



DEEPIKA FOR EQUAL PAY

Deepika Padukone is now out of consideration for SLB's Baiju Bawra as she asked for the same fee as hubby Ranveer

LEISURE P2



EXPLOSIONS ROCK N-PLANT

Powerful explosions rock Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia, the site of Europe's largest nuclear power plant, says IAEA

INTERNATIONAL P10



SURYA SINGES KIWIS

A brilliant unbeaten century by Suryakumar Yadav helps India beat New Zealand by 65 runs in their T20I match

SPORTS P12

SC to hear plea on Morbi today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a plea seeking the constitution of a judicial commission to probe the Morbi bridge collapse incident in Gujarat which claimed over 130 lives.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli will hear the PIL filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, which said that the accident depicted the negligence and utter failure of the authorities. On November 1, Tiwari had mentioned the matter for urgent listing, and the top court had said it would take up the matter soon.

According to reports, the death toll in the collapse of the British-era bridge October 30 on the Machchhu river in Morbi in Gujarat has gone up to 134.

"From the past decade, various incidents have taken place in our country wherein due to the mismanagement, lapse in duty, and negligent maintenance activities, there have been cases of huge public casualties which could have been avoided," Tiwari has said in his PIL.

The more than a century-old bridge, located around 300 km from state capital Gandhinagar, had reopened after extensive repairs and renovation. It was crammed with people when it collapsed around 6.30pm October 30. In his plea, Tiwari has sought the constitution of a judicial commission under the chairmanship of a retired judge of the apex court to initiate a probe in the matter.

The plea has sought directions to the states to form a committee to survey and conduct assessment risk of old and risky monuments and bridges to ensure environmental viability and safety.

It has also sought a direction to the states to constitute a construction incident investigation department so that fast and prompt probes can be done whenever such incidents occur.



FIRST GOAL FRENZY: Players of Ecuador celebrate after Ecuador's Enner Valencia scored their side's opening goal against Qatar during a World Cup group-A soccer match at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, Sunday

Trump's Twitter handle restored

New York: The Twitter handle of former US President Donald Trump was back up again after the social media company's new owner Elon Musk announced that the account will be reinstated after he ran a poll in which users narrowly backed the move. Trump was permanently suspended from the social media site by Twitter's previous management in January 2021, just days after the attempted insurrection by pro-Trump supporters at the US Capitol. Trump's supporters attacked the Capitol as the US Congress attempted to certify Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election. "The people have spoken. Trump will be reinstated. Vox Populi, Vox Dei," Musk tweeted.

Truck mows down 12 including 4 kids

Hajipur (Bihar): At least 12 people, including women and children, were killed Sunday night when a speeding truck ploughed into a religious procession in the state, officials said. The incident took place around 9pm. In Vaishali district, about 30 kms from the state capital, and local RJD MLA Mukesh Roushan, who had rushed to the spot, said 12 people died. Nine of them were killed on the spot. Three others succumbed to injuries while being rushed to a hospital. Vaishali Superintendent of Police Manish Kumar said, "At least four of the deceased are children."

COP27 delivers historic 'loss and damage' fund

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 20: The UN climate summit in Egypt concluded Sunday with a landmark decision to establish a fund to address loss and damage, but the outcome on other crucial issues such as India's call for phasing down of all fossil fuels reflected little progress.

India termed COP27 "historic" for securing an agreement on establishing a fund to address loss and damage due to climate change-induced disasters, saying "the world has waited far too long for this".

On the establishment of a work programme on climate action in agriculture and food security, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said the responsibilities to reduce emissions should not be shifted to smallholder farmers.

"For India, there were many positives to be drawn from COP27. The most significant for us was the inclusion of sustainable lifestyle in the Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan."

"It is Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who has made



- COP27 summit ends after overnight negotiating session
- Final deal meets developing countries' demand for fund
- Vulnerable islands lament lack of ambition in curb emissions

This COP has taken an important step towards justice. I welcome the decision to establish a loss and damage fund and to operationalise it in the coming period. Clearly this will not be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECY-GENERAL, UN

the pitch for an environmentally-friendly lifestyle, through his mantra of Mission LiFE and the world today moved in that direction," a blog post by Yadav read.

The summit was scheduled to conclude Friday but went into overtime as negotiators pushed for an agreement on issues such as mitigation, loss and damage fund and adaptation. At one point in time, the talks veered close to a collapse but gained momentum in the final

hours after progress on a new finance facility to address loss and damage, a long-pending demand of poor and developing countries, including India, and the key element at this year's UN climate summit. The success of the talks hinged on progress on this track. Developed nations, particularly the US, had opposed this new fund over fears that it would hold them legally liable for massive damages caused by climate change. **Continued on P4**

6 held for killing quack over ₹500 demand to treat

AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 20: Six people, including two teenagers, were held Sunday for allegedly murdering a quack in Ganjam district after he refused to treat one of the accused for free, police said.

The incident happened Friday near Gunduripalli in the Khallikote police station area, they said. Jaya Kumar Mohanty, 64, of Sankuda village demanded Rs 500 from one Anil Kumar Sabar, 20, to treat his wound. When Anil refused to pay him, Mohanty declined to treat him and left the place, police said.

Anil along with the two teenagers, aged 11 and 14, intercepted Mohanty on the outskirts of the village and attacked him, they said. Some villagers got to know about the incident and informed the police when Anil was trying to bury the body with the help of the two teenagers and three other people. Police immediately rushed to the spot and seized the body when they were trying to bury it, said Jagannath Mallick, the inspector-in-charge of Khallikote police station. However, the accused persons managed to flee the spot and they were arrested Sunday, he said.

An investigation is underway to find if any other person is involved in the murder, he added.

30 vehicles pile up on slope of Pune bridge

AGENCIES

Pune, Nov 20: At least 30 vehicles were damaged after being hit by a truck on the downward slope of Navale bridge on the Mumbai-Bangalore highway late Sunday evening, in which some persons were injured, a police official said.

According to local media, the brakes of a tanker failed and it collided into several vehicles. During the accident, which reportedly occurred at 9pm, oil spilled onto the road making it slippery which caused other vehicles to be added to the pileup.

As per the information received so far, six persons have suffered

injuries in the incident and they are being treated at two hospitals, the official said.

There are several vehicles in damaged condition at the site, with fire brigade and police personnel as well as passersby engaged in rescue efforts, eyewitnesses said.

The accident has led to traffic congestion on the road to Mumbai with over 2 km long snarl being reported. As per the preliminary information, at least 30 vehicles have been damaged after a truck went on to hit these vehicles due to suspected brake failure or the driver losing control, a Sinhgad Road police station official said, adding that the rescue operation is on.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I always listen to you. You want me to stay away from political football. I will... for a month.

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP	MAX 28.0°C 28.8°C
	MIN 19.0°C 18.0°C
Humidity	87% 85%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
	Forecast Dry weather likely

Shooting at US gay nightclub kills five

REUTERS

Colorado Springs, Nov 20: Five people were killed and 18 injured in a shooting at a gay nightclub Saturday night in Colorado Springs, Colorado, police said.

A suspect was in custody and was being treated for injuries after the attack at Club Q, Colorado Springs police Lieutenant Pamela Castro told a news conference.

Police got the initial phone call just before midnight about the shooting, Castro said, adding that upon arrival, officers located one person who was believed to be the suspect inside the club.

She did not give any information

on the motive for the attack and declined to say what kind of firearm was used in the shooting.

In its Google listing, Club Q describes itself as an "adult-oriented gay and lesbian nightclub hosting theme nights such as karaoke, drag shows & DJs."

"Devastated by the senseless attack on our community... We thank the quick reactions of heroic customers that subdued the gunman and ended this hate attack," the club said in a statement on its Facebook page. Images of the scene after the shooting showed security and emergency vehicles with flashing blinkers parked on a street near the venue.

Man missing after Super Cyclone reunited with kin

Kritichandra Baral lost his memory after the traumatic experience and landed up in Visakhapatnam. He would at times only utter the word 'Srikakulam'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 20: Miracles do occur and the Baral family from Puri will certainly agree. An octogenarian, presumed killed by the super cyclone that lashed the Odisha coast 23 years ago, has been reunited with his family.

After the cyclone that left over 10,000 people dead in Odisha, Kritichandra Baral landed up



in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. He had lost his memory and occupied a portion of a pavement in the port city.

AJ Stalin, who was then a corporator of Greater Visakhapatnam, took pity on the man and stopped near him every day to provide food.

On hearing Stalin's car stop, the man would walk up and accept the packet of food before returning to his corner on the pavement. This went on for several years.

One afternoon, the corporator stopped his car as usual and also honked but the man didn't arrive.

Stalin got out and after a search found the man. He was ill and unable to move. This was in 2012.

Stalin then got in touch with the Missionaries of Charity (MOC) and requested them to take care of the man. After necessary police clearance, the MOC took charge and Baral's health condition improved. Despite all efforts, his memory could not be revived though.

The man would at times utter the word Srikakulam, the name of a city and district in Andhra Pradesh, though. As Baral got stronger, the MOC shifted him to a centre near Srikakulam. He would accompany the missionaries when they went out to the villages. The MOC had hoped that somebody would recognise him there but this did not happen.

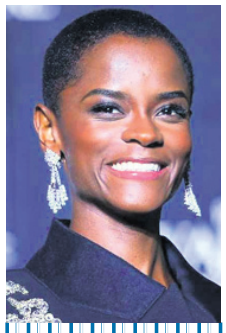
"A couple of days ago, I received a call from the MOC. In the past,

we had helped the organisation in tracing the families of some people they were taking care of. They now wanted us to try and locate this man's family. We didn't even know his name then. After an extensive search by tapping into our network, we finally located the Baral family in Patigram, Bamanala, Puri."

"Baral has three sons. One of them has lost his eyesight. The two others were dumbstruck when they saw their father's photograph and then started weeping. They are a well-to-do family and said how their father went missing after the cyclone and was presumed dead," said Ambarish Nag Biswas, secretary, West Bengal Radio Club (WBRC), an organisation of amateur radio operators.

Continued on P4

leisure



LETITIA NEEDED THERAPY AFTER BOSEMAN'S DEATH

Actress Letitia Wright who sought therapy following death of Chadwick Boseman said, "I was devastated, as you can imagine. It's not like I had a two-year break to process it and then came back into the film. We had to start six months after Chad died", shared Letitia, who stars in 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'.

KIM SHARES CRYPTIC POST ABOUT BEING IN A 'HARD PLACE'

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian shared a cryptic quote: "One thing I realised is that everything always ends up working out, sometimes even better than you can imagine. Remember this when you feel like you're in a hard place or you feel like you're being challenged the most. Believe in where you're headed. See the bigger picture".



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
 accuracy • reliability • trust
 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
 You will be up and about today. Your actions will lead to progress, and progress to success. But later in the day, you may want to be alone. Honour your current mood — soften the lights and snuggle into your favourite corner.

TAURUS
 It is quite possible that today you will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesh. You may not get the best of the support from your subordinates. The value of something is the amount of effort you have put in to get it. You will be cautious and careful with people.

GEMINI
 Family comes first for you, and today will be no different. You will be preoccupied by thoughts of providing comforts and luxuries to your family members, says Ganesh. At the workplace, your ability to take initiatives will benefit you.

CANCER
 You will be quite sentimental and emotional today, you will help needy relatives. You will reach new heights in romantic interlude. Ganesh indicates that a member of the opposite sex will attract you and you reap full advantage of this attraction.

LEO
 You will find success only after putting in hard work in every task, says Ganesh. On the other hand you will be in the mood to throw a party and enjoy with friends. You will incur expenses on entertainment. You need to carefully watch your finances, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
 You don't find it altogether too difficult to understand the importance of a happy family life. Your partner will try to work up the excitement in your relationship in the afternoon. So Ganesh advises you to do your best to keep fanning the fires of love, which is not always such a bad thing.

LIBRA
 Ganesh says that today may not be a great day for you professionally as higher ups in your office may try to block your path to success. You will have to spend more time doing work and this will mean spending less time with your family. Ganesh says never forget the sacrifices your family members have made for your success.

SCORPIO
 Important discussions in family would keep you occupied almost throughout the day. However, you do not neglect your work for that, says Ganesh. New projects are about to begin. Travel and tours are on the cards, along with expenses.

SAGITTARIUS
 It's a profitable day for the all the businessmen today. You are likely to crack major deals. You will be appreciated for your professionalism at work. It's high time you take risk and launch new products in the market, tips Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
 You will be the centre of attention at work, foretells Ganesh. You will put your best foot forward and impress everyone around, including your boss, with the level of efficiency you bring to the table. Some of your colleagues may have given you a hard time in the past and said mean things behind your back, but today, they will also give you a pat on your back for your achievements.

AQUARIUS
 During the first half of the day, the smallest of problems may get on your nerves. But, somehow you will still be able to focus on your goals, says Ganesh. You may have an unexpected but substantial increase in your bank balance in the evening. Identify your career priorities and grab every opportunity coming your way.

PISCES
 You will take up a lot of work today. Try to work well in the office as well as in your team. Apart from this you will also be involved in different tasks. You will also try to do things for making a name for yourself.

Deepika keen on doing Bhansali's Baiju Bawra

Earlier it was reported that the Tamasha star will not be part of the movie as SLB turned down her demand asking for an equal fee as much as her hubby

Mumbai: Deepika Padukone, one of the biggest stars of Indian cinema had reportedly refused to star in SLB's film, Baiju Bawra. It was reported that the actress demanded to be paid as much as the male lead, Ranveer Singh — who also happens to be her husband.

According to the recent reports of a fee conflict with Bhansali, the latest news claims that Deepika is now keen to sign the project, which would mark the trio's fourth film together. However, the filmmaker wants to star Alia Bhatt in the role instead. A source close to the film claimed: "Deepika Padukone has her heart set on Baiju Bawra. She insists only she can play the role Meena

Kumari played in the original". But the source added that while SLB likes Deepika's interest, he is still keen on signing Alia Bhatt for the project. The source said: "The heroine for Baiju Bawra is not final. It's likely to be Alia Bhatt. She read the script and offered to do the film for free. Deepika was also keen to do Gangubai Kathiawadi. But Bhansali wanted only Alia".



Ayushmann talks about his social responsibility

Mumbai: Actor Ayushmann Khurrana who was a part of the World Children's Day event in the Capital as UNICEF India's celebrity advocate spoke about inclusion of girls in sports, the power of cinema in bringing about change and more.

When asked about the motivation to join UNICEF, the 38 year old said, "It's the social responsibility of every public figure to do something for the future generation and the society. I am proud of my filmography as well as I have been dealing with different social issues through the world of entertainment. I believe in cinema for change. But, if I can do something outside the realm of cinema for the children, that's great".

Ayushmann said, "If your women are empowered, your family is empowered. They have a female gaze so your sons will also have a female gaze and that's very important for this country to prosper. Sports give you certain as-sertiveness — it's mental and physical and has discipline. When you have that, your energies are also channelised".

'Tabu slaying in her 50s'

Mumbai: Indian actress Tabu has been praised by Kangana. She says, "Her talent and consistency have never been questioned but to look her best and reach the peak of her stardom in her fifties is commendable".

Kangana Ranaut lauded Tabu and called her a superstar for 'single-handedly saving the Hindi film industry'. Taking to Instagram on Sunday, Kangana said Tabu was a part of the only two hindi films that 'worked this year' at the box office — Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 and Drishyam 2. Kangana praised Tabu, 52, for looking 'her best' right now.

Kangana Ranaut called Tabu an inspiration, and further wrote, "I think women deserve much more credit for their unwavering dedication to their work. She is such an inspiration". Kangana said Tabu was a part of the only two hindi films that 'worked this year' at the box office — Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 and Drishyam 2.



Being stereotyped is frustrating: Kalki

Mumbai: Actress Kalki Koechlin recalls being stereotyped as a home-breaker and 'psycho' and adds that it 'has been frustrating'. Speaking on her BBC podcast with actor Rytasha Rathore which was about body positivity and dealing with body shaming and trolling.

Kalki said, "I can kind of relate to being the sidekick, the best friend who is funny but annoying or just somebody who is not very like-able or a home-breaker or ready to mess up the plot. It has been frustrating".

She added, "I remember a director once approached me for a role saying 'you are going to love this role because it is about a psycho. You know she is like drinking and really messed up in the head. So yes, I relate to being stereotyped'".



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

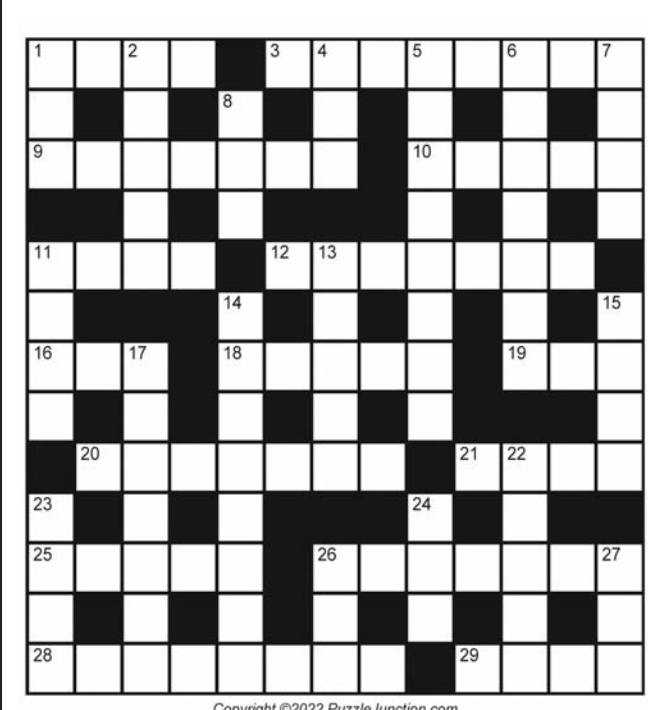


BREVITY



FUN post

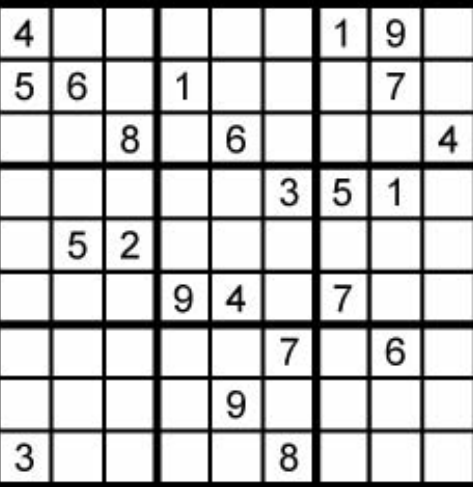
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Hibernia
 - 3 Dress shop
 - 9 Delicate
 - 10 Foolish
 - 11 Skin problem
 - 12 Colossus
 - 16 Driving hazard
 - 18 Molten rock
 - 19 Brit's raincoat
 - 20 Italian dish
 - 21 Walk in water
 - 25 Scent
 - 26 Say in passing
 - 28 Promised land
 - 29 "Beowulf" beverage
 - Down**
 - 1 Brownie
 - 2 Wanders
 - 4 Miner's find
 - 5 Port-of-Spain locale
 - 6 Kind of leap or physics
 - 7 Balanced
 - 8 Kind of iron
 - 11 Bistro
 - 13 Hammond output
 - 14 Not up to par
 - 15 Flu symptom
 - 17 Alluring beauty
 - 22 Crop up
 - 23 Frolic
 - 24 Aardvark's morsel
 - 26 More, in Madrid
 - 27 Silent assent

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

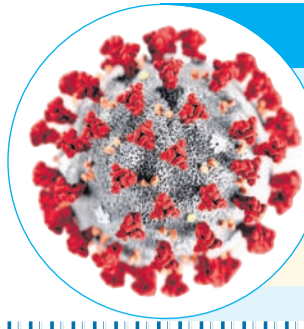


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DANCE FEST

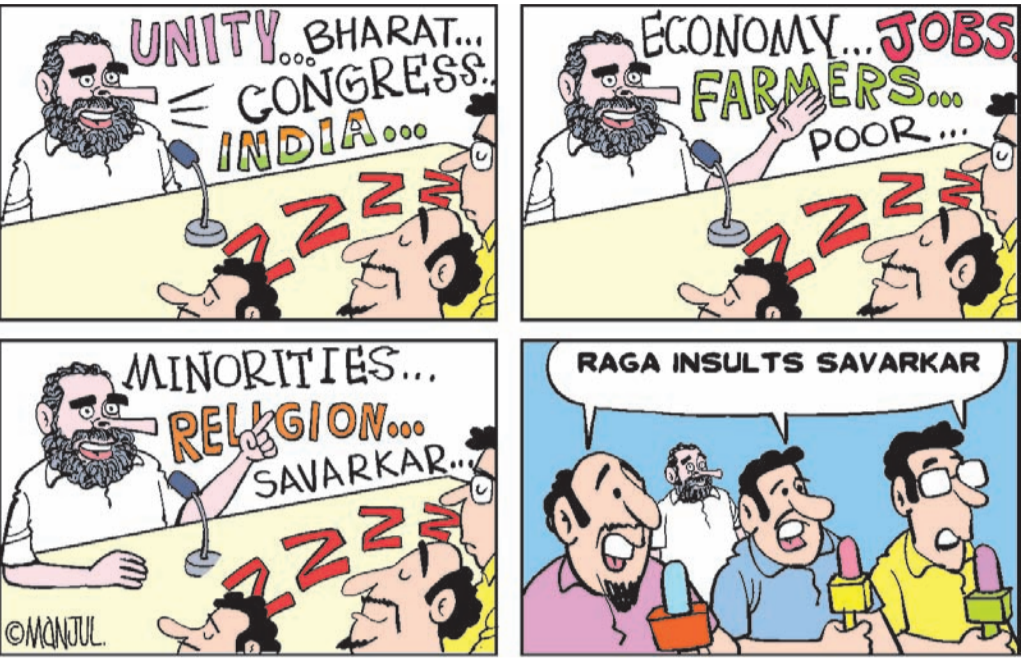
An artiste performs during the Shree Nrutyotsaba organised by the Shree Dance Academy at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,30,00,589	62,21,59,447	66,25,813
India	4,46,69,015	4,41,31,952	5,30,574
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



STF rescues 155 bovines in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The Special Task Force (STF) of the Odisha Police has rescued as many as 155 cows, oxen and calves that were being illegally transported to Kolkata, police said Sunday.

Based on a tip-off, the STF conducted a raid at Sahapur Hat Padia in Jajpur district. Two persons identified as Kamar Siyajuddin Khan of Gujidadra village and Mohammed Karim of Kantabania village were apprehended for illegally transporting the cattle, the police said.

During the search, a 16-wheel heavy lorry, Rs 34,500 in cash and other documents were also seized, they said. The rescued animals were shifted to the nearest cattle shed at Jajpur Road for their care and safety.

Vasu Dixit: Making folk music matter to the modern audience

Vasu Dixit, a young musician from Karnataka, has used his craft to draw attention to the crucial contribution of the Bangalore waste pickers towards the protection of environment. Dixit will attend 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2022 on Climate Change: The Power of Youth' to be held in Bhubaneswar, November 24 as a performer and speaker

Vasu Dixit is a composer and a musician. Known for being the lead singer of the folk-rock band Swarathma, he also creates music of his own through the Vasu Dixit Collective (VDC). Vasu's specialty lies in bringing together in his songs the nuances of the musical art. His open-throated voice, rich vocal style, wide range, and deep passion for his craft are driven by a free-spirited celebration of life, when he is performing solo or with the band.

Versatile as he is, Vasu has worked as an actor and a film director predominantly in the Kannada film industry.

But what keeps the singer in the limelight is the social consciousness that is inherent to his songs. Dixit recently released 'Happy Number', a song highlighting the contribution of waste pickers often stigmatised in society for their work.

The 'Happy Number' in Vasu's song refers to the 3,83,250 tonne of waste that the waste pickers of Bangalore facilitate diverting

from the landfills, by collecting and recycling plastics and other waste materials generated in the city. The effort of these waste pickers is of significance as waste accumulation in landfills has immense negative environmental impact, contributing to air, water and soil pollution.

Vasu says, "As citizens, we have a responsibility towards the informal waste pickers of Bangalore. To treat them with respect and the dignity they deserve for protecting our environment. The Happy Number song was a great opportunity for me to celebrate them and their work."

To support and celebrate the traditional folk music of the country, he recently started the PaDa Project, with a vision to bring meaning and create relevance for folk music in present times.

The PaDa Project is conceptualised and will be produced and implemented by Vasu himself.

Vasu, who finds total freedom in folk music, as an artist and a singer,

says he owes a large part of his inspiration to become a musician to the folk tradition.

He believes, "It's highly essential for the times we live in to reconnect with folk music, because of their simplicity, universal themes, and stories filled with philosophy and humanity."

The most complex philosophies of life are sung in the simplest way possible in these songs and that drives Vasu to explore more folk musicians and music in India. Through the project, Vasu hopes to embark on a journey of reconnecting with folk traditions and find new inspiration.

Vasu says the focus of the project will be on collaborating with young folk musicians. The younger generations will feel inspired to carry forward the knowledge of folk traditions passed on to them. The larger intent of the project is to create livelihood opportunities for the younger generations of folk musicians, and build around these knowledge systems, contextualising folk music in the present times, he adds.



ED summons 15 in Archana Nag case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to 15 persons, including several influential bureaucrats, for further probe into the high profile Archana Nag extortion case, an official said Sunday.

The ED has been probing the money laundering angle of the extortion racket being allegedly run by Nag, her husband Jagabandhu Chand and their other associates, targeting influential and affluent persons. Meanwhile, the much talked about Archana's SUV - Ford Endeavour - was recovered by the ED from a secluded place in Mancheswar area here Saturday. The ED learned about the SUV while interrogating Archana's aide Khageswar Patra who is on a 10-day remand.

It has also come to the fore that a yet unknown influential political leader had gifted the SUV to Nag. Following this, ED stepped up efforts to trace the details of the SUV which was bought from the Capital Ford showroom in the City. The SUV was registered in Archana's name with a payment of Rs 33-lakh in 2020.

NHRC seeks report from DGP over Koraput 'encounter'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought action-taken reports (ATRs) from the Director General of Police (DGP) over alleged fake encounter by security personnel in Boipariguda under Koraput district November 10 this year.

The NHRC move came in response to a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy. The apex rights body has asked the authorities to file the ATRs within four weeks.

According to police sources, Jaya Kumar Nag of Baragaon in Nabarangpur district and Dhana Kamara of Sariguda in Malkangiri district were Maoists. The duo was killed during an exchange of fire between security personnel and Maoists November 10 night.

In his petition, Tripathy had informed the commission that the



two daily wagers had no links with Maoists. And that they were killed in a fake encounter.

Demanding justice for the family members of the deceased, Tripathy said the locals are often sandwiched between the police and Maoists. "The family members of both the deceased are inconsolable. The sole breadwinners were shot dead by the security forces. The encounter death amounts to a terrible violation of human rights of the people," he added.

The rights activist had urged the commission for free, fair and impartial probe into the incident.

Two persons, suspected to be Maoists, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Malipadar forest under Boipariguda block of Koraput Nov 10

Tripathy had also urged the NHRC to direct the state for taking stringent action against the erring officials.

The commission has also been requested to order the state to pay adequate compensation to the next of kin of the deceased, provide basic amenities and justice to the poor locals through various welfare schemes.

Sources said the villagers and family members of deceased had blocked NH-326 near Kotameta in Malkangiri November 13 demanding compensation to the next of kin of the deceased.

Soccer tourney marks World Children's Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: UNICEF in association with Sports and Youth Services department, Odisha FC and Proscio Sports and Games Federation organised a football tournament for children from the underprivileged communities here on the occasion of World Children's Day, Sunday.

As many as 115 children living in slums here participated in the tournament.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Brahmagiri MLA Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra recalled his cricketing days. "I used to play cricket at district level. Even though my parents were educationist, they encouraged me to play cricket. I have come here as a sportsman not M.L.A. This is a wonderful initiative. Sports helps children develop important life skills such as leadership, discipline, teamwork, tolerance, hard work and cooperation," said Mohapatra.

Bhubaneswar deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Prateek Singh spoke on promoting sports among children. "Every child deserves to feel celebrated and has the right to be included and protected.



As they are nation's future, we should give them every opportunity to shine in any field of their choice."

Social media influencer and acclaimed Odissi dancer Saswat Joshi danced and interacted with the children.

Earlier in the morning, Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera met with a few children. "The state government is committed to build world-class sporting facilities and sports ecosystem to help athletes bring glory for the nation. One of the

main objectives is to tap talent in the rural belts and facilitate greater access to sports at the panchayat and local levels," Behera said.

There was a meet and greet session with players of Odisha FC Men and Women team. Shubham Sarangi, Michael Soosairaj from men's team and Banya, Kartika from women's team played football with the kids. Children were thrilled to meet them and at the same time got inspired by them, it was learnt.

Later in the evening, Skill

Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjana Gharai graced the closing ceremony as the chief guest. Gharai said, "Odisha government is creating opportunity and best infrastructure to develop sports in the state. This kind of event will encourage the children."

Among others, former Indian international footballer Sradhanjali Samantary and Bhubaneswar Athletic Association Secretary Sourya Ranjan Parija were present on the occasion.

World Children's Day is celebrated November 20 to commemorate the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1959.

In India, Child Rights Week is celebrated from November 14 to 20—Beginning with Children's Day to mark former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary and ending on World Children's Day.

UNICEF works to ensure that children score goals in life, helping them to overcome challenges. The focus of World Children's Day this year is on sports as a powerful means to promote inclusion, equality, and non-discrimination.

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 20: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Sunday lodged a complaint with the Singhadwar police here against a Bangladeshi national who allegedly posted a video of the temple's sanctum sanctorum on the social media.

The matter came to light Saturday after the video went viral on social media.

The alleged offender has been identified as Akash Choudhury, who claimed to be an ISKCON devotee and a YouTuber.

"We have lodged an FIR against the Bangladeshi national at Singhadwar police station," SJTA administrator (security) VS Chandrasekhar Rao told reporters.

As mobile phones and cameras are strictly prohibited inside the 12th century shrine, questions were raised how the Bangladeshi national could take the electronic gadgets to the temple and went unnoticed despite the presence of a number of security personnel.

It appeared that the video was recorded from the Jaya-Bijaya Dwar of the temple as it captured the idols of the deities on the Ratna Singhasana (literally meaning the bejewelled throne) in the

We have lodged an FIR against the Bangladeshi national at Singhadwar police station. It's not a security lapse, but we will certainly upgrade the security arrangement

VS CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | SJTA ADMINISTRATOR (SECURITY)

sanctum sanctorum.

It also appeared that the video was recorded before the Bada Singhara Beshha (costume associated with bedtime and relates to the sleep of the deities, a servant said.

"It is not a security lapse, but we will certainly upgrade the security arrangement," Rao said.

The Bangladeshi youth has violated provisions under IT Act and Shree Jagannath Temple Act, he added.

The video has since been deleted, police sources said adding that the accused had written caption of his video in Bengali language.

Bhagirathi Dash, a servant of the temple, has demanded strong action against the offender and blamed the administration for the lapse.

A photo of the sanctum sanctorum had surfaced on social media and gone viral in 2017 too.

Chief Secy reviews quality of medicines for kidney patients

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra reviewed the supply of medicines to kidney transplant patients at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack and other medical college and hospitals (MCHs) of the state during a high-level meeting held at the Lok Seva Bhawan here Sunday.

In the meeting, Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) secretary Shalini Pandit outlined the details of the quality check, process of procurement, and supply of medicines to the patients by Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) through Niramaya centers at government health facilities. The issues relating to demand for specific brand medicines raised by a number of kidney patients were also discussed in the meeting.

Deliberations in the meeting showed that the medicines required during the kidney transplant surgery and post-transplant treatment were being supplied free of cost at Niramaya counters. The quality of the medicines was thoroughly tested in NABL-accredited laboratories before being procured and supplied to the hospitals, it was learnt.

OSMCL followed a robust method of online procurement, transparent quality test and purchase.

Data showed that kidney transplant started at SCBMCH in March 2012. As many as 187 successful transplantations have so far been conducted at the SCBMCH. Currently, about 120 post-transplant patients were under medication. Out of them, around 75 per cent (90 in absolute numbers) were taking the medicines supplied through OSMCL, said the official.

"Only around 30 patients demanded medicines of specific brand from private medicine stores raising a baseless complaint that the medicines supplied by OSMCL had side effects. The medical experts present in the meeting apprised that the same medicine supplied by OSMCL for kidney patients was also being used by around 400 patients under critical care in other departments like Nephrology, Rheumatology and Dermatology," the official pointed out.

UGC set to unveil framework for 4-year UG programmes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 20: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has finalised the framework for the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUGP) that will be implemented in all higher education institutions from the upcoming academic session 2023-24.

According to the UGC, next week, these rules for four-year undergraduate courses will be shared with all universities across the country.

Besides all 45 central universities, the FYUGP will also be implemented in most of the state and private universities from the next

academic session. Apart from this, many deemed universities are also going to give consent to implement the programme.

From 2023-24, where all new students will have the option to opt the four-year undergraduate courses, the FYUGP would likely to get the UGC's approval for old students as well. This means that the students who have taken admission in normal three-year undergraduate courses this year may also get an opportunity to join the four-year degree programme from the next session.

According to the UGC, a four-year undergraduate course will be provided for all students, but students

ACCORDING TO THE UGC, A FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE COURSE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL STUDENTS, BUT STUDENTS WILL NOT BE FORCED TO OPT IT. IF A STUDENT WISHES, HE CAN CONTINUE WITH THE THREE-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

will not be forced to opt it. If a student wishes, he can continue with the three-year undergraduate course.

According to UGC chairman M. Jagadeesh Kumar, the complete scheme of four-year undergraduate courses will be made



public soon.

The UGC chairman has said that students already enrolled in universities will also get an opportunity to be a part of four-year undergraduate courses. "Such students who are in first or second year, if they wish, they can also be

provided with the option of four-year undergraduate courses. However, it will start only from the new session starting next year i.e. 2023-24."

The UGC will also give freedom to various universities to make some rules and regulations. "Necessary rules can be fixed in this regard in the academic council and executive council of universities. If the university wishes, students studying in the final year can also be given the opportunity to be a part of four-year undergraduate courses," he added.

Explaining the reasons for these important changes, the UGC chairman said that if only new students

would be given the chance to enroll under FYUGP then its results will be known after four years. On the other hand, if old students get a chance to join it, results would be visible earlier.

After four-year undergraduate courses, it will be mandatory for students pursuing two-year post-graduation and M.Phil to score 55 per cent marks for admission to PhD. However, the M.Phil programme will not be continued for much longer. Also many big universities will not offer M.Phil course in the coming years. This is being done due to the changes made under the new education policy.



CONFERENCE ON NEP: Governor Ganeshi Lal with dignitaries attending the international conference organised by KIIT Deemed To Be University coinciding with the institute's silver jubilee celebrations in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

NEP should play critical role in shaping child's future: Guv

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: As many as 100 vice chancellors and directors from IITs, IIMs and NITs along with 300 principles from across the country converged here Sunday for a KIIT DU-organised International conference coinciding with its silver jubilee celebration to discuss the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and its implementation.

The 'International Conference on Education for Building Humanity with Harmony and Peace' was inaugurated by Governor Ganeshi Lal. Addressing

the gathering he said, "NEP should play a critical role in shaping a child into a good human being who upholds high moral values in the society. Parents should praise their wards for the good qualities they possess and encourage them to build on those qualities rather than asking the child to ape others."

Extolling the virtues of the ancient Indian education traditions, the Governor cited from the Bhagavad Gita to emphasize that the universe is based on cooperation and coexistence. Education must prepare us to dispel ego and greed, and bring about harmony among man, science, nature, and

God, he added. Utkal University Vice Chancellor, Sabita Acharya said NEP is vital for human development. "The new NEP is truly forward-looking policy which addresses the collective aspirations of the new generation and nation. It focuses on access, equity, accountability and quality. Besides, it seeks to increase the gross enrolment ratio and remove the boundary between curriculum and co-curricular activities."

Founder of KIIT and KISS, Achyuta Samanta gave an emotional speech about the meteoric rise of the University from a two-room rented accommodation to

one of the largest universities in the country. He said educationists he meets take with awe the phenomenal success of KIIT in a short span of 25 years.

The one-day academic meet featured five plenary sessions, three round tables, and a session on the digital library. The plenary sessions covered various aspects of the NEP and topics like Peace and Harmony for Building Humanity, 'Education for Building Universal Brotherhood and Respect for All' and 'Education for Poverty Alleviation and Maintaining Sustainability' were the subjects for deliberation at the round tables.

Expedite new rly line work: Minister Sahu to Vaishnaw

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Tukuni Sahu, Minister of Commerce and Transport Department wrote a letter to Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Sunday demanding sanction of new railway line between Bargarh and Nuapada, via Padampur.

In the letter Minister Sahu said "I have received a memorandum from the people of Padampur submitted to CM Naveen Patnaik, requesting to sanction the important new railway line between Bargarh and Nuapada, via Padampur"



The railway line between Bargarh and Nuapada, via Padampur will act as a potential catalyst for rapid economic development of Western Odisha

TUKUNI SAHU | MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

"With reference to the above new line, from Bargarh Station to Nuapada Rd Station, Dated 15.12.2018, Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in a public meeting announced that Central Government has sanctioned the project and same was also highlighted by the cabinet Minister in his social media account."

It may be noted that since the year 2018, CM Naveen Patnaik and our government have been requesting Ministry of Railways to sanction the important railway line between Bargarh and Nuapada, via Padampur. The project has a Rate of Return (RoR) of 17.31 per cent as per study undertaken by East Coast Railway and communicated to Ministry of Railways vide letter Dated 11.01.2019.

Minister said that this railway project can offer an important communication link to the people of the two districts of Odisha and act as a potential catalyst for rapid economic development of Western Odisha. With this new line, the Western Odisha region will get a shorter and quicker connectivity with the coastal Odisha through the Khurda - Balangir line.

However, contrary to the above announcement by Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Railways in 2019 communicated that the proposed new line has been shelved as it didn't appear to be financially viable, despite the high RoR, which is much beyond the requirement for approving a new line.

Further, vide letter Dated 10.10.2019, railway board asked the

state government to contribute free land and RR cost for land acquisition for considering the project. And on this request, CM approved not only free land for the entire project (Private, Government and Forest Land) but also pledged Rs 300 crores towards construction of the project, so that it becomes even more lucrative for Indian Railways to sanction the project. The same has been communicated to Ministry of Railways.

Therefore, in the interest of the people of Odisha, I would request you to reconsider the decision of your ministry and sanction this very important railway line and entrust East Coast Railways to begin the land acquisition process and start construction work expeditiously.

COP27 delivers...

Continued From P1

The proposal for a loss and damage finance facility was put forward by the G77 and China (India is part of this group), least developed countries and small island states. Vulnerable countries had said that they would not leave COP27 without it.

The conference agreed to set up a 'transitional committee' to decide how the money will be provided and who will contribute to the fund. Its recommendations will be discussed at COP28 next year.

The hope at COP27 was to include a phasedown of all fossil fuels, including oil and gas, as proposed by India and backed by many developed and developing countries including the EU and the US, but the final agreement did not essentially build on what was agreed upon in COP26. Negotiators said intense discussions took place on the matter late into Saturday night, but it could not find a place in the agreement. Many countries seemed dissatisfied with the final package but chose not to intervene as it would have risked the loss and damage deal that poor and vulnerable nations wanted for long.

A number of parties rued the agreement leaving out the call for peaking of emissions before 2025 and the weakening of language on the transition to green energy.



UP IN ARMS: Members of Odisha Government High School NPS Teachers Association stage a protest demanding regularisation of jobs at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

MIO '22 preparatory review by Chief Secretary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Sunday conducted on-site review of the preparations of Make in Odisha Conclave 2022 at the Janata Maidan in the Capital city. The re-

view meeting was also attended by NB Dhal, Principal Secretary-Energy Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary- Industries, Soumendra Priyadarshi, Commissioner of Police-Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Commissionerate, Sudarshan Chakravarty, Collector-Khurda,



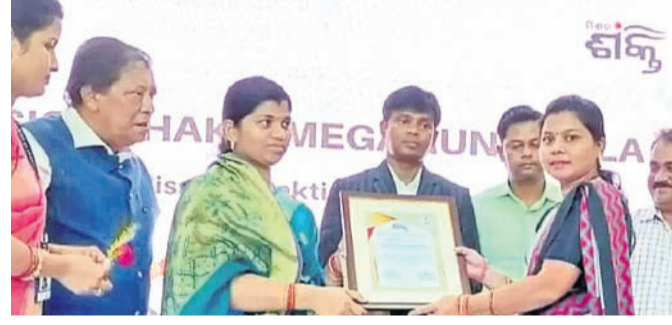
Pratik Singh, DCP and representatives from various agencies, like

Temperature to remain low

Bhubaneswar: The IMD said

Sunday that cold wave conditions will persist in some district of the state over next four to five days. "No large change in minimum temperature during next 4 to 5 days over the districts of Odisha. Dry weather very likely to prevail over some districts of the state," the IMD bulletin read. It further stated that light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at one or two places over Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Koraput and Nabarangpur districts November 21 and 22. During the last 24 hours, 12 stations in the state recorded temperatures below 13 degrees Celsius. Among these, G Udaygiri and Similiguda were the lowest at 8 degrees while Sundergarh and Deogarh recorded 12.5 degrees on Saturday night.

106 crore loan disbursed in Mission Shakti loan mela



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: A Mission Shakti mega loan mela was held at Jayee Rajguru Town Hall, Khurda district recently.

On this occasion, a total amount of 106.05 crore against the target of 100 crore were disbursed to 2743 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the district level mela.

Khurda MLA Jyotirindranath Mitra, Jayadev MLA Arabinda Dhali and Zilla Parishad chairpersons Roopashree Rani Gumansingh were present in the mela and disbursed loan amount to the beneficiary SHG groups.

Besides, best branches of 13 banks and 10 Bank Mitras were also felicitated for their outstanding cooperation in providing loan

facilities to SHGs.

Khurda collector K Sudarshan Chakravarty, Chief Development Officer & EO, DRDA, Digant Kumar Routrai, LDM, Khurda Dillip Kumar Bhuiyan, DGM (FD), Madanmohan Swain were present on the occasion and focused upon socio-economic development and women empowerment. Odisha Gramya Bank, State Bank of India, UCO bank functioning in Baliaanta, Bolagarh, Khurda and BMC-1 were also felicitated.

Three SHG members, one Bank Mitra and one branch manager of a bank shared their experiences with regard to bank linkage. More than 500 numbers of BPC, BPM, Bank Mitra, MBK, GPLF, BPA and BLC of the district participated in the mega loan mela.

Man missing ...

Continued From P1

It is believed that Baral had a traumatic experience during the cyclone and lost his memory. He somehow travelled to Srikakulam and still remembers the name. From there, he landed up in Visakhapatnam as a vagrant.

According to Nag Biswas, Baral's sons have reached the MOC centre at Berhampur, where he has now been shifted, to take him back home after necessary formalities.

Choice overload can sometimes lead to decision paralysis

It's been a long day. Your partner messages you: "let's just order in, I don't feel like cooking".

With a sense of relief, you open your usual takeaway app and start scrolling through the many restaurants and dishes available.

Thai, pizza, burgers, Korean, Lebanese... oohh this one has free delivery! Hmm, but they're far away and I am famished... Soon that sense of relief is replaced by overwhelm and inability to decide what to order. And your partner is not much help either!

Sound familiar? What you are experiencing is called choice overload. This can sometimes go as far as leading to complete decision paralysis (when you give up and make a toastie instead) and ultimately leads to an overall reduced satisfaction with the choices we make. Thankfully, marketing and psychology scholars have studied this phenomenon for years and can provide tips to make your life a little easier. But first, we need to understand it to fix it.

In the dinner scenario above, "choice set complexity" - how choices are presented, how many options there are, how different the options are in their characteristics, how much we already know about each option - is the culprit.

There are simply too many things to consider making the most optimal choice: cuisine, delivery time, delivery costs, distance, healthy or indulgent, and so on. What seems a simple decision at first glance, soon turns into quite a complex one. With people making approximately 200 choices a day when it comes to food alone, you can easily relate to the fatigue our brains feel at the end of a day.

Being presented with yet another complex and multifaceted decision will lead to cognitive overload: it means your brain simply doesn't have the cognitive resources (brain power) to consciously process all the options and consider all the information needed to make an optimal choice.



THERE ARE SIMPLY TOO MANY THINGS TO CONSIDER MAKING THE MOST OPTIMAL CHOICE: CUISINE, DELIVERY TIME, DELIVERY COSTS, DISTANCE, HEALTHY OR INDULGENT

WITH PEOPLE MAKING APPROXIMATELY 200 CHOICES A DAY WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD ALONE, WE CAN EASILY RELATE TO THE FATIGUE OUR BRAINS FEEL AT THE END OF A DAY

As a matter of fact, our brains are rather limited in the amount of information they can process consciously at any given time.

Especially if a scenario is combined with high decision task difficulty - when there are time constraints (kids need to be in bed soon), we are likely to be held accountable (buying a wine for dinner at our boss' rather than for ourselves), or potential losses are

significant (buying a house) - it is no wonder the brain blows a fuse trying to make the most optimal decision. And therein lies the problem and the solution: you don't always have to make the optimal choice. What's wrong with "good enough"?

Expectation-disconfirmation - the expectation that the perfect choice must exist if so much choice is available to you - is seated in the idea that people tend to want to optimise results, rather than satisfy. It is like striving for happiness in life rather than contentment. Another reason you may experience choice overload is because you explicitly don't want to put effort into making the decision.

This is called minimising of cognitive demand goals (for example, forfeiting deciding what to cook to ordering take out).

So after a long day, when you have no energy left, accountability is low, and the potential consequences are minor, consider satisfying your choice:

Reduce the choice task to a binary one immediately. Only give yourself the choice of two options, randomly chosen, or the first that came to mind. For example, before you open a delivery app, decide you have to choose between the first two cuisines that pop up.

Stick with your first choice. Don't waiver: Once you've decided, commit to your decision. Do you really want to spend all that time and effort reanalysing and going back and forth when the result is of minor consequence?

Of course, not all choices are without grave consequences. When you are buying a house, you do want to consider all information needed to make an optimal decision.

Choice overload is likely because your brain is trying to connect all the dots consciously. So what do you do then? With a few simple tricks, even the luxury problem of what to order for dinner can be eliminated; now, you have some brain space left to agree on what to watch on Netflix as you dig into your pizza... or laksa.

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Probe unearths irregularities in CAMPA, MGNREGS projects

PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES HAD RAISED THE ISSUE AT MEETINGS OF PANCHAYAT SAMITI AND ZILLA PARISHAD, PRESSING FOR A PROBE



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

est under Odagaon range. However, there were media reports about massive irregularities in the projects. Thereafter, Congress demanded an investigation into the scam.

People's representatives had raised the issue at the meetings of Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad. They all pressed for an impartial probe into the irregularities.

Block chairperson Loknath Sahoo had accepted a proposal August 19 for a Vigilance probe while Patnaik had September 14 decided that the matter will be investigated. However, days rolled on, but no steps were taken. It has been alleged that some leaders are involved in the scam and hence there was delay in conducting a thorough probe.

Later a standing committee of the Zilla Parishad comprising vice-chairperson Bishnupirya Behera, members Saroj Ransingh and Sanjukta Padhiary, chief executive officer Subash Chandra Ray, assistant conservator of Forests Himansu Sekhar Muduli, ranger Asish Kumar Kahnr and forester Sandhyarani Nayak carried out inspection of the projects and unearthed the irregularities.

The cash book records, files and MB books of all such works will be checked and an expert team may further look into the matter. DFO Khyama Sarangi said that after the irregularities surfaced some projects had been redone.

manual labour while information plaques were not set up near the project sites.

After reports of irregularities appeared in various sections of the media, the Forest department tried to conceal the evidences by redacting some of the works, it was alleged. "After the irregularities surfaced, records and cash books are being checked. If need arises, ZP will recommend an investigation by an expert team," said Debasish Patnaik, chairperson of the Zilla Parishad.

Reports said, three check dams and over 90 stone-packed dykes have been constructed at a cost of ₹2.5 crore funded by CAMPA and MGNREGS in Gochha reserve for

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh/Odagaon, Nov 20: Irregularities worth ₹2.5 crore in various projects under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have allegedly been committed in Odagaon range under Nayagarh forest division.

A standing committee of the Zilla Parishad (ZP) which conducted an investigation found preliminary evidences of corruption. The committee found that machines were rampantly used in the MGNREGS projects instead of



MULTIPLE DEMANDS: Contractual health workers from Malkangiri district took out a rally over various demands before boarding a bus to Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Sonepur BDO gets Lokayukta notice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Nov 20: An investigation has detected irregularities in allotment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin) in Tarada panchayat under Binika block of Subarnapur district. The Lokayukta has slapped a notice to the BDO and two beneficiaries of PMAY in this regard.

According to the report, Brundaban Mishra, a youth of Phulamuthi village had filed a written complaint about irregularities in the PMAY at the Lokayukta in August this year. The Lokayukta issued notices



November 16 to the Binika BDO and two PMAY beneficiaries - Ugrasen Mishra and Hadu Mishra of Phulamuthi village - to submit their replies within six weeks. The next hearing of the case will be

held December 27.

It was alleged that some government officials working in the Panchayati Raj department are involved in the PMAY scam. Sources said many rich and affluent persons have been allotted PMAY housing units in the 2020-21 fiscal. However, scores of poor people eligible to get houses have been deprived of their benefits.

Brundaban had written several times to the Subarnapur Collector and the Vigilance department about the PMAY irregularities in Phulamuthi village. However, officials of the block administration after probing the matter did not

find any.

Later, Brundaban wrote to the RDC northern range in Sambalpur regarding the irregularities. The RDC had directed District Collector Sunil Narwane to conduct a probe.

Sonepur BDO Soumyaranjan Swain, Binika tehsildar Mukteswar Panigrahi and DRDA APD Alok Mishra looked into the matter and found irregularities in the PMAY.

In the report, they stated that people who are not eligible had been allotted houses under PMAY in violation of the guidelines. One of the beneficiaries has a pucca house while another draws a monthly pension of ₹10,000.



CLYCLOTHON: A bicycle marathon was organised in Rourkela on the occasion of National Milk Day

Bhadrak civic body chief blames MLA over development

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 20: MLA Sanjib Kumar Mallick has been creating hurdle in development works in Bhadrak municipality while many councilors backed by the lawmaker are not cooperating, alleged chairperson Gulmaki Dalwazi Habib.

Addressing a press conference here Sunday, she also alleged that many councilors are also preventing development work.

"When I visit wards to know the problems of the people, councilors play truant. They are secretly meeting the MLA, but not cooperating in the development works of the municipality and this town," alleged Gulmaki.

After the ninth meeting of the councillors, a decision was taken to float tenders for various development projects. Due to non-cooperation of the MLA, development is not happening, lamented Gulmaki. She also asked as to why the MLA was creating problems for her when she just wants to focus on the work for development of the town and people are looking forward development.

Notably, Gulmaki, whose husband is a BJD leader, had contested as independent candidate and was elected as the chairperson of the Bhadrak municipality. Gulmaki defeated BJD's Samita Mishra by 3,256 votes.

Night shelters for urban homeless in Sambalpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, Nov 20: To ensure that no one sleeps under the open sky on winter nights, the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) has formed three night squads to shift people found along the roadsides to shelters for urban homeless (SUH). Enforcement Officer of the SMC, Subhankar Mohanty has said like that of the previous year, the three squads - one each for Sambalpur, Burla and Hirakud - are moving around the city at night and interacting with the people, near the railway station, and bus stands and hospitals, for whom the open sky is their only roof. After getting their consent, the squad members are shifting those homeless people to the nearest SUH, Mohanty stated.

There are four SUHs in this city. There is a SUH at the district head-

quarters hospital (DHH), while the other three facilities are located at Badbazar in Sambalpur, Burla and Hirakud in the SMC area.

According to SMC officials, the SUH at Badbazar can accommodate up to 100 people and the facilities at Burla and Hirakud can accommodate 50 people each. The SUH on the premises of the DHH can provide shelter to 35 people but it mainly caters to the attendants of patients who come to the DHH.

Women Self-Help Groups (WHGs) are managing the SUHs in the city now, said Mohanty. "We will soon put up banners and hoardings appealing to the people to apprise the civic body if they find any homeless person sleeping under the open sky on a wintry night. The mobile numbers of the members of the three squads will also be displayed in the banners and hoardings," Mohanty added.



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

Youth found dead; murder suspected

BARPALI: Barpali police recovered the body of a youth from a roadside drain Saturday evening on the Kainra Tikra road in Bargharh district. The deceased has been identified as Asish Sahoo (35) alias Tuna of Madhyapada locality of Barpali. He had gone missing from Thursday night and had not returned home. Asish's family members frantically searched for him but in vain. Later, the body was found under mysterious circumstances. A huge boulder was placed on his face and hence, it is suspected to be a case of murder. Police registered a case of murder and started an investigation with the help of the forensic team and sniffer dogs. Barpali IIC Rosalin Patel said that things will be clear after the investigation is over.

16 get land in Daringbadi

DARINGBADI: The tehsil office of Daringbadi in Kandhamal district has started distribution of land pattas to people here under Forest Rights Act. Tehsildar Ashok Kumar Das held a 'mela' for the purpose Saturday on the premises of the block office in the presence of G Udaygiri MLA Saluga Pradhan, block chairperson Sushat Kumar Pradhan and range officer Satish Kumar Dharua. "A total of 16 people were given pattas and their land was identified," the tehsildar said.

2 more held for shooting at man in Dhenkanal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 20: Police arrested Sunday a woman and her brother-in-law in connection with the shooting incident which had recently taken place near the boundary of a steel plant near Tarabahali in Meramandali, in this district. So far, three persons have been

arrested in this case. They have been identified as Sweta Kumar (wife of Ravi Kumar who was shot an injured), Rahul Kumar (brother-in-law of Ravi) and his associate Gautam Kumar. Ravi is a crane operator.

Dhenkanal SP Loganayagi Divya V said that illicit relationship between Sweta and Rahul was the

reason behind the attack. Ravi has been battling for his life at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. Ravi's wife, a resident of Bihar, had allegedly an illicit relationship with his sister's husband Rahul. All the three accused were booked under various sections of IPC. The pistol used in the crime will be seized, said the SP.

Cracks in Nayagarh BJP as two women leaders flex muscles

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 20: Fissures have started appearing in the Nayagarh unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as two senior women leaders are invariably engaged in a bitter tug of war.

The two women politicians in question are senior leader Irani Ray and former Kandhamal MP Pratyusha Rajeshwari Singh. The two are leaving no stone turned out to wit each other and are flexing their muscles to assert their control in the party.

The matter came to the fore after the two leaders conducted separate party meetings October 31. While Pratyusha conducted a merger meeting of other party workers, Irani wasted no time and called the party workers for a meeting the same day.

This is indicative of the infighting gripping the party. Speculations are rife as to who would get the party ticket to contest the polls from Nayagarh Assembly segment in the 2024 elections.

Irani Ray had contested as a BJP candidate from the Nayagarh

Assembly segment in the 2019 polls but was defeated. Later, Pratyusha had left the BJD and joined the BJP.

Irani's supporters claim that she will definitely get the party ticket but Pratyusha's supporters claim that it is her turn now to contest in the 2024 elections. They said that Irani has to support them this time as they had supported her in the 2019 elections.

This has only cheered up the ruling BJD leaders as they were seen concentrating on villages to garner support. In a bid to increase his vote share, BJD MLA from Nayagarh, Arun Sahoo, recently had a show of strength as he participated in two padayatras in Nayagarh and Odagaon blocks.

Sources said the royal scion of Nayagarh Hemendra Kumar Singh was initially in the Congress. Later, he joined the ruling BJD and became the MP from the Kandhamal Lok Sabha segment.

However, after his death, his wife Pratyusha contested the bypoll from the Kandhamal Lok Sabha segment and was elected as the MP. Pratyusha then did not demand a ticket for her in the 2019 elections.



Senior BJP leader Irani Ray and ex-Kandhamal MP Pratyusha Rajeshwari Singh are leaving no stone returned to outwit each other in their race to grab the party ticket for the 2024 polls

the 2019 elections. On the other hand, Irani received the BJP ticket to contest from the Nayagarh Assembly segment in 2019. Irani's husband Lala Manoj Ray is the president of BJP's Nayagarh district unit. Irani, however, lost the elections to BJD's Arun Sahoo in 2019. Pratyusha then did not demand a ticket for her in the 2019 elections.

With the 2024 polls approaching, Pratyusha is now moving from



villages to villages under the Nayagarh Assembly segment and strengthening her base among the voters. However, the two senior women leaders holding parallel meeting October 31 has altered the situation. Irani conducted a meeting of Balugaon zone of the party at Nayagarh which was attended by BJP's national spokesperson Sambit Patra, October 31. The same day, Pratyusha displayed her strength by conducting a merger

meeting at Sakeri panchayat under Zilla Parishad zone no-2 of Odagaon block. The parallel meetings by the two senior women leaders on the same day only ripped open the fissures prevailing in the saffron party.

Later, Irani again conducted a workers' meeting at Bhadikila under Odagaon block, November 12. Earlier, the two were jointly seen at party meetings but now they are working separately.

BJP spokesperson Patra also attended the Bhadikila meeting and indirectly confirmed it is Irani who is going to get the party ticket in 2024. Patra said that Irani is a good organiser building up the party organisation from the core. If her work is any indication then she is surely going to become the MLA in 2024 elections. Political analysts feel that Patra's support to Irani might cost Pratyusha dearly.

Meanwhile, speculations are rife that the party leaders might take disciplinary action against Pratyusha for breaching the discipline in the party.

When contacted, BJP's district president Lala Manoj Ray said that there is no opposition against any-

body for becoming a candidate and everybody is entitled to strengthen the party organisation. However, conducting a merger meeting without informing the district president and not submitting a list of the persons joining the party to him amounts to indiscipline. He said that the state president of the party has been informed about Pratyusha's activities and he will have the final say in this regard.

Pratyusha ruled out creating any disturbances in the party. She said that she was assured of a party ticket in 2024 election when she joined BJP in 2019. She said that Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Irani Ray and district president Lala Manoj Ray were present in the merger meeting. She is not creating any fissures but strengthening the party organisation, she reiterated.

Irani Ray said that the charge of building the BJP organisation in the Nayagarh Assembly segment rests with her.

The party ticket will not go to the person who makes a self declaration of his/her candidature. One who receives the party ticket will become the candidate, she added.

FOCUS EWS QUOTA

PANDORA'S BOX OPEN



Now that every caste is a beneficiary, the big question is whether the reservation debate will eventually end. Or will new demands from those 'deserving' and left out emerge?

It has been quite common to hear from the upper castes that the reservation system hampers growth. They often argue that the system discriminates against them and say it doesn't judge based on merit. Not just this, but a section criticises Dalits for getting benefits through the reservation system. In fact, on social media platforms such as Twitter, it has been a daily routine for this section of upper castes to ridicule Dalits and call them "fools", who got jobs only because of the reservation system that doesn't reward "merit". In this battle, this section of "upper castes" is accompanied by a section of non-resident Indians, who too routinely disparage this system. The strange argument put by this section is that this system is the root cause of casteism; so to remove casteism, they argue, the reservation system has to be removed first. This section ignores the very fact that this quota system has been introduced to address the social injustice caused by casteism.

Actually, the bitter truth is that this section of upper castes has been unable to digest the fact that the socially marginalised Dalits have been progressing well, thanks to benefits of quota system. Having said that, it is also a fact that a section of them is marginalised due to economic reasons. As a result, the Narendra Modi-led BJP government brought the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota through the 103rd Constitutional Amendment. Recently, the Supreme Court upheld the government's decision of 10% reservation for people belonging to EWS for admission to educational institutions and government jobs. Obviously, many aren't happy with this verdict as they view it against social justice.

Before the introduction of EWS quota, there have been reservations for STs, SCs and OBCs. Still, some gaps remain to be addressed but it is not denying that the reservation system has benefited these sections. Similarly, this EWS quota addresses the economically marginalised section of the forward castes. True, the forefathers of a large section of "upper castes" were superior in society but that can't be the reason to ignore the marginalised section of this caste. The argument that the EWS takes away the benefits of the SCs, STs and OBCs is quite exaggerated as their quota remains the same. Currently, there is 15%, 7.5% and 27% reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs respectively. EWS is an additional quota, and it doesn't interfere with that prevailing. For a society to prosper, the marginalised sections need to be uplifted. And EWS aims to do precisely this and is a welcome step as it addresses one of the economic inequalities of society. It is wrong to vilify marginalised people from the forward castes. Unfortunately, for a section of Leftists and Liberals, it has been a daily routine to unnecessarily criticise all people of forward castes because of some of the wrong deeds done by a section of their forefathers.

Apart from this, due to EWS, the forward castes can no longer claim the reservation system discriminates against them. Many of them, who don't use their caste to identify themselves and are habituated to calling Dalits, STs and OBCs "casteist" today are going to benefit from the same reservation system they despised the most, only if they satisfied the criteria needed to come under the umbrella of EWS. Definitely, this strengthens the reservation system as now some of its fiercest critics are going to get benefits.

Coming down to sheer politics, it is estimated that the "upper castes" constitute around 25% of the country's population. Currently, this section has been seen as the major vote bank of BJP, which too introduced this EWS quota to pacify the "upper castes" ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Only a few months ago, it lost power in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to the Congress, and it was said that a major reason for the defeat was the growing dissent of the forward castes against the BJP. Importantly, the party didn't waste any time and was quick to introduce the EWS quota, which was beneficial.

The Supreme Court verdict on EWS quota has been welcomed by most Opposition parties, including Congress and CPM. The latter has only expressed its con-

cern about the criteria to decide the EWS quota. It believes the present ₹8 lakh per annum and 5 acres of agricultural land would allow a large population, which is not poor, to access benefits of reservation and this would discriminate against the poorest of the poor. However, one of the Opposition parties opposing the EWS verdict is the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu.

This speaks of the clout the "upper castes" enjoy in general among most political parties, which no longer are ready to ignore their issues. Remember, the Congress still has a committed vote bank among a section of the forward castes, particularly the Brahmins. And with the acceptance of the verdict the party has in a way pacified the anger of a section of "upper castes" that their interests don't matter to any political party. Of course, the benefit of the reservation decision would in all likelihood pay off more for the BJP as it has maintained that the quota is aimed at empowering the EWS who don't benefit from the caste-based reservation.

Lastly, there are concerns about the limit of reservations. This EWS exceeds the 50 per cent ceiling for reservations. However, in the end, their getting reservation should put an end to the bickering against the backward classes for bagging quota benefits. Nevertheless, there are drawbacks that remain within the reservation system that need attention for further reforms. A political consensus is thus critical, as the quota system did not give birth to the evils of casteism. Now that every caste is a beneficiary, the big question is whether the reservation debate will eventually end. Or will new demands from those 'deserving' and left out emerge? Remember, the reservation system opened the Pandora's Box, and the lid may not be closed entirely.

The writer is a political commentator. @NFA



Sagarneel Sinha

FOR A SOCIETY TO PROSPER, THE MARGINALISED SECTIONS NEED TO BE UPLIFTED

It has been quite common to hear from the upper castes that the reservation system hampers growth. They often argue that the system discriminates against them and say it doesn't judge based on merit. Not just this, but a section criticises Dalits for getting benefits through the reservation system. In fact, on social media platforms such as Twitter, it has been a daily routine for this section of upper castes to ridicule Dalits and call them "fools", who got jobs only because of the reservation system that doesn't reward "merit". In this battle, this section of "upper castes" is accompanied by a section of non-resident Indians, who too routinely disparage this system. The strange argument put by this section is that this system is the root cause of casteism; so to remove casteism, they argue, the reservation system has to be removed first. This section ignores the very fact that this quota system has been introduced to address the social injustice caused by casteism.

SPECTRUM WAR CRIMES

Putting tyrants in the dock

Anyone hoping that Russian President Vladimir Putin will soon find himself in the dock of the International Criminal Court should take several long, deep breaths. While Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine has not gone as planned, his grip on power remains unchallenged. And even if the ICC were to indict Putin for war crimes, it has no police force to arrest him. The international community simply lacks such enforcement tools.

But Putin's accomplices may not be as impervious as their leader. Over the past decade, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of tyrants and their henchmen brought to justice, particularly in domestic courts and "hybrid" tribunals that combine national and international components.

In September, a hybrid court formed by Cambodia and the United Nations upheld the life sentence of former Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, who was convicted of crimes against humanity in 2014 for his part in the 1970s genocide. In 2016, a similar hybrid tribunal formed by the African Union and Senegal convicted the former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré of crimes against humanity in a case that I helped prosecute. Peru, Guatemala, Egypt, and Burkina Faso have convicted their former leaders for human-rights crimes in domestic courts. In a case I am currently working on, the Gambian government seeks to

prosecute exiled former President Yahya Jammeh before a hybrid court. And in September, Guinea began criminal proceedings against ex-strongman Moussa Dadis Camara for a 2009 massacre.

These cases have been accompanied by a surge in trials held under what is known as "universal jurisdiction," the principle that allows countries to prosecute the worst human-rights crimes committed anywhere in the world. More than a hundred defendants are currently being prosecuted, mainly in Europe, for atrocities committed in countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Rwanda. And just this month, a French court convicted a former Liberian rebel of crimes against humanity as an armed group commander during that country's civil war.

But this surge of activity has not received as much attention as the ICC, which in 20 years has not sustained the atrocity conviction of any state official at any level anywhere. Yet, these prosecutions are more organic than those conducted by the ICC, because they rely on victims' activism and on special war-crimes units operating within the police forces and judiciary in European countries, some of which have opened wide-ranging "structural investigations" into human-rights violations abroad. The European Union has assembled several joint investigation teams for cross-border investigations, coordinating this work through its so-

called "Genocide Network."

Taken together, these developments could be described as a revolution of accountability. According to Stephen Rapp, a former US ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues in the Office of Global Criminal Justice, recent developments herald the emergence of a new "international justice ecosystem."

The most recent additions to this fledgling movement are three independent investigative mechanisms created by the UN for atrocities committed in Myanmar and Syria and by the Islamic State (ISIS). These investigative bodies build war-crimes cases and transfer them to national prosecutors acting under universal jurisdiction. Such investigations have already led to several convictions, including the landmark case of a former Syrian intelligence officer who was sentenced to life in prison in Germany in January for the murder and torture of prisoners at a detention facility in Damascus.

Other developments also mark a worldwide shift toward greater accountability for war criminals. The UN Human Rights Council has created commissions of inquiry in almost a dozen countries, tasking them with laying the foundations for future criminal accountability. Many in the international legal community, including Rapp and the International Commission of Jurists, advocate the creation of a standing independent

investigative mechanism to enable criminal prosecutions in the worst human-rights crises.

That brings us back to the crisis in Ukraine. Russia's naked aggression and its flagrant war crimes have given the ICC a golden opportunity to demonstrate its relevance. The ICC's chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, has seized the moment and announced the opening of the court's largest-ever field of force in the country.

One hopes that the ICC and Ukrainian prosecutors will be able to go beyond the foot soldiers who have been tried for war crimes since the invasion began and move up the Russian chain of command. Their work will benefit from the nascent international-justice ecosystem. Six of Ukraine's neighbours, together with the ICC, have formed a joint investigation team. In March, the Human Rights Council created a well-staffed commission of inquiry on Ukraine to identify violators and to ensure that "those responsible are held accountable." And a dozen other countries have opened their own universal-jurisdiction investigations into war crimes committed in Ukraine.

Putin himself, unfortunately, may still be out of reach. But justice is on the march, and it is coming for war criminals—in Ukraine and around the world.

The writer is a war crimes prosecutor. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

Timidity is a form of vanity. When you are timid, it means that you attach more importance to the opinions others have of you than to the sincerity of your actions.

THE MOTHER



US-China Thaw

The world can breathe a little more easily now since the two great powers – the US and China – have decided to call a truce and give up the path of brinkmanship. At least an illusion has been created to this effect. The optimists will find substance in the promise made by US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping to bring the world back from the danger of a resumption of cold war which appeared to be a distinct possibility. For, when the US and China speak the language of conciliation instead of confrontation, as they had been doing for the past few years, the rest of the world especially the Asian nations, can heave a sigh of relief. The simple reason is that the trajectory of economic growth and development has, as always, a political underpinning. This is why the recent G-20 summit emphatically announced that there is no mechanism for halting war and conflict, but for advancing the member countries' economic interests that considerably hinge on the political climate.

Dramatically, a remarkable change of attitude has been brought about in the approach of the Americans and the Chinese towards each other. This is a welcome development at a time when the world's economic outlook is gloomy with the looming threat of recession and deceleration of growth everywhere. One may wonder why Xi, who had stressed in his aggressive rhetoric at the 20th Chinese Communist Party Congress last month the need for a "fighting spirit" in a hostile international environment, is now singing a different tune. Similarly, Biden is sounding less belligerent towards China than what he was doing a month back.

Most of the time, foreign policies are geared to suit domestic interests, especially during elections. This time too, domestic interests seem to be influencing foreign policies of both China and the US. Xi appears to be keen on mending China's relations with the rest of the world after successfully manoeuvring to be China's undisputed and most powerful leader getting a historic third term as the party and the country's supreme boss. This new position of strength appears to have boosted his confidence to chart a new course of international relationships in which he wants to be looked upon as a reassuring figure.

Similarly, Biden has successfully campaigned in domestic politics to re-emerge as a liberal leader who can be trusted more than the rabid Right wing Republicans headed by former President Donald Trump in the recent Mid Term elections. This has given him the confidence to adopt constructive foreign policies that can bring economic benefits he desperately needs to stave off the crisis that has so far plunged his presidency into dire straits.

These are the weighty reasons for China and the US trying to adopt a collaborative approach and resume the mechanism of dialogue that was stalled after the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan three months back.

Though both sides talked tough on thorny issues, there is marked change in their approach. While laying down a hard line on Taiwan, the Chinese President's three-hour meeting with Biden was described by the US President as "candid and clear" on subjects ranging from Taiwan to trade. China did accuse the US of breaching the "One China" policy in its pledge to protect Taiwan, but Biden reassured Xi that the US remained committed to the policy and "a new cold war" could be avoided. Xi got what he wanted in his meeting with Biden, as a limited apparent rapprochement made him appear more responsive. He seems to know other countries feel a higher comfort level to engage with China after seeing cordiality with Biden. This is why Xi has seized the moment and sought to reset relationships with these countries on a more positive footing.

At the first political show in his new avatar, Xi has tried hard to get international endorsement of his new role. His main goals are to repair Sino-US relations and relations with other countries, stabilise the North Korean situation and win over Europe. No tangible agreements have yet been signed, but, hopefully, the ice has been broken. Xi seems to send out a message that the US and the West can do business with China.

This is the most important development the world can hope for to tide over a snowballing economic crisis threatening massive job loss and food security. Added to this is the success of the COP27 agreement where the developed nations have, finally, agreed to set up a loss and damage fund that is expected to counter balance calamities caused due to climate change and more importantly the 1.5 C margin.

WISDOM CORNER

- We choose our joys and sorrows long before we experience them. KAHLIL GIBRAN
- Love is the difficult realisation that something other than oneself is real. IRIS MURDOCH
- Wise sayings often fall on barren ground, but a kind word is never thrown away. ARTHUR HELPS

WORDSWORTH

Crib

The use of the term for a baby's cot is more common in US English than in Britain, where it's mainly reserved for a model of the Nativity of Christ, with a manger as a bed. The verb to crib in the sense of plagiarism or stealing another's schoolwork is mainly British English, though both US and British English know crib notes. Both varieties of English share the sense of a barred container or rack for animal fodder, a manger. This is the original, which turns up in English around the year 1000 and which is from an Old German word whose descendants are to be found in modern Dutch and German. There are other senses of crib, especially that of a small house, cabin or hovel (from an extension of the sense of an animal stall), which eventually led to the meaning in the South Island of New Zealand of a small house at the seaside or at a holiday resort, to thieves' slang of the early nineteenth century for a house, shop or public-house and to the slightly later US slang usage for a saloon, a low dive, or brothel (and also the current US Black English sense of one's room, house or apartment). The baby's bed doesn't arrive until the seventeenth century as an application of the barred container idea, others from the same source being a repository for hops during harvest and a wickerwork basket or pannier. A shift from container to contents may explain why it has sometimes meant a light meal or a workman's lunch, though it's also suggested that an eighteenth-century slang sense of the stomach may be the direct link. The basket sense was used in particular for one in which a poacher might conceal his catch. The experts guess this may have led to the thievery sense around the middle of the eighteenth century. Much rests on an appearance in Samuel Foote's play The Nabob of 1778: "A brace of birds and a hare, that I cribbed this morning out of a basket of game."

Crimony

It's certainly a mild exclamation or cry of astonishment or annoyance, now much weaker in force than when it was first used, back in the seventeenth century, when it was usually spelled crime or crimony. Most dictionaries that include it spell it crimony, though many variant forms exist, such as criminy, crimany, criminee and criminy. These variations show that the word has usually been transmitted orally rather than in writing. The usual explanation is that it is a form of Christ, much like another somewhat dated mild expletive, crickey, which came along later; but the Oxford English Dictionary suggests that it might just be a variant form of crime. There is also an elaborated version, crimanetty, known regionally in the US, which also turns up in numerous variations, such as criminetties, criminetly and crimanightie. The Dictionary of American Regional English has a map showing where its researchers have found these expanded versions – mainly in the northern states of the central and western US, together with California.



Reed Brody

RUSSIA'S NAKED AGGRESSION AND ITS FLAGRANT WAR CRIMES HAVE GIVEN THE ICC A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS RELEVANCE

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

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Space milestone

Sir, The launch of the first privately developed rocket, Vikram-S by the start-up Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited is a momentous pride and a significant milestone in India's effort to create a commercial space industry and it will help test and validate majority of the technologies in the Vikram series or orbital class space launch vehicles. It heralds a new era for the space sector which was opened up in 2020 to facilitate private sector participation. The ISRO must be credited for actively assisting this start-up aerospace company in its mission, ending its own monopoly in the satellite launch segment. According to ISRO, there are around 100 start-ups that have registered with the space agency and are working closely with it in various domains.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Too little, too late

Sir, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's apology to President Droupadi Murmu on behalf of her minister Akhil Giri's remarks regarding the President's looks is too little and too late. Posts of high offices like that of the President are above controversy. Any attempt to belittle these offices must be condemned in the harshest words. Belittling these offices is at par with committing crime. And a crime cannot be condoned by a mere apology. The minister must be dismissed forthwith from the ministry and criminal proceedings be initiated against him as per the law. Beauty cannot be judged by complexion and outlook only. Beauty is what lies inside.

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

On a sticky wicket

Sir, The Centre has put the Supreme Court on a sticky wicket, challenging the top court's November 11 order, freeing six convicts in the 1961 Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The top court had not afforded the Union government an adequate hearing before ordering the convicts' premature release. Besides, several glaring errors on record were not brought to the court's notice, and granting remission to terrorists of a foreign nation has international ramifications, the Union contended. This development is not good news for the convicts who were released recently, decades after the former Prime Minister's assassination.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

of the day quote

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will be gheraoed if the JD(U) chief fails to fulfill his promise of providing 10 lakh government jobs to youths of the state in the coming days

PRASHANT KISHOR | POLITICAL STRATEGIST-TURNED-ACTIVIST

If strikes become a recurring phenomenon for every decision taken by the collegium, then where will it lead to?

KIREN RIJU | CABINET MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

Savarkar spent many years in jail, those who are questioning him what they have done for the country. It is a sin to question Savarkar's contribution, Rahul Gandhi should not do this sin

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

Dera follower case: Main shooter held

Jaipur/Chandigarh: A suspected shooter involved in the murder of a Dera Sacha Sauda follower was arrested following a brief encounter in a joint operation by Punjab and Rajasthan police in Jaipur Sunday, officials said. The main shooter, identified as Ramjan Khan alias Raj Hooda, was injured in his leg in the shoot-out, said Promod Ban, head of the Anti-Gangster Task Force of the Punjab Police. In Jaipur, Additional DCP (East) Avnish Sharma said that Hooda was hiding in a flat with two others.

Two UP cops arrested for rape

Hardoi: After being pulled up by the Allahabad High Court, the Hardoi police arrested two constables for allegedly raping two cousins, aged 18 and 19, in April 2022. A third accused in the case, a sub-inspector (SI), is still absconding. According to reports, the survivors had moved the High Court alleging police inaction. The court took note of the matter and directed police to initiate appropriate action in the complaint and apprise the court. The arrested constables have been identified as Manoj Singh and Himanshu Singh while the absconding sub inspector is Sanjay Singh.

4 killed in clash

Dhanbad: Four people were killed in a gunfight between security forces and coal thieves in Baghmara police station area of Jharkhand's Dhanbad district late on Saturday night, officials said. Six other were injured in the firing, out of which two have been referred to RIMS, Ranchi for treatment. All the killed and injured are said to be locals, while the deceased have not been identified yet. Tension prevailed in the area after the news of the incident spread and many locals have gathered at the spot to protest. According to sources, around a dozen men on two-wheelers reached the Block-2 Benidih Coal Siding of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCLL) with the intent of stealing coal.

Man kills wife

Palghar: A man allegedly killed his wife and fled after she refused to part with her earrings to finance the funeral rituals of his mother, a police official in Maharashtra's Palghar district said Sunday. The man's mother had died a few days ago and he had mortgaged his wife's jewellery to conduct the funeral, Inspector Mahendra Shelar of Pelhar police station said.



All pillars of society, including political parties, are gripped with fear in the country and secularism and the idea of India has been severely damaged in the past few years

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

ISRO TO LAUNCH PSLV-C54 NOV 26

The Indian Space Research Organisation will launch PSLV-C54/EOS-06 mission with Oceansat-3 and eight nano satellites, including one from Bhutan, on board from Sriharikota spaceport November 26



MEHRAULI MURDER

Cops find parts of skull in forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, Nov 20: Delhi police Sunday recovered parts of a skull and some bones from a forest area and deployed teams to drain a pond in South Delhi's Maidangarhi as it intensified its search for the remains of Shradha Walkar that were allegedly dumped by her live-in partner after murdering her six months ago, sources said.

Police took accused Aaftab Poonawala to the flat where he and Walkar lived to gather more evidence. Also, the officials of Delhi Police and Rohini's Forensic Science Laboratory held a meeting as they prepared to conduct a narco-analysis test through which they are hoping to get some vital clues from the accused. "We have taken up the matter. Our teams of forensic experts had an elaborate discussion with the officials of Delhi Police regarding the narco analysis test to be conducted and are preparing for the same," a senior official from Rohini's Forensic Science Laboratory said. In Maharashtra, a Delhi Police



Water tankers of Municipal Corporation of Delhi being brought for emptying a pond where Aaftab Poonawala, accused in Mehrauli murder case, is suspected to have dumped his live-in partner Shradha Walkar's head, at Chhatrapur area in New Delhi

team called three persons known to Walkar in Palghar district to record their statements.

Delhi Police team is in Manikpur in Palghar's Vasai, which is the native place of the victim and where the couple had stayed before shifting to the national capital.

On Saturday, it had recorded statements of four persons in Palghar - two men from whom

Walkar had sought assistance after she was assaulted by Poonawala in 2020, a former manager of the call centre in Mumbai where Walkar worked and her female friend.

According to the sources, police recovered fragments of skull and other body parts, mostly bones, on the third day of extensive searches in the forest areas of Mehrauli and Gurgaon in the Delhi-NCR region. These will be

sent for forensic analysis.

Not far from Mehrauli, Delhi Police along with teams of MCD were involved in pumping out water from a pond since Sunday afternoon. The exercise began following Poonawala's claim that he had thrown her head and some other remains in the water body.

"We have heard that some body parts are dumped here and the search for them is underway. They are taking out the water from the pond. This pond supplies water to the tubewells in the area," said Mahavir Pradhan, president of the RWA of the village.

He said that they are ready to help the police but there could be another way of finding the body parts, rather than emptying the pond. "Divers could have been deployed to look for the body parts," he said.

Poonawala allegedly strangled Walkar, 27, on May 18 and sawed her body into nearly three dozen pieces which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in South Delhi's Mehrauli before dumping them across the city over several days past midnight.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with a young supporter during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Buldhana district

Students kill pregnant dog; FIR registered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Around 25 students and staff members suspected to be of Don Bosco Technical Institute in South East Delhi allegedly ganged up against a pregnant street dog and bludgeoned her to death after torturing her, officials said.

After the video of the gruesome killing which happened in a park surfaced on social media, New Friends Colony Police registered an FIR in the matter. According to the complaint, two brothers of the institute were also allegedly present under instructions from the senior staff.

The disturbing video shows an all male gang of students cornering the scared dog inside a tin shed on the institute's campus which is entered by a student with a rod in his hand, and the remaining students egging him on from outside, they said.

The 15-minute-long video carrying horrid visual of the torture and killing of the animal went viral on Saturday with activists and dog lovers seeking strict actions against the accused, suspected to be students of the institute located in Okhla.

Later, one of the crowd members could be seen dragging the dog through what has reported to be the college compound. The ghastly act surfaced within days of another such video from Ghaziabad which showed three people killing a dog by hanging him in a grotesque manner. The accused in this incident were booked in a case by police after a complaint.

"It is horrific to see such brutality by young students who can be seen laughing as they beat an expectant mother to death," said Ambika Shukla, Trustee, PFA.



The ghastly act surfaced within days of another such video from Ghaziabad which showed three people killing a dog by hanging him in a grotesque manner

Scientific studies have shown that cruelty against animals is dangerous because it escalates to violence against women and children, she said.

"With time, the high of abusing a defenceless animal dissipates and to impose their power, such abusers, then prey on women and children," she said. Shukla said there are ample studies which show an overlap between animal abuse and domestic violence and child abuse.

"Animal abusers of today are the serial killers of tomorrow. That is why it is so important for society to take serious note of every instance of animal abuse." These boys must be rusticated from college and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The institution must be severely penalised as not only its students but also its staff are involved," she said.

Auto blast suspect had terror links: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 20: The explosion inside a moving autorickshaw near a police station in Mangaluru was triggered by explosives concealed in a cooker and it is an act of terror intended to cause damage, Karnataka Director General of Police, Praveen Sood said Sunday.

The suspect, who was the passenger in that vehicle had terror links, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said and added that sleuths of the National Investigation Agency and Intelligence Bureau have joined the Karnataka police in investigation. According to preliminary probe, it appeared to be a low intensity improvised explosive device and further investigation would bring out more details, Bommai told reporters here.

The chances of a Tamil Nadu link also surfaced as it has now emerged that the suspect was in possession of two fake Aadhaar cards, one with an address from TN, and another with a Hubballi address. According to police sources, an explosives laden cooker, fitted with a detonator, wires and batteries were used to trigger the blast and mangled pieces of these have been re-



A cooker fitted with detonator, wires and batteries found during the investigation after an explosion in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru

covered from the spot.

After the explosion near a police station in Mangaluru, the driver and passenger (suspect) were injured and the autorickshaw's interior portion was badly damaged. Special police teams have fanned out to places including Coimbatore as part of the investigation. The suspect had used a mobile phone that

had a SIM card obtained using the Tamil Nadu address, sources said.

In a tweet, the DGP said: "It's confirmed now. The blast is not accidental but an act of terror with intention to cause serious damage. Karnataka State Police is probing deep into it along with central agencies." The TN police, in the meanwhile, questioned a 40-year-

old man in a village near Ooty as the SIM card used by the accused is suspected to have been bought using his Aadhaar card. He was being taken to Coimbatore for interrogation, the police said.

State Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said those injured in the blast were being provided good treatment. They are not in a position to talk. "The information we received shows that there is a deep conspiracy behind the incident. It is visible that the perpetrators had a link with the terrorist organisations," he said in a statement.

Police sources said that it is suspected that the accused hails from Shivamogga and he might have involvement in a previous IS-terror module case besides a role in the objectionable graffiti in the town. Recently, suspects were arrested from Shivamogga including some young men who were in touch with the Islamic State (IS) through social media.

On November 19, the day of the blast in Mangaluru, the cause of the explosion in the moving autorickshaw was not clear. Police suspect that it may be a failed suicide bombing attempt.

Nepal's missing rare vulture found in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 20: A winged visitor, a rare white-rumped vulture, from Nepal which went missing some ten months ago, was found by Bihar's bird ringing station officials at Darbhanga after it went off the radar despite being radio tagged.

The bird, belonging to a critically endangered species, was last sighted in the Himalayan nation's Tanahun district, and was found in a weakened condition as it was

starving for want of food, according to officials. The white-rumped vulture was listed as a critically endangered species in 2000 as its population declined rapidly primarily as a result of feeding on carcasses of animals treated with the veterinary drug diclofenac, Chief Wildlife Warden PK Gupta said.

White-rumped vultures, found generally near human habitations, were very common in the Indian subcontinent, besides Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and



southern Vietnam. These birds feed mostly on the ground, but roost and

nest in trees and cliffs, and spend much of their time soaring on wind currents, searching for carrion.

The bird is medium-sized and dark with blackish plumage, a white neck-ruff, and a white patch of feathers on the lower back and upper tail, from which the name was derived. An adult white-rumped vulture is 75 to 85 cm tall. The bird, which went missing, was being used for research and monitoring of the vulture safe zone by Nepalese authorities, Gupta said.

MBBS in regional language will limit knowledge: Doctors

In October, Union Home Minister Amit Shah released textbooks of three subjects in Hindi for first year students of MBBS course as part of an ambitious project of the Madhya Pradesh government to impart medical education in Hindi, a first in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The Madhya Pradesh government's decision to impart medical education in Hindi may help rural students initially, but will gravely limit their scope for growth and knowledge, feel doctors.

In October, Union Home Minister Amit Shah released textbooks of three subjects in Hindi for first year students of MBBS course as part of an ambitious project of the Madhya Pradesh government to

impart medical education in Hindi, a first in the country.

Shah also said work is underway to start technical and medical education in eight other languages in the country. He asserted that students across the country should come out of their linguistic inferiority complex and showcase their abilities in their language.

According to Dr J A Jayalal, former national president of Indian Medical Association, Shah may have said abilities of students



would "enhance" but, on the contrary, it may deter their growth.

"What we are talking about is modern medicine, it is universal medicine. It is not only practised in India, it is practised throughout the world. If you are trained in a regional language, you cannot ex-

pect to go outside to study and update your knowledge and skills," Jayalal said.

He added that medical education cannot be taught through textbooks alone, it also requires frequently reading international research papers, journals and ar-

ticles, all of which are written in English. "It will be ok if you are going to stay at a local community level and never connect with the global community. Basic understanding you can give in a regional language, but if you want to update your skills, it is not going to help you," he said.

In the first phase, Hindi textbooks on medical biochemistry, anatomy, and medical physiology have been released. Following Madhya Pradesh's lead, the Uttarakhand government has also announced similar measures to be implemented from the next academic sessions.

According to the state's Medical Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, a committee will prepare a draft of the new syllabus for colleges after studying the MBBS Hindi syllabus in government colleges

of Madhya Pradesh.

Last week, Tamil Nadu Minister for Higher Education K Ponmudy also said the state government was now involved in introducing MBBS courses in Tamil and a committee of three professors was formed in that regard. Karan Juneja, an MBBS doctor and national secretary of IMA-Junior Doctors Network, said instead of offering medical education in regional languages, the government should focus on improving infrastructure and school education.

"We have seen students who come from rural areas, without any English background, managing well with the subjects and the language. They adapt to the environment and improve themselves. Offering them education in Hindi or any other language will be detrimental for their growth," Juneja said.

All eyes on Dalit votes in Mainpuri byelection

ACCORDING TO THE POLITICAL PUNDITS, THE ELECTIONS OF MAINPURI WERE FOUGHT ON THE BASIS OF CASTE ONLY

AGENCIES

Mainpuri, Nov 20: Dalit voters will play a decisive role in the bypoll to the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat, which fell vacant after the death of Samajwadi Party (SP) founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, as the BSP and the Congress will not be in the fray.

Polling will take place December 5. The contest in Mainpuri, considered to be an SP bastion, is between Mulayam Singh's daughter-in-law Dimple Yadav and the BJP's Raghunath Shakya.

Mulayam Singh had first contested from Mainpuri seat in 1996 and won. Since then, the seat has remained with the SP.

According to the political pundits, the elections of Mainpuri were fought on the basis of caste only. This is reason why apart from the issues or wave in the byelection, both SP and BJP are eyeing the caste equations.

The emphasis of SP is to break into other castes, besides Yadav and Muslim. On the other hand, the BJP is trying to attract Kshatriya, Brahmin, Lodhi and Vaishya vote bank and penetrate the electoral divide with the help of Shakya candidate. Election statistics from Mainpuri shows that though the BSP has contested many Lok Sabha elections in Mainpuri and may not have won, the party's performance has always been good.

Due to its core voters, the BSP has also been at number two. This time,



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

with BSP not in fray, all parties are eyeing the core vote bank of the BSP. The party which will be able to divert the BSP's vote on its side will succeed in the election.

In 2009 Lok Sabha elections, the BSP gave a fight to the SP. Even though it could not win, BSP candidate Vinay Shakya got 2.19 lakh votes. While in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, BSP candidate Sanghamitra Maurya secured 1.42 lakh votes in SP's bastion. However, the BSP did not contest from Mainpuri seat in 2019 due to its poll alliance with the SP.

In 2019, Mulayam Singh won the election by getting 5,24,926 votes, and the BJP candidate was defeated by about 94,000 votes.

If local analysts are to be believed, the BJP knows that it can sail through with the help of Dalit voters. That's why it has deployed minister Aseem Arun and

MP Ramshankar Katheria to woo the Dalit vote bank. Along with this, many other Dalit class leaders are also engaged in breaking into this vote bank. State BJP General Secretary Organisation Dharampal himself is focusing on this seat. On the other hand, SP has also fielded many big leaders from BSP to woo the voters of Dalit and Shakya communities.

The SP's emphasis is on keeping the Dalit vote bank intact with Muslims and Yadavs (MY). Dalit leaders have been instructed to camp in villages. However, it is believed that Dalit voters hesitate to go with Yadavs. This has been seen in several elections. If it happens this time too, it can be very difficult for the SP.

There are about 17 lakh voters in Mainpuri. Of them, around 4.30 lakh are Yadavs, 2.80 lakh are Shakyas and 1.80 lakh are Dalits

Coming soon: Doorstep garbage collection in Greater Noida villages



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida, Nov 20: The facility of doorstep collection of garbage will soon be launched across the 124 villages under the Greater Noida Authority, benefitting lakhs of residents, according to officials.

The facility is currently available only for developed sectors in Greater Noida.

Participating in a programme to mark 'World Toilet Day' Saturday, Greater Noida Authority CEO Ritu Maheshwari noted that the villages in the area and some newly developed city sectors do not have door-to-door garbage collection facility. "At the beginning of the new year, a (private) agency will be selected to collect garbage from homes in these villages and sectors," Maheshwari said.

She also said that the authority has planned 32 more public toilets besides the 30 that are already under construction, according to an official statement.

"At present, 19 public toilets are ready, while work is underway on 11 others. Of these 30, nine are pink toilets (dedicated to women) and the rest are common public toilets. All these are being made on BOT (build-operate-transfer) basis at a cost of Rs 3.72 crore," Maheshwari said.

"Besides these, approval has been received for the construction of 32 public toilets and tenders for their construction will be issued soon. The project's cost is estimated to be around Rs 4.28 crore," she said. On the occasion, the senior IAS officer also exhorted the general public to use public toilets instead of defecating in the open and help keep Greater Noida clean.

A new dawn has come for J&K

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE UNION TERRITORY (UT) GOT A MAJOR SHOT IN THE ARM AS A RESULT OF WHICH LOTS OF INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES STARTED INVESTING OVER THERE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 20: Kashmir was often dubbed as the heaven on earth; but things took a different turn for a few years in between. With the abrogation of Article 370, things have become brighter and the union territory Jammu and Kashmir has started attracting incredible number of investments, from both domestic and international companies.

Investors like Lulu Group, EMAAR, Jindal Group, Apollo, Al Maya Group, Century Financial have come forth to invest in the union territory.

A total of 890 Central laws were implemented, 250 vague erstwhile state laws removed and 130 erstwhile state laws were modified.

Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, thousands of kilometres of roads are getting constructed, more than 25 National Highway projects with hundreds of bridges, tunnels are under construction right now.

Jammu and Kashmir is now proud a Union Territory of two AIIMS, two State Cancer Institutes, Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, seven new Government Medical Colleges, 15 nursing colleges, reported Daily Excelsior. This has given a big push to the health and education infrastructure in the Union Territory.

Major push to power infrastructure is given with transmission capacity augmentation on a war-footing. A total of 21 hydroelectric projects with installed capacity of around 5,200 MW are under construction.

While projects for beautification of Srinagar like laser shows, musical fountains, floating theatre

are already done, Jammu is expediting work on Tawi River Front, Artificial Lake, Heritage City, Zoo, Lord Balaji Temple replica and many more projects.

On tourism front, highest ever tourist footfall in Jammu and Kashmir is getting recorded. Several tourist-related projects of ropeways, lakes development, smart cities of Jammu and Srinagar are being developed at a fast pace.

E-rickshaws, e-autos and e-buses are operating for securing carbon-neutral environment. Digitisation of revenue records, introduction of single window web services, 100 per cent Aadhaar seeding, e-Shram cards are major initiatives taken

under e-Governance.

The UT is enriched with the world famous and the traditional handicraft industry, that has emerged as a large industry in last few years. Due to large employment base as well as export potential, the industry has been receiving priority attention of the government. The Union Territory is also famous for its small-scale and cottage industries such as silks, shawls, basketry, carpet weaving, pottery, copper and silverware, walnut wood and papier-Mache.

The rare cottage handicrafts industry provides direct and gainful employment to around 340,000 artisans in total.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

'New industrial estates coming up across J&K'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

officials said. They said these include Industrial estates at Balole (Bari Brahmana), Meen Charkan, Katli and extension of phase-III IGC in Samba district, Industrial Estate at Kartholi-Budhi in Kathua, Forelain, Bagthali and Sahar Logate in Kathua district, Mehmoodabad-Dooru in Anantnag, Ashmuji in Kulgam, expansion of Kulgam Industrial Estate, Industrial Estate at Wutan and Khrew in Pulwama district.

Reviewing the pace and progress for the establishment of new industrial estates in the Union Territory, the chief secretary directed for having synergy among the departments to create the utilities necessary for these industrial hubs.

He made out that interdepartmental coordination may be created for regular interaction about the issues hindering the process and ironing out of the same without wasting any time.

Mehta also stressed on fully operationalizing the unified platform for availing different services for establishment of units by the industrialists in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is imperative to move to a single platform wherefrom all the services could be availed by the applicants," he said, and asked for doing away with individual or standalone portals from different service providers.



Mubarak Mandi palace, seen during World Heritage Week 2022 in Jammu. The palace was the royal residence of the Kings of Jammu and Kashmir from the Dogra dynasty

PTI PHOTO

Akhilesh touches Shivpal's feet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Etawah (UP), Nov 20: In a show of bonhomie during the campaign for the Mainpuri Lok Sabha bypoll, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav Sunday touched the feet of his uncle Shivpal Yadav and asserted that there has never been any strain in their relationship.

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivpal Singh Yadav termed the bypolls a high stake contest, and told the audience that the family has become one. He also said that the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government peddles a lot of lies. Addressing an election rally in the family bastion of Saifai,



Akhilesh Yadav asserted that his party will register a historic win in the bypoll.

Dimple Yadav, the wife of Akhilesh Yadav, has been fielded from the seat, which has been represented by the SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. The bypoll

was necessitated due to the death of Mulayam Singh last month.

"The bypolls are taking place at a time when 'Netaji' (Mulayam Singh Yadav) is not among us. The entire country is watching this election, and I can say that the entire country will see how the Samajwadi Party registers a historic win," Akhilesh Yadav said.

After remaining at loggerheads since 2017, Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle had decided to mend fences before the 2022 Assembly polls. Both had put up a united front at the behest of Mulayam Singh Yadav. However, the cracks appeared again after the poll in which the BJP came back to power.

PARAGLIDING IN JAMMU SOON: TOURISM OFFICIAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 20: A series of paragliding trials have been conducted across Jammu division as part of the administration's efforts to promote adventure tourism, an official said.

"The trial runs were successful and the people of Jammu division will see gliders flying in the sky soon," Jammu tourism director Vivekanand Rai said.

The places are Aithem in Jammu district, Dhanwa and Mokhri in Reasi, Bhaderwah in Doda, Patnitop in Ramban and Sanasar in Kishtwar districts.

The teams of professional pilots have suggested remedial measures at some sites. The trials are important to ensure safety of the adventure enthusiasts, Rai said. Tourism joint director Sunaina

Mehta said the full potential of paragliding had not been harnessed in the Jammu region due to lack of skilled manpower, which is mandated by adventure tourism guidelines. Constructive steps are needed to make this activity more secure as per guidelines, she added.

Mehta said it would be a scintillating experience for the tourists to fly in the Jammu skies while exploring various offbeat destinations. The officials said the tourism department will organise professional courses for local youth next month to develop the region as adventure hub for tourists and to generate employment in the tourism sector.

The courses will be sponsored by the department as part of the capacity building measures for making adventure tourism a sustainable activity, the officials said.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Vulture population increases in ATR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bijnor, Nov 20: The Amargarh Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a rise in the population of vultures.

According to a survey, the conservation efforts have yielded desired results and the vulture population has risen from 141 last year to 165 this year. Bijnor divisional forest officer Anil Kumar Patel said: "A three-day census was carried out from November 16 to 18, which revealed 143 Griffin vultures and 22 baby vultures in Amargarh Tiger Reserve area as compared to 141 sighted in the 2021 survey." There has been a sharp overall decline in the vulture population, except for a few species like the Griffon vulture, which is included in the 'near threatened' category of the IUCN Red List.

UP govt's infrastructure push boosts enrolment in schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 20: The Uttar Pradesh government's initiative to build extra toilets for girls and develop other infrastructure in elementary schools has resulted in a big jump in students' enrolment and attendance, a state government report said.

Compared to 61 per cent toilets for girls in elementary schools across the state in November 2019, it rose to 97 per cent in November this year, the report said.

The enrolment and attendance in schools increased to 1.91 crore in 2022-23 vis-a-vis 1.52 crore in 2016-17 due to the infrastructure push, including the setting up of multiple hand wash units, it said.

Reports from districts, however, also highlighted the problems in their upkeep as in many schools, students and local people com-

plained that the toilets were either locked or not cleaned daily.

Vijay Kiran Anand, director general of School Education, told PTI that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath holds a monthly meeting to review the progress of Operation Kayakalp with all divisional commissioners and district magistrates.

At state, district and block levels, control rooms have been established to monitor the progress and facilitation of work and monthly IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System) calls are being from state to every head teacher of schools for their feedback and to know the challenges, he said.

A three-tier comprehensive monitoring mechanism through Prerna dashboards, from state to block levels, has also been developed to ensure time-bound completion and saturation of child-friendly essential infrastructure in schools,



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Anand added. He said Operation Kayakalp was selected in the 'best practice' category by the Union Education Ministry and a presentation was given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on it in June.

A report from Ballia said 2,249

schools are running under the Basic Education Council.

District coordinator (construction) Satyendra Rai said every school has at least one toilet for girl students while some others with more female students have

The state government had launched "Operation Vidyalaya Kayakalp" in June 2018-19 to further strengthen 19 infrastructure facilities in 1.33 lakh elementary schools

These included constructing boys' and girls' toilets along with urinals for children with special needs, safe drinking water, multiple hand wash units, functional electricity connection, furniture and tiling in classrooms and boundary wall among others

more than one latrines.

Jyoti, a government school student on Bilthar road said there are three toilets in a row for both boys and girls. But they have a common entrance door, which is creating inconvenience to girl students, she said.

Tanya and Anuradha of the same school said toilets are seldom cleaned.

Sushil Yadav, principal of government school in Kakraso village said there are 514 students in the school which has four toilets.

The department has not provided any safai (cleanliness) staff. So, they have to depend on the gram panchayat staff for getting them cleaned, he added.

A report from Jhansi said most of the schools have separate toilets for girls.

Many parents in Bhai Jalalabad Bada blocks complained that toilets in schools remain locked for most of the time, forcing students to relieve themselves in nearby fields.

In Baghpat, basic education officer Kirti said schools in the district already have separate toilets for boys and girls. A Meerut report said enrolment has increased in schools due to construction of additional toilets for girls.

of the day quote

The National Conference never sided with Pakistan and always stood rock-solid with India

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

Today the country is realising the dreams of Swami Vivekananda and is moving on the path of continuous progress

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

Many countries abroad are using Punjabi language but we are somehow shying away from using it. No language is a symbol of intelligence but unfortunately we are continuously ignoring our own mother tongue just to pursue English

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

Arms recovered

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police and army in a joint operation have recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from a house in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said Sunday.

Two bodies found

Thiruvananthapuram: With recovery of two more bodies from Bharathapuzha river on Sunday, the death toll in the Kerala boat tragedy has mounted to four.

50 houses gutted

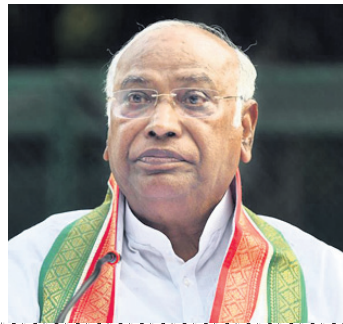
Siliguri (WB): At least 12 people were injured and around 50 houses gutted, after a fire broke out in a slum in West Bengal's Siliguri city, officials said Sunday.

Three killed

Amaravati: Three people, including a couple, were killed in a road accident in Andhra Pradesh's YSR Kadapa district Sunday.

Prez undergoes cataract surgery

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu underwent cataract surgery in her right eye at the Army Hospital (Referral and Research) here on Sunday, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a communiqué.



The Modi government, which crushed the farmers under vehicle, did not give cost plus 50 percent Minimum Support Price, did not give compensation to 733 martyred farmers and didn't even withdraw the case against them

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

MAMATA MAY MEET PM DEC 5

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Chief Ministers' meeting in New Delhi December 5, an official said Sunday



PM targets Rahul for walking with Patkar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhoraji (Gujarat), Nov 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday asked on what moral ground is the Congress seeking votes in Gujarat when its leader was joined in his Bharat Jodo Yatra by a woman who stilled the Narmada dam project for three decades.

Modi was referring to Narmada Bachao Andolan activist Medha Patkar joining the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra on Saturday.

"The Narmada project was the only solution to quench the thirst of the arid region of Kutch and Kathiyawad (Saurashtra region). You must have seen yesterday how a Congress leader was doing padyatra with a woman, who was an anti-Narmada activist. She and others had stalled the project for three decades by creating legal hurdles" he said.

"These activists held protests just to make sure that water does not reach here," Modi said, and ac-

The Narmada project was the only solution to quench the thirst of the arid region of Kutch and Kathiyawad (Saurashtra region). You must have seen how a Congress leader was doing padyatra with a woman, who was an anti-Narmada activist. She and others had stalled the project for three decades by creating legal hurdles

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

cused the activists of defaming Gujarat to such an extent that even the World Bank stopped funds for the project. "When Congress leaders approach you to seek votes, I want you to ask them to explain on what moral ground the opposition party is seeking votes when their leader was doing padyatra with a woman who was against the Narmada project. I urge you to ask this question to Congress," he said.

The BJP government in Gujarat had worked hard for 20 years to resolve the water shortage issue through various schemes, such as building check dams, digging new wells and lakes and providing water through pipelines, Modi said.



A member of Delhi State Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union shows black cloth to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his public meeting, ahead of Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections, at Paharganj in New Delhi

Netaji kin file PIL to stop distortion of history

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 20: Claiming that lives and achievements of national heroes, specially Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, were being distorted in films and various forms of media, a PIL has been filed before the Calcutta High Court seeking direction to the Centre to take steps to stop such activities.

Claiming that the Government of India has already conducted different inquiry commissions on Netaji and reports of these have been published and admitted in the Parliament, the petitioners alleged private profiteering by spreading various unverified theories through films and mass media.

Petitioners Saumya Shankar Bose and Chandra Kumar Bose, both relations of the Netaji, claimed that they seek prevention of distortion of history of Indian freedom movement through any kind of misinformation specifically through films and mass media.

Their lawyer Sattwik Majumder said on Sunday that the PIL is likely to be listed for hearing next week. Claiming that they want preservation of the correct narrative of Indian history and prevention of its distortion, the petitioners said the history of the Indian freedom movement and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose must



be told without any imaginative prose or conspiracy theories.

They stated that theories like the Netaji living in disguise and hidden in a free and independent India, were rejected by all the commissions. Justice Sahai Commission, set up by the Uttar Pradesh government, had also rejected the notion that 'Gummaami Baba' was Netaji Bose, the petitioners stated.

They claimed that Netaji Bose is not a character out of mythology or fiction that his life and legacy would be open to the imagination and fantasy of rumour mongers and storytellers. They prayed that events depicted in films, books and other media be verified before they are brought to public domain in future.

Union health ministry includes coronary stents in NLEM 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The Union health ministry has notified the inclusion of coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022, a move that will help make these life-saving medical devices more affordable.

The move is based on the recommendations by an expert committee constituted to review the inclusion of stents in the list based on requirement. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) will now fix the price of coronary stents.

On November 6, the Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM) had submitted its recommendation for inclusion of coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022 in two categories -- Bare Metal Stents (BMS) and Drug Eluting Stents (DES) which include metallic DES and bioresorbable vascular scaffold (VBS)/biodegradable stents.

According to minutes of the SNCM meeting, vice chairman Dr Y K Gupta stated that coronary stents were earlier included in NLEM, 2015 through a separate notification based on the recom-



The move is based on the recommendations by an expert committee constituted to review the inclusion of stents in the list based on requirement

dations of an expert committee. "As far as medicines are concerned, SNCM has already submitted its report on NLEM, 2022 and the same has been adopted by the government," an official source said. The SNCM had deliberated on the essentiality, categorisation and other relevant aspects of coronary stents.

It also stated that coronary artery diseases (CAD) is a public health issue which is associated with high morbidity and mortality. There is an enormous need for percutaneous coronary interventions requiring implantation of coronary stents. Therefore, coronary stents should continue to be essential medical devices, committee members agreed.

"After taking into consideration all aspects of coronary stents, the

committee recommended that coronary stent is an essential medical device which has been notified as a 'drug' under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and therefore, it should be included in NLEM, 2022," an official said.

Authorities for the purpose of NLEM in respect of coronary stents should consider various coronary stents separately under the categories of Bare Metal Stents and Drug Eluting Stents, he said. The Indian Council of Medical Research and other relevant institutions may also consider to take necessary initiatives to generate data for assessment of post marketing safety and performance of coronary stents being used in various hospitals/institutions, the members stated.

GUJARAT POLLS: BJP SUSPENDS 7 LEADERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 20: The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat Sunday suspended seven party leaders, including two former MLAs, for filing nominations as independent candidates for the upcoming state Assembly elections after they were denied tickets.

The seven candidates are contesting from the seats that will go to polls in the first phase of the elections scheduled to be held on December 1. The party suspended former MLAs Arvind Ladani, who had won from Keshod constituency in 2012, and Harshad Vasava from the Scheduled Tribe-reserved seat of Nandod, after they filed their nominations as independents from these seats.

The BJP has fielded Dr Darshana Deshmukh from Nandod and Devabhai Malam from Keshod. The saffron party also suspended Chhatrasinh Gunjariya, a district panchayat member from

Surendranagar, after he filed his nomination as an independent from Dhrangadhra seat.

Other suspended leaders include Ketan Patel, Bharat Chavda, Uday Shah and Karan Baraiya, who have filed their nominations as independents from Pardi, Rajkot, Veraval and Rajula seats respectively. The BJP, in a release, said, "These leaders have filed their nominations as independent candidates against the candidates declared by the party. They are being suspended on the direction of the state BJP president C R Paatil."

Paatil had earlier told reporters that it is a norm to suspend leaders who seek to contest as independents against party candidates after they fail to withdraw their nominations on the last day of withdrawal. Several BJP leaders have come out in the open to express their unhappiness for being denied tickets and have declared to contest as independents.



LeT 'hybrid' terrorist killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 20: A 'hybrid' terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba, accompanying a police party for identifying a hideout, was killed in an encounter between security forces and ultras in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday, police said.

"Hybrid" terrorists are not listed as ultras but are radicalised enough to carry out a terror strike and then slip back into routine life. The 'hybrid' terrorist, Sajad Ahmad Tantray alias Furqan, a resident of Shirpora in Kulgam, was involved in the killing of a non-local labourer at Rakhmomen in Anantnag's Bijbehara on November 12, a police spokesperson said.

He was arrested and during questioning, he confessed to his involvement in the labourer's killing. At his instance, a pistol used in the commission of the terror crime was recovered, the spokesperson said. Tantray also revealed information about the presence of terrorists in Bijbehara's Cheki Duddo area, he added. On the basis of information provided by Tantray, the police said, a search and cordon operation was launched in Cheki Duddo. As the search party approached the hideout, it came under heavy firing from the hiding terrorists and Tantray was critically injured.



Modi ministers' new found offensive

A new pattern has emerged in the Modi dispensation as some ministers holding key portfolios are on the offensive. They don't mince words and do straight talking. It all began with the External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar who did plain speaking wherever he went. A foreign

minister is expected to express his views in a nuanced manner. But Jaishankar is writing a new script in diplomacy during his interactions with leaders in the USA, Europe or Russia. Jaishankar is highly respected world over due to his vast experience in foreign affairs. When the USA raised the issue of buying oil from Russia despite a ban, he bluntly told the Americans that India is importing less oil than Europe. Secondly, India will follow a policy in its national interest. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is no different and on many occasions she was seen bluntly putting forth her views -- be it in Parliament or outside. Petroleum and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri is no different either. He has been maintaining a tough posture during his visits to the USA and other countries. The latest to join this new class of ministers is Law Minister Kiran Rijiju. He is known to be soft spoken and always found smiling. But when it comes to the judiciary,

he has been attacking the higher judiciary left, right & center.

Modi-Shah crack whip

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi cracking the whip and bringing a new work culture in the government, the Babus have started feeling the heat. Since the 'Babus' are not accustomed to Modi's style of functioning, they are choosing other avenues for greener pastures. Many of them are reluctant to move over to Delhi as posting in the National capital is not lucrative anymore. The latest trend indicates that a record number of IAS officers have opted for VRS at an early stage of their career in the services. Until September 2022 as many as eight IAS officers have opted for VRS and a significant number of them went back to their parent cadre states. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also created a record in his ministry when he showed the door to

the largest number of Gazetted Officers (GO). During Amit Shah's tenure in the Home Ministry since 2019, delinquent officers have been dealt with ruthlessly. Shah, on an average, has been taking strict action against one GO every week since 2021, which includes removal, dismissal and compulsory retirement.

All eyes on ED director

All eyes are set on Enforcement Director Sanjay Mishra whether he will get another extension in service on November 19 when he completes almost four years in service. He joined the ED in November 2018. The government is very pleased with his performance. In order to retain him further in the job, the government even amended the law pertaining to service rules for the directors of CBI and ED. Interestingly the government amended the law to facilitate Sanjay Mishra's tenure further after the Supreme Court directed that no further ex-

tension be given to him. The SC has now fixed November 18 as the next date of hearing in Sanjay Mishra's case.

Cash crunch pinching Opposition

2022 may be a watershed moment in electoral history as the Opposition parties have become crippled due to choking of movement of cash particularly in Gujarat. Though the BJP has been in power in the state for nearly 27 years, the Opposition parties never faced such a tightening as witnessed this tight. An unprecedented level of cash crunch is pinching the Opposition candidates particularly those belonging to the AAP and even the Congress. The ED, CBI, Income Tax and other agencies have been on the prowl and working in tandem to curb money reaching Gujarat through hawala operators in Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazar and other places.

international



The presence of foreign military forces has threatened energy security in the regional waters
HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

CHINA ANNOUNCES 1ST COVID DEATH IN ALMOST 6 MONTHS

China Sunday announced its first new death from COVID-19 in nearly half a year as strict new measures are imposed in Beijing and across the country to ward against new outbreaks. The death of the Beijing man brings the total toll to 5,227



of the day quote

From these lands, my father set out as an immigrant to Argentina, and to these lands, rendered precious by the rich fruits of the soil and above all by the native industriousness of their people, I have now returned to rediscover and savour my roots

POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pakistan will only accept the appointment made by the Prime Minister, and the PPP is of the same view and will support the constitutional and legal appointment made by Shehbaz Sharif

BILAWAL BHUTTO ZARDARI | CHAIRMAN OF THE PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY

A number of powers, who want to spread their influence in Africa, are doing this to hurt France, hurt its language, sow doubts, but above all pursue certain interests

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

SHORT TAKES

China, US to attend SE Asia defence meet

Beijing: The defence chiefs of rival powers China and the US will both attend next week's expanded meeting of Southeast Asian security ministers in Cambodia, opening up the possibility the two will hold face-to-face discussions. China's Defense Ministry said Gen. Wei Fenghe will attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus from Sunday to Thursday.

Incumbent expected to win Kazakh prez poll

Astana: Kazakhstan's incumbent president is widely expected to secure an easy victory in Sunday's snap election that came after bloody unrest shook the country this year and he moved to stifle the influence of his authoritarian predecessor. Five candidates were on the ballot against President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Kirpan allowed for Sikh students in US

Washington: A prominent US university has announced that it would allow Sikh students to wear a kirpan on campus, a religious article in Sikhism. The change comes about two months after a video was posted online showing a student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte was handcuffed for carrying a kirpan. The University of North Carolina in a statement Thursday said that the school's policy will allow students to wear kirpans on campus as long as the blade length is under 3 inches and is "worn close to the body in a sheath at all times."

Pak govt reaches out to Imran's PTI

Islamabad: For the first time since coming to power in April this year, the Shehbaz Sharif-led government has initiated a dialogue with Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), sources said. The development comes after Finance Minister Ishaq Dar met President Arif Alvi Friday and offered dialogue to resolve political issues.

VP Harris to visit front line Philippine island

Manila: Vice President Kamala Harris would underscore America's commitment to defending treaty ally the Philippines with a visit that starts Sunday and involves flying to an island province facing the disputed South China Sea, where Washington has accused China of bullying smaller claimant nations.

Blasts rock N-plant in Ukraine

RUSSIA HAS BEEN POUNDING UKRAINE'S POWER GRID AND OTHER KEY INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE AIR, CAUSING WIDESPREAD BLACKOUTS FOR MILLIONS OF UKRAINIANS AMID FRIGID WEATHER, WITH SNOW BLANKETING THE CAPITAL, KYIV, AND OTHER CITIES

AGENCIES

London, Nov 20: Powerful explosions shook Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, the site of Europe's largest nuclear power plant, the global nuclear watchdog said Sunday, calling for "urgent measures to help prevent a nuclear accident" in the Russian-occupied facility.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said two explosions — one Saturday evening and another Sunday morning — near the Zaporizhzhia plant abruptly ended a period of relative calm around the nuclear facility that has been the site of fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces since Russia invaded February 24.

Fears of a nuclear catastrophe have been at the forefront since Russian troops occupied the plant during the early days of the war. Continued fighting has raised the spectre of a disaster.

In renewed shelling both close to and at the site, IAEA experts at the Zaporizhzhia facility reported hearing more than a dozen blasts within a short period Sunday morning and could see some explosions



A view shows Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant from the town of Nikopol. REUTERS

- IAEA says Ukraine plant rocked by 12 blasts
- Plant is controlled by Russian forces
- Moscow and Kyiv accuse other of shelling
- 'You're playing with fire!' - IAEA chief

from their windows, the statement said. Several buildings, systems and equipment at the power plant — none of them critical for the plant's nuclear safety — were damaged in the shelling, the IAEA said, citing the plant's management. Still, Grossi said reports of the shelling were "extremely disturbing." He added: "Whoever is behind this, it must stop immediately. As I have said many times before, you're playing with fire!" Grossi said, and appealed to both sides to urgently implement a nu-

clear safety and security zone around the facility. Russia has been pounding Ukraine's power grid and other key infrastructure from the air, causing widespread blackouts for millions of Ukrainians amid frigid weather. That has left Ukrainians without heat, power or water as snow blankets the capital, Kyiv, and other cities.

Ukraine's state nuclear power operator said Russian forces were behind the shelling of the Zaporizhzhia plant. Energoatom said in a Telegram post Sunday

that the targeted and damaged equipment in the facility is consistent with Kremlin's strategy "to damage or destroy as much of Ukraine's energy infrastructure as possible as" winter sets in. The most recent strikes damaged the system that would enable the plant's power units 5 and 6 to start producing electricity again for Ukraine, the power operator said.

It listed chemical desalinated water storage tanks and steam generator purge system as being damaged in the shelling Sunday, although the full extent of the damage is still being assessed. The State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine decided to bring the two units to a minimally controlled power level to obtain steam, which is critical in winter for ensuring the safety of power units, the plant's staff, the local population and the environment, Energoatom said. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov, however, blamed Ukrainian forces, claiming they shelled the power plant twice Sunday. He also said two shells hit near the power lines supplying the plant with electricity.

2 death row convicts flee dramatically from court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Nov 20: Two Islamist militants, who were sentenced to death for killing prominent Bangladeshi-American secular blogger Avijit Roy and his publisher, escaped dramatically from the premises of a crowded court here Sunday with the help of unidentified bikers who sprayed some chemical on police and created a smoke screen before whisking away the convicts.

Hours after the incident, home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told reporters that a nationwide alert has been issued to recapture them and an investigation launched to ascertain how the event took place.

The government has issued a red alert at all the entry and exit points of the country and asked the law enforcement agencies to beef up their surveillance at the border areas so that the convicts can't leave Bangladesh, he said in a statement.

Kamal said the government had issued a directive asking police not to produce death row convicts in-person in courts and it will be probed why the order was not followed in this case.

"We have launched a massive manhunt to recapture them and their helpers," a police spokesman told newsmen at the scene.

Bangladesh Police also announced a reward of Taka 20 lakh (approx \$ 19,428) for tip-offs leading to the convicts' recapture.



A vehicle drives with snow on the roof during a snowstorm as extreme winter weather hits Buffalo, New York. REUTERS

Turkey strikes in Syria, Iraq after bomb attack

AGENCIES

Istanbul, Nov 20: Turkey launched airstrikes over northern regions of Syria and Iraq, the Turkish Defence Ministry said Sunday, targeting Kurdish groups that Ankara holds responsible for last week's bomb attack in Istanbul.

Warplanes attacked bases of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and the Syrian People's Protection Units, or YPG, the ministry said in a statement, which

was accompanied by images of F-16 jets taking off and footage of a strike from an aerial drone. There was no immediate comment from either group.

The ministry cited Turkey's right to self defense under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter in launching an operation it called Claw-Sword late Saturday.

It said it was targeting areas "used as a base by terrorists in their attacks on our country." Turkey said it was seeking to pre-



vent attacks, secure its southern border and "destroy terrorism at its

NEPAL VOTES



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 20: Nearly 60 per cent polling was recorded Sunday in Nepal's parliament and provincial assemblies elections, marred by sporadic violence and clashes that left one person dead and disrupted voting at several polling stations, official sources said.

The polling started at 7 am local time at over 22,000 polling centres and closed at 5 pm.

More than 17.9 million voters were eligible to cast their votes to elect a 275-member House of Representatives. A minor explosion took place near Sharda Secondary School polling station in Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City in Kailali district.

However, there was no casualty, officials said, adding that voting continued in the polling station despite the incident with just half-an-hour interruption.

Some incidents of heated arguments between party cadres were reported from 11 areas in Dhangadi, Gorkha and Dolakha districts. However, it did not affect the polling,

According to the election commission sources, nearly 60 per cent voting was recorded

Barring a few sporadic incidents of violence, the voting remained largely peaceful

One person was killed after being shot dead at a polling station in Nateshwari Basic School of Tribeni Municipality in Bajura

they said. Prime Minister and Nepali Congress (NC) president Sher Bahadur Deuba cast his ballot in his home district Dadeldhura.

Deuba was continuously won the election from Dadeldhura since 1991. He is running for the federal parliament member for the seventh time in this election, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) chairman and former prime minister K P Sharma Oli cast his ballot at the polling centre situated in Suryabinayak Municipality in Bhaktapur district near Kathmandu.

Japan's PM sacks 3rd minister in a month

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Nov 20: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida sacked his internal affairs minister Sunday over funding irregularities, in a blow to his scandal-prone Cabinet that has already lost two ministers in one month.

Internal Affairs Minister Minoru Terada has been under fire over several accounting and funding irregularities. In one, he acknowledged that one of his support groups submitted accounting records carrying a dead person's signature.

"I apologise for the series of resignations," Kishida said. "I'm aware of my heavy responsibility for their appointment." He told reporters that he will announce Terada's replacement Monday.

Terada showed up at the Prime Minister's Office and told reporters that he had submitted his resignation Kishida, though he did not say he was asked to do so. "I made up my mind because I must not interfere with parliamentary discussion of key legislations because of my problems," Terada said. Terada, said his feelings were swayed between his hope to contribute to the Kishida Cabinet while being concerned about causing trouble because of his funding problems.

Kishida summoned Terada to his office and had him submit the resignation, NHK national television said. Kishida, when asked last Friday about a possible dismissal, did not defend Terada and only said he was going to make his own decision. Kishida believed Terada submitted his resignation in response to the comment he made in Bangkok after wrapping up the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

MALAYSIA'S NATIONALIST BLOCK CLOSER TO FORMING GOVT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kuala Lumpur, Nov 20: Malaysia's next government appeared to be leaning to the religious right as a coalition of Malay nationalists won support of an influential bloc Sunday after tightly fought general elections failed to produce a clear winner. The nation's king still has to approve any deal.

The unprecedented hung parliament after Saturday's divisive polls saw the rise of the the Malay-centric Perikatan Nasional, or National Alliance, led by former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin. It stunned many Malaysians who had hoped for stability and unity after political turmoil that has seen three prime ministers since 2018 polls.

Muhyiddin's alliance was an underdog that enjoyed an unexpected surge of votes with 73 out of 222 par-

liamentary seats. Its hard-line ally is the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, the biggest winner with a haul of 49 seats - more than double what it won in 2018. Known as PAS, it touts Sharia, rules three states and is now the single largest party. Its rise has stoked fears of greater Islamisation in the country.

Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's reformist multiethnic alliance topped the race with 82 federal seats, but fell far short of the 112 needed for a majority.

In negotiations Sunday, Muhyiddin's coalition edged closer to a victory after securing the backing of a political bloc in Sarawak, a state on Borneo island, that won 22 seats. He still needs a nod from another key player, the long-ruling United Malays National Organization, to muster a majority. The arrangement, if confirmed by the king, means that Muhyiddin



Malaysian former Prime Minister and Perikatan Nasional Chairman Muhyiddin Yassin waves as he leaves after Malaysia's 15th general election in Shah Alam. REUTERS

will return as Prime Minister. UMNO President Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he hasn't held any

talks with Muhyiddin on the formation of a government. He said candidates from his National Front

alliance have signed a pledge to give him the mandate to decide on any political cooperation. Zahid, who has come under pressure to resign after UMNO's second drubbing at the polls, warned that any members who violated party rules will be sacked and will have to vacate their parliamentary seat under a new law that bans switching of parties.

His statement came amid a split in the once-powerful alliance that had ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain until corruption scandals brought it down in 2018.

The palace said in a statement that Sultan Abdullah asked political chiefs to submit their choice for prime minister and for the alliance that will be formed for a parliamentary majority by Monday. The monarch said his decision will be final as he urged Malaysians to

accept the outcome to ensure a stable government.

Many rural Malays, who form two-thirds of Malaysia's 33 million people - which includes large minorities of ethnic Chinese and Indians - fear they may lose their rights with greater pluralism under Anwar's alliance. This, together with corruption in UMNO, has benefited Muhyiddin's bloc.

Among other key election losers was two-time former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who at 97 is leading a separate Malay movement. He suffered a shocking defeat to the National Alliance. Muhyiddin took power in March 2020, defecting from Anwar's alliance and joining hands with the UMNO-led coalition in a move that triggered the government's collapse. The partnership was beset by infighting and he resigned after 17 months.

of the day quote

I am sure as when the coking coal prices will go too high, the government will remove the duty because India is heavily dependent on imported coking coal for steel production

BIMLENDRA JHA | JSPL MANAGING DIRECTOR

We need to now formulate state-specific export promotion policies. Because to have one single export promotion policy for the whole country does not make sense

RAJIV KUMAR | EX-NITI AAYOG VICE-CHAIRMAN

I would not like to project a going forward figure but can safely say that we are expecting a good increase (in market share) this fiscal as we expect to launch a few more SUVs

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | SENIOR EXECUTIVE, MSI

SHORT TAKES

Mother Dairy hikes milk price

New Delhi: Mother Dairy has decided to hike prices of full-cream milk by Re 1 per litre and token milk by ₹2 per litre in Delhi-NCR market with effect from Monday, citing rise in input cost. This is the fourth round of hike in milk prices this year by Mother Dairy, one of the leading milk suppliers in Delhi-NCR with volumes of more than 30 lakh litres per day. Mother Dairy has increased the prices of full-cream milk by Re 1 to ₹64 per litre, a company spokesperson said. However, the company has not revised the prices of full-cream milk sold in 500 ml packs. Token milk (bulk vended milk) will be sold at ₹50 per litre from Monday as against ₹48 per litre now.

ONGC sees 18% jump in output

New Delhi: India's largest oil and gas producer ONGC will this year reverse years of decline in production and gradually raise output thereafter as it invests billions of dollars to produce from newer discoveries, company's management told investors in a call. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in fiscal year 2021-22 produced 21.707 million tonne of crude oil, which is refined to produce petroleum products like petrol and diesel, and 21.68 billion cubic meter (bcm) of natural gas, which is used to produce electricity, manufacture fertilizer and as CNG in automobiles. In current fiscal year (2022-23), crude oil production is slated to rise to 22.823 million tonne and gas to 22,099 bcm. In the following fiscal year, oil production will climb to 24.636 million tonne and to 25.689 million tonne in 2024-25, the management told investors in a call post announcement of second quarter earnings last week.

380 infra projects show cost overruns

New Delhi: As many as 380 infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4.58 lakh crore, as per a report. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects of ₹150 crore and above, out of 1,521 projects, 380 reported cost overruns and as many as 642 projects were delayed. "Total original cost of implementation of the 1521 projects was ₹21,18,597.26 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be ₹25,76,797.62 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of ₹4,58,200.36 crore," the ministry's latest report said.



A fresh look is needed at the capital gains tax with respect to its rates and holding period to remove complexities and inconsistencies

SANJIV BAJAJ | CII PRESIDENT

EPFO ADDS 16.82 LAKH NET SUBSCRIBERS IN SEPT

Retirement fund body EPFO added 16.82 lakh subscribers on a net basis in September 2022, the Labour Ministry said in a release Sunday. Year-on-year comparison of payroll data reflects a 9.14 per cent increase in net membership addition in September, 2022 compared to the corresponding month during last year in 2021, the ministry said.



NPCI in talks with RBI on volume cap deadline

At present, there is no volume cap. So, two players -- Google Pay and PhonePe -- account for a market share of about 80 per cent



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which runs the UPI digital pipeline, is in talks with the Reserve Bank on implementation of its proposed December 31 deadline for limiting the volume cap of players to 30 per cent.

At present, there is no volume cap. So, two players -- Google Pay and PhonePe -- account for a market share of about 80 per cent.

NPCI in November 2022 had proposed a 30 per cent volume cap for third-party app providers (TPAP) in a bid to avoid concentration risk.

In this regard, sources said, a meeting was convened to comprehensively look at all aspects. Besides NPCI officials, senior officials of the finance ministry and

RBI also participated in this.

At the moment, NPCI is evaluating all the possibilities and no final decision has been taken to extend the December 31 deadline, the sources said.

NPCI has also received representations from industry stakeholders to extend the deadline and they are being examined, they added. According to the sources, NPCI is likely to decide on the issue of UPI market cap implementation by this month-end.

NPCI in 2020 came up with a directive to cap the share of transactions a third-party application provider (TPAP) could process at 30 per cent of the volume of transactions handled on UPI, effective January 1, 2021, which is to be calculated on the basis of the vol-

ume of transactions processed during the preceding three months.

However, it gave the existing TPAPs, such as PhonePe and Google Pay, which exceed the desired market cap, two additional years, starting next year to comply with the directive.

Earlier this year, the RBI came out with a consultation paper on charges in payment systems, which made a case for a tiered charge to be imposed on UPI transactions in line with Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions.

The government later issued a statement noting that UPI is a digital public good with immense convenience and productivity gains for the economy, and there are no plans to levy any charges for UPI services.

FPIs invest ₹30k cr in Indian equities in Nov

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 20: Foreign investors have been aggressively buying Indian equities in November, investing ₹30,385 crore this month so far, on stabilisation in rupee and resilience of the domestic economy compared to global counterparts.

However, going forward, buying by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) is unlikely to turn very aggressive as high valuations in India are a headwind, said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Further, valuations in markets like China, South Korea and Taiwan are very attractive now and so more FPI money is likely to move to these markets, he added.

According to data with the depositories, FPIs invested a net sum of ₹30,385 crore in equities during November 1-18. This came following a net outflow of just ₹8 crore last month and ₹7,624 crore in September.

Prior to these outflows, FPIs were net buyers in August to the tune of ₹51,200 crore and nearly ₹5,000 crore in July. Before that, foreign investors were net sellers in Indian equities for nine months in a row which started in October last year.

So far this year, the total outflow by FPIs in equities stands at ₹1.4 lakh crore.

The latest spurt in net inflows can be attributed to the recent surge in equity markets, stability in Indian economy compared to its global



counterparts and stabilisation in rupee, Morningstar India Associate Director - Manager Research Himanshu Srivastava said.

On the global front, lower than anticipated rise in inflation in US raised hopes that the US Federal Reserve may not go for further aggressive rate hikes, which also eased recessionary concerns in the US. This helped improve sentiments and directed foreign flows towards Indian shores, he added.

In addition, stabilisation in the global market scenario also helped in enhancing risk appetite among foreign investors.

Strong recovery was seen in the global markets as China slightly eased its 'zero-COVID policy', said Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

In terms of sectors, FPI buying were seen in IT, autos and telecom, Vijayakumar added.

On the other hand, foreign investors have pulled out ₹422 crore from the debt market during the period under review.

Apart from India, FPI flows were positive for the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand so far this month.

Demat accounts up 41 per cent to 10.4 cr in Oct

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 20: The number of demat accounts rose to 10.4 crore in October, 41 per cent higher from a year earlier, on attractive returns from the equity markets, even as incremental additions of such accounts have been on a declining trend for the past few months.

According to an analysis by Motilal Oswal Financial Services, incremental additions of demat accounts have been continuously declining since August. The additions stood at 26 lakh in August, fell to 20 lakh in September and further dropped to 18 lakh in October 2022.

The incremental addition in dematerialised (demat) accounts was 36 lakh in October 2021.

The primary reason for the declining trend in additions of new demat accounts is the market volatility seen in the current calendar year due to global factors and relative under-performance of broader markets compared to frontline indices, said Roop Bhootra, CEO Investment Services, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

Lesser number of new initial public offerings (IPOs) hitting markets this year compared to 2021 has also contributed to the lower number of demat accounts being opened in the last few months, he added.

Nitin Aggarwal, Senior Group VP, Research-Banking & Insurance, Institutional Equities, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said since January, additions have been slowing down as the market volatility increased post the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Also, there has been increasing noise about rising inflation and interest rates around the globe. Given such uncertainties, there has been a conscious strategy by brokers to spend less on customer acquisition in this phase. This is to ensure an efficient conversion ratio of leads," he added.

The decline in incremental addition in October from the preceding month could also be due to the festive season as there were effectively only 18 working days in October 2022 as compared to 22 working days in September.

8 of top-10 firms add ₹42,173cr in m-cap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Eight of the 10 most valued firms together added ₹42,173.42 crore in market valuation last week, with ICICI Bank, Infosys and TCS emerging as the biggest gainers.

Barring Reliance Industries and Hindustan Unilever Limited, rest eight firms, including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and HDFC, made gains in their valuation. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex dipped 131.56 points or 0.21 per cent.

The market valuation of ICICI Bank jumped ₹9,706.86 crore to stand at ₹6,41,898.91 crore. Infosys added ₹9,614.89 crore to reach ₹6,70,264.99 crore. The valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) climbed ₹9,403.76 crore to ₹12,22,781.79 crore.

Banks increase EBLRs in tandem with RBI's rate hike

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 20: All major banks have increased their external benchmark-based lending rates (EBLRs) by 190 basis points in tandem with the hike in the Reserve Bank's policy repo rate since May this year, though they have been slow in raising the deposit rates.

The Reserve Bank has hiked the key short-term lending rate (repo) by 190 basis points in four tranches since May to contain inflation.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which makes recommendations to the central bank regarding interest rates, is set to meet again early next month amid expectations of another repo rate hike.

By October-end 2022, banks have increased their EBLRs by 190 bps in tandem with the increase in the policy repo rate since May 2022, according to an RBI article.

Further, banks have also increased their 1-year median marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 85 bps from May to October 2022.

From October 1, 2019, all banks have to lend only at an interest rate linked to an external benchmark, such as RBI's repo rate or Treasury Bill yield. As a result, monetary policy transmission by banks has gained traction.

However, the banks have raised the interest rates on term deposits



by a much lower margin.

The median term deposit rates (average card rates on retail deposits) on fresh deposits increased by 48 bps from May to October 2022. Banks have increased their bulk deposit rates higher than retail deposit rates.

Across bank groups, the article said, transmission to lending and deposit rates of private sector banks (PVBs) has exceeded that of public sector banks (PSBs) in the current tightening period.

Credit growth for PVBs has been higher than for PSBs in the current interest rate tightening period beginning May this year.

In view of the increase in credit demand, private banks have increased their lending and deposit rates to maintain higher net interest margins (NIMs). The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during December 5-7, 2022.

Govt may remove offences under IPC from GST law

THE PROPOSAL, PART OF THE EXERCISE TO DECRIMINALISE GST LAW, IS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN UP IN THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GST COUNCIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The government is considering to remove the penal offences which are already covered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) from the GST Act to make it more taxpayer-friendly, an official said.

The proposal, part of the exercise to decriminalise GST law, is likely to be taken up in the next meeting of the GST Council. Once approved by the GST Council, the Finance Ministry will propose amendments to the GST law, which could be taken up in the upcoming winter session of Parliament next month.

"Law committee has finalised the changes in Section 132 of the GST Act as part of the exercise to decriminalise the law," the official told PTI.

The offences that are similar



to those covered under the Indian Penal Code would be removed from GST law, the official added.

The amendments would be placed before the GST Council for approval. Thereafter, it would go to Parliament for effecting changes in the GST Act.

Once approved by Parliament, states would be required to amend their state GST laws.

Tax experts said primarily fake billing offences could be part of the decriminalisation exercise. They may also include supplies of goods or services or both without proper invoices and issues of invoices or bills without a supply of goods.

Also, the act of availing input tax credit using fake invoices could be covered under the offences mentioned in the IPC.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said it is anticipated that offences around issuing and accepting fake invoices could be moved to the Indian Penal Code.

"Maximum sentence under section 420 of IPC for cheating cases is 7 years, whereas the same is ring-fenced to 5 years in GST code. With this change, deceitful taxpayers could be charged for up to 7 years of imprisonment under section 420 of IPC, irrespective of the tax evaded," Mohan said.

This would be a massive departure from current GST provisions, whereby punishment under Section 132 of GST law depends on the quantum of tax evaded, Mohan added.

FTAs don't always accelerate export growth: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Countries negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) need to keep in mind eight 'myths' which surround these pacts, like they lead to accelerated increase in exports and promote domestic manufacturing, according to a report by think-tank GTRI.

The report by Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) claims to dispel these 'myths', including that FTAs weaken the WTO (World Trade Organisation), countries are rushing to do FTAs, and these pacts promote investment and lower prices.

It is 'erroneously' believed that most world trade happens through the FTA route, but in reality, it is less than 20 per cent, said the report titled 'FTAs: Fabulous, Futile, or Flawed?'. It is also not true that countries

world over are rushing to do FTAs and in fact these pacts are 'enthusiastically' embraced mainly by east Asian economies or countries that have lowered their customs duties close to zero.

"Major industrial countries/regions do FTAs selectively. The USA has no FTA with significant economies like the European Union, China, Japan, ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), or India. The EU currently has 41 trade agreements. But these represent just 32 per cent of the EU's external trade. Most of its FTAs are with raw material suppliers and small countries," it noted.

While the FTAs have potential, they could not dent the multilateral trading system as far as standard trade instruments like tariffs are concerned, as about 83-85 per cent of the world trade takes place outside these pacts and under the



WTO rules.

On the myth that FTAs lead to accelerated increase in exports, it said that since less than 20 per cent of world trade is happening at concessional customs duties, India needs additional strategies to promote 80 per cent of trade outside

this route. "Also, the mere signing of an FTA does not guarantee an increase in exports. Chances of an increase in exports due to the signing of FTAs are low if import duties in the partner country are low. From this count, FTAs are of minimal use for increasing exports to

Singapore, or Hong Kong, as regular (Most Favoured Nation) import duties are zero," it said.

Trade agreements with Malaysia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Brunei benefit only a few product groups as most imports into these countries happen at zero duty.

"The share of ASEAN in India's export was 10.4 per cent in 2010, the year of the signing of the agreement. The share has remained almost the same, even after over a decade. During this period, India's deficit with ASEAN has expanded from USD 6.7 billion to USD 24.2 billion. A quantum jump in India's export will require enhancing competitiveness at all levels and changing the product profile of Indian exports," it pointed out.

Further, it said zero-duty imports of finished goods from the FTA partners may disrupt many domestic manufacturing programs.

"The US has an active Make in USA programme...In India, programmes like Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI), Phased Manufacturing Performance (PMP) recommend zero or low-duty import of inputs and high duty on finished goods to support indigenous production," it added.

The report further said there is mixed evidence that these agreements promote investments and lower prices in the respective countries that are entering into the pact.

Former Indian Trade Service officer Ajay Srivastava is the co-founder of GTRI. He took voluntary retirement from the Government of India in March 2022. He has rich experience in trade policy making, and issues related to the WTO and FTAs. He was involved in the negotiation process of India's free trade agreements with Japan and Australia.

FOOTBALL'S GREATEST SHOW BEGINS

GLAM, GLITZ AND TRADITION MARK OPENING CEREMONY OF FIFA WORLD CUP



AGENCIES

Al Khor (Qatar), Nov 20: Qatar opened Sunday the Middle East's first FIFA World Cup before global leaders and soccer fans who have poured into this energy-rich nation after it was battered by a regional boycott and international criticism. With American actor Morgan Freeman's dulcet voice and an Arabian theme with camels, the opening ceremony began with a

promise of 'everyone is welcome'. Regardless of the outcome of Qatar versus Ecuador on the pitch, Doha already has drawn Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the opening ceremony and inaugural match of the tournament.

That Prince Mohammed, whose nation had closed Qatar's only land border to the world through the kingdom over a years-long political dispute, will attend shows how far

the rapprochement between the two nations has gone.

Qatar also faced criticism from the West as groups that funded initially in Syria's civil war became extremists. Qatar later would deny that it ever funded Islamic extremists, despite criticism from across the American political spectrum from Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump.

Qatar, like Saudi Arabia, follows an ultraconservative version of Islam known as 'Wahhabism'. Yet the

country allows alcohol to be served in hotel bars and at a FIFA Fan Zone in the country. Already, some in the country have criticised what they view as Western cultural extravaganzas of the tournament - likely leading to the stadium beer ban.

Al-Qaida issued a communique Saturday criticising the Qataris for hosting a tournament 'bringing immoral people', homosexuals, sowers of corruption and atheism'. "We warn our Muslim brothers

from following this event or attending it," the group said, calling on scholars not to support it. However, the al-Qaida arm did not directly threaten the tournament and has been weakened by years of drone strikes from American forces and engulfed by Yemen's ongoing war.

On hand Sunday night at the opening was UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, Senegalese President Macky Sall, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

Kuwait's crown prince also came, along with the director-general of the WHO and Djibouti's president. Also present was Jordan's King Abdullah II. But the biggest applause came for Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and his father, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who secured the tournament back in 2010.

But ahead of the match, an honour guard on camels and Arabian horses, some with M4 rifles slung over their shoulders, awaited the VIPs - and even VVIPs according to the road signs - expected for the event.

Misery for Qatar

The hosts however, started the tournament on a disastrous note going down to Ecuador 0-2. Both the goals for the winners were scored by midfielder Enner Valencia in the first half. He could have got three, but the first time, he put the ball in the back of the net, the goal was disallowed by VAR. It was a marginal decision and could have gone either way.

Surya singses Kiwis



Suryakumar Yadav after his century Sunday

AGENCIES

Mount Maunganui, Nov 20: Suryakumar Yadav (111 n o, 51b, 11x4, 7x6) displayed his unmatched superiority in the shortest format with a breathtaking hundred as India outplayed New Zealand by 65 runs in the second T20 here Sunday. Part-time off-spinner Deepak Hooda (4/10) also came to the party with a wonderful spell to hasten the downfall of the hosts.

Promoted to No.3, the 32-year-old Suryakumar toyed with the opposition bowlers to help India put up a competitive 191 for the loss of six wickets in their 20 overs after New Zealand put the visitors in to bat. His last 64 runs came off only 18 deliveries.

The hosts kept losing wickets in the run chase and never looked in hunt. In the end, New Zealand were all out for 126 in 18.5 overs. With first game being washed out, India now lead the three-match T20 series 1-0 with the final game to be played on Tuesday.

Opener Devon Conway (61, 52b, 4x4, 2x6) stitched a 56-run second

BRIEF SCORES

India 191 for 6 (Suryakumar Yadav 111 n o, Tim Southee 3/34) beat **New Zealand** 126 in 18.5 overs (Kane Williamson 61, Deepak Hooda 4/10, Mohammed Siraj 2/24, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/26) by 65 runs.

wicket stand but could not find the big hits that were needed to keep up with the asking rate.

Conway was caught at deep backward square leg while going for the sweep against Washington Sundar. Then Yuzvendra Chahal (2/26) chipped in with two quick wickets and with New Zealand struggling to 89 for five in the 14th over; the game was as good as over. Hooda struck thrice in the 19th over as the Kiwis were bowled out.

Suryakumar went berserk in the penultimate over bowled by Lockie Ferguson, hammering four boundaries and a phenomenal six over deep point. The last five overs yielded 72 runs. Tim Southee bowled a brilliant 20th over and stemmed the free flow of runs by taking a hat-trick. He dismissed Sundar; Hooda and Hardik Pandya on the trot.

SHORT TAKES

Carlsen wins title

San Francisco: Magnus Carlsen showed his near complete dominance in online chess once again as he marched to victory in the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Finals with a round to spare here Saturday. The World champion blew away 17-year-old Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa of India to seal the final event of the season held at the SHACK15 venue here. Carlsen has now won five of the nine events on the 11-month Tour. In this event, Carlsen has so far won 14 of his 16 games. In the three games that he played against Praggnanandhaa, the Norwegian won two and drew the other to emerge victorious. However, India's 19-year-old Indian Arjun Erigaisi beat Liem Quang Le 2.5-0.5 to stand at fourth position in the points table.

Jeev, Jyoti qualify

Mesquite: Jeev Milkha Singh and Jyoti Randhawa, two of India's golfing stars, moved into the final stage of the 2022 PGA Tour Champions Qualifying School, which will determine who gets a full status on the Champions Tour for 2023. The PGA Tour of Champions is a Seniors Tour for players over 50 years of age. India's one and only player to win on the PGA Tour, Arjun Atwal, will also be eligible to play the Seniors Tour in 2023. Playing the first stage of the Champions Tour at Casablanca, Jeev finished sole third after overcoming a double bogey in the fourth and final round. Randhawa on the other hand finished tied 12th at another tournament in Florida.

Pujara's wait ends

New Delhi: India batter Cheteshwar Pujara has been presented with the prestigious Arjuna award five years after he was recommended for the honour. Pujara could not attend the awards ceremony back in 2017 due to his cricketing commitments. He finally got his hands on the trophy at a hand over ceremony here Saturday. "Thankful to @IndiaSports @BCCI and @ianuragthakur to organise and handover the Arjuna Award belatedly, which I could not collect the year it was awarded to me due to my cricket commitments. Honoured and grateful," Pujara tweeted Sunday. He was handed over the award by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur. Pujara, who plays domestic cricket for Saurashtra, is here for the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Belgium banking on Hazard magic

TEAM HOPEFUL THAT SKIPPER WILL REGAIN FORM AT THE RIGHT TIME

AGENCIES

Brussels, Nov 20: Belgium are not expecting captain Eden Hazard to sparkle in the early stages of the World Cup after hardly featuring for Real Madrid this season, wing-back Timothy Castagne said Sunday. Forward Hazard, 31, has had a frustrating injury-plagued three years in the Spanish capital that has seen him fail to live up to his star billing after a glorious seven years at Chelsea. He has struggled to hold down a first team place or find his best form and has started only two Real matches this season despite starting six of Belgium's seven matches since the end of last season.

Leicester City wing-back Castagne said fans should not expect too much of the mercurial talent, at the beginning at least. "For Belgium, the fans would like to rediscover the Eden (Hazard) of a few years ago," said Castagne, 27, from Belgium's World Cup base in Salwa Beach, 90 kilometres south of Doha.

"It's not easy to come here without any match rhythm, so it will take time. He (Hazard) won't arrive (at his best) straight away, he won't be amazing in the first match but bit by bit he will improve."

Hazard was a vital piece in the Belgium team that reached the World Cup semifinals in Russia four years ago, scoring a brace in a 5-2 thrashing of Tunisia and another goal in a 2-0 win over England.

A year later he moved from west London to Madrid for a reported initial 100 million euros plus add-



GO TO MAN: Belgium's fortunes will depend on how Eden Hazard plays

ons that would make him the Merengue's most expensive signing of all time. But the move has not played out as he would have hoped and Hazard was an unused substitute in May when Real Madrid beat Liverpool 1-0 to lift the Champions League.

Hazard admitted earlier this

week that he could leave Real at the end of the season but said he still hopes to be a success in the Spanish capital. He will need an excellent World Cup to try to convince Real coach Carlo Ancelotti to give him a regular starting spot again, or for the club to renew a contract that runs out in 18 months

"I always keep going back to my past. When I am in the room, or travelling with my wife, we keep talking how the situation was two-three years ago. What is the situation now, what has changed now from then, we keep discussing that time," Surya said.

'SKY' eyes Test spot

BATTER READY TO PLAY RED BALL CRICKET ALSO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mount Maunganui, Nov 20: Armed with an astonishing array of strokes and the confidence to pull off the impossible in T20 Internationals, Suryakumar Yadav has now set his sights on a Test call-up. 'SKY' as he is popularly referred to said Sunday that a Test call is round the corner.

"Aa raha hain, woh (Test selection) bhi aa raha hain (coming, that is also coming)", a confident Surya said Sunday after blazing his way to a 51-ball 111 that set up India's 65-run drubbing of New Zealand in the second T20 International here.

Surya is also a proven performer in red ball cricket, having represented Mumbai for years in the domestic circuit. "When we start playing, we start with red ball. I have also played first class cricket for Mumbai, so I have a fair idea about the Test format. I enjoy playing the longest version of the game also. Hopefully, I will get the Test cap soon," Surya informed at the post-match press conference.

Surya's recent exploits have forced many to think that he may have entered the India set-up a good two to three years late. He admitted that being overlooked in the past was a bit frustrating.

"I always keep going back to my past. When I am in the room, or travelling with my wife, we keep talking how the situation was two-three years ago. What is the situation now, what has changed now from then, we keep discussing that time," Surya said.

I am confident, but I never get complacent. There is a very thin line between confidence and complacent

SURYAKUMAR YADAV

"Obviously there was a bit of frustration that time, but we always tried to see if there was something positive I could take out of that phase. How could I become a better cricketer, how to go one step ahead and make myself in permanent in the national side were always on my mind. Since then things, like eating good food, doing quality practice sessions, sleeping on time have become a part and parcel of my life. Today I am reaping the benefits of all those things I have done then," the batter added.

There is a feeling now that Surya can't do anything wrong in a cricket ground. Surya said some of his strokes also leave him amazed, but he never tries to go ahead of the game.

"I also feel amazed seeing some strokes when I go back to my room, watching the highlights. Every time even if I do well or I am not doing well on that day, I do watch the highlights, but yeah, even I get surprised seeing those strokes," Surya said with a cheeky smile.

"I never try to go ahead of the game, I never think today I am playing well so I will make 'x' number of runs because it is very important to stay in the present," he added.

Legends pose for 'iconic picture'

Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo come together for promotional event

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Doha, Nov 20: Considered to be two of the greatest players of this generation Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi joined forces to produce one of the most iconic images in football history. The image was shared by both the footballers on the eve of the start of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, through their Instagram accounts. While some social media users called it 'iconic', others hailed it as the 'picture of the century'.

With both of them sharing 12 Ballon d'Or's between them, Ronaldo and Messi came together for a promotion campaign ahead of the FIFA World Cup. Many view that this World Cup to be the final one for both players with the Argentine great already confirming it.

However, Ronaldo has said he



wants to play for a few more years. "I still think I have some more years of football left in me. So why should I think about retirement. If I look after myself properly, I certainly can play till I am 40," Ronaldo had said in an interview earlier this month.

In the new promotional campaign the two legendary footballers can be seen playing chess together with both deep in concentration on what their next move would be.

The briefcase of a particular company on which Ronaldo and Messi are playing chess was part of the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Verstappen signs off in style

15TH WIN FOR DUTCH DRIVER IN FORMULA ONE IN 2022

AGENCIES

Abu Dhabi, Nov 20: Max Verstappen won a record-extending 15th race of the year at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix here Sunday to conclude one of the most dominant seasons in Formula One (F1) history. A year on from Verstappen's tense and controversial win over Lewis Hamilton to seal his first title, there was little drama at the Yas Marina Circuit.

Verstappen stayed ahead of his teammate Sergio Perez at the start and was never seriously challenged after that on his way to victory. "Incredible to win again here, 15th win of the season is unbelievable," he said. "It's been really enjoyable to work with the whole team and to be able to achieve something like this year."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc held off Perez's challenge on old tyres to finish second and clinch second



Max Verstappen

place in the championship standings, thwarting Red Bull's bid to have their drivers place first and second.

Leclerc finished three points ahead of Perez in the standings. That meant Verstappen's refusal to yield sixth place to his teammate

at the last race in Brazil was not decisive at the end of the season.

"I knew the only possibility to beat Checo (Perez) today was with a different strategy and playing with the tyre management, which we did really well today," Leclerc said. "I really hope next year we can do a step forward to fight for the championship," he added.

Leclerc and Ferrari seemed able to challenge Verstappen for the title at the start of the season, but Red Bull improved their car performance advantage through the season. Errors on track from Leclerc and in Ferrari's race strategy held them back too.

Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel was placed 10th for Aston Martin as he retires from F1 after 16 years. A hydraulic problem ended Lewis Hamilton's race for Mercedes as the seven-time champion finished an F1 season without a win for the first time in his career.

8 Indian boxers seal last 8 spots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Reigning Asian youth champions Vishwanath Suresh and Vanshaj were among eight Indian boxers who advanced to the quarterfinals on the fifth day of the Youth Men and Women's World Boxing Championships in La Nucia, Spain.

Vishwanath (48kg) was up against Attravio Salvatore of Italy and the Chennai boxer produced a clinical performance and showed his smart footwork and speed to convincingly win the pre-quarterfinal bout 5-0.

Vanshaj (63.5kg), who hails from Sonapat, displayed his power and technical superiority to blank Spain's Kakulov Enrique 5-0 and seal a last eight spot.

Jadumani Singh (51kg), Ashish (54kg) and Deepak (75kg) were the other three men boxers to win their bouts unanimously and move to the last eight stage.