

SHORT TAKES

INDONESIA QUAKE TOLL RISES TO 268

Cianjur (Indonesia): Indonesian rescuers used jackhammers, circular saws and sometimes their bare hands Tuesday to shift the rubble of flattened buildings as they searched for the dead and missing from an earthquake that killed at least 268 people. With many missing, some remote areas still unreachable and more than 1,000 people injured in the 5.6 magnitude quake, the death toll was likely to rise. **P10**

ARGENTINA SUFFER EMBARRASSING LOSS

Lusail: Lionel Messi stood with his hands on his hips near the center circle, looking stone-faced as Saudi Arabia's jubilant players ran in all directions around him after scoring one of the biggest World Cup upsets ever against Argentina. The South American champion and one of the tournament favorites slumped to a 1-2 loss against Saudi Arabia Tuesday, in a deflating start to Messi's quest to win the one major title that has eluded him. **P12**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We must send a Thank You note to Aftab, sir?

5 civilians 'shot dead' on Assam-Meghalaya border

AGENCIES

Guwahati/Shillong, Nov 22: At least five civilians and a Forest guard were killed in violence on the disputed Assam-Meghalaya border in the early hours of Tuesday after a truck allegedly laden with illegally-felled timber was intercepted by Forest guards from Assam.

Following the incident, Meghalaya has suspended mobile internet services in seven districts, while Assam Police has sounded 'alert' in the border districts and also ordered an enquiry by a retired High Court judge into the matter.

In a tweet tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Sarma, Meghalaya CM Conrad



Security personnel at the violence site

Sangma, whose party is an ally of the BJP, complained that the Assam Police and Forest guards entered Meghalaya and resorted to unprovoked firing.

Assam Police officials, however, asserted that the truck was intercepted in West Karbi Anglong dis-

- Assam & Meghalaya have a long disputed border in 12 areas and the place where the incident happened is among the areas with differences
- The 2 states had inked a pact in this March to end the dispute in 6 of them
- Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972 and had challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, which led to the dispute

trict of the state by a Forest department team and a mob from the Meghalaya side had later attacked the Forest guards and policemen from the state, which led to firing by the Assam side to control the situation.

Continued on P4

SC raps state over delay in response

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted bail to a truck helper, who was accused under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, after the Odisha government failed to file its response to his plea for relief.

A bench of justices SK Kaul and Abhay S Oka noted that the accused has been in custody for more than 18 months. It said the notice was issued in October, despite that the state counsel did not file a reply.

"We find that the notice was served October 26, 2022 and yet the learned counsel for the respondent states today that the state has only instructed him yesterday. If the state has no time to issue instructions in time, then we have no time to

wait for the state," the bench said.

The top court noted that the accused was only a 'Khalasi' of the vehicle who did not run away while the others fled and have still not been apprehended.

"He has been in custody from March 21, 2021 ie. more than a year and a half. In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, we grant bail to the appellant on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the trial court," it said.

The counsel for the petitioner had submitted that the accused is a victim of the circumstances as he was only a helper in the truck, as such conscious and exclusive possession cannot be attributed to him. The high court had earlier rejected his bail plea noting that the police had recovered 280 kg of the contraband.

59-yr-old man stoned to death in Chandaka

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: A 59-year-old man was stoned to death at Paikarapur under Chandaka police limits, on the outskirts of the City here, an official said Tuesday.

The deceased identified as Bansidhar Routray, a resident of Brahmakundala area under Airfield police limits in the City, had been working as a peon in Paikarapur Panchayat Nodal High School for the last 30 years, police sources said.

The incident came to the fore Tuesday morning when a few residents of the Paikarapur, who had gone to attend nature's call, spotted Routray lying lifeless on a hillock near the village with his head smashed.

On being informed, police reached the spot and recovered the body before sending it for autopsy. Bloodstained stones, liquor bottle, glass, helmet and a mobile phone were found near the body, said a police official, adding that Routray's motorcycle was also recovered from the locality later in the day.

Though the exact reason behind the murder is yet to be ascertained, police suspect that Routray was stoned to death over past enmity.

According to a villager, who wished not to be named, Routray along with a few of his friends had been boozing on the hillock till late Monday night.

Chandaka police have reportedly launched a manhunt to arrest the accused involved in the murder after registering a case (270/22) in this regard.

Around as four persons have been detained at the police station till the last report came in.

5 bacteria types behind 6.8L deaths in India: Lancet

■ The analysis reveals that common bacterial infections are the second-leading cause of death in India in 2019, and linked to one in eight deaths globally

AGENCIES

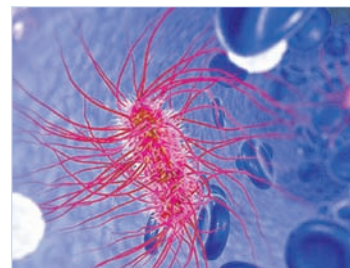
New Delhi, Nov 22: Five bacteria types—E. Coli, S. Pneumoniae, K. Pneumoniae, S. Aureus and A. Baumannii—caused nearly 6.8 lakh deaths

in India in 2019, according to a study published in The Lancet journal.

The analysis found that common bacterial infections were the second-leading cause of death in 2019, and were linked to one in eight deaths globally.

There were 7.7 million (77 lakh) deaths in 2019 associated with 33 common bacterial infections, with five bacteria alone connected to more than half of all deaths, the researchers said.

The deadliest bacterial pathogens and types of infection varied by lo-



There were 7.7 million (77 lakh) deaths in 2019 associated with 33 common bacterial infections, with five bacteria alone connected to more than half of all deaths

cation and age, they said. In India, five bacteria - E. Coli, S. Pneumoniae, K. Pneumoniae, S. Aureus and A. Baumannii - were found to be the deadliest, causing

- There were 7.7 million (77 lakh) deaths in 2019 associated with 33 common bacterial infections, with five bacteria alone connected to more than half of all deaths
- E. Coli was the most deadly pathogen, claiming 1.57 lakh lives in India in the year

6,78,846 (nearly 6.8 lakh) deaths in 2019 alone, the researchers found.

E. Coli was the most deadly pathogen, claiming 1,57,082 (1.57 lakh) lives in India in 2019, ac-

ording to the study. Globally, bacterial infections were second only to ischemic heart disease as the leading cause of death in 2019, the analysis found, highlighting the need for reducing them as a global public health priority.

Building stronger health systems with greater diagnostic laboratory capacity, implementing control measures, and optimising antibiotic use is crucial to lessen the burden of disease caused by common bacterial infections, the researchers said.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE : THE POWER OF YOUTH



Arun Krishnamurthy
Environmentalist
Jane Goodall Youth Leader



K Murugesan
IFS, Director cum Special Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Dept Government of Odisha



Soumya Ranjan Biswal
Grassroots Climate Leader
UN India YuWaah Advocate



Neelima Mishra
Environmentalist & Entrepreneur



Dr Sugata Roy
Officer-in-charge
UNICEF in Odisha



Varsha Raikwar
Environmentalist & Rj



Sagar Pradhan
Author



Neha Shivaji Naikwade
UN Youth
Climate Leader



Ayadi Mishra
Climate Activist



Sujit Mahapatra
Founder
Bakul Foundation



Prakash Mardaraj
Wildlife Biologist, Author



Surya Narayan Mishra
Asst Professor KSOB



Vasu Dixit
Musician

LIVE STREAM ON

DharitriLive
DharitriNews

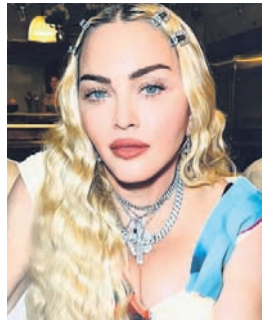
24TH NOVEMBER
10:30 AM ONWARDS

BHUBANESWAR

www.dharitriyouthconclave.com



leisure



MADONNA FLASHES BARE BUST AGAIN

Just days after warning social media trolls to stop bullying her, 64-year-old Queen of pop Madonna flashed her bare bust in a new video. Madonna's latest sexy video came a few days after she was bullied by social media trolls for posting similar pics.

BRUCE LEE MAY HAVE DIED FROM A SPECIFIC KIDNEY DYSFUNCTION

Martial art legend and actor Bruce Lee may have died from drinking too much water, a research claims. Doctors are making the claim almost 50 years after the icon died aged 32 in the summer of 1973 in Hong Kong, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Today, you may simply take a day off to be with your spouse or kids. You may even want to catch up with relatives living in your vicinity. Your loved ones will be mighty happy and pleasantly surprised, and Ganesh approves.

TAURUS
You will not just run the race but will reach the finish line with ease today, predicts Ganesh. Neither pressure nor overload will prevent you from accomplishing your targets this afternoon. However, Ganesh advises that you must learn to be patient to make the most of your success.

GEMINI
It is the right day to reveal your innermost feelings to your loved ones and friends, and as well as to make them privy to your thoughts and opinions. Your courteous and kind nature will come to the fore today. Health and diet should not be issues today, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will work with concentration in office. So tasks will be finished fast. Your life is turning a new turn, whereby you feel it is full of thrill and affection. You will achieve perfection, says Ganesh.

LEO
Your expenses will increase today owing to your care-free attitude. You need to curb down on your spending. The later half of the day will see you deal with minor issues related to the work-place. If you ignore these issues now, they will crop up into major problems later on. Hence, resolve them immediately, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh predicts that you will achieve the targets that you set out to achieve today. The heavy pressure of work will not affect you in any way. Ganesh says the secret of your success is being patient. You are bang on target.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will take up a task and complete it by hook or crook. The higher officials and colleagues in your office will be highly impressed by your working capacity and capability. This is reflect when you will be either given a promotion in the office or there may be a rise in your pay scale to the effect.

SCORPIO
You have all the qualities of becoming a team leader. And today, you have the opportunity to showcase your skills and abilities for the same. A dynamic personality yourself, you are likely to prove that you are the sailor of stormy seas.

SAGITTARIUS
Your belligerent mood will be taken care of by the good news that may light up your face and cheer you up. Your imagination has just got wings as you become creative and think beyond boundaries. Go on a long drive with friends or beloved in the evening.

CAPRICORN
God helps those who help themselves. So, work hard, take care of your health, and keep believing in your dreams, says Ganesh. There are fair chances of your striking an important deal on the behalf of your company, and it will certainly boost the image of your bosses and you both. If you have a hobby or an interest for something, take some time out from your busy schedule for that, too.

AQUARIUS
The wanderer in you has suddenly come alive. You scan through travel magazines, surf internet and probably go on a tracking tour or just randomly go to distant places all by yourself. Take some of your close friends or like minded people along with and double the fun, suggests Ganesh.

PISCES
You will contemplate adopting a new strategy today. It is an auspicious day for making a new beginning and undertaking new ventures. A promotion may be on the cards at the work front and you will find success knocking at your front door today. Your self confidence will find a new lease and you will emerge much more certain of your capabilities and goals.

Bhumi trying to do something 'disruptive'



Mumbai: Bhumi Pednekar is reaping praises for her incredible acting and dialogue delivery in her upcoming film *Govinda Naam Mera*, a comic thriller. She said that with her character, she is trying to do something 'disruptive' again. Bhumi said: "I'm actually thrilled that film-makers can feel that I can really work hard and try and pull off any role that they offer me. That to me is the biggest validation for my work and my skill set as an artiste. My character in *Govinda Naam Mera* is me trying to do something disruptive again, trying to change it up again with each film and hopefully wowing people with my performance." She added: "I hate to be put into a mould and I constantly look to challenge the status quo and do something subversive. I'm delighted that audiences are loving my character in the trailer. It's just a tease of what to expect in the film. She is a firecracker of a woman, she is grey and I love her because she is just hilariously entertaining." The film is slated to release on Disney+ Hotstar. Directed by Shashank Khaitan, *Govinda Naam Mera*, is about a charming Govinda Waghmare who juggles his time and love between his wife and his girlfriend in this dose of chaos, confusion, and laughter.

Ajay: 3 to 4 *Drishyam*s are the tonic industry needs

Los Angeles: *Drishyam 2*, headlined by Ajay Devgn has brought some much-needed cheer to the beleaguered Bollywood box office with a strong opening worldwide weekend gross of Rs 89 crore, reports *Variety*. The suspense thriller, which also stars Tabu and Akshaye Khanna, is a sequel to the 2015 hit *Drishyam*. The Hindi-language films are remakes of the Malayalam-language *Drishyam* films (2013 and 2021) headlined by Mohanlal. Bollywood has been undergoing a box-office slump in 2022 and *Drishyam 2* serves as a tonic to revive it. "To talk about tonic, I feel it needs three or four *Drishyam*s - that is what is required. I hope this is the beginning," Devgn told *Variety* in an exclusive interview. "The bottomline is all about entertainment. Also, when I watch a film, I really need to enjoy it, whatever the kinds of emotion it has." He added: "I feel it is not very easy to make entertaining films - you have to keep the audiences engaged for two and a half hours. And audiences have become very smart, so you can't just give them bullshit. Even when you talk about entertainment in commercial cinema, you have to give them something new."



Disha's order is Krishna's command

Mumbai: Actress Disha Patani is known for setting the social media on fire with her sensuous pictures. Keeping up with the practice, the actress again shared a picture on her social media Tuesday in which she is wearing a black lingerie and a bathrobe. But, what caught the attention of the netizens is Tiger Shroff's sister Krishna Shroff's comment on Disha's picture. Disha shared the mirror selfie in which she can be seen standing close to a jacuzzi and holding a piece of fully loaded dessert. Stressing upon the importance of carbohydrates in a balanced diet, the actress wrote in the caption, "Eat your carbs". Krishna took to the comments section and wrote, "Yes Ma'am", and the netizens are having a field day. One user wrote, "Ye pakka Tiger bhai hain, Krishna ki ID se (This surely is Tiger Shroff operating Krishna's ID to comment on the picture)" Another one wrote insisting Krishna to address Disha as her sister-in-law.



"bhabhi boliye". For the uninitiated, Tiger and Disha were rumoured to be dating however, none of them made it official or spoke about their equation on a public platform. In August this year, it was also speculated that the two called it quits over Tiger's obsession with his career and fitness.

Film fest to encourage J&K youths

Mumbai: The first ever short film festival *Dil Mange More* is being organized for the youth of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh to channelise their hidden talents in films in a positive direction. The Indian Army, which is at the forefront of protecting the borders as well as the welfare of the people in Jammu and Kashmir, decided to organise a first-of-its-kind short film festival. The month-long mega film festival is the brainchild of Indian Army Captain Rahul Bali to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. *Dil Mange More Youth Film Festival 2022* is dedicated to the talented youth of Jammu

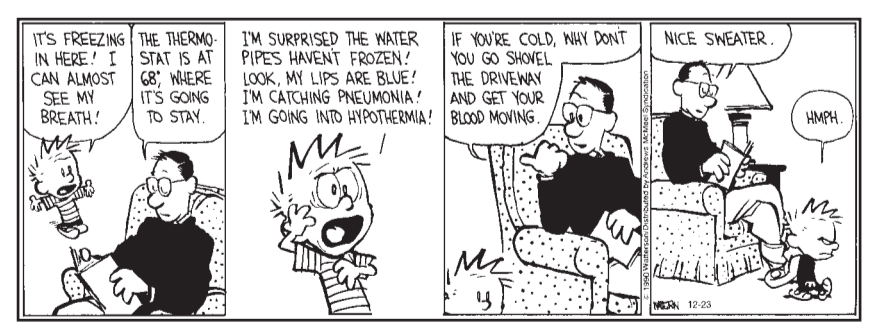


and Kashmir and Ladakh who are talented and want to make their career in film to give flight to their talent. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir have been asked to make short films of 5 to 15 minutes duration and submit them online by December 10. The closing ceremony of this festival will be held December 16, 2022, in which famous film personalities and important personalities will also participate. Rs1 lakh will be given to the film, which will win first place, 75 thousand rupees to the second place and 50 thousand rupees to the third place short film. Apart from the cash prize, merit certificate, the top three winners of the short film competition will be given further training and guidance by renowned award-winning filmmakers Intiaz Ali, Rahul Mitra and Omesh Shukla so that they can showcase their skills at the International Indian Film Festival as well.

PEANUTS



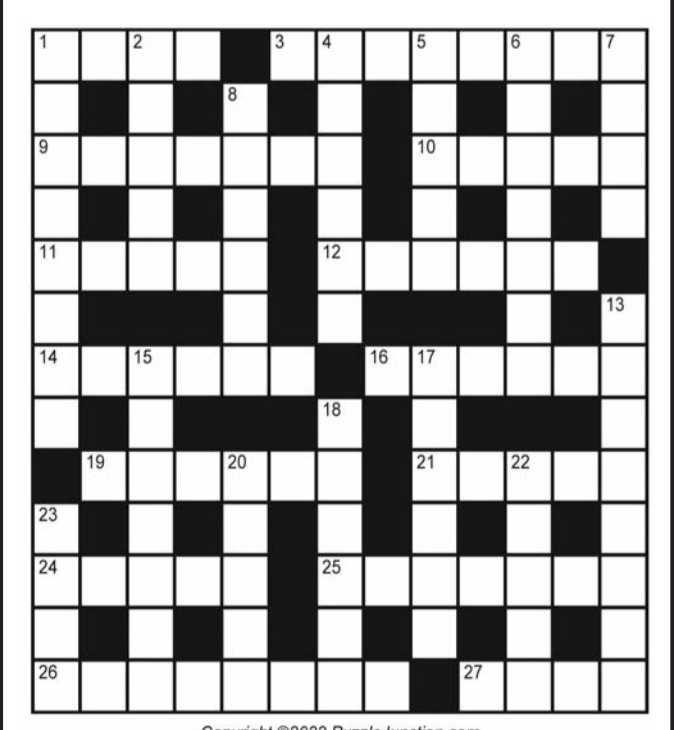
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



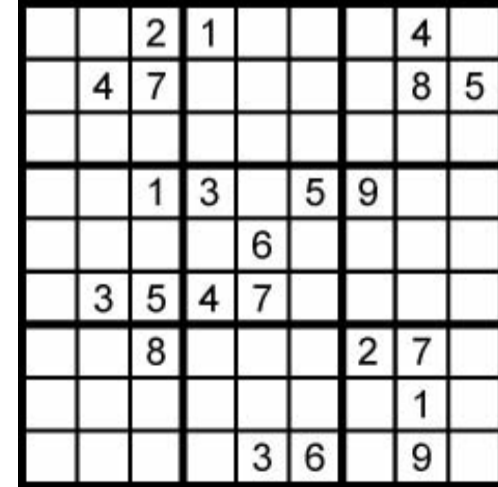
FUN post CROSSWORD



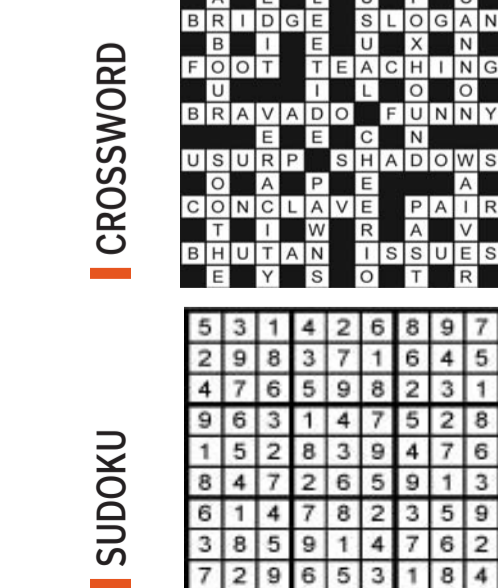
- Across**
- 1 Atlantic Ocean, to some
 - 3 Underground tunnel
 - 9 Critical
 - 10 Thespian
 - 11 Inactive, as gas
 - 12 Harvest
 - 14 Irritate
 - 16 Sanctuary
 - 19 Dense
 - 21 French river
 - 24 Male relative
 - 25 Educational activities
 - 26 Relax (4,4)
 - 27 Dry
- Down**
- 1 Fierce desires
 - 2 Health professional
 - 4 Appoint
 - 5 Conform
 - 6 Porridge
 - 7 Shakespeare, e.g.
 - 8 Human being
 - 13 Submerged
 - 15 Cigar starter
 - 17 Emphasis
 - 18 Chap
 - 20 Overturn
 - 22 Fragrance
 - 23 Taprooms

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



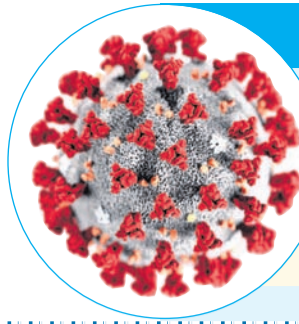
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



INTERACTION WITH CM

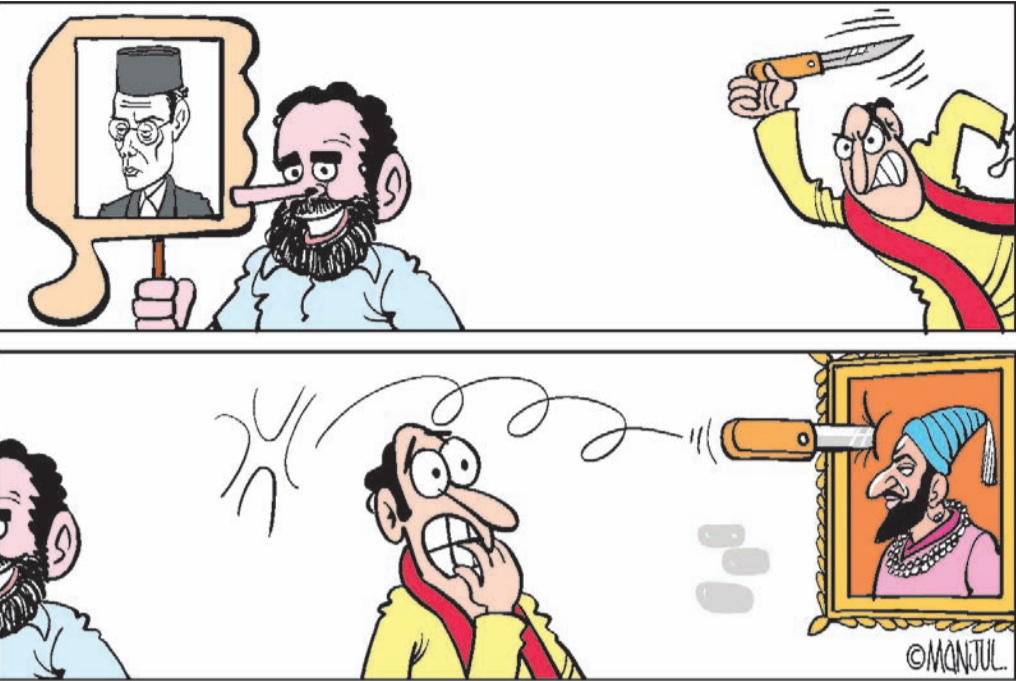
Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik interacting with office bearers of 'Odisha Kendupatra Karmachari Sangha' at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,36,20,075	62,27,71,011	66,28,090
India	4,46,69,715	4,41,32,915	5,30,591
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Tender floated for int'l flight ops

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: In a bid to boost tourism and provide direct connectivity to important international destinations, the state government is mulling to start direct flight operations from Bhubaneswar to Dubai, Singapore and Bangkok.

Initially, the state has planned to start flight services from Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar to Dubai, Singapore and Bangkok with at least three flights a week preferably on alternate days including the weekends, with financial support from the govt

However, the selected airline can operate on the remaining days of the week without any financial support from the state government

The Commerce and Transport department has issued a tender seeking quotations from the airline operators to select suitable operator to have a direct flight between Bhubaneswar to Dubai, Singapore & Bangkok. The state government has offered to provide financial support to the selected airlines to start direct flights to the above destinations.

Initially, the state has planned to start flight services from Biju Patnaik International Airport here to the above three destinations with at least three flights a week preferably on alternate days including the weekends, official sources said here Tuesday.

However, the selected airline can operate on the remaining days of the week without any financial support from the state government, the sources said.

There is a potential of unlocking not only the tourism sector, but also the general industrial sector including that of the IT sector, if Bhubaneswar can have direct



Nod for Rasgovindpur airstrip development

BHUBANESWAR: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has granted working permission for development of Rasgovindpur airstrip near Amarda Road in Mayurbhanj district.

The working permission on defence land measuring 160.35 acre valued at Rs 2,60,31,04,381 to Odisha government is accorded on the basis of erection of cash compensation by the state government, the letter said.

Notably, the airstrip land belongs to Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which comes under the MoD.

In February, the Chief Secretary had written a letter to the then Defence secretary Ajay Kumar seeking NoC from the DRDO for commencement of commercial flight operation from the airstrip.

connectivity with Dubai in the west, Singapore and Bangkok in the east, they said.

Dubai and Singapore being two large air hubs, it virtually opens up the entire world to the passengers of Odisha and also for people of Odisha origin settled abroad, the official said.

The government will allow operations through fixed wing aircraft only with passenger seating capacity of equal to or more than 70 seats.

The selected airline will have to commence direct international flight operations on the proposed international route, within a period

of 60 days from the issuance of letter of award unless any extension is granted by the government.

The sources also said that the state government has already reduced the value added tax (VAT) on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to zero per cent for direct international flights.

The state will provide financial support for the actual number of flights operated by the airline operator initially for a period of one year starting from the date of commencement of flight operations. The support can be extendable upto three years depending upon the sustainability of operation.

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MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	61418.96	↑ 274.12
NIFTY	18244.20	↑ 84.25
DOLLAR	81.47	↓ ₹0.11
EURO	83.96	↑ ₹0.29
GOLD	₹52,410	↓ ₹118
SILVER	₹61,350	↑ ₹715

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.0°C	30.0°C
TEMP MIN	19.7°C	19.0°C
Humidity	71%	69%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

ASO exam conducted fairly: OPSC chairman

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack: Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) chairman Satyajit Mohanty Tuesday ruled out any kind of irregularity in the conduct of Assistant Section Officer (ASO) examination and said it was conducted in a fair manner. In a press briefing in Cuttack, Mohanty said norms will be followed as per 2016 High Court order, and mark-sheets and answer keys will be uploaded once final results are declared. "Absolute transparency was maintained in the entire process. The wild allegations leveled by a group of candidates are baseless. The bribery allegations are also meaningless. Merit is the only criteria," said Mohanty.

Dharitri Youth Conclave: Tapping young blood for climate action

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: The drastic impact of climate change is now being globally felt and the tumultuous adverse reactions are quite visible. Within one year, the world has witnessed an unprecedented climate emergency, with devastating floods affecting many parts of India as well as neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh, unprecedented wildfires and heatwaves across Europe, especially the UK, coastal erosion threatening livelihoods globally just to name a few. Odisha itself has suffered grave floods this year, taking a huge toll on livelihoods. Odisha has been bearing the brunt of the devastating effects of climate change.

It is obvious that urgent climate action is needed right now. With this in mind, leading Odia daily Dharitri would be hosting the second edition of its 'Youth Conclave on Climate Change' at Hotel Swosti Premium here November 24, 2022. After the huge success of the first edition of the Conclave in 2021, the newspaper plans to take forward the climate campaign. What started as a Youth Conclave on Climate Change last year has taken the shape of a movement, with stories of climate warriors being brought to our notice almost on a daily basis



After the huge success of the first edition of the Conclave in 2021, leading Odia daily Dharitri plans to take forward its climate campaign

and the issue getting prominent coverage year around in the pages of Dharitri, which has been championing the cause for decades. The job, however, is never done when one talks about this very crucial issue of climate change. The subject of this year's 'Dharitri Youth Conclave on Climate Change' is Climate Change - The Power of Youth. We understand the impact of youth as far as climate action is concerned and would love involvement of all concerned.

This year, as expert panels we will have many talented young climate activists from different parts of the country who will have their views about what should be done to save the earth. In the Conclave this year, young speakers from eminent educational institutions of Odisha will be chosen to share their views and concerns along with young climate warriors and experts who have experience in the field of climate action. The aim of the Conclave is to create awareness among the youth and bring together climate warriors to work towards sustainable climate change solutions and action.

No halt at Korai station for 5 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Train services were restored on Howrah-Cuttack route Tuesday, a day after being suspended due to the derailment of a goods train at Korai railway station in Jajpur that led to the death of three people, officials said. However, no train will stop at Korai railway station for five days as restoration work is yet to be completed.

Several trains crossed Korai without a halt, they said, adding that speed limit on trains has also been imposed.

The decision was taken after East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Roop Narayan Sunkar and Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) MM Choudhury visited the spot Monday for a preliminary inspection before the launch of a proper investigation. Sunkar handed over an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased, Rs 1 lakh for grievous injuries and Rs 25,000 for minor injuries.

Three women were killed and four others were injured after eight



ECoR General Manager handed over an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased, ₹1 lakh for grievous injuries and ₹25,000 for minor injuries

wagons of the goods train, en route to Chhatrapur from Dongoaposi in Jharkhand, derailed and ploughed into passengers on the

platform, and also damaging several structures at the railway station. Among the deceased, Parbati, 55, and her daughter Kandhei, 26, were waiting for a passenger train to reach Cuttack for the latter's MRI scan as she had developed a tumour in the abdomen. Kandhei's two-and-half-month-old son, Biswajit, however, had a miraculous escape. Forty-seven-year-old Abujan Bibi also died in the accident. All the deceased hail from Jajpur district.

The railway station building was also damaged in the incident

that affected rail traffic with several trains being cancelled, partially cancelled, and diverted.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 5 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased, Rs 1 lakh assistance for the severely injured and Rs 25,000 for those who suffered minor injuries.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the train mishap and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the victims.

NHRC notice to govt over electrocution



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 22: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to Odisha government over an electrocution death and injuries during Laxmi Puja in Kendrapara district.

The commission has sought action-taken reports (ATRs) within four weeks from the Energy department principal secretary, and Kendrapara Collector and Superintendent of Police (SP) over the incident.

"Complaint be transmitted to the District Magistrate, Kendrapara, the Superintendent of Police, Kendrapara, and the Principal Secretary, Department of

Power/Energy, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar; Odisha calling for an Action Taken Report within four weeks," the commission ordered.

The NHRC issued the notice on a petition filed by rights activist and advocate Radhakanta Tripathy who submitted that one Biswajit Lenka was electrocuted to death and 13 others were injured during immersion of the idol of Goddess Laxmi October 18, 2022. He stated that the accident happened after the iron rod of the DJ touched a dangling live wire. Tripathy alleged that this is a case of negligence by the authorities who sanctioned the procession but could not visualise and prevent the incident.

Among phthalates, the maxi-

Sanitary napkins linked with heart disorders, cancer

High amounts of chemicals linked with heart disorders, diabetes and cancer, have been found in popular sanitary napkins sold in India, according to a study done by a Delhi-based environmental NGO.

The study by NGO, Toxics Link, found the presence of phthalates and volatile organic compounds in a total of 10 samples, six inorganic and four organic sanitary pads available in the market. The findings were published in a report titled 'Menstrual Waste 2022'.

Exposure to phthalates have been linked to a variety of health concerns including endocrine disruption, impacts to the heart and reproductive systems, diabetes, some cancers, and birth defects.

Exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) increases the risk of brain impairment, asthma, disabilities, certain cancers, and the proper functioning of the reproductive system.

Highest amounts of phthalates were found in self-proclaimed 'organic' sanitary napkins, the study found. According to the study, all types of sanitary napkins, organic and inorganic, tested positive for the presence of phthalates.

Concentration was of DIDP, a type of phthalate, at 19,460 microgram/kg (µg/kg) in a self-proclaimed organic pad.

Concentrations of a combination of phthalates were found to be 0.0321 and 0.0224 gram in an organic and an inorganic sample, respectively, which is greater than 0.1 per cent by the weight of the product mandated under EU regulations, said the study.

Sanitary napkin samples were checked for presence of a total of 25 VOCs) out of which compounds such as acetone, chloroform, Benzene, toluene, and others were detected in all the samples, inorganic and organic.

The study also said that it was shocking to find high levels of VOCs in all the organic samples, thus breaking the understanding that the organic pads are safer.

Menstruators, or people who menstruate, need safe menstrual products that help them in carrying out their daily activities without physical limitations. Currently, disposable sanitary pads are the most popular menstrual products worldwide, the study said.

Most menstruators use sanitary pads as a first-choice product for an estimated average of 1,800 days in



HIGHEST AMOUNTS OF PHTHALATES WERE FOUND IN SELF-PROCLAIMED 'ORGANIC' SANITARY NAPKINS, SAID THE STUDY

ALL TYPES OF SANITARY NAPKINS, ORGANIC AND INORGANIC, TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE PRESENCE OF PHTHALATES, THE STUDY ADDED

their lifetime.

In recent years, among other changes, synthetic plastic materials have been added to sanitary pads as liquid absorbent to enhance functioning and improve softness. Another addition to sanitary pads is fragrance, in order to provide the user a feeling of freshness.

Now, there is a growing concern that some of these chemicals, which are component of sanitary pads,

may affect user's health.

A total of 10 samples, six inorganic and four organic sanitary pads, were sent for testing and the results for VOCs and phthalates were analysed weight-wise (µg/kg), which were then converted to pad-wise concentrations. The average weight of a pad was taken to be around 10 grams.

The menstrual pads were tested for phthalates such as DIBP, DBP, DINP, DIDP and others.

Exposure to chemicals through sanitary pads is also of critical concern because of the exposure route site i.e. vaginal area, and the long-term exposure period. As a mucous membrane, the vagina is capable of secreting and absorbing fluids at a higher rate than skin.

Emphasising that menstruators deserve access to safe menstrual products in the market and have the right to know what they are exposed to, the study made some recommendations in that regard.

Firstly, the study recommends a thorough investigation into the presence and potential impact of VOCs and phthalates in menstrual products to the menstruators. Secondly, government and standards making bodies should be framing standards for chemicals in sanitary products.

Thirdly, it should be mandatory for producers to disclose the list of product ingredients. Fourthly, responsible advertising to ensure producers provide relevant information and adequate warnings on the product.

Finally, the study recommends regulations and schemes to promote substitution or reduction in the use of these chemicals in the products.

Anganwadi workers on indefinite dharna



is the second day. After holding a massive demonstration of 50,000 women Anganwadi workers Monday, we are sitting on indefinite dharna from today. Around 500 women sat on dharna today. Our counterparts in all the 314 blocks are also staging agitation near block offices."

Claiming that the state government's flagship programmes like Mamata Yojana and Harischandra Yojana became successful due to Anganwadi workers, they said that their demands have remained unfulfilled.

Anganwadi workers get ₹7,500 a month despite working round the clock, Mohapatra said.

Organising secretary of Akil Bharatiya Anganwadi Mahasangha, Anjali Patel said, "We have written about 100 letters to the state government in support of our demands. But the government did not respond to those letters. Instead, the government insulted us and put more burden on us. We finally came to strike after giving 15 days notice to the government."

Woman and Child Development Minister Basanti Hembram said the state government was sympathetic towards the Anganwadi workers.

They get remuneration on a sharing basis of both the Centre and the state. Odisha government will take a decision in regard to present demands soon, the minister added.

manding that they must get the tag of government employees and monthly remuneration of ₹18,000 as well as ₹9,000 for their assistants.

Besides, our demand of ₹5,000 pension must be fulfilled. If our demands are not met, our strike won't end, said Sumitra Mohapatra, president of All Odisha Anganwadi Lady Workers Association.

Their demand also includes a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the kin of an Anganwadi worker in case of death during the service period.

Jhununama Satpathy, secretary of All Odisha Anganwadi Ladies Workers Association said: "Today

manding that they must get the tag of government employees and monthly remuneration of ₹18,000 as well as ₹9,000 for their assistants.



REMEMBERING THE MARTYR: Dignitaries paid rich tributes to Saheed Laxman Nayak on his birth anniversary at Adivasi Ground in a programme organised by I&PR department in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Closing down about 60,000 Anganwadi centres across the state, Anganwadi workers are on indefinite dharna Tuesday demanding the status of government employees and a hike in their remuneration.

The Anganwadi workers from different parts of the state staged a demonstration in Bhubaneswar Monday and launched a dharna near the state Assembly building ahead of the winter session of the Assembly.

The Anganwadi workers are de-

Continued from P1

5 civilians 'shot dead' ...

Five of the six killed at 'Mukroh village in West Jaintia Hills District' were Meghalaya residents and one is an Assam Forest guard, Sangma said.

Sangma announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased individuals.

Later, the Assam government said it will hand over the investigation into the firing incident to a central or neutral agency and provide Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the six deceased as ex-gratia.

In a statement, the Assam government also said it has ordered action against several police and Forest officials, including transfer of the SP.

"The Meghalaya Government strongly condemns the incident where the Assam Police & Assam Forest Guards entered Meghalaya & resorted to unprovoked firing," he said on the social media platform.

The two states have a long disputed border and the location where the incident took place is among the areas with differences.

West Karbi Anglong Superintendent of Police Imdad Ali, who was later transferred, said that the Assam Forest department team intercepted and stopped the truck at Mukroh area within the district carrying illegal timber towards West Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya around 3am.

As the truck tried to flee, the Forest guards fired at it and deflated a tyre. The vehicle's driver and handyman and another person were then apprehended, though others managed to escape, he said.

Police reinforcements were rushed to the spot when the Forest guards contacted Ziri Kendung police station. After the police reached the spot, a large number of people from Meghalaya armed with 'daos' (daggers) and other weapons gathered at the spot around 5am, the officer said.

The mob surrounded the Forest guards and the police personnel demanding immediate release of those arrested and attacked them which prompted the police to resort to firing to bring the situation under control, Ali said.

"A Forest home guard and three persons from the Khasi community of Meghalaya were killed in the incident," the SP said.

It is not clear whether the casualties, including the Forest guard named Bidyasing Lekhte, died of bullet injuries or from injuries inflicted by other weapons, he said.

BJD, BJP trade barbs over farmers' issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Ahead of the December 5 by-poll to Odisha's Padampur assembly seat, the ruling BJD and the opposition BJP engaged in a verbal duel on Tuesday as both the parties sought to woo the farmers, who make up for a sizeable chunk of the constituency's population.

Launching a tirade against the Naveen Patnaik government over "delay in release of crop insurance and input subsidy" to the drought-hit farmers, Union minister and senior BJP leader Dharma Pradhan claimed that the ruling dispensation had been "misleading people with lies".

"People have given you (BJD) 22 years. During this period, you could not deliver on your promises as a result of which the residents of the state still continue to struggle for basic facilities," Pradhan said.

Talking to reporters here, the Union minister also claimed that "youths of Padampur in Bargharh district are forced to migrate to other places to earn their livelihood as they are unable to get employment in Odisha because of the

state government's inefficiency".

"Give me the name of one farmer who has so far received the input subsidy. The government has misled the farmers of Padampur to get votes, but people have now seen through their lies," he said.

Shortly after, the BJD held a press conference and said that the saffron party "cheated" the farmers by not keeping its promise to increase minimum support price of paddy by 1.5 times.

"In 2014 election manifesto, the BJP vowed to increase MSP by 1.5 times. The party also claimed that they would double the income of the farmers. None of that was done," BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra alleged.

He also said that the BJP-led Centre had tried to implement three "anti-farmer" laws but had to withdraw them in the face of massive protests. Patra also claimed that the state government failed to release ₹200 crore as input subsidy in the state as the "they (BJP) called up the Election Commission quietly to stop that from happening under the ruse of Model Code of Conduct, in place for the back-to-back by-polls".

Pain relievers may worsen arthritis inflammation

Taking certain anti-inflammatory pain relievers for osteoarthritis may worsen inflammation in the knee joint over time, according to a study.

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis, affecting more than 500 million people worldwide. It occurs most frequently in the hands, hips and knees.

In people with osteoarthritis, the cartilage that cushions the joint gradually wears away. Arthritis is often accompanied by inflammation, or swelling, of the joint, which can be painful.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are commonly prescribed for osteoarthritis pain and inflammation. However, little is known of the long-term effects of these drugs on disease progression.

"To date, no curative therapy has been approved to cure or reduce the progression of knee osteoarthritis," said the study's lead author, Johanna Luitjens, post-

277 participants from the Osteoarthritis Initiative cohort with moderate to severe osteoarthritis and sustained NSAID treatment for at least one year between baseline and four-year follow-up were included in the study and compared with a group of 793 control participants who were not treated with NSAIDs

Joint inflammation and cartilage quality were worse at baseline in the participants taking NSAIDs, compared to the control group, and worsened at four-year follow-up



doctoral scholar at the University of California, San Francisco, US.

"NSAIDs are frequently used to treat pain, but it is still an open discussion of how NSAID use influences outcomes for osteoarthritis patients. In particular, the impact of NSAIDs on synovitis, or the inflammation of the membrane lining the joint, has never been analysed using MRI-based structural biomarkers," Luitjens said.

In the study, being presented next week at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), the researchers analysed the association between NSAID use and synovitis in patients with osteoarthritis of the knee and to assess how treatment with NSAIDs affects joint structure over time.

ED grills businessman, cine producer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday grilled businessman Amiyakant Dash and noted cine producer Akshay Kumar Parija at its office in Nayapalli area here in connection with the high profile sextortion case involving lady blackmailer Archana Nag, her husband Jagabandhu Chand and their aide Khageswar Patra. The businessman Amiyakanta who appeared before the ED at 9am in the morning was grilled by ED sleuths for more than eight hours during the day.

After the marathon questioning, Amiyakant told media persons that he had provided ₹7 lakh through cheques to the lady blackmailer Archana in two instalments when her husband was undergoing medical treatment. He reportedly came into contact with Archana



through popular social media platform, Facebook.

On the other hand, Parija also appeared before the ED Tuesday afternoon. Parija was earlier summoned to appear before the ED November 19. However, he sought more time from the central agency citing illness after returning from Bangkok.

Parija had registered a blackmailing case against Archana and

her associates Shradhanjali Behera at Nayapalli police station earlier.

Parija had alleged that Archana, impersonating as a lawyer, had demanded ₹3 crore from him threatening to tarnish his reputation by making his objectionable videos and photographs with a woman public.

Meanwhile, Archana's former aide, Shradhanjali who had filed a case against Archana, Jagabandhu and Khageswar at Khandagiri po-

lice station has been asked to appear before the ED Wednesday. Shradhanjali reportedly moved Orissa High Court seeking anticipatory bail to avoid arrest by the ED.

The ED is also questioning Archana's business partner Khageswar Patra by taking him into remand for three more days after the completion of 10-day remand period Monday. According to sources, the ED has collected vital information from Patra about the wrong doings and financial transactions made by Archana and her husband Jagabandhu.

The Enforcement Directorate has seized a SUV belonging to Archana, the prime accused in the money laundering case linked to the alleged sextortion case in Bhubaneswar. The SUV, a Ford Endeavour, was found abandoned without a number plate. The seized vehicle is valued around ₹40 lakh.

Proposed by-laws for dog control discussed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: In a meeting chaired by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das, in the presence of Commissioner Vijaya Amruta Kulange and additional commissioner Suryawanshi Mayur Vikash, discussions were held on the proposed by-law regarding registration and proper control of dogs in the Capital city Tuesday. The meeting was attended by animal lovers, animal welfare organisations, pet shop owners and veterinary doctors. Deputy commissioner Ramesh Chandra Jena presented the draft plan. Participants were asked to go through the draft document and give their suggestions over the proposed by-law.

SAI Int'l School celebrates Millets Mission

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: SAI International School hosted a ceremonial celebration Tuesday for the Odisha Millets Mission, a flagship initiative of the state government covering 72 blocks in 14 districts.

The event was graced by eminent dignitaries Prem Chandra Chaudhary, Director of Agriculture and Food Production and Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment.

The programme started by a soulful rendition put forth by the students to welcome the guests, followed by an insightful presentation made by the students regarding the Millets Mission from a gender equity, climate resilience



& nutritional security context.

The presentation showcased statistical data backing up the scope and implementation of millet-based enterprises through FPOs and Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs).

While advocating for the WSHGs & indigenous farmers that would be empowered by this agro-ecological mission, Padhee, said, "I can list 10 reasons why millets are good for the planet. From proffering an eco-

nomical cost of cultivation, more profit to farmers, low glycaemic index, to being a one-stop solution for biggest of global challenges such as climate change, obesity and rural poverty, millets multiple are beneficial in multiple ways.

Chaudhary, while addressing the students, said, "One glass of Ragi is equivalent to 3 glasses of milk. That's how powerful these small seeded cereals are, which also happen to be climate resilient."

SAI International Education Group chairperson, Silpi Sahoo said, "It is of great honour for all of us as citizens of Odisha that the prestigious Cambridge University is studying Odisha Millets Mission as one of the possible alternatives to the Green Revolution through TIG2RESS initiative."

TEACHER HELD FOR CHEATING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested a teacher of a private English medium school in Dhauli area for duping several job aspirants of more than Rs 12 lakh on the pretext of providing jobs in the same school. The accused was identified as Atish Kumar Ojha, 26, of Nayahat under Chandbali police limits in Bhadrak.

Dhaulti police arrested the accused in the fraud case (227/22) registered on the basis of the complaint lodged by one Niraj Kumar Singh. In his complaint, Singh alleged that Ojha had promised him a teacher's job at the school.

He paid Rs 2, 33, 300 to Ojha through UPI. However, he neither provided him the job nor did he return the money. Singh also came to know that Ojha had cheated several others of around Rs 12, 83, 000 on similar modus operandi.

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ELEPHANT, WILD BOAR MENACE ON THE RISE

Dhenkanal farmers plead for more 'Airavat' vehicles



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 22: To prevent destruction of crops by elephants and wild boars, farmers in many parts of this district have demanded that more numbers of high-tech 'Airabat' vehicles be pressed into service.

Elephants routinely destroy crops every year in the district. To add to this, there is now the wild boar menace. With just one Airavat vehicle at its disposal it is difficult for the Forest department to tackle the double menace. Farmers are indeed a worried lot with paddy harvesting season on the anvil.

But then what is an Airbat vehicle. It emits a shrill siren-like sound and red light scaring away wild animals.

Sources said that agriculture is the mainstay of economy in Dhenkanal district. Paddy and other crops have been raised in over 1.85 lakh hectare in the current kharif season. However, elephants and boars from April to August, have damaged crops



POST NEWS NETWORK

spread over 350 acres. Sources added that if the extent of damage in September and October is assessed, the figure will double. In the 2021-22 fiscal, the animals had destroyed crops spread over 13,654 hectare of land.

Other than Airbats, the Forest department has implemented a slew of measures. Solar and bee fencing have been put in place in many areas, but haven't yielded the desired result. Farmers said that for the last few years, boars have been increasingly damaging crops.

Farmers residing close to the Mohabirod range is the worst affected by elephant rampage. Two years ago, the Forest department had pressed into service an Airabat vehicle to prevent elephants from coming into human habitations. However, farmers opined that a

DFO Prakashchand Gogineni has expressed concern as to how one Airavat vehicle would tackle herds of elephants in many pockets at a time

single vehicle is not enough to tackle the problem. Other modern methods were also taken and elephant squads pressed into service. However, elephants continue to destroy crops.

Initially, farmers were happy with the success of the Airabat vehicle. Now, they want more as elephant attacks are not limited to a single zone only.

Balabhadra Samal, sarpanch of Belatikiri panchayat, said that farmers are worried over the growing jumbo menace. Gopal Sendha, a farmer of Belatikiri informed that for the last five months they have been spending sleepless nights on trees to drive away the elephants. Another farmer pointed out that he has applied for compensation after elephants and boars destroyed crops on over 1.7 acre of land.

DFO Prakashchand Gogineni also expressed apprehensions as to how one Airabat vehicle the marauding herds of elephants in different parts of the district. He informed that Airavat is deployed in the most affected areas while elephant squads are the only measure in other areas of the district.



DISTRICT STATUS: Demanding district status to Titilagarh, students under the aegis of Titilagarh Vikash Sena took out a bike rally and staged a demonstration outside the office of the Sub-Collector in Titilagarh, Tuesday

Demolition drive carried out at Mahima Gadi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 22: Tension prevailed as the district administration Tuesday carried out an eviction drive on the premises of Mahima Gadee, the seat of Mahima cult, at Joranda in this district to clear encroachments at the controversial Tritiya Bedha. It clamped Section-144 prohibitory orders and deployed four platoons of police to maintain law and order. A Special Magistrate and the local sub-collector were present.

Sources said a Bati Mandir, a Dhuni Mandir and a Tungi Ghar that have been illegally constructed by Kaupindhari Mahima Samaj on a large patch of land at Tritiya Bedha inside the main shrine premises and allegedly owned by the Balkaladhari Mahima Samaj were



demolished. The Kaupindhari Mahima saints were in tears after the shrines of their sect were demolished.

Notably the Bati Mandir, Dhuni Mandir were said to have been constructed on Tritiya Bedha of

Mahima Gadee from the time of Siddha Bada Krupasindhu Baba. After Baba's death, dispute arose between the Kaupindhari and Balkaladhari sects staking claim over 28 decimals of land between the two temples in 1940.

Admin clamped Section-144 prohibitory orders and deployed four platoons of police to maintain law and order on the temple premises

The land dispute on the premises of Mahima Gadi main shrine has been persisting since 1943 between the two sects. The Balkaladhari sect had moved the Orissa High Court demanding demolition while the Kaupindhari sect appealed for a stay order. The high court had issued a stay order but vacated it October 30. The Balkaladhari sect again moved the high court demanding demolition and it was fixed for November 22.

Lifer to man for murdering wife

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 22: A local court sentenced here Tuesday, a man to life imprisonment after convicting him for the murder of his wife over dowry demands in 2016. Madhusudan Behera, 45, a native of Bishnubindha village under Basudevpur police limits, was convicted for murdering his wife Khulana Nayak. The court also slapped a penalty of Rs 5,000 on Behera, apart from prison term. In case he fails to make the payment, Madhusudan will undergo three more months of rigorous imprisonment, the court observed. The court announced the sentence on the basis of the statements recorded by some witnesses.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: ADM Maheswar Chandra Nayak flagged off an awareness vehicle on child adoption for childless couples in the presence of officials at the District Collectorate in Malkangiri, Tuesday

Ghateswar irrigation project to be ready by June next yr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Nov 21: If things go as per plan, work for Ghateswar irrigation project in Ganjam will be completed by June 2023. This was revealed during a recent review meeting on small and lift irrigation projects at the Collectorate. Collector Dibyajyoti Parida chaired the meeting.

Special secretary to Irrigation department Mukul Chandra Behera said that Kharif season is going to be over soon while Rabi season is coming and lift irrigation projects should be expedited. "The work of multi-purpose Ghateswar irrigation project is underway and will be completed by

June 2023," Behera said. He also added that the work of Chheligada irrigation project and its main canal have been completed while that of the distributor canals will be completed by January 2024.

Moreover, expansion work of Harbhangi irrigation project is underway. A decision was also taken about commencement of restoration work for Tipisira creek and Debahumi creek.

There are 1,055 small irrigation projects in the district, but most of them are old and need restoration. The Collector underscored the need for restoration of these projects in the larger interests of the farmers in the district.

Scribe no more

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 22: Senior scribe of Dharitri Odia daily Bibhu Prasad Behera died of kidney-related ailments, Tuesday. Behera, 44, was undergoing treatment at home, but developed acute chest pain late Monday night. Family members were rushing him for treatment to a hospital in Bhubaneswar, when he breathed his last in the wee hours of Tuesday. Behera, who was working as a district correspondent for Dharitri Bhadrak MP Manjulata Mandal, MLA Sanjiv Mallick, former MLAs Muktikanta Mandal and Naren Palei, BJP leaders Pradip Nayak and Badrinarayan Dhal, Congress leader Nalini Mohanty, and people from various walks of life paid their last respects to the departed soul.

Hirakud eco-retreat festival to start Dec 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 22: With the onset of winter heralding in the tourist season, the administration and officials of the Tourism department are all set to restart the Hirakud eco-retreat festival in this district from December 1. District Collector Ananya Das has visited the site and conducted a review of the preparations. This festival is expected to revive the tourism sector in the region which is yet to recover from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. The tourist season will end in February.

Officials informed Tuesday that 60 per cent of the renovation work is complete and the remainder will be done in a week. During the visit, Das directed officials of the Works, Power, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation departments and the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) to cooperate and finish the work within the scheduled time.

The eco-retreat festival is a seasonal event where tourists can

unwind in a peaceful environment. The eco-retreat will be opened at Balbaspur to the left of the Hirakud dam. In this eco-retreat, domestic as well as foreign tourists will get facilities similar to that of star hotels.

The Hirakud eco-retreat festival will have 25 tents for accommodation out of which 20 will be in luxury category while five will be in premium segment. Facilities like air-conditioned restaurants and bars, badminton and volleyball courts, all terrain vehicles (ATV) ride, water sports and bird watching will be available for the visitors. Cultural programmes will also be held every day for the visitors. They can visit Debrigarh, the Hirakud dam, Gandhi Minar and Nehru Minar for sight-seeing purposes. An added attraction will be the ropeway for people with a strong heart.

Among others, Jayesh Patil of the eco-retreat project and officials of all the respective departments were present during the collector's visit.

Ring nets threaten Olive Ridleys

ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND ANIMAL LOVERS FLAG GRAVE CONCERN



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Nov 22: Fishing by allegedly using ring nets in the Rushikulya river in Ganjam district is posing serious threats to Olive Ridley turtles visiting the river mouth for mass breeding and nesting. This rare species of turtles start arriving in the month of November for mating and laying eggs. Hatchlings born for the eggs then go back to the sea.

In light of these developments,

environmentalists. They have demanded that the administration should intervene and completely ban the use of rings nets. Environmentalists pointed out that despite the Fisheries department conducting a month-long awareness programme on turtles in the villages of Chhatrapur and Ganjam blocks, the situation has not improved. They also said that just by providing pamphlets and posters, turtles cannot be saved and stricter measures have to be implemented.

The Fisheries department has posted some officials near the sea coast but they hardly work for safety and protection of the Olive Ridley turtles, sources said. What is ironical is the department has a motorised boat to prevent hunting of the turtles, but it is gathering dust without being used. People from various quarters have demanded that the Fisheries department take urgent measures for safety and protection of the Olive Ridley turtles.

This has sparked concern among

Climatic changes delay arrival of birds at Hirakud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 22: Arrival of migratory birds to the Hirakud reservoir in this district is getting delayed this year. Change in weather conditions and delayed onset of winter may be the reasons for delay in arrival of the winged guests according to experts.

Usually, migratory birds start arriving at the Hirakud reservoir by the second week of November, but till date not a single of them has been sighted. "Changing climatic conditions and the late onset of winter has affected the arrival of the birds," DFO



Anshupragnan Das said. "Yes, a few birds still can be seen, but they did not fly back after arriving last year. More the cold, more the number of birds. We are hoping that migratory birds will start arriving in December and we will implement a host of protective measures for them," he added.

Notably, the reservoir turns into a happy hunting ground for migratory and domestic birds in winter.

The arrival of the birds also signals the presence of tourists in the area. However, environmentalists observed that the late arrival of the birds will have an impact on the footfall of tourists to eco retreat. Usually, the tourist season begins from November and ends in February. Every year, thousands of migratory birds of about 90 species land at the Hirakud reservoir. More than one lakh birds can be found on the reservoir. They fly back with the advent of summer.

PUBLIC NOTICE: This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that one ID Card of Mr. Kapila Barik issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID Card No. 2222028 has been found missing and/or lost on 19.11.2022. Anyone, who finds the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID Card to the Manager Debt. Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited.

PRESS NOTIFICATION: GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION, COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAY SAFETY. STATUTORY INQUIRY IN CONNECTION WITH DERAILMENT OF GOODS TRAIN AT KORAI RAILWAY STATION. SHRI ANANT MADHUKAR CHOWDHARY, COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAY SAFETY, SOUTH EASTERN CIRCLE, KOLKATA UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION, WILL HOLD A STATUTORY INQUIRY ON 25.11.2022 & 26.11.2022 AT MEETING HALL, RATNAGIRI, 1ST FLOOR, NORTH BLOCK, RAIL SADAN, EAST COAST RAILWAY, BHUBANESWAR IN CONNECTION WITH DERAILMENT OF UP E NBOXE/CAP AT KORAI (KRIH) STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION AT 0644 HRS. ON 21.11.2022. THE INQUIRY WILL COMMENCE FROM 0930 HRS. OF 25.11.2022.

FOCUS COP27 & AFTER

ARE FUNDS ADEQUATE?



While fossil fuel emissions are projected to fall in China by 0.9% and the European Union by 0.8%, it is estimated to rise in the US by 1.5% and in India by as much as 6%, the largest single driver of the growth in carbon dioxide globally

up for the past shortfalls. But this possibly remains a pious wish at this juncture. According to available estimates, India needs \$2.5 trillion till 2030 for meeting the NDC commitments. Currently the green finance available in the country represents just 25% of the total required across sectors for mitigation alone. If such finance is not available, India does not have any other option but to support communities from its domestic budget.

Environmentalists are of the opinion that developed countries that have the highest capability, financially and technologically, to take the lead in reducing emissions, continue to fall short of expectations while continuing to emit and disproportionately consume the global carbon budget. Though the informal draft emphasised on developed countries attaining net-negative carbon emissions by 2030, this remains a dream. Developing countries can enhance mitigation ambition based on the provision of support by developed countries to developing countries.

The text of the conference in its conclusion on the mitigation clause (para 28) called upon countries "to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies and the adoption of policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phase down of clean power and phase out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies." However, it has not been quite clear about the finance aspect.

The only encouraging news is the creation of the 'loss and damage' fund that would help poor and vulnerable nations cope with climate disasters worsened by greenhouse gases. Such a financial facility is, no doubt, a breakthrough but the funding would be restricted to only future loss and damage and no historical responsibility by the developed world would be taken for emission rise. However, the statement did not set a deadline for the fund's operationalisation. Indeed, a lot finer tuning is vital.

The writer is Sr. Consultant & Guest Faculty at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kolkata.

stand impacts of climate change. It will be a multi-donor trust fund, managed by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, New York. This rather small fund is expected to be supported by India, the EU, the UK, Australia, the IRAF's multi-pronged programme and offer customized technical assistance, capacity building, research, knowledge management and advocacy across the infrastructure life cycle for countries at all stages of development.

The requirement of finance for developing countries is much more and this has been aptly pointed out by India, which took a leading role on behalf of the like-minded developing countries group at the conference. India, while flagging how even the commitment of \$100 billion made in 2009 by developed countries was not only minuscule, given the scale of needs, but that too has not been received as yet.

In this connection, it needs to be mentioned that India rightly reminded that "the standing committee of finance had estimated that resources in the range of \$6 trillion to \$11 trillion are required till 2030 to meet the targets set by developing countries in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs); the lower limit i.e. \$6 trillion currently being committed while the upper limit is \$11 times." According to the OECD, hardly \$80 billion could be mobilised in 2021.

Experts are unanimous in their opinion that rich countries have to start delivering on the \$100 billion pledge immediately and also make

Umpteen numbers of reports and research studies have come out in recent years regarding the extent of global warming and the disastrous effect of emissions on the climate. Such voluminous documents have possibly not been produced in the last hundred years or so. It is now an established fact that limiting warming to 1.5 degree C is an impossible task, whatever measures, which appear realistic, are taken. Deliberations, conferences and meetings are being held all across the globe, but the resultant effects are far from encouraging. As every year, the COP27 was held this year too with a lot of hope and aspiration, but experts opined that the new climate agreement had done virtually nothing to address greenhouse gas emissions.

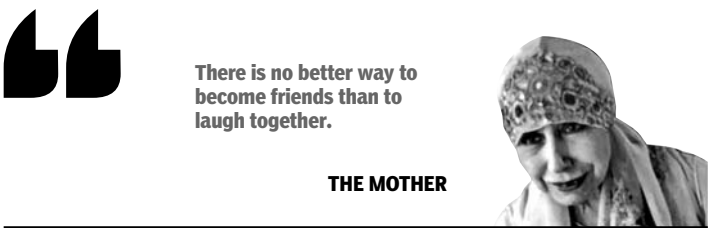
The recently released 2022 Global Carbon Budget report predicted that global carbon emissions in 2022 remain at record levels with no sign of reduction and, if the current levels persist, there is a 50 per cent chance that warming would exceed 1.5 degree C in nine years' time. But climatologists believe that the chance is around 60 per cent. The report noted that the global fossil CO2 emissions are projected to rise one per cent this year, compared to 2021, slightly above the 2019 pre-COVID levels. While fossil fuel emissions are projected to fall in China by 0.9% and the European Union by 0.8%, it is estimated to rise in the US by 1.5% and in India by as much as 6%, the largest single driver of the growth in carbon dioxide globally. Similar is the observation of the World Meteorological Organization in its State of Global Climate Report 2022 that stated that global mean temperature in 2022 is currently estimated to be about 1.15 degree C above pre-industrial levels (1850-1900 average) making it rather impossible to meet the goal of keeping warming within 1.5 degree C goal by the end of the century.

Meanwhile, a section of scientists associated with the UNEP predict temperatures to rise by 2-3 degree C above pre-industrial levels by 2100. Current policies are on track to reduce emissions by 7% compared with 2019 but 43% reduction is needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degree C - the target set by the 2015 Paris Agreement. Many countries have updated targets this year and if they are met, emis-



Dhurjati Mukherjee

EXPERTS ARE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR OPINION THAT RICH COUNTRIES HAVE TO START DELIVERING ON THE \$100 BILLION PLEDGE IMMEDIATELY AND ALSO MAKE UP FOR THE PAST SHORTFALLS



There is no better way to become friends than to laugh together.

THE MOTHER

8 Billion Problem

The world population has just reached the eight billion mark prompting the United Nations to warn of more hardships coming, especially in regions already plagued by resource scarcity due to climate change. In the words of John Wilmoth, Director of the UN's Population Division, the milestone is "a sign of human success, but it is also a great risk for our future."

Middle-income countries, mainly in Asia, accounted for the bulk of the growth - about 700 million people only in 11 years since 2011. India added about 180 million people and has probably already outstripped China, earning the unenviable position of being the world's most populous nation. It is not next year but it has already happened.

The paradox of this global demographic story is that births have been steadily declining in the United States, Europe, and Japan. China, too, has struggled due to its One Child Policy which forced the government last year to urge families to have a second and even third child. As part of that strategy it has limited access to non-medical abortions.

On the other hand, some of the world's poorest countries, most of which are in Sub-Saharan Africa, witnessed spurts in population jeopardising their development goals.

No wonder UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the demographic explosion with a word of caution. "The milestone is an occasion to celebrate diversity and advancements while considering humanity's shared responsibility for the planet," he said.

Cold statistics show the population growth of eight billion is three times the total in 1950. About 60 per cent of the global population lives in places where fertility rates have dropped to 2.1 births per woman. In South Korea, which already had the world's lowest rate, it fell to just 0.81 this year. By 2050, populations will be declining in more than half of the European countries. In five of these - Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia and Ukraine - they are projected to drop by more than 20 per cent. China witnessed a fifth consecutive fall last year to a new record low, with 10.62 million births despite a population of 1.4 billion and a sustained push to persuade people to have more children.

The big question is whether this population explosion is good for the people and the planet. Some experts worry that eight billion people is far too many for the planet while others say the bigger problem is the overconsumption of resources by the wealthiest people. There is fear that the more the world is populated, the more the planet will be in peril through greater emissions of carbon dioxide. However, the fact remains that carbon emissions of the richest 1 per cent, or about 63 million people, were more than double the emissions of the poorest half of humanity between 1990 and 2015, according to a 2020 analysis by the Stockholm Environment Institute and non-profit Oxfam International.

As every single person needs fuel, wood, water, and a place to live in, the pressure on available resources will be especially daunting in African nations. These are also among the countries most vulnerable to climate impacts and most in need of climate finance. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where about 738 million people already live without adequate food supplies, the population is projected to jump by 95 per cent by mid-century.

In an article published in 2017, more than 15,000 scientists emphasised the importance of determining a sustainable and scientifically defensible human population size over the long term. In their opinion population growth is one of the main drivers of environmental threats.

The need therefore is for proper management and distribution of resources so that the global population as a whole can get education, efficient healthcare, food and clean water. These are essential tools for judicious use of available resources. Or else, over population may become the cause for too much strife, hatred and authoritarianism.

WISDOM CORNER

The cleverest of all, in my opinion, is the man who calls himself a fool at least once a month.

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

Almost all of our sorrows spring out of our relations with other people.

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

He who controls others may be powerful, but he who has mastered himself is mightier still.

LAO TZU

WORDSWORTH

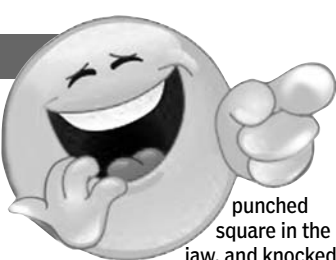
Crocodile tears

To weep crocodile tears is to pretend a sorrow that one doesn't in fact feel, to create a hypocritical show of emotion. The idea comes from the ancient belief that crocodiles weep while luring or devouring their prey. This story seems to have been taken up by medieval French and English writers and that's where we get it from. For example, in 1565 Sir John Hawkins wrote: "In this river we saw many Crocodils.. His nature is ever when he would have his prey, to cry and sob like a Christian body, to provoke them to come to him, and then he snatcheth at them". The first example known in English seems to be in a travel book of about 1400, The Voyage and Travail of Sir John Mandeville: "In many places of Inde are many crocodiles - that is, a manner of long serpent. These serpents slay men and they eat them weeping". One version of the story says that the beast weeps over the head after having eaten the body, not from repentance but from frustrated gluttony: the head is simply too bony to be worth consuming. The story was taken up by Edmund Spenser in The Faerie Queen and then by Shakespeare. Having such authorities on its side made it almost inevitable that the reference would stay in the language. For example, in the story of how the elephant got his trunk in the Just So Stories, by Rudyard Kipling: "Come hither, Little One," said the Crocodile, "for I am the Crocodile, and he wept crocodile-tears to show it was quite true". Naturalist say that crocodiles can't cry, because they have no tear ducts - they would be useless in an animal that spends so much time in the water. The eyes can produce secretions to moisten the lids if the animal is out of the water for a while, but these are hardly tears. People well versed in crocodilian biology say that the glands that moisten the eyes are so close to the animal's throat that the effort of swallowing forces moisture from them, so giving the impression of tears.

LOL

The crowded store

It was the day of the big sale. Rumours of the sale (and some advertising in the local paper) were the main reason for the long line that formed by 8:30 am, the store's opening time, in front of the store. A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back, amid loud and colourful curses. On the man's second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw, and knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again. As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line... "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!"



IN JEST THIS

Warning: Smoking causes everything

Smoking can be extremely harmful to your health. That's why almost every country in the world requires tobacco companies to put warnings on cigarette packs. In the United States, for example, you may see a message that says, "Surgeon General's Warning: Smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease and emphysema, and may result in yellow teeth, premature aging and a persistent inability to get a date."



Melvin Durai

IN NORTH KOREA, EVERY CIGARETTE PACK COMES WITH A PICTURE OF KIM JONG-UN

Such warnings are somewhat ineffective, partly because the people who need the warnings the most are the least likely to read them. Some of them can't read, while others don't like to read, especially when they see big words such as "Surgeon" and "General."

Anti-smoking advocates tried to solve this problem by creating "talking" cigarette packs that play messages from embedded sound chips whenever the packs are opened, but when these "talking" packs were tested on 1,000 smokers chosen at random, about one-tenth of them suffered heart attacks and

almost died. About 40 per cent of them dropped the packs and ran away screaming, while the remaining half of them closed the pack as soon as they heard the words "Surgeon General" and tore an opening at the bottom to remove their cigarettes.

"I don't want my cigarette packs nagging me," one man said. "I get that enough from my wife."

In many other countries, including India, the problem of people not reading warnings has been solved by putting scary pictures on cigarette packs. In North Korea, for example, every cigarette pack comes with a picture of Kim Jong-un. Beside the picture of the supreme leader is a highly effective message: "I kill you if you smoke."

Not all countries can do that, of course. Canada tried it, but most smokers just laughed when they saw a picture of Justin Trudeau.

Another image from the Canadian province of Quebec has proven to be far more effective. It shows a woman whose gums have worn away, exposing the roots of her

decaying teeth. Beside the image is a warning that says "La cigarette cause une forte dépendance et nuit à la santé." I don't speak French, but I assume that it means, "Smoking cigarettes can make you look like you get dental care in Britain."

Canada was the first country to require graphic health warnings on cigarette packs in 2001 and more than 40 countries have done the same. Many of them require half the space on a cigarette pack to be filled with health warnings. One country, Australia, has gone even further, banning logos, colours, and promotional texts from cigarette packs, and filling most of the space with graphic warnings. A variety of warnings appear on the packs, such as "Smoking clogs your arteries," "Smoking doubles your risk of stroke," and "Smoking causes more pain than losing to India in cricket."

If it were up to me, the warnings on cigarette packs would be much longer: "Smoking causes lung cancer, stomach cancer, bladder cancer,

and various other cancers that will make you wish you had put something less harmful in your mouth - like a scorpion, for example. Smoking puts you at greater risk for heart disease, emphysema, diabetes, and various other diseases that, along with cancer, will make you look scarier than the man pictured on the front of this pack, supreme leader of North Korea. Smoking can harm nearly every organ of your body - yes, even that organ! - so please put this pack down immediately and try your best to quit smoking. You will not only improve your health, you will also improve your wealth. Cigarettes can be extremely costly - not just the price you pay when you buy them or the price you pay for healthcare, but also the price you pay when you accidentally set your home on fire. Yes, smokers cause hundreds of fires every year: some lose their entire homes, some lose prized possessions, and some lose their eyebrows. Losing your life, your home, your brows - isn't it better to just lose the habit?"

Sporting extravaganza

Sir, The beautiful game of football is underway, and will be in full flow in Qatar for nearly a month culminating in the finals December 18. Despite football being restricted mostly to Europe, Latin America and African countries, the popularity of the World Cup is almost unmatched. The euphoria, excitement and edge-of-the-seat thrill offered by great players will fade all the controversies that have haunted the game until now. When players walk out, and the game begins, the spectators' focus will be on the pitch, the players and the high emotions which emanate after every goal scored. The hysterical reactions of the coaches, and the teams' supporters, are going to be a treat for television viewers. In all probability, a die-hard fan would be rooting for traditional favourites Brazil though Spain, Argentina, Germany and Portugal are the teams to look out for, not excluding some dark horses. Amid all this, the question as to when, and how, will an Indian football team make it to the grand stage of the World Cup shall continue to haunt us during the conduct of every World Cup.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Heinous move

Sir, The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee has approved commercial cultivation of genetically modified (GM) mustard and sent the proposal for the clearance to the Ministry of Environment, Government of India. As a result of the induction of GM seeds in Indian agriculture, the entire agriculture would go in the hands of the agri-giants and multinationals of home and abroad. Consequence of this pernicious move would be detrimental to the interest of peasants as well as the common people. Moreover, the impact of GM crops on nature and human health is not yet assessed properly. The scientific community is still not at one on this issue. According to experts, it might cause immense harm to nature and human health. Hence, it is our considered opinion that introducing GM seeds in Indian agriculture would be damaging. The interested circle is putting forth the argument that GM seed plantation would enhance production of agricultural produce. But this argument is baseless. The problem of hunger in India is not due to shortage of production, but because of the anti-people policies of the pro-monopoly governments. Still the BJP-led Union government, subservient to bourgeois class interest, is going ahead with the proposal to serve the giant multinationals intending to capture Indian agricultural sector.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

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

Orissa POST

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national



There is no cure to the BJP's ailment. The only cure is that the BJP should be defeated by a record margin of votes
AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

EDUCATION SYSTEM UNDER WAR

The Centre Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that out of a total 15,783 Indian students who had enrolled in Ukrainian medical universities, 14,973 are undergoing online classes, which have been conducted by the universities



of the day quote

Prime Minister Narendra Modi as pradhan sevak while I as jan sevak are working for the welfare of every section of society
MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

Powerful local content can reach nationally and internationally, which one needs to give in the industry
ANURAG SINGH THAKUR | INFORMATION & BROADCASTING MINISTER

Cheating misappropriation in the trade of gold and silver is bound to happen but through hallmarking, these malpractices can be checked. Therefore, the relevance of this organisation is important
PS SREEDHARAN PILLAI | GOA GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Eight from Ch'garh killed in AP accident

Amaravati: Eight persons were killed in a collision between a truck and a car in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitharamaraju district Tuesday. The accident occurred near Boddagudem village in Chintur mandal. Six persons travelling in the car were killed on the spot while two others succumbed at a hospital at Bhadrachalam. According to police, the deceased were from Chhattisgarh. They were returning to their home state after a visit to Sitaramachandra Swamy temple at Bhadrachalam in Telangana. Two injured were undergoing treatment at Bhadrachalam hospital.

Aditya Thackeray to meet Tejashwi Yadav

Mumbai: Shiv Sena-UB leader and ex-Minister Aditya Thackeray will meet Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav in Patna Wednesday, an aide said here Tuesday. The upcoming meeting would be a "courtesy call" on the Rashtriya Janata Dal leader, according to the Thackerays' media advisor Harshal Pradhan. Son of ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Aditya, 32, shall be accompanied by two party MPs - party Secretary Anil Desai and Deputy Leader Priyanka Chaturvedi - and other office-bearers at the meeting.

Wanted woman Naxalite arrested

Dumka (Jharkhand): An 18-year-old woman Naxalite, wanted in several cases, was arrested in Jharkhand's Dumka district Tuesday, police said. Acting on a tip-off, police nabbed Monica alias Jeena Kumari alias Tedi while she was visiting her in-laws in Baliakoda village in Ramgarh area, Superintendent of Police Amber Lakra said. She was wanted in Naxalism-related cases lodged with Gopikander police station. Armed police personnel, including women constables, raided her in-laws' house in the morning and nabbed the Naxalite. She hails from Sunderpahari area in Godda district.

Leopard spotted on IIT-Bombay campus

Mumbai: A leopard was allegedly spotted on the campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) in Powai here and the forest department was alerted, a forest official said Tuesday. A distress call was made to the forest department Monday morning and a team was sent to the spot to investigate if the sighting was of concern, the official said. Leopards are generally nocturnal.

14 states furnished views on indentifying minorities: Govt to SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Central government Tuesday told the Supreme Court that on the issue of identification of minorities at the state level, it has held consultative meetings with all states and other stakeholders, and 14 states have furnished their views so far.

A bench of Justices SK Kaul and AS. Oka was informed by the Centre's counsel that it has not received comments from remaining 19 state governments and Union Territories.

The top court then gave 6 weeks' time to Centre to bring on record the comments of the remaining states and Union Territories in

the matter. Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, representing the Centre, said a status report has been filed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs October 31. The bench noted that the issue cannot be decided suddenly and it is required to be examined thoroughly.

The report said that the 14 state governments, namely Punjab, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, West Bengal, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and 3 Union Territories, namely Ladakh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and Chandigarh have furnished their comments/views. During the hearing, Upadhyay submitted



that he had challenged the validity of section 2(f) of the National Commission for Minority Education Institution Act, 2004. He cited Allahabad High Court

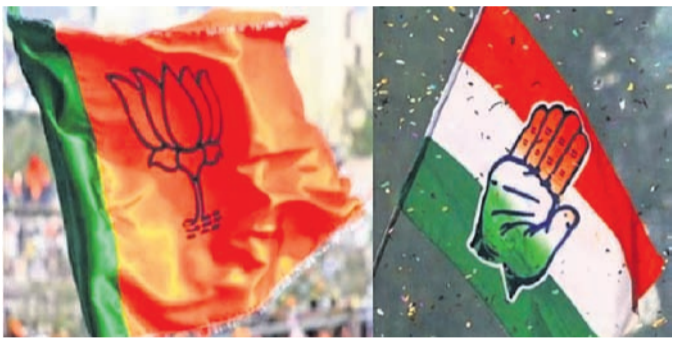
judgment of 2007 judgement on a plea seeking quashing of May 2004 order passed by the state of Uttar Pradesh recognising 67 Madarsas for grant-in-aid. He submitted be-

fore the bench that this judgment has not been challenged.

Upadhyay submitted for 20 districts of the state, the high court said that considering the percentage of the population, Muslims cannot be considered minorities and it was based on the 2001 census. At this, the bench replied "What are you asking? Can minority status be determined each district-wise?" It further queried Upadhyay, then, why not each street-wise? How can this be done?

After hearing arguments in the matter, the bench asked 19 states and UTs to communicate their stand to the Centre within four weeks of receipt of the court's order. It scheduled the matter for further hearing in January.

Cong slams NDA govt as India's 'biggest NPA'



The Government is destroying small and medium businesses and squandering people's money for crony capitalists. NDA is India's biggest NPA!

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Congress Tuesday alleged that non-performing assets (NPAs) have risen by 365 percent under the Modi government which was "squandering people's money for crony capitalists" by waiving their loans.

The opposition party also questioned why "unbridled powers" were being given to PSU banks to "sell off assets at throwaway prices" and sought to know what was the government's plan to bring back 38 wilful defaulters have fled the country after swindling banks.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the NDA government was "India's biggest NPA" and it was destroying small and medium businesses.

"In the last 5 years, NPA : Write offs: ₹10,09,510 Crore. Recovery: ₹1,32,000 Crore. To top that NPAs have skyrocketed by a massive 365 percent under BJP regime."

"The Government is destroying small and medium businesses and squandering people's money for crony capitalists. NDA is

India's biggest NPA!" Kharge said in a tweet.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinimate claimed that the BJP does not contest elections on issues or its report card but on the face of the prime minister, and said it must now answer questions on the rise in NPAs and loans being written off.

"Every election is being contested on the personal background of the Prime Minister. But, who will answer as to why big haircuts are being given by banks," she told reporters at a press conference, referring to banks accepting less money than is due to them.

The Congress leader said 61 percent of the fiscal deficit can be funded by this write-off alone. But the government will never discuss this as they do not understand the economy, she alleged.

The Congress spokesperson claimed that the NCLT and IBC have absolved corporate borrowers of their liability because banks are giving them a clean chit and haircuts of 70 to 90 percent and assets are being transferred at throwaway prices.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Supreme Court Tuesday termed the exploitation of the "silence of the Constitution" and the absence of a law governing the appointments of election commissioners and chief election commissioners a "disturbing trend".

The court flagged Article 324 of the Constitution, which talks about the appointment of election commissioners, and said it does not provide the procedure for such appointments. Moreover, it had envisaged the enactment of a law by Parliament in this regard, which has not been done in the last 72 years, leading to exploitation by the Centre, it said.

The court pointed out that since 2004, no chief election commissioner has completed the six-year tenure and during the 10-year rule of the UPA government, there were six CECs and in the eight years of the NDA government, there have been eight CECs.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said, "In 10 years of the UPA government, they had six CECs and in the present NDA government, in nearly eight years, it has had eight CECs. This is a disturbing trend as far as our country is concerned. There are no checks and balances in the Constitution. This is how the silence of the Constitution is being exploited. There is no law and legally, they are correct. Nothing could be done in the absence of a law."

The top court is hearing a batch of pleas seeking a collegium-like system for the appointment of the

APPOINTMENT OF CECS, ECS



The apex court October 23 2018, Z-like system for the selection of CECs and ECs to a five-judge Constitution bench for authoritative adjudication

The Centre November 17 had vehemently opposed the pleas seeking a collegium-like system for the selection of CECs and ECs, contending that any such attempt will amount to amending the Constitution

CEC. The bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar, said even though the CEC heads an institution, with his truncated tenure, he cannot do anything substantial.

"Looking at the list of the chief election commissioners since 2004, the majority of them do not have more than two years' tenure. As per law, they have fixed a tenure of six years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. Most of them were former bureaucrats and the government knew about their age. They were appointed at such a point that they were never able to complete six years and had a truncated tenure," the bench told Attorney General R Venkataramani, who appeared in the matter on behalf of the Centre.

Venkataramani said the present process under which the president appoints the CECs and ECs cannot be said to be unconstitutional and the court cannot strike it down.

"The Constituent Assembly, which had different models before

it, had adopted this model and now, the court cannot say that the present model needs consideration.... There is no provision of the Constitution in this regard which requires interpretation," he said.

Justice Joseph said it has been 72 years since the Constitution was adopted but still there is no law on the appointment of election commissioners, despite being envisaged in the Constitution.

"The Constituent Assembly wanted Parliament to enact a law. It has been 72 years since the Constitution was adopted but there is no law. Whichever party comes to power will like to remain in power and there is nothing wrong about it. Ours is a democratic form of polity. Democracy requires change in government through elections periodically. Therefore, purity and transparency are very intricately connected and it is also part of the basic structure," he said.

Justice Joseph further told Venkataramani that if it is part of the Constitution's basic structure, then it is important for the court to go into the analysis.

LeT terror module busted in J&K; four arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 22: Security forces Tuesday launched a terror module of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and arrested two active terrorists and their two associates, including a woman, from Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

The terrorists were directed by their handlers in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to carry out attacks on civilians, they said. "In a major breakthrough against terrorist infrastructure in North Kashmir, police along with security forces busted LeT terrorist module by arresting two active terrorists and their two important associates including a woman associate in Bandipora," a police spokesman said.



He said incriminating materials, huge cache of arms and ammunition and material for preparing IED (improvised explosive device) have been recovered from their possession.

The spokesman said security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Gundbal Nursery and arrested two active terrorists linked with the proscribed terrorist outfit. The recoveries included one AK-47 rifle, one AK-56 rifle, four AK series magazines, live rounds, RDX powder, nails and ball bearings, batteries, detonators, IED mechanism circuit, remote control, loose wire and iron pipes.

I-T searches at residences, offices of Malla Reddy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 22: The Income Tax Department on Tuesday conducted searches at the residences of Telangana Labour Minister and TRS leader Ch Malla Reddy and his close family members.

The I-T sleuths were verifying tax records of Reddy and the educational institutions belonging to him and his family members, sources privy to the development said.

Raids were also carried out at the educational institutions. Reacting to the searches, Telangana Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud described them as "targeted attacks" on the TRS government and said they were aimed at troubling the state government.

"People of this country are watching. Everyone is watching. There will be a reaction to every action," Srinivas Goud told reporters.

Malla Reddy is the second person in Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's cabinet against whom searches by the central government agencies were carried out.

On November 9, Enforcement Directorate officials raided the premises linked to Minister Gangula Kamalakar as part of a money laundering probe related to the alleged granite scam.

The ED case of money laundering stems from a CBI FIR that was filed to probe alleged irregularities in granite trade in the state.



FOOTSTEPS OF BUDDHA: A delegation of leading Buddhist monks from Bhutan upon arrival in Kolkata, en route for a trip to holy Buddhist sites in the country

India among top 5 countries in climate change performance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: India is ranked among the top five countries, and the best among the G-20 nations, under the global Climate Change Performance Index, an official statement said.

The index is published by German Watch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network International based in Germany.

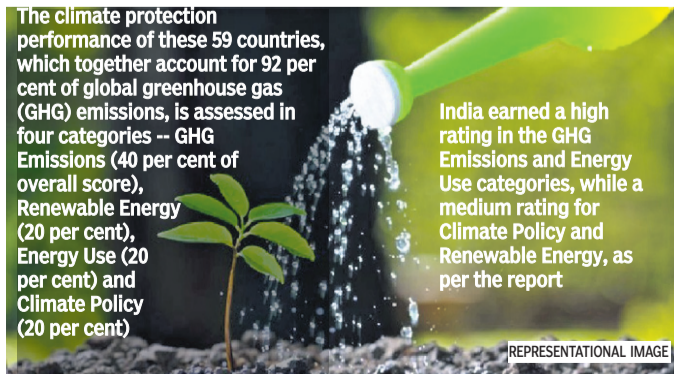
The CCPI aims to enhance transparency in international climate policies and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.

"India has been ranked amongst top 5 countries in the world, and the best among the G20 countries, based on its Climate Change performance," a power ministry statement said.

India jumped two spots, and is now ranked 8th as per the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023), it stated.

The latest report of CCPI, released at COP27 in November 2022, shows Denmark, Sweden, Chile and Morocco as the only four small countries that were ranked above India at fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively.

The first, second and third ranks were not awarded to any country.



In effect, therefore, India's rank is the best amongst all large economies, it said. Published annually since 2005,

countries and the EU. Every year, the CCPI sets off important public and political debates within the countries assessed.

The aggressive policies of India towards rapid deployment of renewables and robust framework for energy efficiency programs have shown considerable impact. As per the CCPI report, India is on track to meet its 2030 emissions targets (compatible with a well-below-2°C scenario), it added.

The ranking given by CCPI places India as the only G-20 country in the top 10 rank. India will now be assuming G-20 Presidency and it will be an opportune time to show the world its climate mit-

igation policies such as deployment of renewable sources of energy and other energy transition programmes, it said.

Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh said India's CCPI ranking is testimony to the leadership shown by Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards addressing the global climate change despite pandemic and tough economic times.

The top-5 rank globally reflects that India is implementing energy transition programmes such as renewable capacity installation at much faster rate than anywhere in the world.

MP Cong ready to welcome Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra

PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY PRIYANKA GANDHI WILL ALSO JOIN THE MARCH ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF THE YATRA IN MADHYA PRADESH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Nov 22: After winding up its Maharashtra leg, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is all set to enter its first Hindi heartland state of Madhya Pradesh Wednesday.

Party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi will also join the march on the very first day of the yatra in Madhya Pradesh, a senior Congress leader told IANS.

Notably, it would be the first time that Priyanka Gandhi will be joining the yatra. "Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadhwa will join the Bharat Jodo Yatra Wednesday when it enters Madhya Pradesh," senior party leader Jairam Ramesh said.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu September 7. So far, it has traversed through the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.

The Congress' pan-India foot march will enter its first Hindi heartland state of Madhya Pradesh on the morning of November 23 after winding up its Maharashtra leg. In the next 13 days, Gandhi will visit Ujjain's Mahakaleswar temple, offer puja to the holy

Narmada river, and go to the birth-places of tribal leader Tanta Bhill in Khandwa and BR Ambedkar in Indore's Mhow besides attending many other programmes, according to the information received from the Congress leaders.

Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh Congress Tuesday flagged off its 18th sub-yatra from Bhopal, which will march around 200 km to reach Susner in Agar-Malwa region Thursday. As many as 17 sub-yatras organised by Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) are already on their way, some of them have already reached their earmarked areas, which will merge with Bharat Jodo Yatra later.

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Suresh Pachouri, who along with former leader of opposition in the state Assembly Ajay Singh (Rahul), flagged off the 18th sub-yatra from Bhopal, told IANS, "There are talks on how Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra will have an impact, so I would like to clarify that this yatra has nothing to do with politics. Its only purpose is to save the harmony, brotherhood, and protect the rich Constitution of India. It is to raise the voice of farmers, poor people."



FLOCKING TOGETHER: Migratory birds fly above the Narmada river during a foggy winter morning, at Gwarighat in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Gurjar leader for Pilot as Raj CM

Protests over move to post bureaucrats in medical colleges

AGENCIES

Jaipur, Nov 22: Gurjar leader Vijay Singh Bainsla has threatened to oppose Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Rajasthan unless his demand of making Sachin Pilot the chief minister is accepted besides resolution of other pending issues of his community.

He said leaders of the Gurjar Arakshan Sangharh Samiti will be on the ground from Wednesday to make preparations for stopping the yatra. This is the second time that Bainsla had threatened to stop the yatra that will enter the state on December 3. Bainsla told reporters in Dausa Monday night that Gandhi should make Pilot the chief minister of Rajasthan.

"The current Congress government has completed four years, one year is left. Now Sachin Pilot should be made the chief minister. If Gandhi



makes Pilot the chief minister; then you (Rahul Gandhi) are welcome, otherwise we will oppose," he said. He said the community also demands the state government resolve their pending issues. In a video statement after a meeting with community members Monday, he said when Gandhi comes to Rajasthan, he should come with a Gurjar CM or with a reply over the issue.

He said the community had voted for the Congress in 2018 in the hope that a Gurjar will become the chief

minister. "We did not vote for making an MLA, we voted for making a Gurjar the CM," he said.

"You made the MLA but when will you make the CM? We want a CM, Rahul Gandhi ji. When you come to Rajasthan on 3rd of December, you come either with a Gurjar CM or with a reply over Gurjar CM," he said.

He also accused the Congress government of not fulfilling promises made to the community and said various issues pertaining to them are pending with the government.

Gurjar leaders have been demanding quota in jobs and education in the state.

Bainsla had earlier also threatened to stop the yatra in the state.

Reacting to it, PCC chief Govind Singh Dotasra had said no one has the courage to stop the yatra in the state.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Nov 22: With the Madhya Pradesh government set to move a controversial proposal to appoint bureaucrats as the supreme authority in all state-run medical colleges Tuesday, the medical fraternity in the state has unanimously opposed the move and threatened to shut down medical services.

The medical fraternity led by the medical teachers' association of Gandhi Medical College in Bhopal said the government has decided to bring the proposal through backdoor and get it approved without consulting the doctors and medical professionals.

To put pressure on the government, the medical fraternity has warned that it will hold an indef-

ternity and a huge protest was staged by the teachers and medical students.

The relentless protest by the teachers and medical students had then forced the state government to cancel the appointment.

"The government justifies the move by claiming that the step is being taken to reduce the burden of the doctors as the administrative officer will look after all the administrative issues so that the doctors could focus entirely on their patients.

"How can a non-medical person tell which equipment or which medicine needs to be procured for the patients? Only a doctor can make these decisions. We are unable to understand why our own government is trying to kill our

Udaipur gears up for G20 Sherpa meeting

Various departments are at work to ensure that lakes are cleaned and heritage sites decked up with lights

AGENCIES

Udaipur, Nov 22: From painting walls to depicting Indian culture to decking up heritage sites with lights, hectic preparations are underway in Rajasthan's Udaipur for the first G20 Sherpa meeting under India's presidency.

The meeting will be held from December 5 to 7.

"Udaipur will set a unique example in front of the country and the world by extending Mewari hospitality during the event," District Collector Tara Chand Meena said Tuesday.

Work for repairing and beautifying roads is in full swing, he said.

Various departments are at work to ensure that lakes are cleaned and heritage sites decked up with lights.

All preparations for the meeting will be completed by November 30, Meena said.

Shikha Saxena, deputy director of Regional Tourism Office, Udaipur, said, "The delegates will get a feel of the Indian culture with the special touch of Rajasthan. The entire city is being decorated



and beautified."

"The delegates will get a glimpse of rural life at 'shilp gram'. Attractive cultural performances will be the highlight of the hospitality," she said.

The visiting delegates will be served Rajasthani delicacies. The menu, however, has not been finalised yet. Murals have been painted on walls in various parts

of the city.

A senior police official said tight security arrangements will be in place during the event and Z-plus security cover will be provided to the delegates, who will arrive December 4.

During their visit, the delegates will visit the City Palace and Jagmandir, where cultural performances will be held, according

to official sources.

The three-day meeting will have sessions on various topics like accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth; multilateralism; food, fuel and fertiliser; and women-led development.

After the sessions, the delegates will visit the 'shilp gram' at the West Zone Cultural Centre and enjoy cultural performances at Manek Chowk in the City Palace complex.

December 7, they will visit the magnificent 15th-century Kumbhalgarh Fort in Rajasmand. From there, they will head to the Ranakpur temple in Pali which is one of the most brilliant architectural monuments in the country.

The G20 or Group of 20 is an inter-governmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union (EU).

'Unemployment, inflation India's biggest problems'

AGENCIES

Jaipur, Nov 22: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Tuesday, in a fresh swipe at the central government, said inflation and unemployment had emerged as India's biggest problems.

Gehlot was addressing a gathering at the unveiling of statues of former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi in Chittorgarh. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth Rs 149 crore. The chief minister said while inflation and unemployment had emerged as India's biggest problems, the Rajasthan government was committed to providing maximum employment opportunities to the youth, an official statement said.

He said the state government had given more than 1.25 lakh government jobs during its tenure. Recruitment for almost the same number of posts is under process and announcements have been made for another one lakh government jobs.



inite state-wide protest if the state Cabinet passes the proposal.

Importantly, medical services in all government-run hospitals in Madhya Pradesh are likely to be suspended, as the medical fraternity has warned that it will hold protests from Tuesday morning onwards.

Medical teachers along with students and representatives of several other associations assembled at the Gandhi Medical College Monday and took an unanimous decision to oppose the move.

This is not the first time when the medical fraternity and the administration have come face to face on this particular issue, as this is the third attempt by the state government to place the controversial proposal before the Cabinet.

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government had placed this proposal before the Cabinet first in November 2021, but an unanimous objection by the medical fraternity had prompted the government to hold it back.

The proposal was again placed before the Cabinet in July this year, but it could not be passed.

A major controversy on this issue broke out in August after a senior IAS officer was appointed as medical commissioner over dean at Sagar Medical College, which was opposed by the medical fra-

medical system. But we will not let it happen, and if needed, we will go on strike and all medical services, including emergency services, would be suspended from Tuesday onwards," said Rakesh Malvia, president of medical teachers' association of Gandhi Medical College.

The medical fraternity has alleged that it is the bureaucrats' lobby that is forcing the government to introduce this system.

"There is already an administrative officer associated with the system, so why should another administrative officer be enrolled? It is an attack on the medical system... The bureaucrats want to turn the medical colleges into other government institutions. It would be a suicidal attempt if the new system is introduced," said Suresh Kumar, a doctor based out of Bhopal.

Meanwhile, the opposition has also extended its support to the medical fraternity, saying the government should hold a discussion on this matter before taking any decision. "The medical fraternity is threatening to go on strike. The condition of health facilities in the state is already bad. In such a situation, the state government should consider their demands in the interest of the general public," said former Chief Minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath.

Team formed to monitor health, behaviour of cheetahs

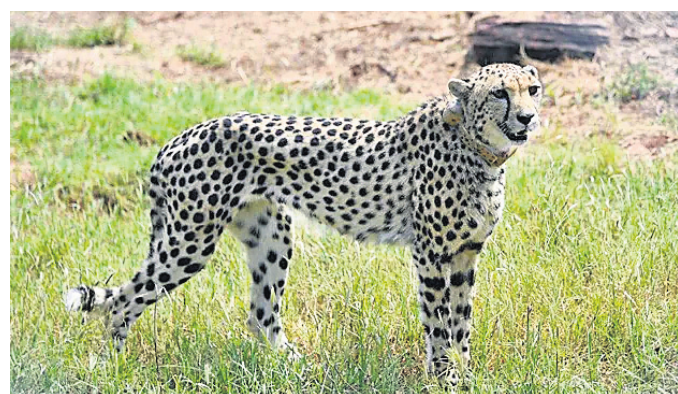
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jabalpur (MP), Nov 22: A three-member committee of scientists has been constituted by a veterinary science university here to inspect the post-quarantine facility of eight Namibia-born cheetahs and monitor their health and behaviour at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, an official said Tuesday.

The committee has been constituted by Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University on the request of the Union government's team monitoring the cheetahs at KNP, the official said.

A three-member committee has been formed to inspect the post-quarantine facility for the cheetahs at the national park, said Dr SP Tiwari, vice-chancellor of the

state-run university. The committee comprises Dr Devendra Podhade, Dr Somesh Singh and Dr KP Singh from the School of Wildlife Forensic and Health at the university, he said. The team will look into the aspects of health and behaviour of the cheetahs and visit the park when-



ever required, Dr Tiwari said.

Eight cheetahs were flown into the state from Namibia in southern Africa September 17 this year as part of an ambitious initiative to reintroduce the big cat into the country and they were released

into the quarantine zone at KNP by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to officials, three cheetahs — Obaan, Alton, Freddie — have been moved from their quarantine area into the acclimatisation enclosure at the national park ear-

lier this month.

Obaan was released into the larger enclosure, spread over an area of 5 sq km, from the quarantine zone November 18, while Elton and Freddie were moved to the acclimatisation enclosure November 5, an official said.

The other five cheetahs will also be shifted to the large enclosure this month, the official said.

The cheetahs, five females and three males in the age group of 30-66 month age group and named Freddy, Alton, Savannah, Sasha, Obaan, Asha, Cibili and Saisa, were housed in six 'bomas' (enclosures) since September 17.

The last cheetah died in India in Koriya district in present-day Chhattisgarh in 1947, and the species was declared extinct from the country in 1952.

national

of the day quote

The removal of export duties on steel and stainless steel by the government will herald a new era for the nation's steel sector, and allow it to firmly establish its position in the global market

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER OF STEEL AND CIVIL AVIATION

So, a new campaign 'Kejriwal ki Sarkar, Kejriwal ka Parshad' (Kejriwal's government, Kejriwal's councillor) campaign has been launched to alert people to pick AAP over BJP in civic polls due December 4

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

The people blessed Rahul Gandhi and the Gandhi family by electing them as public representatives from Amethi (previously). But, they gave nothing to the people except deceit and just one glimpse in five years

SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Marri Shashidhar Reddy quits Cong

Hyderabad: In a setback to the Congress in Telangana, senior party leader and former minister Marri Shashidhar Reddy, son of former Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh Marri Channa Reddy, quit the party Tuesday. Shashidhar Reddy, who had been a loyal Congressman for several decades and even headed a 'Congress Loyalists Forum' of Telangana Congress leaders, sent his resignation to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Tharoor continues with his Malabar tour

Thiruvananthapuram/Malappuram: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's outreach programmes in Kerala seem to have made the warring factions of the party's state unit set aside their differences and huddle together to check his bid to make inroads in the state unit, saying they were not "inflated balloons" and warned against any parallel activities in the organisation.

SUV overturns, five killed in UP

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP): Five people were killed while six others injured when an SUV overturned into a ditch on the Bhira-Pallia road near Atariya village early Tuesday, police said. The SUV carrying 12 was on its way to Pallia from Shahjahanpur when the accident took place near Pallia town. The driver of the vehicle lost control due to a pothole on the road, Pallia kotwali inspector Pramod Kumar Mishra said.

B'lore wakes up to light showers

Bangalore: Bangalore witnessed light rainfall accompanied by cloudy skies and chilly winds Tuesday morning as a result of low-pressure area formed over southwest Bay of Bengal. The Indian Meteorological Department here said rains are expected in the next 48 hours till the cyclonic system over the Bay of Bengal weakens further.

Dog beaten to death, four held

New Delhi: Four students of Don Bosco Technical Institute have been arrested for allegedly beating a pregnant dog to death in Southeast Delhi's New Friends Colony area. The accused told police that they were bothered by the dog barking at them. The 15-minute-long video carrying horrid visuals of the torture and killing of the animal had gone viral on social media.



Sadness is experienced while talking to farmers, youths, and tribals. Farmers do not get proper rates (for agri products), or insurance money. Their loan is not waived. Youths are unemployed, their dream is breaking. Someone wants to become an engineer, his parents spend money on his education, but he is working as a labourer (after getting a degree)

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

WOMAN DELIVERS BABY ON ROAD

A woman delivered a baby on a road near a government hospital in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati town Tuesday after the hospital staff allegedly denied her admission. The shocking incident occurred in the temple town in front of Tirupati Maternity Hospital



'300 terrorists active in J&K'

Army issued a request for information for procuring integrated drone detection systems. The move comes as India is stepping up its border surveillance amid continuing tension along its northern border as well as increasing incidents of arms being dropped across the border through drones

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Poonch (J&K), Nov 22: Around 300 terrorists are present in Jammu and Kashmir, while 160 others are waiting on the launch pads for an opportunity to sneak into this side from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan, a top army commander said Tuesday.

However, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi said the security situation in the Union territory has undergone a major change after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and terrorist activities have been controlled to a large extent.

"Around 300 terrorists are present in length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir but we are making sure they are not able to carry out any action," the army commander told reporters on the sidelines of platinum jubilee of historic 'Poonch Link-up Day' here.

The platinum jubilee of Poonch Link-Up Day, marking the 'Operation Easy' conducted by Indian Army in 1948 to defend the border district from the Pakistani raiders, was celebrated with traditional gaiety and fervour by the people of Poonch and the Army.

Asked about the number of terrorists present on the launch pads in Pakistan, Lt Gen Dwivedi said around 160 terrorists are present across the Line of Control - 130 in north of Pir Panchal (Kashmir valley) and 30 in south of Pir Panchal. "As per our data, 82 Pakistani terrorists and 53 local terrorists are active in the hinterland, while the area of the concern is the criminal activities of 170 others who



The people from outside, the neighbouring country, are adopting other means like smuggling pistols, grenades and drugs to carry out minor actions -- targeting innocent and unarmed persons who have come here to earn their livelihood and support the Kashmiris

UPENDRA DWIVEDI | LIEUTENANT GENERAL

are not identified," he said. Reacting to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent statement hinting at retrieving Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Lt Gen Dwivedi said a parliamentary resolution exists on the subject, therefore it is nothing new. "As far as the Indian Army is concerned, it will carry out any order given by the government of India. We are always ready for it," he said.

Addressing an infantry day function in Srinagar October 27, the Defence Minister had said people of PoK are subjected to human rights violations and Pakistan has to pay a price for it. He said the Indian government is committed to implementing the 1994 resolution

74 per cent voting in panchayat polls in 4 districts of Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 22: Seventy-four per cent of the voters cast their votes in the third and final phase of the panchayat polls in four districts of Haryana Tuesday, officials said.

Polling to elect members of the zila parishad and panchayat samitis began at 7 am and continued till 6 pm in Faridabad, Palwal, Hisar, and Fatehabad. Officials said the polling remained peaceful throughout.

The voter turnout was 74 per cent, according to data provided by poll officials at 10:30 pm. This was a provisional figure as data was still being compiled, they said. Fatehabad recorded the highest turnout of 77.6 per cent, followed by Palwal 73.7 per cent, Faridabad 72.6 and Hisar 72.4 per cent.

State Election Commissioner Dhanpat Singh said that polling was held peacefully in all the four districts and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere. Malfunctioning of EVMs was reported at isolated places, but the officials engaged in the election duty immediately replaced those machines and completed the polling in a fair and transparent manner, he said.

The polling staff, police personnel and other officials engaged in the polling performed their duties well, he added. The elections were held to elect 559 panchayat samiti members and 78 zila parishad members in 25 blocks of the four districts.



Govt may give additional funds for rural schemes

Coming out of the pandemic, the Asian country's rural areas were under stress, with rising prices and limited non-farm job opportunities forcing more people to sign up for the government's job scheme



REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Indian government will likely raise its allocation to the rural development ministry by 18% to 1.60 trillion Indian rupees (\$14.19 billion) for the current fiscal year, partly to bolster its job scheme, a top government source told Reuters.

India had allocated 1.36 trillion rupees for 2022/23 for various schemes in the hinterland, but the stress in rural areas has led to increased demand for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, or MNREGA, the country's only minimum job guarantee scheme, which pays \$2 to \$3 a day.

The additional funds will be used to bulk up job and affordable housing schemes in the fiscal year ending March 2023, said the official, who did not want to be named as the information is yet to be made public. India's finance and rural development ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comments.

The government had initially budgeted 730 billion rupees for the job scheme and 200 billion rupees for the housing scheme. It has already spent 632.6 billion rupees on the jobs programme, according to the rural development ministry's website.

Coming out of the pandemic, the Asian country's rural areas were under stress, with rising prices and limited non-farm job opportunities forcing more people to sign up for the government's job scheme.

The rural unemployment rate has remained above 7% for the majority of the months in the current fiscal year that started April 1, according to data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), a private think-tank.

The rural unemployment rate was 8.04% in October, according to CMIE.

The government is likely to seek approval for these additional funds in the next parliament session, which starts December 7 (\$1 = 81.7550 Indian rupees).

MEHRAULI KILLING

'I was provoked, I hit her', Aftab says in court



The court extended Poonawalla's police custody by four more days

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 22: Aftab Ameen Poonawalla, accused of murdering his live-in partner Shradha Walker, Tuesday told a metropolitan magistrate in Saket court that he was provoked because of which he hit her.

"I was provoked because of which I hit," said Poonawalla in Saket court where he was produced before a metropolitan magistrate through video conferencing as his police custody ends Tuesday, claimed his lawyer. The court extended his police custody by four

more days. During the hearing, the judge asked Aftab if he was mistreated during questioning or had any issues.

"Aftab told the court that he was cooperating but he can't recall everything at once and will inform as and when he does. He also told the judge that he was provoked because of which he hit," said his lawyer, Avinash Kumar.

"Police will probably take him for a site visit for evidence collection. The Narco test will be conducted soon. Aftab has requested to meet his family to which the court has granted permission," said Kumar. Saket court has granted permission to police for a polygraph test before Narco analysis.

Meanwhile, in Delhi High Court, the police told that the investigation into the murder of Shradha Walker by Aftab is 80 per cent complete.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) plea seeking a transfer of the probe in the Shradha murder case, by the Delhi Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation, was filed Monday but however, the plea was rejected by the court Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Poonawalla has not yet confessed to killing Shradha in the court of law, his lawyer said Tuesday.



LIFE IN HELL: Commuters move through smoke rising from burning of garbage near Shanti Stupa in New Delhi

Jain's masseur a 'rape accused'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The masseur who was seen in video footage giving a massage to jailed Delhi minister Satyendar Jain is not a physiotherapist, but an inmate who is lodged in the Tihar Jail in a rape case, sources said Tuesday.

Jain could be seen in the purported videos getting back and foot massages in his cell, reading some documents and talking to visitors while lying on a bed. Mineral water bottles and a remote are also seen. In one video,



he was seen getting a head massage while sitting on a chair.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had claimed that Jain was receiving physiotherapy following a spinal injury and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of doing "cheap" politics on health issues by

illegally leaking CCTV footage.

However, sources claimed that the man, who was seen giving Jain a massage in the videos, was a prisoner named Rinku.

"He is lodged in the prison in connection with a rape case and sections of the PoCo Act. Rinku is not a physiotherapist," the sources said.

AAP leader Gopal Rai alleged that the BJP was highlighting matters related to Sisodia and Jain and other sting operations since it does not have any election issues related to Municipal Corporation of Delhi election.

We'll have to be tough on Naxalism: Centre to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: "We will have to be tough on Naxalism," the Centre told the Supreme Court Monday during a hearing on a plea seeking an SIT investigation into an alleged massacre in a Chhattisgarh village in May 2013 which is already being probed by the CBI.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a bench of Justices MR Shah and M M Sundresh that there are organisations which send their fact-finding teams to the place of occurrence of Naxal incidents.

Such fact-finding teams come out with a pre-determined conclusion faulting the security forces and then petitions are filed in the courts, he said.



The bench was hearing a plea seeking the constitution of a special investigation team (SIT) comprising officers from outside Chhattisgarh to probe and prosecute the members of the combined forces for the alleged massacre in Bijapur district's Edesmeta village May 17, 2013, in which eight people were killed. The plea has also sought a direction to pay compensation to the victims and their families.

The bench was hearing a plea seeking the constitution of a special investigation team (SIT) comprising officers from outside Chhattisgarh to probe and prosecute the members of the alleged massacre in Bijapur district's Edesmeta village May 17, 2013, in which eight people were killed

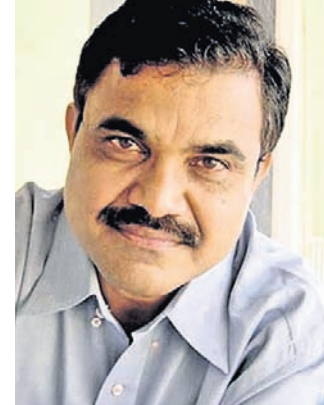
The plea has also sought a direction to pay compensation to the victims and their families

from the state of Chhattisgarh.

During the hearing Monday, Solicitor General Mehta said at the outset that the matter is serious and relates to a Naxal incident. "We will have to be tough on Naxalism," he told the bench.

He said the CBI probe into the incident shall be completed and a final status report will be submitted before the court by November 30. The bench has posted the matter for further hearing December 9. Advocate Sumeer Sodhi appeared for the state of Chhattisgarh.

In its May 2019 order, the SC had noted that an SIT was constituted by the state May 28, 2013 to probe the incident. The top court had said it was not satisfied with the progress made by the SIT from 2014 till date in its inquiry.



international



The resolution of Taiwan is a matter for Chinese people, no external force has the right to interfere
WEI FENGHE | DEFENCE MINISTER, CHINA

UN'S HIGHEST ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD TO INDIAN BIOLOGIST
Indian wildlife biologist Dr Purnima Devi Barman is among the honourees of this year's Champions of the Earth award, the UN's highest environmental honour, accorded for their transformative action to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation



of the day quote

The process (Army chief appointment) will complete in two to three days. The excitement will end, after which we will deal with Imran Khan
KHAWAJA ASIF | DEFENCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN

The new government needs to develop cordial and friendly relationships with both the neighbours, India and China and seek the support, assistance from all the friendly countries for attaining economic prosperity and development of the country
PRAKASH MAN SINGH | FORMER DY PM, NEPAL

I want to be clear here - with my Labour government, any movement in our point-based migration system, whether via the skilled occupation route or the shortage worker list, will come with new conditions for business
KEIR STARMER | OPPOSITION LEADER, UK

INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE



SHAKEN EARTH: An aerial view of an area affected by landslides following earthquake in Cianjur



GRIM SITUATION: Locals sheltered outside their houses after earthquake in Cianjur



DOWN TO RUBBLES: A view of a destroyed kindergarten which was affected by the earthquake in Cugenang

MANY KIDS KILLED; TOLL AT 268

Many of the dead were public school students who had finished their classes for the day and were taking extra lessons at Islamic schools when the buildings collapsed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cianjur, Nov 22: The death toll from the earthquake that shook the Indonesian island of Java leapt to 268 Tuesday as more bodies were found beneath collapsed buildings, and 151 people are still missing, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said.

Agency head Suharyanto, who like many Indonesians only goes by one name, told reporters that another 1,083 people were injured in the 5.6 magnitude earthquake that hit Monday afternoon near the city of Cianjur.

The tremor sent terrified residents fleeing into the streets, some covered in blood and debris, and caused buildings around the rural area to collapse.

One woman told The Associated Press that when the earthquake hit, her home in Cianjur started "shaking like it was dancing." "I was crying and immediately grabbed my husband and children," said the woman, who gave her name only as Partinem. The house collapsed shortly



Death toll from 5.6-magnitude earthquake expect to rise
Dozens trapped in the rubble; 151 still missing, 1,083 hurt

50mn rupiah to each resident whose house was damaged
Some areas cut off by landslide making evacuations tougher

after she escaped with her family. In addition to those killed, authorities reported more than 300 people were seriously hurt and at least 600 more suffered minor injuries.

In the village of Cijedil, northwest of Cianjur, the quake triggered a landslide that blocked streets and buried several houses, said Henri Alfandi, chief of the National Search and Rescue Agency

"We are maximizing operations at several points where it is suspected that there are still casualties. Our team is also trying to reach remote areas," he said. "For us, all victims are a priority, our goal is to find them and save lives by getting them evacuated as soon as possible and get medical help."

With hospitals already overwhelmed, patients lay on stretch-

ers and cots in tents set up outside, with intravenous drips in their arms as they awaited further treatment. Initial rescue attempts were hampered by damaged roads and bridges and power blackouts, and a lack of heavy equipment to help move the heavy concrete rubble. By Tuesday, power supplies and phone communications had begun to improve. Operations were focused on about a dozen locations in Cianjur, where people are still believed trapped, said Endra Atmawidjaja, the public works and housing spokesperson. "We are racing against time to rescue people," Atmawidjaja said, adding that

On behalf of myself and on behalf of the government, I would like to express my deep condolences to the victims and their families in this Cianjur earthquake
JOKO WIDODO | PRESIDENT, INDONESIA

seven excavators and 10 large trucks had been deployed from neighboring Bandung and Bogor cities to continue clearing trees and soil that blocked roads.

Cargo trucks carrying food, tents, blankets and other supplies from Jakarta were arriving early Tuesday in temporary shelters. Still, thousands spent the night in the open fearing aftershocks.

President Joko Widodo Tuesday visited Cianjur to reassure people of the government's response in reaching those in need. He pledged to rebuild infrastructure, including the main bridge connecting Cianjur to other cities, and to provide the government assistance up to 50 million rupiah (\$3,180) to each resident whose house was damaged.

The quake struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles). It also caused panic in the greater Jakarta area, about a three-hour drive away, where high-rises swayed.

The country of more than 270 million people is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the arc of the Pacific Basin known as the "Ring of Fire."

Iran starts enriching uranium to 60% purity at underground N-site in response to IAEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 22: Iran has started enriching uranium to 60% purity at its underground Fordow nuclear site, according to state media Tuesday, which described the action as a response to the UN nuclear watchdog's demand for more cooperation from Tehran.

Iran is already enriching uranium to up to 60% purity elsewhere, well below the roughly 90% needed for weapons-grade material but above the 20% it produced before a 2015 agreement with major powers to cap enrichment at 3.67%.

"In a letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran has informed the agency that it has started enriching uranium to 60% purity at Fordow site," the semi-official ISNA news agency reported, adding that it was a "strong response" to the agency's latest resolution.



The IAEA 35-nation Board of Governors Thursday passed a resolution ordering Iran to cooperate urgently with the agency's investigation into uranium traces found at three undeclared sites, diplomats at the closed-door vote said. Iran's SNN network said Tehran will also be building a new set of centrifuges at its Natanz and Fordow nuclear sites.

In June, Reuters reported that Tehran was escalating its uranium enrichment further by preparing to use advanced IR-6 centrifuges at the Fordow site, which can easily switch between enrichment levels.

The IAEA resolution is the second this year targeting Iran over the investigation, which has become an obstacle to talks on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal because Iran has demanded the probe be ended. Iran's foreign ministry Monday dismissed the resolution as "politically motivated".

SHORT TAKES

Malaysia king to choose PM soon

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's King Al-Sultan Abdullah said Tuesday that he will pick the next Prime Minister soon after the leading two contenders failed to win a majority in an inconclusive election Saturday. The vote resulted in an unprecedented hung parliament, with neither opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim nor former premier Muhyiddin Yassin winning the simple majority needed to form a government. The election prolongs political instability in the Southeast Asian nation, which has had three prime ministers in as many years, and risks delays to policy decisions needed to galvanise an economic recovery.

Russia warns Turkey over Syria attacks

Astana: Russia Tuesday said it hoped Turkey would exercise "restraint" and refrain from "any excessive use of force" in Syria, where Ankara has carried out air strikes and is threatening to launch a ground offensive against Kurdish fighters. "We hope to convince our Turkish colleagues to refrain from resorting to excessive use of force on Syrian territory" to "avoid the escalation of tensions", Alexander Lavrentyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy on Syria said. Turkey Sunday launched a series of air raids targeting bases of outlawed Kurdish militants across northern Syria and Iraq which killed at least 37 people.

2nd schoolgirl rape, murder in France

Paris: France was shocked by the rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl in the south of the country, just weeks after the brutal killing of a 12-year-old girl in Paris. Police Friday arrested a 31-year-old man suspected of raping and killing the girl, named Vanesa, after forcing her into his car as she left school in Tonneins, France that day. He left the body in an abandoned house and was quickly identified through security camera footage, authorities said.

Blaze claims 38 in central China

Beijing: A fire has killed 38 people and injured two at a company dealing in chemicals and other industrial goods in central China's Henan province. No word was given on the cause of the fire or how so many employees were killed, although China has a history of industrial accidents caused by lax regard to safety measures fuelled by rising competition and abetted by corruption among officials.

A woman or girl is killed every 11 mins: UN Chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Nov 22: Asserting that a woman or a girl is killed every 11 minutes by an intimate partner or a family member, UN chief Antonio Guterres has said that violence against them is the most pervasive "human rights violation" in the world and called on governments to implement national action plans that tackle this scourge.

Secretary General Guterres made these remarks ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women which is observed November 25. "Violence against women and girls is the most pervasive human rights violation in the world. Every 11 minutes, a woman or a girl is killed by an intimate partner or family member - and we know that other stresses, from the Covid-19 pandemic to economic turmoil, inevitably lead to even more physical and verbal abuse," Guterres said.

UN Secretary General Guterres' remarks come in the backdrop of the recent Shradha Walkar murder case that has shocked India with its brutal details.

The UN chief gave a clarion call



to all to "consign violence against women and girls to the history books," saying now is the time for transformative action that ends violence against women and girls.

Calling on governments to increase funding by 50 per cent to women's rights organisations and movements by 2026, Guterres urged all to take a "stand and raise our voices in support of women's rights" and proudly declare that "we are all feminists."

Noting that this year's theme on an international day is 'UNITE: Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls', Guterres said it means standing with activists around the world who are calling for change and supporting survivors of violence.

NORTH KOREA MISSILE TESTS US, allies clash with Russia, China

Presidential statements - a step below a legally binding council resolution - require agreement from all 15 council members, and the comments by Russia and China Monday indicated resistance to any condemnation of NK's action

ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Nations, Nov 22: The United States and its allies Monday strongly condemned North Korea's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test and called for action to limit its nuclear and missile programs, but Russia and China opposed any new pressure and sanctions on Pyongyang.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council that the Biden administration will be circulating a proposed presidential statement, which would condemn North Korea "for all its unlawful ballistic missile launches and other dangerous and destabilizing activity," as well as call for Pyongyang to abide by UN sanctions banning all ballistic missile and nuclear tests.

Russia's Deputy UN Ambassador Anna Evstigneeva said the reason for the "increasingly provocative and increasingly dangerous" situation today is clear: "Washington's desire to force Pyongyang into uni-



lateral disarmament by implementing sanctions and exerting force."

What the Security Council should do, she said, is "support inter-Korean dialogue and multilateral negotiations rather than becoming an impediment to them."

China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun called for efforts "to cool down the situation" restart dialogue "and try to meet each other halfway to prevent the situation from repeated escalation or even getting out of control."

He urged the US to take the initiative, "show sincerity" put forward realistic proposals, respond posi-

tively to North Korea's legitimate concerns, stop military exercises and ease sanctions.

The council should "promote the deescalation of the situation at an early date so as to leave room for diplomatic efforts rather than create obstacles for this," the Chinese envoy said.

After the meeting, US Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield read a statement on behalf of eight council members - Albania, France, Ireland, India, Norway, United Arab Emirates, the UK and US - as well as South Korea, Japan and four countries joining the council in January. It supported condem-

nation of the ICBM launch and action to limit North Korea's advancement of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles.

"We invite all member states to join us in condemning the DPRK's unlawful ballistic missile launches and call for full implementation of the existing Security Council resolutions," the statement said.

"We remain committed to diplomacy," it said, "and to that end, encourage the DPRK to halt its threatening behavior in violation of multiple Security Council resolutions, and to engage in meaningful dialogue toward denuclearization."

Thomas-Greenfield, in her speech to the council, said the November 17 launch was the DPRK's eighth ICBM test this year, "part of an unprecedented 63 ballistic missiles" fired so far this year, which is more than 2 1/2 times its previous record of 25. Yet, she said, this was the 10th meeting of the Security Council where no action was taken, and she blamed veto-wielding Russia and China.

Russia's most active volcano could erupt after 15 years

Six volcanoes in Russia's northeast are currently showing signs of increased activity, including Eurasia's highest active volcano Klyuchevskaya Sopka, which began erupting last Thursday

REUTERS

Moscow, Nov 22: The Shiveluch volcano in Russia's far eastern Kamchatka peninsula may be gearing up for its first powerful eruption in 15 years, scientists say.

Kamchatka is home to 29 active volcanoes, part of a vast belt of Earth known as the "Ring of Fire"

which circles the Pacific Ocean and is prone to eruptions and frequent earthquakes.

Most of the peninsula's volcanoes are surrounded by sparsely populated forest and tundra, so pose little risk to local people, but big eruptions can spew glass, rock and ash into the sky, threatening aircraft.

According to the United States



Geological Survey, these kinds of eruptions typically happen three

or four times a year in Kamchatka, requiring air traffic to be rerouted.

SHIVELUCH

Shiveluch is one of the largest and most active volcanoes in Kamchatka, having erupted at least 60 times in the past 10,000 years.

It has two main parts: Old Shiveluch, which tops 3,283 metres (10,771 ft), and Young Shiveluch - a smaller, 2,800-metre peak protruding from its side.

Young Shiveluch lies within an ancient caldera - a large crater-like basin that likely formed when the older part underwent a catastrophic eruption at least 10,000 years ago. It is this part that has become ex-

tremely active, the Kamchatka Volcanic Eruption Response Team said, warning that the volcano's lava dome continues to grow and that stronger "fumarole activity" has been observed. An eruption may pose a risk to international flights and has been marked with an "orange" threat level, KVERT said, meaning that it is more likely to erupt.

The volcano has been continuously erupting since August 1999, but occasionally undergoes powerful explosive events, including in 2007, when NASA said it ejected a large ash cloud 9,750 metres into the sky.

of the day quote

The asset base of non-banking financial companies has scaled past ₹54 lakh crore as of March 2022, constituting almost a quarter of the balance sheet of the commercial banking sector

BHAGWAT KRISHANRAO KARAD | UNION MINISTER

Coking coal is a matter of concern for the industry. We can look at investments and alternatives. You can find solutions for its alternatives. I would urge the industry to research with our IITs or the Indian Institute of Science. It is the need of the hour to become self-sufficient

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

We are proud to invest in the future of the Indian technology community and workforce, and we are committed to helping organizations across industries increase agility and drive innovation

PRASAD KALYANARAMAN | VP (INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES), AMAZON DATA SERVICES

SHORT TAKES

Mobile subscriber base drops in Sept

New Delhi: India's total mobile subscriber base fell by 3.6 million in September, with Vodafone Idea suffering subscriber count decline even as larger rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel added users month-on-month, according to telecom regulator's data. India's largest mobile operator Jio further cemented its position in the market, adding 7.2 lakh wireless subscriber during September, while Bharti Airtel increased its mobile users' tally by 4.12 lakh. Ailing Vodafone Idea faced subscriber count decline (by 40 lakh), its base shrank to 24.91 crore during September.

Vedanta declares third dividend

New Delhi: Mining giant Vedanta Monday announced the third interim dividend of ₹17.50 per equity share for the current financial year, amounting to ₹6,505 crore. The mining giant's gross debt stood at ₹58,597 crore as September 30. "The board of directors of the company through resolution passed by circulation Tuesday, November 22, 2022 have approved third interim dividend of ₹17.50 per equity share i.e. 1750 per cent on face value of Re 1 per share for the financial Year 2022-23 amounting to ₹6,505 crore," Vedanta said.

S&P betters Axis Bank outlook

New Delhi: S&P Global Ratings Tuesday upped its credit rating on Axis Bank with a stable outlook on expectations that the private sector lender will maintain good asset quality over the next two years. The US-based agency said India's robust economic growth should support borrowers' creditworthiness and Axis Bank's weak loans, or nonperforming loans, could decline to 2.5-3 per cent of total loans by end-March 2023, from 3.7 per cent as of March 31, 2022.

Kaynes shares rally 17.5% on mkt debut

New Delhi: Shares of Kaynes Technology India Tuesday ended with a gain of 17.5 per cent in its debut trade against the issue price of ₹587. The stock made its debut at ₹775, a jump of 32 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it rallied to ₹787, up 34 per cent from its issue price. Shares of the firm ended at ₹690.10 per piece, up 17.56 per cent.



We expect that India is going to be the fastest growing G-20 economy next year... (but) high inflation pose a downside risk to India's growth as households and businesses have less purchasing power

CHRISTIAN DE GUZMAN | SENIOR VP, MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

GOOGLE JOINS TECH LAYOFF SEASON

Alphabet, Google's parent company, is reportedly gearing up to lay off about 10,000 "poor performing" employees, or 6 per cent of its workforce, in the Big tech layoff season kicked off by Meta, Amazon, Twitter, Salesforce and more amid the rough global conditions



MAMMOTH MOMENT

Aus clears FTA with India

The free trade agreement with Australia was the third such agreement signed by Modi government, after the Mauritius and UAE trade pacts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Australian Parliament Tuesday approved the free trade agreement inked with India in April, paving the way for the rollout of the pact on a mutually agreed date -- a move which would help in almost doubling the two-way commerce to \$45-50 billion in about five years.

The pact is expected to come into force from January 2023. The agreement, which was signed April 2, would provide duty-free access to Indian exporters of over 6,000 broad sectors including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery in the Australian market.

Labour-intensive sectors which would gain immensely include textiles and apparel, few agricultural and fish products, leather, footwear, furniture, sports goods, jewellery, machinery, and electrical goods.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the



India's goods exports to Australia stood at \$8.3 billion and imports from the country aggregated to \$16.75 billion in 2021-22

Australia will open 100 per cent of their lines (products) with no restriction on even quota. This is the first time Australia has done for any country. We see job opportunities when Australian investment comes here

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

agreement is likely to push the bilateral trade to \$45-50 billion in the next five-six years from the present \$31 billion.

Soon after getting approval from the Executive Council of Australia and assent from the Indian President, both the countries will fix a date and implement the pact.

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) needed ratification by the Australian Parliament before its implementation. In India, such pacts are approved by the Union Cabinet. Goyal said there will be har-

- The move aims to double the bilateral trade to \$45-50bn in about five years
- The pact is expected to come into force from January 2023
- This is the first agreement with a developed country after a decade

UNDER THE PACT

Australia is offering zero-duty access to India for about 96.4 per cent of exports (by value) from day one. This covers many products that currently attract 4-5 per cent customs duty in Australia.

The Australian Parliament has also approved an amendment to the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), a move which would help the Indian IT sector in operating in that market. It would stop the taxation on the offshore income of Indian firms providing technical support in Australia. The move, as per estimates, may lead to savings of about \$200 million each year for over 100 Indian IT firms operating in Australia.

Also for the first time, India has got visas for Indian chefs and yoga instructors and also got a commitment that every child going to study in Australia will get an opportunity to work there depending on the level of education.

The pact will help farmers growing grapes for making wine to explore more business opportunities in Australia.

'High rates, inflation to slow world growth'

After decades of low prices and ultra-low interest rates, the consequences of chronically high inflation and interest rates are unpredictable

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 22: Hobbled by high interest rates, punishing inflation and Russia's war against Ukraine, the world economy is expected to eke out only modest growth this year and to expand even more tepidly in 2023.

That was the sobering forecast issued Tuesday by the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. In the OECD's estimation, the world economy will grow just 3.1 per cent this year, down sharply from a robust 5.9 per cent in 2021.

Next year, the OECD predicts, will be even worse: The international economy will expand only 2.2 per cent in 2023, it estimates.

The OECD, made up of 38 member countries, works to promote international trade and prosperity and issues periodic reports and analyses. In its latest forecast, the organization predicts that the Federal Reserve's aggressive drive to tame inflation with higher interest rates — it's raised its benchmark rate six times this year, in substantial increments — will grind the US economy to a near-halt. It expects the United States, the world's largest economy, to grow just 1.8 per cent



this year (down drastically from 5.9 per cent in 2021), 0.5 per cent in 2023 and 1 per cent in 2024.

The OECD's forecast for the 19 European countries that share the euro currency, which are enduring crippling energy shortages from Russia's war, is hardly brighter: The organisation expects the eurozone to collectively manage just 0.5 per cent growth next year before accelerating slightly to 1.4 per cent in 2024.

And it expects inflation to continue squeezing the continent: The OECD predicts that consumer prices, which rose just 2.6 per cent in 2021, will jump 8.3 per cent for all of 2022 and 6.8 per cent in 2023.

Whatever growth the international economy produces next year, the OECD says, will come largely from the emerging market countries of Asia: Together, it estimates, they will account for three-quarters of world growth next year while the US and European economies falter. India's economy, for instance, is expected to grow 6.6 per cent this year and 5.7 per cent next year.

Domestic air traffic up 10% in October

AIR TRAFFIC HAS BEEN PICKING UP IN RECENT MONTHS AFTER THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY WAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: Indian airlines carried 1.14 crore passengers in October, 10 per cent higher than the number of people flown in September.

Data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday showed that domestic air traffic jumped nearly 27 per cent to 114.07 lakh last month compared to the year-ago period when it was 89.85 lakh.

In September, the air traffic number stood at 103.55 lakh. The country's largest airline IndiGo's market share declined to

56.7 per cent in October compared to the previous month when it stood at 58 per cent.

The market share of Vistara also fell to 9.2 per cent last month from 9.6 per cent in September, as per the data.

Akasa Air, which started operations in August, had a market share of 1.4 per cent in October compared to 0.9 per cent in September.

In October, Air India's market share stood at 9.1 per cent while that of SpiceJet and Go First was at 7.3 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively.

AirAsia India's market share rose to 7.6 per cent in October and that of Alliance Air marginally increased to 1.3 per cent during the same period.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-October 2022 were 988.31 lakh as against 620.96 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 59.16 per cent and monthly growth of 26.95 per cent," DGCA said.



VOLUME, VALUE DECLINE

India clocks 129 deals in Oct

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 22: India clocked 129 deals valued at \$2.1 billion in the month of October, a 42 per cent fall in volumes and a significant 77 per cent decline in values as compared to October last year, a report showed Tuesday.

When compared to September, the deal volumes witnessed an 11 per cent decline while values decreased by 49 per cent due to the absence of big-ticket transactions, according to Grant Thornton Bharat's Dealtracker October 2022 report.

The M&A (merger and acquisition) space recorded 33 deals at \$692 million, witnessing a significant downturn both in terms of deal volumes by 47 per cent and deal values by 79 per cent.

The start-up sector led the volumes with 27 per cent of the deals driven by the enterprise application segment followed by autotech and edtech segments.

"In view of inflation, with on-



going improvement in domestic economic activity supported by private consumption growth and expected support from festive season demand, Indian domestic demand showed a relatively healthy growth trend," said Shanthi Vijetha, Partner, Growth at Grant Thornton Bharat. Owing to this, macroeconomic strength continues to manifest in the form of improving high-frequency consumption and industrial indicators.

"Considering this, we expect do-

mestic deal activity to continue, if not grow, in the coming months," Vijetha added.

Private equity investments recorded \$1,448 million across 96 deals. The PE investment trend witnessed a drop, both in terms of deal values and volumes, over October 2021, said the report.

The year to date (YTD) 2022 recorded 23 initial public offerings (IPO) with an issue size of \$8.8 billion, compared to 43 IPO issues raising \$23.5 billion in YTD 2021.

Central Bank holds mega credit camp

BIZ BUZZ

Sambalpur: Central Bank of India, Regional Office Sambalpur has organised C.A.R.S & mega credit camp November 21 at Sambalpur & November 22 at Khariar Road in the presence of Mukul N Dandige, General Manager & Chief Finance Officer, Central Office, Mumbai and Suresh Kumar Jha, Regional Head, Sambalpur region. In these campaigns, 540 customers including SHGs belonging to 19 districts of Odisha were benefitted with an amount of ₹84.17 crore. Also recovery from NPA accounts were conducted where 103 beneficiaries were benefitted through One Time Settlement. Apart from that Dandige addressed the gathering and informed various new initiatives in terms of bank products, services and technology taken up by the bank. Further Dandige assured that the new age technologies developed by the bank definitely enhance customer's experience. They have appreciated the efforts taken by the bank and Sambalpur region, which will not only uplift the livelihood of the people but also help in the growth & development of the region specially western & southern part of Odisha.



China anti-virus curbs spur fears of global economic impact

China is the world's biggest trader and the top market for its Asian neighbours. Weakness in consumer or factory demand can hurt global producers of oil and other raw materials, computer chips and other industrial components, food and consumer goods. Restrictions that hamper activity at Chinese ports can disrupt global trade

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Nov 22: More than 253,000 coronavirus cases have been found in China in the past three weeks and the daily average is rising, the government said Tuesday, adding to pressure on officials who are trying to reduce economic damage by easing controls that confine millions of people to their homes. The ruling Communist Party

promised earlier this month to reduce disruptions from its "zero-Covid" strategy by making controls more flexible. But the latest wave of outbreaks is challenging that, prompting major cities including Beijing to close off populous districts, shut stores and offices and ordered factories to isolate their workforces from outside contact. That has fuelled fears a downturn in Chinese business activity might



hurt already weak global trade. Global stock markets fell Monday as anxiety about China's controls added to unease about a Federal Reserve official's comment last week that already elevated US interest rates might have to rise further than expected to cool surging inflation. Shares were mixed Tuesday.

Economic growth rebounded to 3.9 per cent over a year earlier in the three months ending in September, up from the first half's 2.2 per cent. But activity already was starting to fall back. Retail spending shrank by 0.5 per cent from a year earlier in October, retreating from the previous month's 2.5 per

Investors are worried about falling demand as a result of a less mobile Chinese economy amid fears there will be more Covid-related lockdowns

FAWAD RAZAQZADA | STONEX

cent growth as cities re-imposed anti-virus controls.

Imports fell 0.3 per cent in a sign of anemic consumer demand, a reverse from September's 6.7 per cent rise. Chinese exports shrank by 0.7 per cent in October after American and European consumer demand was depressed by unusually large interest rate increases by the Fed and other central banks to cool inflation that is at multi-decade highs.

Businesspeople and economists see the changes in anti-virus con-

trols as a step toward lifting controls that isolate China from the rest of the world. But they say "zero Covid" might stay in place until as late as the second half of next year.

Entrepreneurs are pessimistic about the current quarter, according to a survey by Peking University researchers and a financial company, Ant Group Ltd. It said a "confidence index" based on responses from 20,180 business owners fell to its lowest level since early 2021.

"We do not think the country is ready yet to open up," said Louis Loo of Oxford Economics in a report. "We expect the Chinese authorities will continue to fine-tune Covid controls over the coming months, moving toward a broader and more comprehensive reopening later."

Saudi Arabia come from behind to script one of the biggest shocks in FIFA World Cup history as Messi's Argentina off to an embarrassing start leaving the 35-year-old's dream in jeopardy

ARGENTINA SHELL-SHOCKED



REUTERS

Lusail, Nov 22: Unheralded Saudi Arabia notched one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history Tuesday with a 2-1 win over Lionel Messi's Argentina thanks to a scintillating second half comeback.

On his fifth and final quest for the only major trophy to elude him, the 35-year-old Messi scored a 10th minute penalty in a dominant first half display where he and Lautaro Martinez also had three goals disallowed for offside.

But Saudi Arabia, the second-lowest ranked team in the tournament after Ghana, threw caution to the wind at the start of the second half, charging at Argentina's defence in front of a frenzied 88,012 crowd.

First, Saleh Al-Shehri squeezed in a low shot in the 48th minute. Then, to the disbelief of even the Saudi fans, Salem Al-Dawsari curled in a scorching strike from the edge of the penalty area in the 53rd minute to leave Argentina and Messi looking utterly shell-shocked in the Group C opener.

Despite plenty of possession after that, Argentina could not penetrate the Green Falcons, who were competing in their sixth World

Cup but had never previously won an opening game.

The entire game was played in an extraordinary atmosphere at the Lusail Stadium, with Argentina's traditionally massive and raucous following matched by the thousands of Saudis who had come over the border to cheer on their team.

"Our team fulfill our dreams!" and "Where is Messi? We beat him!", the green-clad Saudis chanted over and over in the Lusail Stadium, on their feet and greeting every clearance - including one headed off the goal line - with a deafening roar.

MESSI'S DREAM IN DOUBT

Both teams have Mexico and Poland to come, with Argentina needing an immediate reaction if Messi is to have a realistic chance of matching Diego Maradona's immortality in his homeland by bringing home the World Cup.

The result revived old question marks over Argentina's defence and broke their amazing 36-match undefeated run. That stopped them from matching the previous international record of 37 games unbeaten held by Italy.

It also marred Messi's achievement on Tuesday of becoming the first Argentinian to score in four World

Cups on his 20th appearance in the tournament. Only Maradona has played more games for Argentina at the World Cup, 21 in all.

"This hurts a lot. We were dreaming of starting the World Cup with a win," said Messi's strike partner Martinez. "But it's happened and now we have to train and think forward. We lost this game because of our own mistakes, most of all in the second half. There are details that make a difference and we need to correct our mistakes."

It had all looked so different at the start when the marauding Messi nearly scored in the opening seconds, celebrated joyfully after sending Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed Al-Owais the wrong way with his penalty, then had another goal disallowed.

For the Saudis, the result buried their dismal history at the start of tournaments, including a 5-0 thrashing by hosts Russia in 2018 and an 8-0 pummeling by Germany in 2002.

Their feat against the twice World Cup-winners and current South American champions was all the more remarkable given the departure of their influential cap-

tain and midfielder Salman Al Faraj just after halftime, clutching a hamstring.

Argentina's last defeat by Brazil in the semi-finals of the Copa America in July 2019. They are ranked third, 48 places above Saudi Arabia, by world football's governing body FIFA.

Argentina's last defeat in their opening match at a World Cup was against Cameroon in 1990. In potentially a good omen for Messi and his team mates, they still made it to the final then.

The Saudis could hardly contain themselves after their giant-killing act, falling to the floor in prayers and tears before running to celebrate with their fans as the Argentinians trudged off downcast, their supporters shaking heads in silence.

THIRD T20I AGAINST KIWIS ENDS IN A TIE VIA DLS METHOD

Rain gifts India series victory



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Napier, Nov 22: Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj stopped New Zealand in its tracks with game-changing spells before India won the rain-marred third and final T20 via Duckworth-Lewis (DLS) method to claim the three-match series 1-0, here Tuesday.

Arshdeep (4/37) and Siraj (4/17) fired in tandem and shared eight wickets between them as India bowled New Zealand out for 160 in 19.4 overs after the hosts elected to bat. New Zealand were going strong at 130/2 in the 16th over but Arshdeep and Siraj led India's remarkable comeback.

The hosts lost eight wickets for just 30 runs after Devon Conway (59, 49b, 5x4, 2x6) and Glenn Phillips (54, 33b, 5x4, 3x6) had propped up their innings.

In reply, India were precariously placed at 75/4 when rain stopped play. It was a DLS par-score at that time. The game never resumed and ended in a tie.

Rishabh Pant (11) after a couple of intent-filled boundaries played a lousy shot to get dismissed and Suryakumar Yadav (13) had a rare low score. Skipper Pandya, who didn't bowl a single delivery in the series due to stiff neck, had scored a nice little 30 off 18 balls when heavens opened up.

India, after 2020, have once again won a T20 series in New Zealand. However the last time, it was a comprehensive 5-0 win during the summer season and this time around, there was little context post T20 World Cup.

The sole point of interest was to check how India's probable long term T20 captain Pandya and a



new-look team fared. But with opening match completely washed out and final game also suffering due to inclement weather, there

was little to take home apart from Surya's glorious series-winning hundred in Tauranga and Siraj emerging as potent T20 option in favourable conditions.

After New Zealand opted to bat, India got their first breakthrough when Arshdeep had Finn Allen trapped in front of the wicket with a full delivery that swung in from around middle.

The fourth over, bowled by Arshdeep, yielded 19 runs and it seemed New Zealand were on their way. Bhuvneshwar Kumar conceded 14 runs in the next over as the Kiwis looked to end the powerplay, their weak area in recent times, on a strong note.

However, a bowling change put paid to all such hopes as Siraj dismissed Mark Chapman for a run-a-ball 12. After conceding 33 runs in two overs, the Indian bowlers fought back strongly to concede only 17 runs in the next four: New Zealand reached 74/2 at the halfway stage of their innings.

In a subdued start, the big-hitting Phillips found a couple of boundaries before hitting Chahal for a four and a huge six off successive balls to help his team go past 100 in the 13th over.

However, Phillips got a top-edge against Siraj and Bhuvneshwar took the catch in the deep in what was a massive breakthrough for the tourists. Phillips' dismissal triggered a collapse as the hosts lost their remaining wickets for very little.

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 160 (Devon Conway 59, Glenn Phillips 54; Mohammed Siraj 4/17, Arshdeep Singh 4/37) vs India 75/4 in 9 overs (Hardik Pandya 30 n o; Tim Southee 2/27). Match tied via DLS method.

Brazil ready with 10 jigs at FIFA World Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Nov 22: Brazilian players are hoping to do a lot of dancing at the World Cup in Qatar. The five-time World Champions are feeling jubilant ahead of their debut against Serbia Thursday, so much that the dance celebrations are all prepared and rehearsed.

Not one, not two, not three — but all 10 of them. "To tell you the truth, we already have dances prepared for up to the 10th goal," Brazil forward Raphinha said Monday. "We have some 10 dances prepared for each match, one for the first, one for the second, one for the third. If we score more than 10, then we'll have to start innovating."

Brazil brought an offensive-minded squad to Qatar, with Raphinha among the nine forwards picked by coach Tite to try to give Brazil its first World Cup title in two decades.

Another is Vinicius Junior, who earlier this season was thrown into a controversy over his dances after his goals with Real Madrid. He and teammate Rodrigo kept dancing despite the criticism in Spain, though, and had promised more of the same when they got to the national team at the World Cup. Raphinha and Neymar were among those who publicly showed

their support to Vinicius Junior at the time. The other forwards picked by Tite were Pedro, Antony, Gabriel Jesus and Gabriel Martinelli.

Richardson, Raphinha and Neymar are set to start on Thursday against Serbia, but there was still doubt about how Tite would set up his attack for the opener. The coach could use either midfielder Lucas Paqueta in a more attacking position, or Vinicius Junior up front.

"With Vinicius we gain more speed on the attack, while with Paqueta we have more control near the midfield," Raphinha said. "But Brazil has a characteristic of always being offensive-minded, no matter who gets to play."

Brazil's other Group G matches are against Switzerland and Cameroon. Brazil is trying to win its first World Cup title since 2002, when a Ronaldo-led squad defeated Germany in the final.

DEFENDING NEYMAR

Richardson came out defending Neymar after the Paris Saint-Germain star was criticized for posting a photo with a sixth star on his shorts on the flight to Qatar, referring to a possible sixth World Cup title for the Brazilians. "We are dreamers, we are going after this sixth star no matter what people are going to say," Richardson said.

Head, Warner tons sink England

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Nov 22: Travis Head (152, 130b, 16x4, 4x6) and David Warner (106, 122b, 8x4, 2x6) led Australia to a 201-run rain-affected victory over England to secure a 3-0 win in the one-day international series that ended Tuesday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Australia's opening pair scored 269 runs in front of just 10,406 spectators at the MCG. Warner and Head's centuries helped Australia post 355/5 — the highest ODI total at the MCG — after England captain Jos Buttler won the toss and elected to field. This was Head's third ODI century and highest score in the format.

Two rain delays during Australia's innings reduced the game to 48 overs per side, with England's target lifted to 364. England was all out for 142 in the 32nd over as opener Jason Roy top-scored with 38.

Fast bowler Olly Stone, who was playing in just his sixth ODI, led England's bowlers with figures of 4/85. Australian legspinner Adam Zampa had 4/31 to finish the series with 11 wickets.

"Good to finish them off here with just about the best ODI I've been part of," Australia captain Pat Cummins



TRAVIS HEAD



DAVID WARNER

said. Buttler said his side "fell a long way short. I thought Australia outplayed us in every department."

Australia won the first match in Adelaide by six wickets and the second at the Sydney Cricket Ground by 72 runs to clinch the

series ahead of the final match.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 355/5 (Travis Head 152, David Warner 106; Olly Stone 4/85) beat England 142 (Jason Roy 38; Adam Zampa 4/31, Pat Cummins 2/25) by 221 runs via DLS method.

Odisha State Roller Skating Championship concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 22: The 13th Odisha State Roller Skating Championship, organised by the Cuttack District Roller Skating Association (CDRSA), under the aegis of Odisha Roller Skating Association (ORSA) and Roller Skating Federation of India, was successfully concluded Sunday at the Decathlon Skating Ground in Phulnakhara.

In this edition, 181 aspirant skaters from various districts participated in the event. Khurda district bagged maximum accolades with 59 medals and became district champions, followed by Cuttack district with 28 medals and Bhubaneswar with 11 medals.

LIST OF WINNERS

U-5 Boys INLINE: Aryan Patro, Geetesh & Jagat Priya Sahoo; U-5 Girls INLINE: Ananya Bhartiya, Sonira Patnaik & Siddhi Sayasha; 5-7 Yrs Boys INLINE: Vivan Sharma, Aayan Sasmal, Saisresh Behera & Sreyansh Mishra; 5-7 Yrs Girls INLINE: Adya Aradhya Sarangi, Purvi Nayak, Arya Aishwarya Sarangi & Ishana Agarwal; 5-7 Yrs Boys QUAD: Lavayansh Sahoo & Sitanshu Sahoo; 5-7 Yrs Girls QUAD: Rehanshi Acharya; 7-9 Yrs Boys INLINE:

Pratyanshu Patnaik, Adheev Chanduka, Shriyanshu Patra & Pravat Ranjan Bisoi; 7-9 Yrs Girls INLINE: Rakshita Bhartiya, Advika Nalini Routray & Aareen Mangaraj; 7-9 Yrs Boys QUAD: Suryanshu Mohapatra, Ayansh Samal & Sai Abhijit Pati; 9-11 Yrs Boys INLINE: Saatvik Raysamanta, Devbrat Nayak & Sriyansh Shreyashi; 9-11 Yrs Girls INLINE: Ashlesha Panda, Bagmi Pradhan, Ichini Dibyanjali & Bhabya Ishani Rout; 9-11 Yrs Boys QUAD: Arya Ayushkanta Sathua, Amlan Jyoti Khilar & Subhankar Behera; 9-11 Yrs Girls Quad: Arshi Prerna Kanungo; 11-14 Yrs Boys INLINE: Sai Shreyansh Rout, Kirat Kumar Nayak & Ansuman Patra; 11-14 Yrs Girls INLINE: Kamal Krishna, Aishwariya Patra & Tanushree Sahoo; 11-14 Yrs Boys QUAD: Pratik Arnav Jena, Surya Pratyush Nayak & Aditya Sharma; 14-17 Yrs Boys INLINE: Arman Subudhi, Swastik Sukumar Praharaj, Sidharth Dalai & Kaustav Pattnaik; 14-17 Yrs Girls INLINE: Aaradhya Manjari Devi, Pallavi Sahoo & Subhalaxmi Behera; 14-17 Yrs Boys QUAD: Preet Pritam Jena; 14-17 Yrs Girls Quad: Tanushree Choudhary; 17-plus Girls INLINE: Srija Shree; 17-plus Girls Quad: Krupa Doshi.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Nov 22: Riding on wins from Vidit Gujrathi and SL Narayanan, India defeated USA 3-1 in a fifth round Pool B match to qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIDE World Team Chess Championship (WTCC) here Tuesday. It was India's second win in the tournament and they will now take on France in the quarterfinals Wednesday.

Gujrathi and Narayanan scored wins against Hans Niemann and Varuzhan Akobian respectively to set up the victory. Gujrathi downed the highly-rated Niemann in 37 moves, while Narayanan did so

against Akobian in 38.

Nihal Sarin and SP Sethuraman drew their games against Alexander Onischuk and Yunesky Quesada Perez respectively. The other quarterfinal match-ups are: China vs Poland, Spain vs Azerbaijan and Ukraine vs Uzbekistan.

Earlier in the third and fourth rounds, the Indian team had mixed fortunes. While they scored a win over Azerbaijan in the third round, Uzbekistan got the better of the Indians in the next round.

Gujrathi, playing on the top board, beat higher ranked Shakhriyar Mamedyarov to star in a 2.5-1.5 win over Azerbaijan (2662) late Monday.

Games on the other three boards were drawn. Sarin drew higher rated Teimour Radjabov, while SL Narayanan and K Sasikiran too shared honours with Gadir Guseinov and Rauf Mamedov respectively.

However, the team came a cropper against the fancied Uzbekistan in the fourth round with only Narayanan managing a draw against Shamsiddin Vokhidov in a 0.5-3.5 loss.

Gujrathi was beaten by lower ranked Nodirbek Yakubov, while Javokhir Sindarov beat the higher rated Sarin. Jakhongir Vakhidov completed the route by beating Abhijeet Gupta in 51 moves.



VIDIT GUJRATHI



SL NARAYANAN