh government had referred the Ayush admission anomalies scam for a CBI probe on November 7.

Nov 19 bank strike deferred: AIBEA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 18: The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has withdrawn its November 19 strike call after an understanding was reached with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the bank managements, said a top official.

"An understanding has been reached on all the issues. IBA and the banks have agreed to resolve the issue bilaterally. Hence our strike is deferred," AIBEA General Secretary C.H. Venkatchalam said. The strike call was earlier given to protest against targeted victimisation of bankers for being active in the union.

Venkatchalam had said in the recent period, the attacks are not only increasing but there is a common thread in all these attacks. "There is a design in these attacks. There is some method in the madness. Hence, we have to resist, report and repulse these attacks at the AIBEA level as a whole," he had earlier told his members.

He said AIBEA union leaders have been dismissed/retrenched from service by Sonali Bank, MUFGBank, Federal Bank, and Standard Chartered Bank.

Venkatchalam said government banks like Bank of Maharashtra are denying trade union rights while Canara Bank, Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and IDBI Bank are outsourcing many banking activities.

According to him, at the Central Bank of India, it is 'jungle raj' with the management resorting to indiscriminate transfers. Venkatchalam had said more than 3,300 clerical staff have been transferred from one station to another violating the bipartite settlement and bank level settlement.

Impose cost on nations aiding terror as policy: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: In a veiled attack on Pakistan and China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said certain countries support terrorism as part of their foreign policy while some do so indirectly by blocking action against terrorists.

Addressing the 3rd 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing, the prime minister also stressed on the need for imposing cost on countries that support terrorism. In a similar tone, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing a separate session at the conference, said there are countries that seek to undermine, or even hinder, our collective resolve to fight terrorism.

Ministry of Home Affairs is organising the conference which is being attended by 450 delegates from over 75 nations and international organisations. Officials said Pakistan and Afghanistan are not participating in the conference while China was invited but did not come.

During the last two decades, India has repeatedly sought inclusion of several Pakistan-based leaders of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed leaders in the United Nations Security Council's 1267 committee list but the proposals have been vetoed by China, a permanent member of



Officials listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address during the third 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing in New Delhi

Certain countries support terrorism as part of their foreign policy and they offer political, ideological and financial support

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

"We have seen that some countries protect and shelter terrorists, protecting a terrorist is equivalent to promoting terrorism. It will be our collective responsibility that such elements never succeed in their intentions," Shah said.

He said no one should ignore terrorists' safe havens or their resources. "We also have to expose the double-speak of such elements who sponsor and support them," Shah said.

Pakistan is accused of providing all-round support to terrorist organisations in carrying out attacks in India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. The prime minister said organisations and individuals that try to create sympathy for terrorists must also be isolated.

SC JUNKS PLEA

The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a plea by a woman seeking protection for over 60 stray dogs whom she claimed to foster



SC rejects pleas to control population

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a batch of pleas, including one seeking steps for enforcing a two-child norm to control the rising population, saying it is for the government to look at the issue.

Citing media reports about India's population stabilising despite the rise in births, the apex court said it is not an issue where the court should interfere.

"Population is not something that one fine day it stops," a bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka observed orally. Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, one of the petitioners, said a report from the Law Commission on the issue is very important.

Upadhyay had filed a petition in the top court challenging an order of the Delhi High Court dismissing a plea seeking certain steps, including a two-child norm, to control the rising population. After the apex court said it was not inclined to entertain the plea, he withdrew it.

Besides his plea, the bench also refused to entertain some other petitions filed on the issue, prompting the advocates to withdraw them. "How do we go into enacting a legislation?" the bench asked at the outset.

When Upadhyay argued his prayer was intended to press for a direction to the Law Commission to prepare a comprehensive report on the issue, the bench asked how can the commission prepare a report on population explosion.

The bench observed the issue raised was about the two-child



Citing media reports about India's population stabilising despite the rise in births, the apex court said it is not an issue where the court should interfere

norm and it was for the government to consider it. It said the court cannot go into this as there are several social and family issues involved.

"This is for the government to do," the bench said, asking, "Is this an issue on which we should interfere?" "We have better things to do," the apex court orally observed. At the fag end of hearing, Upadhyay said India has around two per cent land and four per cent water but 20 per cent population of the world.

On January 10, 2020, the apex court had sought replies from the Centre and others to the plea challenging the high court order. The appeal had challenged the September 3, 2019 high court order which said it was for Parliament and state legislatures to enact laws and not for the court.

TRS activists ransack BJP MP's house in Hyd

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 18: TRS activists Friday ransacked the house of BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind's house here over his alleged derogatory remarks against Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao's daughter K Kavitha.

The attack took place after the BJP MP was heard in a video targeting the state's ruling party by making alleged disparaging remarks against Kavitha, also a ruling party MLC. The residence of the Nizamabad Lok Sabha was attacked by people wearing TRS flags and scarves and they also burnt an effigy of the BJP leader, prompting the police to disperse them.

Condemning the incident, the BJP alleged that it was the handiwork of ruling Telangana Pradesh Samiti (TRS). During a press conference, Arvind made some alleged disparaging comments about the CM's family based on reports in a section of media that suggested that BJP tried to lure Kavitha into its fold.

He also alleged that Kavitha had called up AICC President

Mallikarjun Kharge and expressed her willingness to join the national party after she was ignored during the name change function of TRS to BRS (Bharat Rashtra Samiti).

Joel Davis, Deputy Commissioner of Police (west zone) told PTI they were yet to receive a complaint on the incident. "We will take legal action once we receive the complaint," the police official said about the attack on the MP's house.

In a tweet, Arvind said, "TRS goons attacked my residence and vandalised the house. They terrorised my mother & created ruckus." Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary in a statement condemned the attack on Arvind's residence.

"The TRS goons took recourse to brazen hooliganism in ransacking the house." Chugh said. There was no immediate response from the TRS over the incident. Kavitha had earlier said some friends of BJP had approached her to join the party, but she refused the "offer". Addressing a press conference, she also hit out at Arvind, refuting his reported comments that Kavitha had called up Kharge.



Security personnel attempt to disperse agitators during a protest by people from the Ahir community demanding the formation of Ahir regiment in the Indian Army, in Gurugram

Aaftab's narco test within 5 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, Nov 18: Delhi police Friday sent teams to Maharashtra Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to hunt for evidence in the Shradha Walkar murder case with sleuths recovering some body parts in Gurugram even as a court here ordered that narco test be conducted on accused Aaftab Amin Poonawala within five days. Meanwhile, some old chats of

Walkar with friends and co-workers indicated she was once beaten so badly by Poonawala that she could not get off the bed. The body parts found in Gurugram are being sent for forensic examination, sources said.

The court directed police not to use any third degree measures on Poonawala and conduct his narco test a day after it granted nod for conducting the truth serum test as police found that Poonawala was constantly

changing his statements.

Dating app Bumble on which Poonawala and Walkar had met, released a statement calling the incident an "unspeakable crime" and expressed sympathy with the victim's family and loved ones. The WhatsApp chats revealed a pattern of abuse when Walkar lived with Poonawala in their hometown Vasai near Mumbai. Similarly pictures of Walkar dating back to 2020 with visible injury marks also surfaced on social media.

Bureaucrat sacked over Instagram post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: An Uttar Pradesh IAS officer has been removed as a general observer for Gujarat assembly polls by the Election Commission for indulging in a "publicity stunt" by posting pictures of his assignment on Instagram, sources said Friday.

In a strongly-worded letter to the chief electoral officer of Gujarat on Friday, EC said the 2011 batch officer used social media platform Instagram for sharing his posting as a general observer and used his official position as a "publicity stunt".

The poll panel also shared with the CEO pictures uploaded by the officer on the social media platform, the sources said. Citing the EC communication, the sources said the poll panel took "a very serious view" of the matter and relieved the officer immediately of his duties as a general observer.

He has also been debarred from any election related duty till further orders. The officer was also directed to leave the constituency of which he was given the responsibility immediately and report to his nodal officer in the parent cadre.

All SC benches to hear 10 bail pleas daily: CJI

The bench said as of now there were 3,000 petitions pending in the top court pertaining to matrimonial cases where parties are seeking transfer of cases to a place of their liking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud Friday said the Supreme Court, in its full court meeting, has decided that all the 13 benches will hear 10 transfer petitions pertaining to matrimonial disputes and equal number of bail petitions daily in a bid to lessen the

pendency of cases.

At the start of the proceedings, the bench said the decision has been taken at a meeting of all apex court judges. "After a full court meeting, we have decided that each bench will take up 10 transfer petitions, which are family matters, followed by 10 bail matters every day to dispose of all such matters



before the winter vacation," the CJI said, adding bail matters needed to be given primacy as they pertained to personal liberty.

The bench said as of now there were 3,000 petitions pending in the top court pertaining to matrimonial cases where parties are seeking transfer of cases to a place of their liking.

The bench said if every bench takes up 10 transfer cases every day then 13 benches will be able to decide "130 cases per day and

650 per week. So at the end of five weeks which we have before closing before winter vacations, all transfer petitions will be over."

The benches will start taking up regular cases after dealing with these 20 bail and transfer petitions every day, the CJI said.

Justice Chandrachud also said that he has decided to cut down the number of cases to be listed at the last moment in the supplementary list to lessen the burden on judges who are forced to see case files till late night.

international



Currently, more than 10 million Ukrainians are without electricity. Most of them are in the Vinnytsia, Odesa, Sumy and Kiev regions. We are doing everything to normalise the supply

CEC RAJIV KUMAR IN KATHMANDU India's Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar Friday reached Kathmandu as an international observer for Sunday's general elections in Nepal. Kumar, 62, is leading a four-member delegation, including two officials from the Election Commission of India



of the day quote

Renewables are the exit ramp from the climate hell highway. Climate clock is ticking and trust keeps eroding



Over the next two years it is going to be challenging, but I think people want a government that is taking difficult decisions, has a plan that will bring down inflation, stop those big rises in the cost of energy bills and the weekly shop



The United States has an enduring economic commitment to the Indo-Pacific, one that is measured not in years, but in decades, and generations



SHORT TAKES

Imprisoned Russian activist honoured

Geneva: An imprisoned Russian opposition activist who was honoured by a human rights advocacy group dedicated his award to the thousands of people who have been arrested or detained in Russia for protesting President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. UN Watch, a Geneva-based organisation that promotes human rights and tries to ensure that the United Nations does, too, gave Vladimir Kara-Murza its highest human rights award. The Morris Abram award commemorates the group's founder — a civil rights advocate, diplomat and delegate to the United Nations.

Hindu girl beheaded by Muslim lover

Dhaka: More atrocities are being committed on Hindus in Bangladesh as reports say Abu Bakar Siddiqui cut the body of his Hindu lover Kavita Rani into three pieces and threw it into the drain. Abu Bakar beheaded Kavita Rani and chopped her hands, wrapped in plastic polythene and threw it into the drain. Voice of Bangladesh Hindus said in a tweet that on November 7, Hindu girl Kavita Rani was beheaded by her married lover Abu Bakar at Sonadanga in Khulna District, Bangladesh. Later, he was arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (RAB).

20 killed in Pak road accident

Islamabad: Twenty people were killed and 13 others injured when a passenger van fell into a ditch in Pakistan's Sindh province, local reports said Friday. The accident took place late Thursday night in the Sehwan area near the main highway, reports Xinhua news agency. Several ditches, including the one where the van fell, were created in the area two months ago to drain flood water. The highway remained closed during peak flood times and recently opened to the traffic after the flood water started receding from the area.

Fresh protest erupts in Iran

Dubai: A large anti-government protest erupted in Iran Friday at the funeral of a child killed in a shooting that his mother blamed on security forces. Videos circulating on social media showed hundreds of protesters at the funeral for 9-year-old Kian Pirfalak in the southwestern city of Izeh. Protests also erupted in the eastern city of Zahedan, which has seen the deadliest violence since the nationwide demonstrations began.

Earth weighs 6 'ronnagrams' after new metric prefixes voted in

It marks the first time in more than three decades that new prefixes have been added to the International System of Units (SI), the agreed global standard for the metric system

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, Nov 18: Say hello to ronnagrams and quettametres: International scientists gathered in France voted Friday for new

metric prefixes to express the world's largest and smallest measurements, prompted by an ever-growing amount of data. It marks the first time in more than three decades that new prefixes

have been added to the International System of Units (SI), the agreed global standard for the metric system. Joining the ranks of well-known prefixes like kilo and milli are ronna and quetta for the largest numbers - and ronto and quecto for the smallest. The change was voted on by scientists and government representatives from across the world attending the 27th General Conference on Weights and Measures, which

governs the SI and meets roughly every four years at Versailles Palace, west of Paris. The UK's National Physical Laboratory, which led the push for the new prefixes, confirmed that the resolution had passed in a statement. The prefixes make it easier to express large amounts - for example, always referring to a kilometre as 1,000 metres or a millimetre as one thousandth of a metre would quickly become cum-



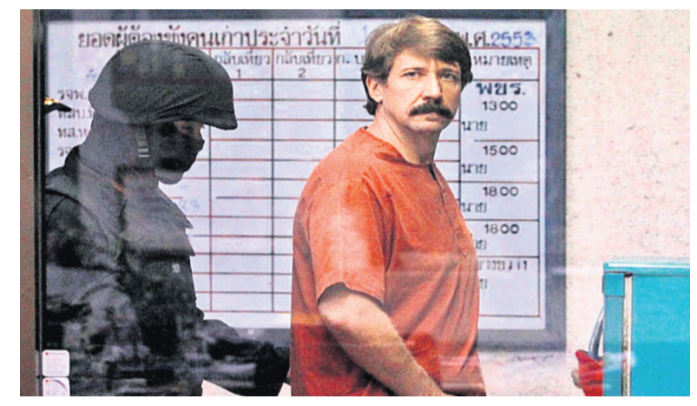
REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

bersome. Since the SI was established in 1960, scientific need has led to a growing number of prefixes. The last time was in 1991, when chemists wanting to express vast molecular quantities spurred the addition of zetta and yotta. A yottametre is a one followed by 24 zeroes. But even the mighty yotta is not enough to handle the world's voracious appetite for data, according to Richard Brown, the head of metrology at the UK's National Physical Laboratory.

Russia warms to US prisoner swap for Bout

REUTERS

London, Nov 18: Russia said Friday it hoped to clinch a prisoner swap with the United States to return convicted Russian arms trafficker Viktor Bout, known as the "Merchant of Death", in an exchange that would likely include US basketball star Brittney Griner.



Alleged arms smuggler Viktor Bout from Russia is escorted by a member of the special police unit as he arrives at a criminal court in Bangkok October 4, 2010

Amid the deadliest war in Europe since World War Two, Russia and the United States are exploring a deal that could see imprisoned Americans including Griner return to the United States in exchange for Bout. "I want to hope that the prospect not only remains but is being strengthened, and that the moment will come when we will get a concrete agreement," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying. "The Americans are showing some external activity, we are working professionally through a special channel designed for this," Ryabkov said. "Viktor Bout is

among those who are being discussed, and we certainly count on a positive result." For the two former Cold War foes, now grappling with the gravest confrontation since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, the exchange would mark one of the more extraordinary prisoner swaps in their history. The distinctly upbeat remarks from Ryabkov, the foreign ministry's point man for the Americas

and arms control, contrast with previous statements from Moscow which have cautioned Washington against trying to engage in megaphone diplomacy over the prisoner swap. The possible swap includes Griner, facing nine years behind bars in Russia after being convicted on drug charges, and Paul Whelan who is serving a 16-year sentence in Russia after being convicted of espionage charges that he denies. **BOUT FOR GRINER** Variouslly dubbed "the merchant

of death" and "the sanctions buster" for his ability to get around arms embargoes, Bout was one of the world's most wanted men prior to his 2008 arrest on multiple charges related to arms trafficking. For almost two decades, Bout was one of the world's most notorious arms dealers, selling weaponry to rogue states, rebel groups and murderous warlords in Africa, Asia and South America. But in 2008, Bout was snared in an elaborate US sting. Bout was caught on camera agreeing to sell undercover U.S. agents posing as representatives of Colombia's leftist FARC guerrillas 100 surface-to-air missiles, which they would use to kill US troops. Shortly afterwards, he was arrested by Thai police. Bout was tried on the charges related to FARC, which he denied, and in 2012 was convicted and sentenced by a court in Manhattan to 25 years in prison, the minimum sentence possible. Ever since, the Russian state has been keen to get him back. Griner has been transferred to a penal colony in the Mordovia region, southeast of Moscow, her lawyers said Thursday, confirming a Reuters report.

'Another attempt on Imran's life possible'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 18: There is a possibility of another assassination attempt on Imran Khan, the Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court said Friday and asserted that it was the government's responsibility to take cognisance of the looming threat on the former Prime Minister.



Chief Justice Aamer Farooq's remarks came while hearing a petition filed by traders regarding road closures due to the protest staged by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. The judge, quoting intelligence reports submitted to the court, said that there was a possibility of another attack on Khan's life, the Dawn newspaper reported. "It is the responsibility of the government and the state to look into the matter," he said. Justice Farooq said the PTI should submit a fresh plea to the Islamabad administration seeking permission for its long march, demanding early general election. "If the issue is not resolved, a fresh petition can also be filed," he said, adding that it was not the court's responsibility to allot a place for the sit-in. "It is the administration's discretion if they want to give permission for D-Chowk or F-9 park," he said. "The same was ordered by the Supreme Court as well," he said. Pakistan's Supreme Court Thursday dismissed a petition to stop the protest march of Khan by observing that it was a political issue and should be resolved politically. Chief Justice Farooq said the protest was the democratic right of every political and non-political party, but upholding the rights of common citizens was also important. "Even in England, people gather at 10 Downing Street. But they protest, not block the streets," he said. "When the Supreme Court said they can't stop the long march, you blocked the GT Road and other motorways," Justice Farooq told

Delay in new army chief's appointment

Nothing creates so much political heat and media frenzy in coup-prone Pakistan as does the appointment of the Army chief, whose power flows from the canon of any statute book but from the cannons of steel and fire. Lately, this exercise in the nuclear-armed country has also attracted global attention due to the implications of the job performed by the head of the military. The appointment of a successor to Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who is set to retire on November 29, is an administrative matter.

the PTI lawyer, calling on the party to "demonstrate responsibility". The hearing was adjourned till November 22. Khan, 70, survived a gun attack on his convoy while holding a protest march in the eastern city of Wazirabad November 3. The attack took place as Khan was leading the march, which was meant to end in the capital Islamabad. The march began October 28 from Lahore and is on its way towards Islamabad. The PTI has announced plans to hold a historic power show in the capital and also sought permission for it but the government has not granted it.

Gaza fire kills 21 from one family during b'day party

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jabaliya Refugee Camp (Gaza Strip), Nov 18: Twenty-one victims of a fire that tore through a top-floor apartment in the Gaza Strip during a birthday party were members of the same family, two of their relatives said Friday. Officials in Hamas-run Gaza have said Thursday night's blaze in a three-story residential building in the Jabaliya refugee camp was apparently fuelled by stored gasoline. They said it was not clear how the gasoline ignited, and that an investigation is underway.



It was one of the deadliest incidents in Gaza in recent years outside the violence stemming from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The blaze destroyed the top-floor apartment in the building, home to the Abu Raya family.

NK test-fires ICBM with range to strike entire US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Nov 18: North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile that landed near Japanese waters Friday in its second major weapons test this month that showed a potential ability to launch nuclear strikes on all of the US mainland. The North's ongoing torrid run of weapons tests aim to advance its nuclear arsenal and win greater concessions in eventual diplomacy and they come as China and Russia have opposed US moves to toughen sanctions aimed at curbing North Korea's nuclear program. The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the ICBM launch from North Korea's capital region around 10:15 am and the weapon flew toward the North's eastern coast across the country. Japan said the ICBM appeared to have flown on a high trajectory and landed west of Hokkaido.

'Working quickly on UK-India FTA'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 18: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said that the UK government remains committed to working "as quickly as possible" towards a successful conclusion to the ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) talks with India, as the majority of the substantive negotiation conversations were completed at the end of last month.



RISHI SUNAK | UK PM

At a House of Commons session on the G20 Summit in Indonesia Thursday, the British Indian leader updated Parliament that he reviewed progress on the FTA during his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi since taking charge at 10 Downing Street. He was questioned by Opposition Labour Party Leader

Keir Starmer and his own Conservative Party MPs on the timeline for the completion of the agreement with India. "I discussed the free trade agreement with India, and both the Prime Minister of India and I committed our teams to working as quickly as possible to see if we can bring a successful conclusion to the negotiations," said Sunak. "Without negotiating all these things in public, I am pleased that the majority of the sub-

stantive negotiation conversations were concluded by the end of October. We will now work at pace with the Indian teams to try to resolve the issues and come to a mutually satisfactory conclusion," he said. More broadly, he reiterated the UK government's stance since the Diwali deadline for the FTA was missed, that he would not "sacrifice quality for speed" because it is important to take the time to get trade deals right.

US moves to shield Saudi crown prince

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 18: The Biden administration has declared that Saudi Arabia's crown prince should be considered immune from a lawsuit over his role in the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a turnaround from Joe Biden's passionate campaign trail denunciations of Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the brutal slaying.



The administration Thursday said the senior position of the crown prince, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler and recently named prime minister as well, should shield him against a suit brought by the fiancée of slain Washington Post columnist Khashoggi and by the rights group Khashoggi founded, Democracy for the Arab World Now. The request is non-binding and a judge will ultimately decide whether to grant immunity. But it is bound to anger human rights activists and many US lawmakers, coming as Saudi Arabia has stepped up imprisonment and other retaliation against peaceful critics at home and abroad and has cut oil production, a move seen as under-

cutting efforts by the US and its allies to punish Russia for its war against Ukraine. The State Department has called the administration's call to shield the Saudi crown prince from U.S. Courts in Khashoggi's killing "purely a legal determination." The State Department cited what it said was longstanding precedent. Despite its recommendation to the court, the State Department said in its filing late Thursday, it "takes no view on the merits of the present suit and reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of the heinous murder of Khashoggi." Saudi officials killed Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. They are believed to have dismembered him, although his remains have never been found.

To save salmon, US approves largest dam removal in history

Dam removal is expected to improve the health of the Klamath River, the route that Chinook salmon and endangered coho salmon take from the Pacific Ocean to their upstream spawning grounds, and from where the young fish return to the sea



A US agency seeking to restore habitat for endangered fish gave final approval Thursday to decommission four dams straddling the California-Oregon border, the largest dam removal undertaking in US history. Dam removal is expected to improve the health of the Klamath River, the route that Chinook salmon and endangered coho salmon take from the Pacific Ocean to their upstream spawning grounds, and from where the young fish return to the sea. The US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order surrendering the dam li-

censes and approving removal of the dams. The project has long been a goal of several native tribes whose ancestors have lived off the salmon for centuries but whose way of life was disrupted by European settlement and the demand for rural electrification in the 20th Century. "The Klamath salmon are coming home," Joseph James, chairman of the Yurok Tribe, said in a statement. "The people have earned this victory and with it, we carry on our sacred duty to the fish that have sustained our people since the beginning of time." Climate change and drought have also stressed the salmon habitat; the river has become too warm and too full of parasites for many

fish to survive. The dams on federal land, which at full capacity provide enough electricity for 70,000 homes, will be surrendered by power utility PacifiCorp, a unit of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway (BRKa.N). Faced with costly new regulations that included building fish screens and ladders, the company instead entered an agreement with the tribes and the US government to decommission the dams. PacifiCorp is contributing \$200 million toward dam removal, paid for by a surcharge on its customers in Oregon and California, said Bob Gravely, a company spokesperson, and California voters approved a bond measure for the state to provide an additional \$250 million.

of the day quote

We have also interacted with some of the companies which are foreign companies, which are already developing this (hyperloop) technology. They have shown some interest in bringing this technology (to India)

VK SARASWAT | MEMBER, NITI AAYOG

We talk a lot about the very long-term opportunities like the metaverse, but the reality is that business messaging is probably going to be the next major pillar of our business as we work to monetize WhatsApp and Messenger more

MARK ZUCKERBERG | CEO, META PLATFORMS

Now OEMs (original equipment manufacturers), including Maruti Suzuki, have portfolios of cars that cater not only to urban centres but smaller towns and rural areas as well

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MARKETING & SALES), MSI

SHORT TAKES

Pre-Budget meetings from November 21

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will kick-start the customary pre-budget meetings beginning Monday with a special focus on issues concerning climate change and infrastructure. The minister would hold virtual meetings November 21 in three groups with industry chambers, infrastructure sector and environment experts seeking suggestions for the 2023-24 Budget making from stakeholders. On November 22, Sitharaman would meet agriculture and agro processing industry, representatives from financial sector and capital markets. She will also be meeting the representatives of services sector and trade bodies, besides experts from social sector, including health, education, water and sanitation, November 24.

Tenure of PSB bosses hiked

New Delhi: The maximum tenure of CEO and MD of public sector banks has been increased to 10 years, a move that will help the government retain the best talent in the banking sector. As per a government notification dated November 17, 2022, the term for the appointment has been extended to 10 years, from the earlier 5 years, subject to superannuation age of 60 years. Earlier, the MD or executive director of a public sector undertaking (PSU) bank was eligible for a maximum tenure of 5 years or 60 years whichever was earlier. This is also applicable for whole-time directors of all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

Jio 5G starts in Delhi NCR

New Delhi: Telecom major Jio Friday said that it has started to provide 5G coverage across Delhi NCR across all important localities. The company said that its 5G service is available across Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and other major NCR locations where it is delivering data speed of up to 1 gigabit per second.

Zomato co-founder Mohit Gupta quits

New Delhi: Online food delivery platform Zomato Friday said its co-founder Mohit Gupta has resigned from his post. Gupta, who had joined Zomato four-and-a-half year back, was elevated to co-founder in 2020 from the position of CEO of its food delivery business.

LEADING IN ASIA-PACIFIC

INDIA POWER BINGES ON COAL

Coal fuels nearly three-quarters of the power output of India, which presented its decarbonisation strategy at the United Nation's COP27 climate summit this week - the last of the world's five largest economies to do so

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 18: India's coal-fired power output has increased much faster than any other country in the Asia-Pacific since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, underscoring the challenges the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter faces in weaning its economy off of carbon.

Use of coal globally including in power generation, has grown since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February sent prices of other fossil fuels surging, derailing efforts to transition to cleaner fuels. But the increase in India's coal-fired power output has outstripped its regional peers, data from the government and analysts showed.

India's power ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. When asked about high coal use, the government has previously cited lower per capita emissions compared with richer nations and surging renewable energy output.

India's coal-fired power output increased more than 10 percent year-on-year from March to October to 757.82 terawatt hours, an analysis of government data shows, as electricity demand increased off the back of a heatwave and pickup in economic activity. The government expects this output to grow at the fastest pace in at least a decade in the current fiscal year ending March 2023.

An analysis of data from independent think tank Ember shows India's surge in coal-fired output for the March-to-August period was 14 times faster than the average in Asia Pacific. The heat wave and economic revival following the pandemic meant overall electricity demand grew twice as fast as rest of the region, Ember's data shows.

The European Union was the



INDIA'S COAL-FIRED POWER OUTPUT INCREASED OVER 10% YOY FROM MARCH-OCTOBER

INDIA'S SURGE IN OUTPUT FOR THE MARCH-TO-AUG PERIOD WAS 14 TIMES FASTER THAN AVERAGE IN ASIA PACIFIC

EUROPEAN UNION WAS THE ONLY REGION WHERE COAL-FIRED POWER OUTPUT GREW AT A RATE FASTER THAN INDIA

RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION GREW 21% IN MARCH TO OCTOBER

only region where coal-fired power output grew at a rate faster than India, the Ember data says, as nations in the region scrambled to reduce their reliance on Russian supplies.

India is also the only major country in Asia, besides Japan, where the contribution of coal-fired power in overall electricity production increased in the six months since March, the data shows.

India wants countries to agree to phase down all fossil fuels at the COP27 summit, rather than a narrower deal to phase down coal



To be honest, I don't think India is a very crypto-friendly environment. If you are going to tax 1 per cent on each transaction, there is not going to be that many transactions

CHANGPENG ZHAO | CEO, BINANCE

LAYING OFF SEASON

Indonesia's biggest Internet company Goto has cut 1,300 jobs, or 12 per cent of its workforce, citing efforts to reduce costs and improve finances. In addition to the recent layoffs announced by Facebook owner Meta and Twitter, other companies such as Netflix, Salesforce, Spotify, Tencent, and others have cut tens of thousands of jobs in recent months



TWITTER IN TROUBLE?

After Musk's ultimatum, employees start quitting



The departures include many engineers responsible for fixing bugs and preventing service outages, raising questions about the stability of the platform amid the loss of employees

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 18: Hundreds of Twitter Inc employees are estimated to have decided to quit the beleaguered social media company following a Thursday deadline from new owner Elon Musk that staffers sign up for "long hours at high intensity," or leave.

The departures highlight the reluctance of some of Twitter's 3,000 or so employees to remain at a company where Musk earlier fired half of the workforce including top management, and is ruthlessly changing the culture to emphasize long hours and an intense pace.

Musk took to Twitter late Thursday and said that he was not worried about resignations as "the best people are staying." The billionaire owner also added: "We just hit another all time high in Twitter usage..." without elaborating.

Musk met some top employees Thursday to try to convince them to stay, said one current employee and a recently departed employee who is in touch with Twitter colleagues.

The company also notified employees that it will close its offices and cut badge access until Monday, according to two sources. Security officers began kicking some employees out of one office Thursday evening, one source said.

Over 110 Twitter employees across at least four continents had announced their decision to leave in public Twitter posts reviewed by Reuters, though each resignation

could not be independently verified. About 15 employees, many in ad sales, posted their intention to stay at the company.

In Twitter's internal chat tool, over 500 employees wrote farewell messages Thursday, a source familiar with the notes said.

On Thursday evening, the version of the Twitter app used by employees began slowing down, according to one source familiar with the matter, who estimated that the public version of Twitter was at risk of breaking during the night. "If it does break, there is no one left to fix things in many areas," the person said, who declined to be named for fear of retribution.

Reports of Twitter outages rose sharply from less than 50 to about 350 reports Thursday evening, according to website Downtodometer, which tracks website and app outages. Early Wednesday, Musk had emailed Twitter employees, saying: "Going forward, to build a breakthrough Twitter 2.0 and succeed in an increasingly competitive world, we will need to be extremely hard-core."

The email asked staff to click "yes" if they wanted to stick around. Those who did not respond by 5 pm Eastern time Thursday would be considered to have quit and given a severance package, the email said.

Blue hearts and salute emojis flooded Twitter and its internal chatrooms Thursday, the second time in two weeks as Twitter employees said their goodbyes.

In an apparent jab at Musk's call for employees to be "hard-core," the Twitter profile bios of several departing engineers Thursday described themselves as "softcore engineers" or "ex-hardcore engineers."

As the resignations rolled in, Musk cracked a joke on Twitter. "How do you make a small fortune in social media?" he tweeted. "Start out with a large one."

TURBULENT TIMES

Jet Airways to cut salaries, send many on leave sans pay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Jet Airways, which is yet to resume operations under its new owner, will reduce salaries for various staff and send many employees on leave without pay, amid uncertainty over resumption of its operations.

The measures, which will be effective from December 1, were revealed hours after the winning bidder Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) said it might take "difficult" near-term decisions to manage cashflows.

The once-storied airline shuttered operations in April 2019 and JKC's resolution plan was approved under the insolvency process by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in June last year. However, due to various issues, the airline is yet to restart operations.

The pay cut would be up to 50 per cent and the quantum would be higher for the CEO and CFO. The temporary pay cuts and Leave Without Pay (LWP) for the affected staff would be effective from December 1, a source close to the development said.

In a series of tweets, Jet Airways CEO Sanjiv Kapoor said less than 10 per cent of the total staff would be on temporary Leave Without Pay and one-third would be on temporary pay reduction.

According to him, "two-thirds of staff (are) not impacted at all" and no staff has been asked to go. "... With the ownership transfer timeline slipping due to factors outside our control, some temporary hard decisions had to be taken," he said, adding that the team working to revive Jet Airways was not responsible for the airline running out of cash and suspending operations.



Economy to grow 6.1%-6.3% in Q2: RBI bulletin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 18: With headline inflation beginning to show signs of easing, the domestic macroeconomic outlook appears to be resilient and on a course for about 7 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal though India is still sensitive to global headwinds, an RBI article said Friday.

The article published in the latest RBI bulletin also said the out-

INDIAN ECONOMY RESILIENT, ON COURSE TO ACHIEVE 7% GROWTH IN FY'23, SAYS THE ARTICLE

look for the global economy remains clouded with downside risks. Global financial conditions have been tightening and deteriorating

market liquidity is amplifying financial price movements.

Markets are now pricing in moderate increases in policy rates and risk-on appetite has returned. In India, supply responses in the economy are gaining strength, it noted.

"With headline inflation beginning to show signs of easing, the domestic macroeconomic outlook can best be characterised as resilient but sensitive to formidable global headwinds," the article said.

Helios now at Nexus Esplanade mall

BIZ BUZZ

BHUBANESWAR:

Helios, India's leading premium watch destination with largest selection of premium, fashionable, Swiss and smart watches in India has unveiled a brand, new showroom at Nexus Esplanade mall in Bhubaneswar. With over 40 international brands spread across 44 cities in the country, Helios Watch Store offers flat 10% off on wide collection of timepieces all under one roof. As an extension of Titan, the Tata Group's lifestyle company, Helios represents timeless tradition, authenticity, and promising quality. The collection of top premium watch brands endorses craftsmanship, unique designs and embraces innovation. "We, at Helios Watch Store, take a personal interest and make the extra effort for those who cherish quality timepieces, and that's what sets us apart," said an official. The store will cater to the changing tastes of Indian customers, from casual to sophisticated timepieces that are sure to make styling effortless for you. With over 40 international brands spread across 44 cities in India, Helios Watch Store offers Flat 10% off on wide collection of timepieces all under one roof.



Forex kitty rises at fastest pace since Aug '21

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 18: India's foreign exchange reserves rose to \$544.72 billion in the week through November 11, marking their biggest weekly jump in more than a year, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly statistical supplement showed Friday.

The country's reserves were at \$529.99 billion by November 4. They are still down from around \$630 billion at the beginning of this year as the RBI sold a portion of the reserves to prevent a sharp fall in the rupee this year.

In the week ended November 11, softer-than-expected US inflation data helped the rupee



mark its best weekly performance in about four years and strengthened it to the 80-per-dollar handle for the first time since mid-September.

For the current week, the local currency gave back some of those gains to end down 1.1% at 81.6850 per dollar.

Net \$10.36bn sold in spot forex mkt in Sept

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sold a net of \$10.36 billion in the spot foreign exchange market in September, the central bank said in its latest monthly bulletin released Friday. The RBI said it bought \$23.27 billion and sold \$33.62 billion in the spot market. The rupee tumbled from around 79.5 per dollar to more than 81.5 in September. It plunged to a record low of 83.29 in October, with traders citing instances of RBI intervening in the markets to curb volatility over the period. The RBI said its net forward dollar holdings was \$10.42 billion as of end-September, compared with \$20.16 billion as of end-August. The central bank has sold a net of \$54 billion since the beginning of the year.

India saw sales worth ₹76K-cr in festive month: Report

THE GROWTH WAS LARGELY DRIVEN BY THE FASHION CATEGORY, LED BY UNBRANDED FASHION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 18: India saw robust online sales worth Rs 76,000 crore in the festive month from September 22 and October 23, a 25 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth. According to Bangalore-based Redseer Strategy Consultants, the tier 2 and above cities drove this growth and contributed 57 per cent of festive GMV (gross merchandise value).

The growth was largely driven by the fashion category, led by unbranded fashion.

"While mobiles and electronics continue to dominate category share, home & kitchen, groceries



and beauty personal care were the fastest growing categories. Grocery grew almost 2X from last festive season," said Sanjay Kothari, Associate

Partner, Redseer Strategy Consultants.

Festive Sales have largely become a tier 2 and above phenome-

While mobiles and electronics continue to dominate category share, home & kitchen, groceries and beauty personal care were the fastest growing categories. Grocery grew almost 2X from last festive season

SANJAY KOTHARI | ASSOCIATE PARTNER, REDSEER STRATEGY CONSULTANTS

non with 64 per cent of transacting shoppers coming from those cities. Within beauty, makeup was the most sought-after category with a lot of interest in looking and feeling good, the report mentioned. In home furnishing and decor,

cushion covers, showpiece and decor accents contributed most to the growth.

"Three in four sellers we surveyed reported at least 2X volume growth from business as usual (BAU) during sale days, with strong support from platforms in planning and executing the festive season well. This increase was more visible in lower ASP categories like fashion where 42 per cent of the sellers reported a 3X to 5X growth from BAU," Kothari said.

Offline retail stores saw robust footfalls during Diwali this year, which is also evidenced by growth seen from movements in Google Mobility Index.

SHORT TAKES

Huge feat by Manika

Bangkok: Star paddler Manika Batra Friday became the first Indian woman to reach the semifinals of the Asian Cup Table Tennis tournament with a 4-3 win over higher ranked Chen Szu-Yu of Chinese Taipei here. World number 44 Manika beat Chen, ranked 23rd in the ITTF chart, 6-11 11-6 11-5 11-7 8-11 9-11 11-9 in a hard-fought women's singles quarterfinals. The Indian ace had earlier shocked world No 7 Chen Xingtong of China in a round of 16 match Thursday. In the semifinals, Manika will meet the winner of the match between Jeon Jihee of Korea and Mima Ito of Japan.

Rhythm in quarters

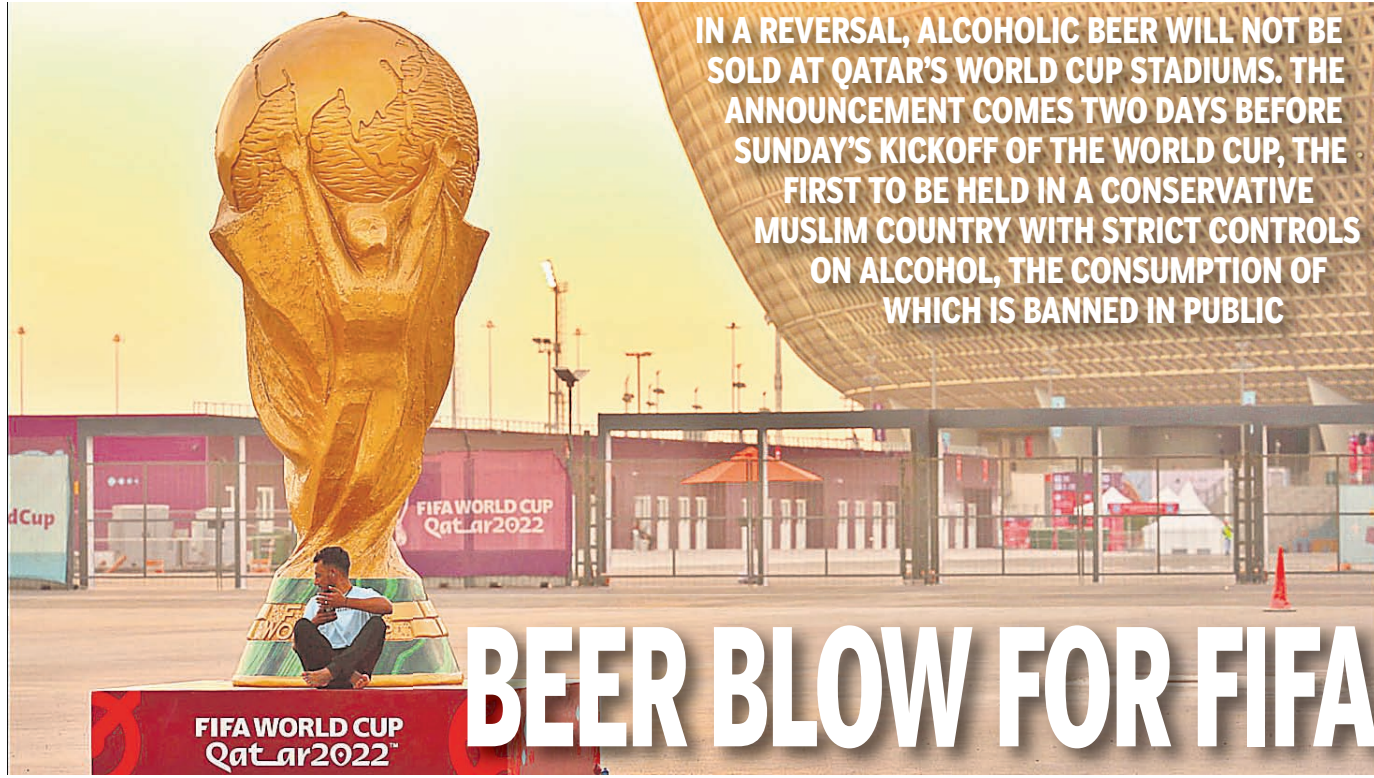
New Delhi: India's Rhythm produced a power-packed performance to enter the men's +92kg quarterfinals while four Indian male pugilists marched into the last-16 stage on third day of the Youth men's and women's World Boxing Championships in La Nucia, Spain. Rhythm started off the bout aggressively against Latvia's Miks Berzins. This came after Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (51kg) and Bharat Joon (92kg) began the day's proceedings for India with dominating wins in the men's round-of-32. While Jadumani outpunched Azerbaijan's Amin Mammadzade 5-0, Bharat thrashed Spanish boxer Ruben Ibanez by a similar margin.

Praggnanandhaa loses

San Francisco: Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi posted his first win while compatriot R Praggnanandhaa lost in the fourth round of the Meltwater Champions Tour Finals Friday. While Erigaisi beat Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov 3-1 for his first victory in the tournament, Praggnanandhaa went down 1-2 to American GM Wesley So. Meanwhile, world No 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway continued his imperious form, to thrash Dutch GM Anish Giri 3-0 while Quang Liem Le (Vietnam) halted the winning run of Polish GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda, handing him a 3-1 loss.

Fritz faces Djoko

Turin: Taylor Fritz advanced to the final four of the ATP Finals by beating Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 6-2 at the year-end tournament. The American will face five-time champion Novak Djokovic in the semifinals. Casper Ruud had already booked his place in the semifinals but he lost 7-5, 7-5 to the already eliminated Rafael Nadal to leave the Norwegian 0-8 against top-three players. The top-seeded Nadal had lost his first two matches in the tournament and avoided equaling his career-worst streak of five straight defeats. Nadal won the Australian Open and French Open to take his tally of Grand Slam titles to a record 22, but he has played just nine singles matches since withdrawing from Wimbledon a day before his semifinals match because of a torn abdominal muscle.



IN A REVERSAL, ALCOHOLIC BEER WILL NOT BE SOLD AT QATAR'S WORLD CUP STADIUMS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT COMES TWO DAYS BEFORE SUNDAY'S KICKOFF OF THE WORLD CUP, THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN A CONSERVATIVE MUSLIM COUNTRY WITH STRICT CONTROLS ON ALCOHOL, THE CONSUMPTION OF WHICH IS BANNED IN PUBLIC

BEER BLOW FOR FIFA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

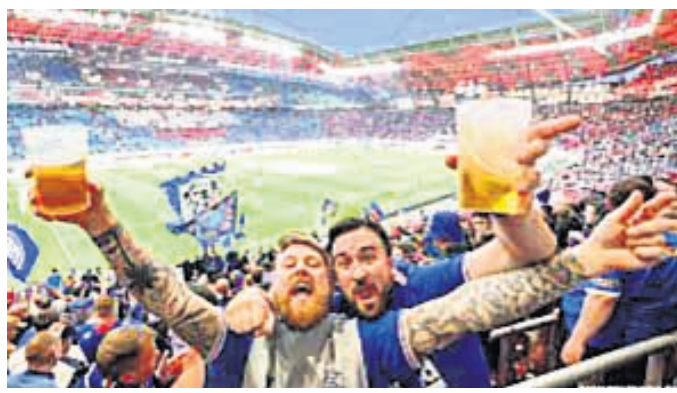
Doha, Nov 18: The sale of all beer with alcohol at the eight World Cup stadiums was banned Friday, only two days before the soccer tournament is set to start. Non-alcoholic beer will still be sold at the 64 matches in the country.

"Following discussions between host country authorities and FIFA, a decision has been made to focus the sale of alcoholic beverages on the FIFA Fan Festival, other fan destinations and licensed venues, removing sales points of beer from... Stadium perimeters," FIFA said in a statement.

Champagne, wine, whiskey and other alcohol is still expected to be served in the luxury hospitality areas of the stadiums. Outside of those places, beer is normally the only alcohol sold to regular ticket holders.

Ab InBev, the parent company of World Cup beer sponsor Budweiser, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

AB InBev pays tens of millions of dollars at each World Cup for exclusive rights to sell beer and has already shipped the majority of its stock from Britain to Qatar in expectation of selling its product to millions of fans. The company's partnership with FIFA started at the 1986 tournament and they are in negotiations for renewing their deal for the next World Cup in



North America. While a sudden decision like this may seem extreme in the West, Qatar is an autocracy governed by a hereditary emir, who has absolute say over all governmental decisions.

Qatar, an energy-rich Gulf Arab country, follows an ultraconservative form of Islam known as Wahhabism like neighboring Saudi Arabia. However, alcohol sales have been permitted in hotel bars for years.

Qatar's government and its Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy did not immediately respond to request for comment. Already, the tournament has seen Qatar change the date of the opening match only weeks before the World Cup began.

Ronan Evain, the executive director of the fan group Football Supporters Europe, called the

When Qatar launched its bid to host the World Cup, the country agreed to FIFA's requirements of selling alcohol in stadiums, and again when signing contracts after winning the vote in 2010. At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the host country was forced to change a law to allow alcohol sales in stadiums

decision to ban beer sales at the stadiums in Qatar "extremely worrying."

"For many fans, whether they don't drink alcohol or are used to dry stadium policies at home, this is a detail. It won't change their tournament," Evain wrote on Twitter. "But with 48 (hours) to go, we've clearly entered a dan-

gerous territory — where assurances' don't matter anymore."

AB InBev's deal with FIFA was renewed in 2011 — after Qatar was picked as host — in a two-tournament package through 2022. However, the Belgium-based brewer has faced uncertainty in recent months on the exact details of where it can serve and sell beer in Qatar.

An agreement was announced in September for beer with alcohol to be sold within the stadium perimeters before and after games. Only alcohol-free Bud Zero would be sold in the stadium concourses for fans to drink in their seats in branded cups. Last weekend, AB InBev was left surprised by a new policy insisted on by Qatari organizers to move beer stalls to less visible locations within the perimeter.

Budweiser was also to be sold in the evenings only at the official FIFA fan zone in downtown Al Bidda Park, where up to 40,000 fans can gather to watch games on giant screens. The price was confirmed as \$14 for a beer.

The company will be based at an upscale hotel in the West Bay area of Doha with its own branded nightclub for the tournament.

At the W Hotel in Doha, workers continued putting together a Budweiser-themed bar planned at the site. Its familiar AB logo was plastered on columns and walls at the hotel, with one reading: "The World Is Yours To Take."

BCCI sacks Sr selection panel post T20 debacle

NEW COMMITTEE TO CHOOSE CAPTAINS FOR THE THREE DIFFERENT FORMATS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 18: The BCCI sacked Friday the entire four-member senior national selection committee led by Chetan Sharma in the aftermath of the Indian cricket team's failure to reach the final of the T20 World Cup in Australia. In the semifinals India were thrashed by 10 wickets by ultimate winners England. Among those sacked was Odisha's Debasish Mohanty (East). The BCCI also invited applications for the position of national selectors (Senior Men). The last date of application is November 28.

The new chairman's job mandate has an interesting description of "selecting captain in each format". It points out that the BCCI might be moving towards split captaincy in near future.

Other selectors who were shown the door are Harvinder Singh (Central Zone) and Sunil Joshi (South Zone). This incidentally is the shortest stint of a senior selection panel in recent times. Joshi and Harvinder were appointed national selectors in February 2020. After the AGM in January 2021, Chetan took over as chairman of selectors with Mohanty and Kuruvilla joining him. A senior national selector normally gets a four-year term subject to extension.

During Chetan's tenure, India

had also failed to reach knock-out stage in the 2021 edition of T20 World Cup and lost the World Test Championships final.

"For Chetan to save his job, India needed to win the T20 World Cup. Nothing less could have saved him, a BCCI insider said.

Some of the reasons believed to have led to Chetan's sacking are: not being able to have a settled squad, allowing eight international captains in just one year with some select seniors turning workload management into a joke, picking KL Rahul after an eight-month hiatus from T20 cricket, going on almost each and every India tour but not being able to create a decisive set of players in co-ordination with team management.

Chetan would never travel with the team and would stand at a fair distance from head coach Rahul Dravid at the nets. The media in Australia never witnessed any major conversation between the two.

In what could be a major development, the new selection committee, will be mandated to choose captains across three formats which effectively means that BCCI will be going for split captaincy. This could mean that Rohit Sharma will remain captain in ODIs and Test cricket for the time being while Hardik Pandya becomes the shortest format leader till 2024 T20 World Cup in USA and West Indies.



OFC hammer East Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 18: Odisha FC made a stunning second half comeback as they beat East Bengal 4-2 in their Indian Super League (ISL) match here Friday.

Half-time substitute Pedro Martin bagged a brace to restore parity three minutes after coming on. Jerry Mawihmingthanga and Nandhakumar Sekar wrapped up the three points later on.

The hosts were forced to make one change to their starting XI as Pritam Singh replaced the injured Jerry Lalrinzuala and started his first match of the season. The visitors made two changes, dropping Denechandra Meitei and Mawihmingthanga to the bench as Narender Gahlot and Isaac Chhakchhuak started. The three



PEDRO MARTIN

points lifted Odisha FC to third place in the table, three off Mumbai City FC with a game in hand. The Juggernauts will host Chennaiyin FC next

November 24. East Bengal remain in eighth place and will travel to Jamshedpur for their next game November 27.

IND VS NZ: FIRST T20I RAIN PLAYS SPOILSPORT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wellington, Nov 18: The first T20 International of the three-match series between India and New Zealand was called off without a ball being bowled as incessant rain made the ground unplayable here Friday.

The rain did stop for a bit but barring a short period of dry spell, it continued to pour throughout at the Sky Stadium.

The match was ultimately called off at 8.52pm local time, about an hour less than the cut-off time of 9.46pm for a five-over a side shootout.

India are slated to play two more T20Is, followed by three ODIs as part of their tour of New Zealand.

Both the teams had come in following their exit from the semifinal stage of the T20 World Cup in Australia.



In the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, premier all-rounder Hardik Pandya is leading the Indian T20 side with wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant serving as his deputy. Besides Rohit, star batter Virat Kohli and opener KL Rahul have also been rested for the tour.

The next T20 will be played in Mount Maunganui Sunday.

India win 25 golds in Asian Airgun Championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: A dominant India ended their campaign at 15th Asian Airgun Championship in Daegu, Korea with a rich haul of 25 gold medals, including the two available on the final day Friday.

Manu Bhaker and Samrat Rana won the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Junior event while Rhythm Sangwan and Vijayveer Sidhu took the gold in the corresponding senior event.

In a show of complete dominance, India won 25 out of the 28 events in the competition schedule over eight days.

Sangwan and Sidhu completely outshot Kazakhstan's Valeriy Rakhimzhan and Irina Yunusmetova 17-3 in the Air Pistol Mixed Team final. They had topped the qualification round with a score of 579 with the Kazakhs finishing second with 577, thereby setting up the gold medal clash.



A second Indian pair of Shiva Narwal and Yuvika Tomar also made it to one of the bronze medal matches, finishing fourth in qualifying with a score of 573. They eventually went down 6-16 to the Korean pair to miss out on a medal.

In the junior Air Pistol Mixed Team event, the Indian duo of Bhaker and Rana shot 578 in the qualification to finish second behind Uzbekistan's Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov, who shot 579. However, the Indian duo turned the tables on the Uzbeks in the final with a crushing 17-3 victory.

India's second pair in the event, Sagar Dangi and Esha Singh also made it to one of the two bronze medal matches, finishing third in qualification with a score of 576. However, they too lost out on a medal, going down 14-16 in a tight contest against Korea's Lee Seungjun and Yang Jiin.

Ronaldo spills the beans on relationship with Ten Hag

A RETURN TO MAN U SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY FOR THE FIVE TIME BALLON D'OR WINNER RONALDO WHO CRITICISED SENIOR FIGURES AND TEAMMATES AS HE WAS GIVEN LIMITED PLAYING TIME

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 18: Cristiano Ronaldo detailed his falling out with Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag in the final part of a 90-minute TV interview that aired Thursday, saying he left a game early this season because he felt "provoked" by the coach and accusing the Dutchman of lacking "empathy."

Ronaldo's future with United is up in the air after his incendiary interview with Piers Morgan for Britain's TalkTV, but the Portugal star said he was open to returning to the club after World Cup — even though he acknowledged that a "new chapter" might be best for both sides.

A return seems highly unlikely after Ronaldo harshly criticized senior figures and teammates at the club in the first part of the interview Wednesday. That trend continued when he tried to explain why he left a Premier League game against Tottenham before the final whistle after Ten Hag asked him to come off the bench for the final three minutes of the game.

Ronaldo said he felt some regret over walking down the tunnel, but

that "I felt provoked by the coach." "It's not allowed for me, (for) a coach to put me three minutes in a game," said Ronaldo, who has won five Ballon d'Or awards as the world's best player.

"I'm sorry."

"I'm not that kind of player. I know what I can give to the team."

Ronaldo's playing time has been limited under Ten Hag, especially in the Premier League, and the 37-year-old forward said "it's hard when they cut your legs and they don't like you to shine and they don't listen to your advice."

vice."

Ronaldo said he could understand Ten Hag's decision to drop him from the starting lineup at the start of the season after the forward skipped most of United's preseason preparations, but added that the relationship between the two was also strained because "other things happened that people, they don't know."

"I think he don't respect (me) the way I should deserve," Ronaldo said. "But it is what it is. That is probably why the game against Tottenham, I left. This is why I say I don't have respect for him, because he don't show respect for me. This is why we are in that situation. I have to be honest that things are not going well because of that. Because the empathy don't exist."

United suspended Ronaldo for three

days after the Tottenham incident, with Ten Hag ordering him to train away from the first team and dropping him from the squad for the next game — a punishment that the Portugal star was too harsh.

"I feel very disappointed because, OK, I regret, I apologize, I'm not perfect, I made a mistake," Ronaldo said. "But suspend me three days, for that, I think it's too much. And then they make fire for the press, which really disappoints me. Don't tell me that the top players, the guys who won everything, the key players will play three minutes. Come on. This isn't acceptable."

Asked whether there was any way he will still be at United after the January transfer window, Ronaldo said "it's difficult to tell right now" because he's focused on the World Cup, which starts Sunday.

"Maybe it's good for Manchester and probably is good for me as well to have a new chapter. Probably. But I don't know," said Ronaldo, who also confirmed he rejected an offer worth 350 million euros (\$363 million) to join a Saudi Arabian team this summer.

"If I will be back, I will be the



IT'S HARD WHEN THEY CUT YOUR LEGS AND THEY DON'T LIKE YOU TO SHINE AND THEY DON'T LISTEN TO YOUR ADVICE

CRISTIANO RONALDO