

SHORT TAKES

Ex-min Golak Naik passes away at 64

Baripada: Former Minister Golak Bihari Naik died at a private nursing home here Wednesday. He was 64. Naik is survived by his wife Subasini Naik, two daughters and a son. Naik was a minister in the Naveen Patnaik led BJD-BJP government from 2000 to 2004. The CM, Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Biswaswar Tudu condoled his death.

Deafening sound rocks 3 districts

Bhubaneswar: A sudden unexplained loud sound Wednesday flummoxed the people in Jajpur, Bhadrak and parts of Keonjhar district, and created fear among them. However, the state government and the police are clueless about the sound, which was akin to a huge explosion. "We've no input on the sound that frightened people in three districts," a senior police official said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



There is no story here. The couple belongs to the same religion

SC: Need a CEC who can act against PM

■ The CEC is supposed to be insulated from political influence, says the SC and asks the Centre to show the mechanism for appointment of Arun Goel as an EC



KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Committees say dire need for changes; and politicians shout from rooftop but nothing happens
- CEC is appointed from amongst the ECs, but then there is no basis, and why is the Centre only confined to civil servants, says the apex court

"We need a CEC who can even take action against a PM."

The bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Supreme Court Wednesday orally observed that the need is for a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) who can even take action against the Prime Minister and also asked the Centre to show the mechanism adopted in the appointment of an Election Commissioner (EC) last week.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph said:

Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, said suppose for example, there is some allegation against the Prime Minister and the CEC has to act, but the latter is weak-kneed and does not act.

The bench queried the Centre's counsel that was it not a complete breakdown of the system! The CEC is supposed to be insulated from political influence and should be independent.

It further added that these are aspects on which "you (the Centre's counsel) must delve into, and why we require an independent larger body for selection and not just Cabinet".

The bench orally observed that committees say dire need for changes; and politicians also shout from rooftop but nothing happens. **Continued on P4**

Archana, farmer issues to set House on the boil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Opposition BJP and Congress have lined up several issues including Archana Nag honeytrap case to corner the ruling BJD during the Winter Session of Assembly beginning Thursday.

While BJP and Congress have devised their strategies for the session, ruling BJD will hold its legislative party meeting Thursday morning. Speaking to reporters, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said his party will raise the Archana Nag case as many leaders along with IAS and IPS officers are allegedly involved in the case.

The BJP also planned to raise farmers' issues, mandi mismanagement, law and order situation, bonded labour issues, and contractual employment to attack the state government during the session. The BJP would oppose the decision of allowing the members to attend the House proceedings through



Security scan on Assembly premises

videoconferencing, Majhi said.

Similarly, the Congress party has also decided to raise the lady blackmailer case, which Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating into. "The ED will expose the ministers, BJD and BJP leaders involved in the case. We will raise this issue in the House," said Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja. He also said that Congress members would also raise the delay in disbursement of crop insurance to the drought-hit farmers of the state. **Continued on P4**

80 injured, 8 critical in cracker explosion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 23: At least 80 persons sustained injuries in firecracker explosion at Balia Bazar under Sadar police limits in the district here

Wednesday evening. Condition of eight persons is stated to be critical.

The mishap took place during a firecracker bursting competition between two processions for Kartikeswar immersion. Over 10,000 people had thronged the processions. Two people were bursting crackers when a burning cracker fell on a pile of firecrackers that led to a massive explosion. Among the critically injured are three children and two women.

Critically burnt people were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

Four girls sexually abuse Punjab man

Chandigarh: Four girls, all in their early 20s, in Punjab's Jalandhar city allegedly abducted a man, who works as a labourer in a leather factory, on the pretext of asking for an address and sexually abused him. However, no police complaint has been lodged. The victim claimed the girls made him unconscious and abducted him when he was showing them the address. He said he was abducted in a white car after some chemical was sprayed in his eyes. Later, he was dumped at a secluded spot late in the night. The man narrated the sequence of the crime with the local media. A probe is in progress.

Bizarre creatures found deep in Indian Ocean

SOME OF THE MOST FASCINATING FINDS INCLUDE A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN BLIND EEL COVERED IN LOOSE, TRANSPARENT & GELATINOUS SKIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Pancake sea urchins, eels with no eyes, and bat-like fish are among some 'stunning' creatures found living in the depths of the Indian Ocean, scientists say.

The expedition led by a team at Museums Victoria Research Institute mapped the seafloor in Australia's Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park in detail for the first time, a statement by the institute said.

They revealed massive flat-topped ancient sea-mountains, flanked by volcanic cones, snarly ridges, and canyons formed from avalanches of sand that have slumped down onto the abyssal ocean floor.

The research vessel (RV) Investigator, operated by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, also surveyed previously unknown deep-sea life in the Indian Ocean Territories.

The underwater video from the expedition has revealed diverse



fish life hovering over the summits of the seamounts, samples of

which have been collected from as deep as 5 km below the surface.

Some of the most fascinating finds are: A previously unknown blind eel covered in loose, transparent, gelatinous skin. Their eyes are poorly developed and, unusually for a fish, females give birth to live young, the researchers said.

Another interesting creature found is a deep-sea batfish that ambles over the seafloor on their arm-like fins. They have a tiny "fishing lure" in a small hollow on their snout to attract prey, the team said. **Continued on P4**

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE : THE POWER OF YOUTH



STUDENT SPEAKERS



Anshuman Sahoo
Utkal University



Ashutosh Arun Mallick
SCB Medical College



Sanath Kumar Swain
Xavier Institute of Management



Subhraneel Chattopadhyay
KIIT University



Swetalina Mohanty
BJB Autonomous College



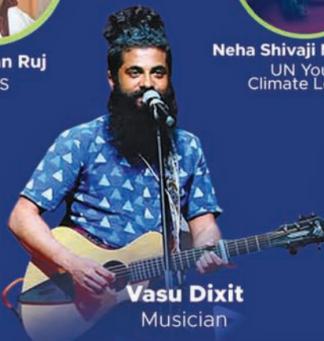
Debanjan Ruj
AIIMS



Aparajita Das
Rama Devi Women's University



Mohammad Fahim Faisal
Ravenshaw University



Vasu Dixit
Musician

EXPERT PANELISTS



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



Neha Shivaji Naikwade
UN Youth Climate Leader



Ayadi Mishra
Climate Activist



Sujit Mahapatra
Founder Bakul Foundation



Varsha Raikwar
Environmentalist & Rj



Sagar Pradhan
Author



Prakash Mardaraj
Wildlife Biologist, Author



Surya Narayan Mishra
Asst Professor KJ Somaiya Institute of Management Studies

LIVE STREAM ON
 Dharitrilive Dharitrinews
24TH NOVEMBER 10:30 AM ONWARDS
BHUBANESWAR

OMG DISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES Mining Happiness | ODISHA INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET | JINDAL PANTHER THE REBARS | vedanta transforming for good | नालको NALCO | AM/NS INDIA | JSW Better Everyday | EVOS | KT GLOBAL SCHOOL TRANSFORMING MINDS | MCL | PRI-HOME Plan Smarter, Build Better... | Paradeep Phosphates Limited | NABARD | imfabo | JSL JINDAL STAINLESS | ADITYA BIRLA UTKAL ALUMINA | unicef for every child | YOUTH4WATER | WATER INITIATIVES | Bakul Foundation | OES | ODISHA LOCAL | Xpose ADVERTISING | MEDIA PARTNER OrissaPOST | OUTDOOR PARTNER Ajanta ADVERTISERS Leading Out-Of-Home Media Owners



MARGOT ROBBIE DIDN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Actress Margot Robbie has revealed why she acted in *Bombshell*, the 2019 drama about the women who worked together to expose Fox News CEO Roger Ailes for his sexual misconduct. She didn't know the definition of sexual harassment and took the role to help her understand it, says Robbie.

KIDMAN TO BE HONoured WITH AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The American Film Institute (AFI) will honour Hollywood star Nicole Kidman with its 49th Lifetime Achievement Award, the organisation has announced. Kidman, 55, is the first Australian actor to receive this award, the highest honour for a career in film, celebrating her career achievements thus far.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181

ARIES

You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or other paranormal things. However, Ganesh warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

TAURUS

You are likely to get extra passionate and fervent today, predicts Ganesh. If your logic prevails over your heart, things will probably change for better during the course of the day. It is high time that you set into motion the poignant side of your character, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI

Your sensitive and emotional nature will prove to be a problem for you. Hence you need to control your emotions. Tread carefully when it comes to personal relationships. You need to wait for a better time before you think of proposing to that special someone, says Ganesh.

CANCER

New positive turn in life of lovers. It may lead to marriage. You will play role in bonding all members of the joint family and will meet with success. you will respect tradition and custom. Adopt a careful approach, counsels Ganesh.

LEO

You will be extremely serious about your work today and will work diligently to finish your tasks. You will be focused and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning. Traders can expect good financial gains today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Your ambitions and desire to undertake more work will be very prominent today. After working hard all day, try to get yourself some recreation and relaxation, perhaps at a private party, a social gathering or maybe even at a marriage reception, says Ganesh.

LIBRA

You will be drawn towards those of the opposite sex today says Ganesh. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon, and this will lead to a lot of interesting discussions. You will want to expand upon your knowledge of the world today and will be successful in your efforts.

SCORPIO

Expressing your feelings becomes important at some point of time. Today, you are in a mood to express emotions for your near and dear ones. And why not? After all, they need to be appreciated. Though your heart is full of emotions today, do not express in a way that you become vulnerable in eyes of general public.

SAGITTARIUS

Your business is likely to grow with leaps and bounds, foresees Ganesh. Increase in financial returns will keep you happy for the entire day. Work in progress gives out positive signals. Your expert advice will be valued at work. In short, a day full of activities.

CAPRICORN

The day calls for making amends and undoing the damage done to relationships, so you will most likely focus on improving rapport with relatives and peers, says Ganesh. But despite your affable approach, family feud may occur. Keeping obnoxious neighbours at bay will save you some trouble.

AQUARIUS

Be it about solving financial issues or concerns about income, money matters will keep your mind occupied through out the day. You will have a gala time with your friends later on the day, predicts Ganesh. Not that you don't value your friends, but today, you will realise how important you are for one another.

PISCES

You are fond of traveling and are always looking for an excuse to set off. Hence it comes as no surprise if you pack your bags and decide to embark upon a journey on a whim today. It is a much needed break too, from the daily stresses of earning a livelihood. While you are seeking solitude, you will take your friends and relatives along with you on the trip, says Ganesh.

Anupam Kher to star in Odia film *Pratikshya's* Hindi adaptation

The announcement was made during an event of International Film Festival of India, where the 'Uunchai' actor confirmed also to produce the project

PANAJI: Actor Anupam Kher Wednesday announced the remake of Odia film *Pratikshya* in Hindi, which highlights the dynamics of a father-son relationship.

Anupam Patnaik, the director of *Pratikshya*, has said that this moment is big for them and bigger for the people of Odisha.

The announcement was made during the programme of International Film Festival of India (IFFI), where Anupam Kher shared the dais with the team of the Odia film.

Anupam Kher announced that he will



Actor Anupam Kher (Third from R) along with *Pratikshya's* lead actor Dipanwit Dashmohapatra (First from L) and director Anupam Patnaik (next to him) at a press meet on the side line of International Film Festival of India -2022 in Panaji, Wednesday

make *Pratikshya* in Hindi, where he will be playing the role of the father. He gave Patnaik a token signing amount for the

rights of the film. Inspired by a short story by writer Gourahari Das, it is the journey of Sanjay,

a boy from a middle class family who is on the lookout for a government job, a few months before his father retires. His father,

Bipin, is insistent that he finds a job as the family has debts, and Bipin is also diagnosed with a terminal illness. Sanjay learns about the Government's scheme of compassionate appointment where a family member gets the job of the deceased government employee. A frustrated Sanjay waits for his father's death.

Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, who plays Sanjay, spoke about the honour of having their film screened at IFFI and said that this is a big moment for him as it is his first film as a lead actor.

Anupam Patnaik, the director, spoke of the Odia film industry, and said that before the 1999 cyclone, there were 160 theatres in Odisha, after the cyclone there were 100, and after Covid, only 60 remained. "How can an industry function in 60 theatres," he questioned. PNN/AGENCIES



Nawazuddin: Difficult times make you strong

PANAJI: While recalling the journey of becoming actor, Nawazuddin Siddiqui said that initially, he accepted small roles for survival as he had no other alternative.

He was speaking on the topic - 'Journey as an Actor' in International Film Festival of India, underway in Goa.

"I was offered small roles which I accepted for survival then. I had no other alternative. But I never got disappointed. It is the difficult time that makes you strong," he said.

He said "If you have to begin from zero, you have to first unlearn what you have learnt."

Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who has appeared in some of major Hindi films such as *Black Friday*, *New York*, *Peepli Live*, *Kahani*, and *Gangs of Wasseypur*, spoke about struggles and challenges.

Nawazuddin said that after graduating from a college, he worked as a chemist in a petrochemical company for a short while. However, to fulfil the dream of becoming an actor, he got associated with theatre.

Eventually, he got admitted to the National School of Drama in Delhi.

"Acting is my hobby and I don't get tired of it. Acting is my everything, it's my life. Even one life is not enough to satiate my thirst for acting," he said, adding it motivates him.

I can be impulsive like *Brahmastra's* Isha: Alia

MUMBAI: New mom Alia Bhatt is the talk of Tinsel Town these days, reeling in the

glory of both personal and professional success. The 29-year-old, who welcomed her first born, a baby girl, with husband Ranbir Kapoor November 6 has been busy tending to her new born.

Alia, who tasted roaring success with *Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva* early this year, recently opened up on her character Isha in the movie. In an interview the *Raazi* actor said that just like Isha, she too can be impulsive and drawn to adventure and new experiences. Adding that in terms of a soul and inherent pureness, Isha is the youngest character that she has played on screen, who is so full of love and empathy.

Adding that she however, is also different from Isha because she is now way more cautious about what she says or does, Alia said that sometimes it is okay to go with the flow and surrender yourself to what feels right at that point.

On the work front, Alia Bhatt is gearing up for Karan Johar's *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani* with Ranveer Singh. She will also be seen in *Heart of Stone*, with Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan. The Netflix spy film will mark her Hollywood debut.

Manushi's idea of beauty

MUMBAI: Manushi Chhillar recently opened up about her idea of beauty and how the definition of beauty has evolved over the years.

In an interview with a news portal, Manushi said that for her, the idea of beauty has been ever-evolving. However, looking back at the past 25 years, the actress feels the common quality in every individual that she found beautiful was that they were extremely confident about themselves—and that's what beauty means to her.

Manushi also revealed that she has always admired people who are unapologetically themselves.

Spilling some beans on what women can do to feel more confident; Manushi said that it comes from self-care. "It is important to spend time with yourself to reach a mental space where you are happy and content with who you are. Everyone should focus on accepting themselves because that's what leads to inner confidence," Manushi said.

Manushi, who won the crown of Miss World in 2017, made her big Hindi film debut with *Samrat Prithviraj*. The film received mixed reviews from the audience and the critics alike.

Recently she was all over the news for her rumoured relationship with businessman Nikhil Kamath. The actress has, however, neither accepted nor denied the reports. AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

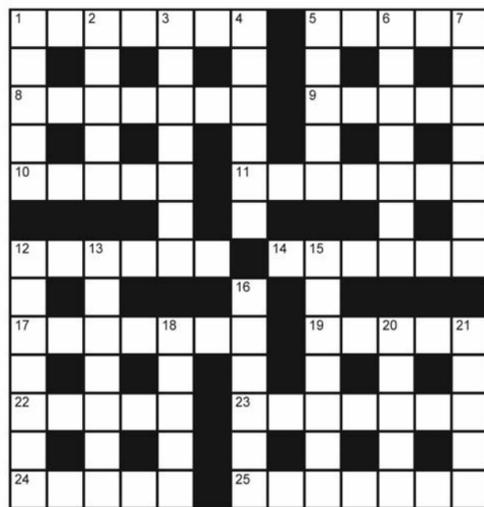


BREVITY



FUN post

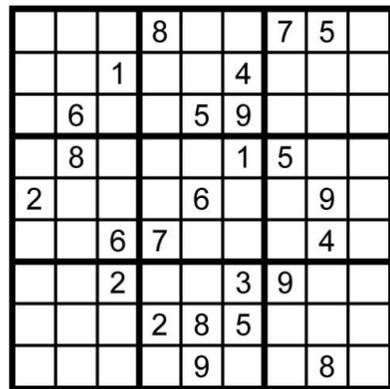
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Hand tool
 - 5 Contends
 - 8 Greyhound relative
 - 9 Large trunk artery
 - 10 One of low intelligence
 - 11 Zeal
 - 12 Refrain
 - 14 Bone material
 - 17 Staying power
 - 19 Chores
 - 22 Foolish
 - 23 Sparkler
 - 24 Artist's tripod
 - 25 Extensive landed properties
 - 5 Chaise longue
 - 6 Sitting room
 - 7 Songbird
 - 12 Look down on with disdain
 - 13 Certain beetles
 - 15 Beguile
 - 16 Canoe necessity
- Down**
- 1 Scattered seed
 - 2 Extraterrestrial
 - 3 Shavers
 - 4 Validate
 - 18 Utopian
 - 20 Guinness, for one
 - 21 Aspects

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

CM announces spl package for kendu leaf pluckers

The Chief Minister demands complete withdrawal of GST on collection of the leaf



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced a special package for the welfare of kendu pluckers and other employees and demanded complete withdrawal of GST on the collection of the leaf.

The package was announced a day after the ruling BJD criticised the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre over imposition of 18 per cent GST on kendu leaf trade.

Patnaik said the special package will benefit around eight lakh kendu pluckers, binders and other seasonal staff associated with the kendu leaf trade.

The Chief Minister said that the Centre has imposed 18 per cent GST on kendu leaf business. "I had earlier requested the central government to remove it and I am again raising my demand to completely abolish GST from the business."

The package, he said, was announced after three rounds of discussion in the past week over various problems faced by the kendu leaf pluckers.

Kendu leaf is used to wrap bids and is one of the most important non-wood forest products in the state. It is called the green gold of Odisha.

According to the special package, Rs 1,000 will be given to each kendu leaf plucker and Rs 1,500 to each seasonal staff and binder in the first phase. All kendu leaf pluckers and employees will be covered under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), an official release issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

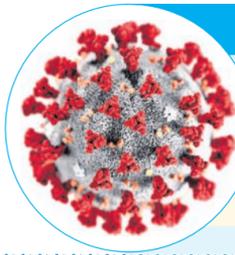
The package also had provision for stipends for the offsprings of kendu leaf pluckers and other employees. Besides, meritorious students will be awarded at the district level.

The gratuity payment for kendu pluckers of a circle and leaf binders has been revised from seven days to 15 days. All pluckers



DISPELLING DARKNESS

A member of Happy Living Foundation lights earthen lamps in front of Ram Mandir in Bhubaneswar to mark Dev Deepawali, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,41,17,458	62,30,27,030	66,29,552
India	4,46,70,075	4,41,33,433	5,30,596
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

e-Detection to check vehicles sans papers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: In a bid to detect vehicles plying without valid documents, the Transport department is planning to start e-Detection of vehicles on the national highways from January 1, 2023, said Joint Transport Commissioner (Technical) Dipti Ranjan Patra Wednesday.

According to Patra, the department has developed an e-detection portal for the purpose.

The objective of the portal, he said, is to collect the data from various toll gates on the national highways and subsequently keep a check on vehicles plying without valid documents.

In the first phase, the toll gates of NHAI have been integrated with the portal. Later, data will be collected from mining and industrial areas as well, he said.

The data, Patra said, will be collected, analysed with details in



WAY IT WORKS

- Toll gates have been integrated with the e-detection portal
- When a vehicle will pass through a toll gate, its details will be collected in accordance with the data fetched through the FASTag and images captured
- The collected data will be analysed with details in the Vahan portal and challan will be generated automatically for the vehicles plying without valid documents
- The vehicle owner will get an alert immediately

If any untoward incident or accident occurs, the vehicle owner or victim will not get any insurance claim if the vehicle involved doesn't have valid documents

DIPTI RANJAN PATRA | JOINT TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER (TECHNICAL)

Vahan portal and automatically challan will be generated for the vehicles plying without valid documents. For plying on a public road, it is mandatory for a vehicle to have valid documents like a registration certificate, fitness cer-

tificate and permit if it is a transport vehicle, insurance and a Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) and a driving license.

However, as per sample data collected from toll gates situated on the national highways, it has been ob-

served that a substantial number of vehicles were plying without valid documents, he said.

The e-Detection portal, he said, would detect such vehicles plying through national highways and state highways in Odisha.

The details will be collected in accordance with the data fetched through the FASTag and images captured when a vehicle will pass through a toll gate. Patra further said immediate information will alert the vehicle owner and help in reducing road accidents and fatalities. "If any untoward incident or accident occurs, the vehicle owner or victim will not get any insurance claim if the vehicle involved does not have valid documents," he stated.

Patra urged the vehicle owners to keep the vehicle documents up-to-date. The vehicle owners, he said, must also ensure that they have all the necessary documents to avoid penalties.

TAKEAWAYS

₹1,000 will be given to each kendu leaf plucker and ₹1,500 to each seasonal staff and binder in the first phase

All kendu leaf pluckers and employees will be covered under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)

The package also has provision for stipends for the offsprings of kendu leaf pluckers and other employees. Besides, meritorious students will be awarded at the district level

The gratuity payment for kendu pluckers of a circle and leaf binders has been revised from seven days to 15 days

will be issued identity cards, Patnaik said.

The kendu leaf pluckers belong to BPL families and Odisha government has always been working for their welfare and for other employees in the sector, the CM said.

"Odisha is the first state in the country to give bonus to kendu leaf pluckers. This policy has become a model for other states," he said.

BJD spokesperson Sammit Patra attacked BJP Tuesday accusing it of cheating farmers across the country.

"You (BJP) cheated kendu leaf workers who are men and women mostly from the BPL families. When the GST was at five per cent on kendu leaf, they had a decent living. But you (BJP) increased it to 18 per cent and impacted their source of earning. Isn't this cheating?" Patra said.



TICKET TO WC: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik buys the first ticket for Men's FIH Hockey World Cup, which will be held in January 2023, from Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

NHRC seeks report on Bolangir fatal fall

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought action-taken reports (ATRs) from the District Magistrate (DM) and Superintendent of Police of Bolangir over death of a man after falling off a joyride in Tureikela block of the district this November.

While hearing a plea filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC asked the authorities to file the ATRs within four weeks.

Tripathy had informed the commission that Debraj Sahu of Tureikela block of Bolangir died after falling off a joyride in the locality during Kartik Purnima celebration November 8 this year.

He alleged that the mishap occurred due to the sheer negligence of the authorities.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	61510.58 ↑ 91.62
NIFTY	18267.25 ↑ 23.05
DOLLAR	81.73 ↑ ₹0.26
EURO	84.69 ↑ ₹0.51
GOLD	₹52,295 ↑ ₹06
SILVER	₹61,557 ↑ ₹571

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	30.7°C	30.2°C
MIN	19.1°C	18.6°C
Humidity	67%	75%
Rainfall	0.0mm	0.0mm

Forecast: Foggy sky in the morning

Naveen launches 'Amlan' to tackle anaemia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Healthcare boost

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday launched Amlan (Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan), an initiative for accelerated reduction of anaemia, especially among the women and children in the state.

Launching the programme on digital mode, Naveen said that it is the state's own programme for making Odisha anaemia free.

This programme, which will be rolled out in 55,000 government and government-aided schools and 74,000 Anganwadi centres across the state, aims to benefit at least 1.37 crore people including pregnant women, lactating mothers, women of reproductive age group, ado-

lescents and children, said the CM. The initiative will be carried out by multiple agencies including Health and Family Welfare (H&FW), School and Mass Education, Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and ST and SC Development departments. According to Naveen, the major interventions under the programme are strengthening iron and folic acid supplementation, testing for haemoglobin, treatment

and young child feeding practices and under-nutrition.

"However, anaemia remains a major public health challenge across the country," he added, urging the departments and on-field service providers to work in a concerted manner for the successful implementation of Amlan, achieving anaemia-free Odisha. On the occasion, Patnaik also released the operational guidelines for Amlan.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said that the initiative will definitely succeed with coordinated efforts of all departments. 5T Secretary VK Pandian moderated the programme, while H&FW Secretary Shalini Pandit gave the welcome address. The director of Family Welfare offered a vote of thanks.

The initiative aims to benefit at least 1.37 crore people, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, women of reproductive age group, adolescents and children

of anaemic cases and capacity building of service providers.

"All endeavours are focussed on the principle that every life is precious. Odisha government has prioritised the development of the state's health sector," said the CM.

With an intensive focus on public health schemes, Naveen said, Odisha has shown improvement in many health indicators like immunisation, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality ratio, infant

Pangolin rescued in Khurda; 1 nabbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: A team of Special Task Force (STF) officials of Odisha Police has arrested a wildlife criminal and recovered a pangolin and other incriminating materials from his possession, an official said Wednesday.

STF sources said that on the basis of reliable information, a team of STF conducted a raid with the help of Tangi Forest officials Wednesday morning near Brahmandi Square under the Tangi police limits in Khurda district.

"One wildlife criminal identified as Jayakrushna Tarai was apprehended and during search one live pangolin and other incriminating materials were recovered from his possession," said an official. Since the accused could not produce any authority in support of the possession of such live pangolin, he was arrested and forwarded to the court of JMFC in Tangi, the official added.

A case under relevant Sections of the IPC and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 was registered against him and the pangolin was handed over to Khurda DFO for safe custody. The Indian pangolin (Manis crassicaudata), also called thick-tailed pangolin, scaly anteater and bajrakapta in Odia, is a solitary, shy and slow-moving nocturnal mammal. The mammal is a Schedule-I protected animal under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

The STF arrested Jayakrushna Tarai from Brahmandi Square in Khurda's Tangi after a pangolin and other incriminating materials were recovered from his possession

The mammal is a Schedule-I protected animal under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

Purohit cries attack by BJD

RULING PARTY DENIES CHARGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: In the midst of hectic campaigning for December 5 bypoll in Padampur Assembly segment, opposition BJP candidate Pradip Purohit Wednesday accused the ruling BJD of engineering an attack on his election meeting, a charge rejected by the regional party leaders.

Purohit, also BJP Odisha unit Krushak Morcha president, broke down at a press conference in Padampur in Bargarh while narrating the attack on his election meeting at Patharal village Tuesday night.

"BJD goons attacked my election meeting, damaged the tent and also snatched away the mike,"

Purohit alleged. "If police do not maintain neutrality, the BJP supporters may not tolerate such injustice. I appeal to BJD leaders to stop violence and face the elections in a democratic manner," Purohit said.

The BJD rejected the allegations made by Purohit and instead alleged that BJP goons are planning to attack party MLA Susant Singh.

"Purohit's allegation could be a drama to gain sympathy from the people. Two BJP leaders, who are on bail, are the star campaigners for the saffron party. Everybody knows how BJP leaders had attacked brother of our party MLA Susant Singh during the bypoll in Bijepur Assembly segment," Bargarh MLA Debesh Acharya said in a statement.



PAYING HOMAGE: Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha, I&PR Minister Pradip Kumar Amat, Bhandarpokhari MLA Prafulla Samal, government Chief Whip Prasanta Kumar Muduli, Bhubaneswar (Central) MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and others after paying tribute to former chief minister Nabakrushna Choudhury on his birth anniversary on the House premises in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

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Continued from P1
Bizarre creatures...

The Tribute Spiderfish was also found, with incredibly long lower fins with thickened tips, which allow it to prop high up off the bottom as if it was on stilts, giving it the perfect height to feed on small prawns that drift by in the current.

Other creatures spotted include the bizarre Pelican Eel, Highfin Lizard fish, voracious Sloane's Viperfish, The Slender Snipe Eel, Pancake sea urchins, and Pumice stones.

"We have discovered an amazing number of potentially new species living in this remote marine park," said Museums Victoria Research Institute's Tim O'Hara, Chief Scientist of the expedition.

The team has produced detailed three-dimensional images of the massive mountain underneath the Cocos (Keeling) Islands themselves, which has never been mapped in detail before, according to the statement.

"We have beamed these new 3D maps and underwater video images directly from the vessel to the people of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, who have been super excited to see their seascapes in all its grandeur," O'Hara said.

Nelson Kuna, one of two hydrographic surveyors on board from CSIRO, said that very little high-resolution mapping had been done in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park prior to this voyage.

"We have used the full ocean depth mapping capabilities of RV Investigator to completely survey around the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, from coastal depths less than 100m all the way down to the abyss some 4800m below," said Kuna.

SC: Need a CEC...

The Centre is represented by Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, and Additional Solicitor General Balbir Singh.

The bench also queried the Centre's counsel to show the mechanism adopted in the appointment of the Election Commissioner.

Former Bureaucrat Arun Goel assumed the office of Election Commissioner Monday, after being appointed to the post November 19. Since May this year, the post of one EC in the three-member Commission was lying vacant after Sushil Chandra retired as the CEC.

During the hearing, the AG contended that the convention is that all senior bureaucrats and officers at the state and the Central government are taken into consideration while appointment and this is scrupulously followed.

The AG further submitted that the appointment is done on the basis of convention and there is no separate appointment procedure of CEC.

He added that one is appointed as EC and then on the basis of seniority a CEC.

Justice Rastogi observed that there should be a transparent mechanism in the appointment of the EC, and the mechanism should be such that people should not question it.

He added that, "you just appointed someone as EC 2 days ago... It should be fresh in memory. Show us (the mechanism applied in the appointment)".

At this juncture, the AG replied: "So are we saying that there is no confidence in the Council of Ministers?" to which Justice Rastogi said, "no, we are saying for our satisfaction show us the mechanism you adopted in the appointment two days ago".

Archana, farmer...

Reacting to this, BJD leader and government chief whip Prasanta Muduli said, "Assembly is the platform to raise different issues of Odisha. Not only the opposition, the ruling party members will also raise issues in their areas. I hope that session will be conducted smoothly."

As per schedule, the supplementary budget for the financial year 2022-23 will be presented before the House Thursday.

The session will have 33 working days, of which six have been marked for private members' business days. There will be no meetings on five Sundays.

Extortion: ED quizzes Archana's associate



Shradhanjali Behera

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Officials of the Enforcement Directorate, probing an extortion case in Odisha, Wednesday quizzed film producer Akshay Parija for the second consecutive day, and another accused Shradhanjali Behera, sources in the agency said.

Behera, an alleged associate of prime accused in the case, Archana Nag, had entered the ED office in Nayapalli here as early as 8am, even though she was summoned by the agency at 10am, they said.

Parija, who was questioned for three hours Monday, claimed he was being wrongfully targeted by media before setting foot in the central agency's office here.

"I am a victim. I found some

Film producer Parija had in October filed a complaint at Nayapalli police station, alleging that Nag and her associate Shradhanjali had demanded ₹3 crore

news channels indulging in irresponsible reporting. Please consider me as your brother, uncle while reporting. I will speak to the media after coming out of the ED office."

His advocate Akash Bhuyan said that his client might file case against some media houses.

The ED sources said the two were interrogated separately at first and then together.

The central agency is looking into a money laundering aspect of the case involving Archana Nag, a 26-year-old woman arrested on charges of blackmailing rich and influential people by threatening to make public photos and videos of their intimate moments. Her husband Jagabandhu Chand has also been nabbed.

ODM, Newron launch 'Brain-a-thon Olympiad'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: A press meet was organized on the occasion of the launching of 'Brain-a-thon Olympiad' and 'Who's Next Talent Hunt' by Newron in partnership with ODM Educational Group Wednesday in ODM Global School campus.

Newron, a Indian company for school and students' management services' with a vision and mission of dealing to find, nurture, nourish and encourage talent from the corners of the country has launched these two major events: 'Brain-a-Thon, The Ultimate Olympiad' & 'Who's Next Talent Hunt' in partnership with ODM Educational Group.

Newron and ODM Educational Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) considering each other's potential opportunities in the field of education. The competitions will be conducted in four class groups: Mimi Juniors: Class I-II, Juniors: Class III-V, Sub

Seniors: Class VI-VIII and Seniors: Class IX-X.

The winners of the competition will be rewarded with cash prizes, medals, achievers and state rank certificates along with one year training scholarships by ODM Educational Group along with goodies and gifts worth ₹5, 00,000 lakh. 'Brain-a-Thon' will be held January 8, 2023 and 'Who's Next Talent Hunt' will be held January 15, 2023 coinciding with Sunday for all the school students of Odisha.

The press meet was jointly conducted by Newron's Harshit Sharma, founder and Chief Business Officer and Sikha Chandra, Director and from ODM Educational Group, Chief Operating Officer Swoyan Satyendu.

The Chairman, ODM Educational Group Satyabrata Minaketan and Indumati Ray, Director (Finance & Admin), ODM Educational Foundation conveyed their best wishes for this venture.



Newron launches Brain-a-thon & Who's Next? In Partnership with ODM Educational Group

Air pollution damage to lungs is non-reversible

Every year the third Wednesday of November is observed as COPD Day, the day strives to raise awareness on the condition, risk factors and also on the importance of a pollution free environment for healthy living. The COPD theme this year rightly proclaims "Healthy Lungs - Never More Important" as the Covid 19 infection has not only created havoc on environment and human life but also compromised our lung health hence the time to fix them is most certainly now before it is too late.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is broad term for a range of progressive lung diseases. Any form of lung damage can result in a multitude of problems including chronic bronchitis and emphysema. The bad news is that lung deterioration is a condition that is non-reversible and also there is no treatment option available. Lifestyle changes and medical

intervention can simply help the patient to avoid flare ups and improve their quality of life.

Children especially premature kids and those with weak immune system and asthma are more prone to develop COPD at a later stage in life. According to WHO, every day almost 93 per cent of the world's children under the age of 15 years (1.8 billion children) breathe air that is so polluted it puts their health and development at serious risk. WHO estimates that in 2016, 600,000 children died from acute lower respiratory infections caused by polluted air. Instead of opting for short-term knee jerk solutions it is imperative that we ensure long term sustainable solutions to the ever-growing problem of pollution.

The adverse health impact of air pollution is an immediate public health concern in the country and the government should look for addressing the concern in the most effective manner. In India industrial



emission is majorly responsible for air pollution, followed by combustion by vehicles and then household emissions and burning of crop waste in rural areas. With Indian metros topping the list of most polluted cities in the world, the problem can no longer be overlooked. The government has already taken noteworthy steps when it comes to environmental degradation - from promoting cleanliness drives of rivers to banning the usage of plastic, the government

Eunoia at DAV Unit-VIII school

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: DAV Public School, Unit-VIII Wednesday inaugurated Eunoia the ebullient endeavour of the scientific enigmas.

There was a display of about 300 exhibits of Science, Mathematics, Social Science, Environmental Science, Computer Science, Art & Craft and the special Food Court, with about 600 students participating in the exhibition. The welcome address was delivered by the Chairman of school managing committee Bijay Kumar Pattnaik.



Inaugurating the exhibition, chief guest Vishwanath Singh Jadon, Accountant General, Odisha said, "Students are the ambassadors of a brighter tomorrow and they can bring a promising future for the country with their innovation". The dignitaries present on this occasion included former Chairman Madan Mohan Panda and manager of the school DN Mishra.

All the dignitaries along with the Principal Ipsita Das were given an aerial floral welcome by the ATL team of the school.

'City leaders will lead us to success'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Housing & Urban Development Minister Usha Devi inaugurated a state level workshop-cum-orientation for elected representatives of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Convention Centre auditorium of Lok Seva Bhawan Wednesday.

The chairman, vice chairman and councilors of 12 ULBs from 5 districts viz Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara attended the workshop.

Addressing the gathering, Devi said that together we can scale up our initiatives and contribute in transforming the urban Odisha. You all are people's representatives and all our programmes are people centric. Hence, your involvement and leadership will lead us to success. You all elected members assembled here today are 'City Leaders'. You are our eyes and ears from whom we get updates and feedbacks on various key urban initiatives.

She reiterated the Chief Minister's vision that says 'decentralization and community partnership are the two eyes of Odisha model for urban governance'. The urban Odisha, through this transformative approach under the 5T governance mantra, has now touched new heights. The very objective of today's workshop is to orient you on various modalities of community partnership strategies that are currently in operation across the state.

Director of Municipal Administration, Sangramjit Nayak, in his address attached more importance to the transparency in the work done in the urban space. He highlighted on how Housing and Urban Development has evolved into a vibrant fast functioning department with a whole range of activities that cover mostly all aspects of urban life. It is quite heartening to add here that the allocation of the H & UD Department has increased over the years to more than 7100 crores, he said.

BIPF holds 11th edition of Ideate



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) held its 11th edition of Ideate in partnership with FICCI-Aditya Birla CSR Centre for Excellence at Bhubaneswar Wednesday.

The subject of deliberation was "Paradigm shift in Education Landscape - Blended Pedagogy" NEP, Post & technology infusion in education.

The distinguished panelists were Y Suresh Reddy (Lead CSR & Director SRF Foundation), Neelima Chopra (Lead-Early Childhood Care & Development, HCL Foundation), Madhukar Banuri (Founder - Leadership for Equity) and Hrushikesh Senapaty (Ex-Director NCERT).

Shaifalika Panda, Trustee & CEO, Bansidhar & Ila Panda

The subject of deliberation was to discuss India's education landscape based on three essential parameters— National Educational Policy, Blended Pedagogy and Technology Infusion

Foundation, in her speech, said National Education Policy 2020 sets out the objective of improving quality education, learning outcomes, equity in education through capacity building and digital outreach.

The subject of deliberation at the 11th edition of Ideate was to discuss India's education landscape based on three essential parameters— National Educational Policy, Blended Pedagogy and Technology Infusion in the post pandemic scenario.

Ex-Director NCERT Senapaty said the vision of National

Education Policy is to focus in Indian ethos and to connect our children with their roots which will help them in being the good citizen of the country. He said that every child of the country deserves the right kind of education.

On the occasion Reddy said that the success of NEP depends on all stakeholders that include students, parents, schools and boards of all state and national level. He said NEP focuses on ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years as the maximum brain growth happens at that age.

ECOR GM inspects Bhub railway station



Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway General Manager Roop Narayan Sunkar Wednesday inspected the Bhubaneswar Railway station and had Window Trailing inspection from Bhubaneswar to Talcher via Angul and reviewed the various Works. Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways is giving special focus to Odisha and the various projects works going in the state has been under his constant supervision and priority. In line with the instructions of the Railway Minister, Sunkar inspected the Bhubaneswar railway station circulating area, reservation counters, various passenger amenities at the station and platform. The General Manager also reviewed the proposed new station building designs and took stock of the progress. He also had the Window Trailing inspection from Bhubaneswar to Talcher via Angul and various sidings on the way and at Talcher area. During the inspection, he received Memorandums submitted by various public associations and assured them of speedy redressal of the grievances. During the course of inspection, the General Manager emphasised upon the need and significance of facilities provided to the esteemed passengers. He also advised officials to focus for the speedy completion of various project works.

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THREAT TO BHITARKANIKA ECOLOGY

Prawn gherry eviction: A step forward, two steps backward

Employment opportunities, profit margin help prawn gherries mushroom in Kendrapara



the prawn gherries are destroying the wetland ecosystem.

Chemical effluents discharged from the gherries get mixed in sea water and kill scores of marine lives destroying their habitats. The green cover in Bhitarkanika is also threatened putting at risk the survival of scores of wildlife in the wetland.

To save the Bhitarkanika the government should act tough and close down the prawn gherries running on it support, they said. This is because the incentives, that the prawn gherries running on government support receive, prompt others to put up illegal prawn gherries.

Amar Kumar Pradhan, president of Maa Matia Mangala Chingudi Chasi Mahasangha said that the government has framed many self-employment schemes out of which prawn cultivation is popular because it is a profitable venture.

It has provided employment to over 10,000 youths and is being done on the basis of government guidelines. He rejected that prawn cultivation is being done near the river, government or forest land. He said that terminating all the gherries as illegal and demolishing them will hinder the economic growth of the district.

When contacted, district fisheries extension officer Mamata Mohapatra said all the gherries in the district are not illegal as some farmers and women SHGs were permitted for the cultivation. She said that hundreds have filed applications for permission but they are yet to be given approval.

Meanwhile, the Collector has directed all concerned tehsildars to demolish the illegal gherries.

The claim can be ascertained from the fact that Odisha has made remarkable achievements in export of saline fish and prawn. The export of saline fish has increased 747 per cent during last 10 years. The state exported 11,460 MT of saline fish in 2021-12 financial year but it increased to whopping 97,125 MT in 2021-12 financial year. Earlier, fish cultivation was being done only on 5,860 hectare of land but it has now increased to 17,780 hectare.

Moreover, the government is also encouraging the women self-help groups (SHGs), local fishermen, cooperative societies, women cooperative workers and educated youths to take up saline fish and prawn farming for a better livelihood. According to an estimate, the prawn gherries in the district are spread over 15,000 hectare of land.

However, this has posed serious threat to the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika wetland. Environmentalists Hemant Kumar Rout, Ashok Kumar Swain, Prabhuprasad Mohapatra alleged that the toxic effluents discharged from



HANDICRAFT EXPO: Women check for artificial jewellery at a stall of all India handicraft exhibition Gandhi Silpa Bazaar held at ITI ground in Balasore, Wednesday

Huge Maoist dump unearthed in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 23: Police and BSF jawans have unearthed a major Maoist dump during an intensive search operation near the forested area of Dhakadpadar village under Jodamba police limits in the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border area, Tuesday evening.

SP Nitesh Wadhvani said, police have recovered a huge cache of arms in a pit in the forest. The articles and items recovered included an SMBL gun, a rifle mounted with telescope, a pistol, three 7kg IEDs,



three 3kg IEDs, three 2kg tiffin bombs, two hand grenades, two camera flashes, Mao uniforms, batteries, medicines, iron pipes, 33 saline bottles, Maoist literature,

SP says there is still time for Maoists to join the social mainstream and avail various government benefits

and other incriminating articles. The seizure of the red dump is termed as a major jolt to the subversive and anti-national design of the outlaws in the area.

Police suspect the explosives along with other articles belong to Maoist cadres of AOBSSC and

were intended for use against innocent civilians and security forces and carry out subversive and anti-national activities.

Combing and search operations have been intensified in the area following the unearthing of the dump.

In press statement, the SP said that there is still time for Maoists to join the social mainstream and avail various facilities and benefits being provided by the state government.

The SP urged the ultras to leave the path of violence and join the mainstream for welfare of all.

JSW donates buses for students in mining belt



POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, Nov 23: To offer seamless connectivity to the school-going students, JSW has come forward to deploy seven school buses that will transport hundreds of students of remote villages in the mining belt to schools in Barbil, Joda and Koira towns every day.

The company deployed a 32-seater school bus Tuesday in Narayanposhi of Sundargarh district. This is the second bus that the company has provided to this village. The bus will carry students from Narayanposhi, Rengalbeda, Kasira and Bhanjapali to Koira.

The bus was flagged off by Koira sarpanch HK Deora in the presence of company officials. Sarpanch Deora said, "This is a great help for the students. We thank the company for the support." Similarly, in November, two school buses were also flagged off by sarpanch Priyanka Majhi launched in Jajang area. This 32-seater bus will travel from Bandhuabada, Jurudi and Jajang to Joda. Two more school buses were also unveiled for Nuagan area. Sarpanch Pabitra Munda inaugurated the bus service.

Man gets 20-yr jail for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 23: A fast-track POCSO court here in Ganjam district convicted a man and sentenced him Tuesday to 20 years in prison for raping a minor. The court has also imposed a fine of ₹30,000 on convict Babu Mallick of Patapur area. In default, Mallick has to undergo an additional prison term for eight months, the court pronounced.

The POCSO court has directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to provide compensation of ₹5 lakh to the victim. The order was pronounced based on the statements of 18 witnesses.

According to the case diary, Mallick raped the minor girl in Patapur area in 2019. The victim's mother had filed a complaint at the police station following which police arrested the accused.

Youth held for murder threat, molestation

Berhampur: Police Wednesday arrested a youth on charges of threatening a girl of dire consequences over one sided love affair and molesting her on road in full public view here in Ganjam district. A case was registered in this connection and the accused identified as Sanjay Kumar Mohapatra, 25, alias Vicky of Sriramnagar area in Aska Road was arrested. He was produced in the court and was remanded to judicial custody after the magistrate rejected his bail plea. Police also accompanied the survivor and recorded her statement in the court.

Normal life affected during 12-hr bandh in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 23: Normal life was severely hit in Sambalpur as all government offices and business establishments remained closed during a 12-hour bandh over the demand for establishment of a permanent bench of Orissa High Court in Western Odisha and separate state comprising the region, Wednesday.

The bandh call given by Sambalpur Nagarika Kriyanusthana Committee received spontaneous support from the residents and various outfits. All business establishments and government offices including courts, offices of the revenue divisional commissioner and



district Collector remained closed during the period. The residents staged picketing at Kacheri Chhak in support of the bandh while members of the District Bar Association and other outfits also joined the agitation. The judges of various courts had to return at the request of the agitators. The bandh call also received support in the rural areas as all offices and business establishments remained closed and buses also stopped plying.



TURTLE PROTECTION: SP Sandeep Sampat Madkar flanked by DFO Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav (right) and coastguard deputy commandant Manprit Singh (extreme left) dwelt on protection of marine Olive Ridley turtles for ecology at an awareness camp held at Sasanpeta village under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district, Wednesday

Admin, BSF join hands, open computer skill devpt centre in Swabhiman Anchal



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 23: The district administration and Border Security Force (BSF) have jointly set up a computer skill development centre for the youths and students of Swabhiman Anchal here Wednesday. Collector Vishal Singh speaking on the occasion wished that maxi-

The initiative was taken up as a pilot project and more such centres would be established to reach out to the locals in the remotest parts of the district, said Collector

Raghunath Mundari were also present.

A large number of students from nearby schools and their teachers also participated in the event.

They observed that basic computer knowledge is an absolute requirement for all students and youths for their bright future. They exuded hope that the joint effort by the district administration and BSF would go a long way to educate the young students and youths of nearby areas for the upkeep their knowledge

under professional BSF hands, who would teach them both the theory and practical classes on computer operation.

Youths would also learn to make maximum use of it in day-to-day life to avail many government and non-government schemes through it. They can also learn to fill up different educational forms and avail railway reservation through it. Students and youths of Swabhiman Anchal and nearby areas would be benefited out of it.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Vishal Singh said, "This is the first such initiative from the district administration and the Border Security Force for the benefit of locals. The initiative is taken up as a pilot project. And more such centres would be established and would further reach out to the locals in the remotest parts of the district in the days to come."

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER RSEWC HIGH SCHOOL, RAYAGADA
Notice No.581/2022, Date: 23.11.22

Open tenders are invited from the intending Persons/ Contractors/firms/ Skilled workers of the field of wood/civil/computer work for purchasing of Teak, Sissoo Timbers/ construction of civil works/supply of computers in the RSEWC HIGH SCHOOL, Rayagada, District Rayagada. Interested persons are participating in this process in the school campus on 07.12.2022 by 11 AM. The detailed and terms and conditions are displayed in the notice board.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tenders either of them or both or in full or parts at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

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RSEWCH/S, Rayagada
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The following Global Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIT) of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has been published on the Coal India Ltd. E-Tender portal (<https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>) and also mirrored on Central Public Procurement portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in>). Kindly visit these websites for further details:-

SN	Tender ID	Name of Work/ Service	Estimated Project Cost
1	2022_MCL_262508_1	Development and Operation of Balabhadra OCP as per Part-II (scope of the Project) of Contract Agreement and other requirements specified in the Contract Agreement for a period of 27 (Twenty-seven) years.	₹ 1274.90 Crores (Rupees One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Four Crores and Ninety Lakhs only)

Bidding Documents Download Start Date & Time: 17.11.2022, 01.30 PM, Bidding Documents Download End Date & Time: 17.01.2023, 05.00 PM, Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 05.12.2022, 11.00 AM, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: 06.12.2022, 10.00 AM, Bid Submission End Date & Time: 17.01.2023, 05.00 PM & Bid Opening Date & Time: 19.01.2023, 11.00 AM, VC Link for Pre-Bid Meeting: <https://guest.lifesize.com/4749192>, MCL e-Procurement Help Desk (Ph. 0663-2542695/2542264, email: help-eproc.mcl@coalindia.in).

R-5129

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/E-Tender/115, Dt.21.11.2022

Tender Notice No. eTender-East-KUR-322-2022, Dt.11.11.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD AT CUTTACK RAILWAY SETTLEMENT AND STATION APPROACH ROAD UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / I / CUTTACK OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 254.17 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2.77, 100/-, Completion Period of the work : 08 (Eight) Months.

Date and time of closing of tender : At 1500 hrs of 02.12.2022

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

NOTE : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.

Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website <http://www.irps.gov.in>

Divisional Railway Manager(Engg.)
PR-738/N-22/23 | Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-AUCTION OF PARKING STANDS

Station & Locations : (1) Brahmapur - 4 Wheeler (in front of exit/entrance of PF-1), (2) Jajpur Keonjhar Road - 4 Wheeler (Near PF-1), (3) Cuttack - 4 Wheeler (PF-1 side near Gate-2), (4) Bhadrak - 4 Wheeler (PF-1 side), (5) Brahmapur - 4 Wheeler (Outside PF-4, towards Balugaon end), (6) Humma - 2 Wheeler (On PF-1 side), (7) Kandarpur - 2 Wheeler (Opposite Circulating area), (8) Brahmapur - 2 Wheeler (Outside PF-4, towards Palasa end), (9) Chatrapur - 2 Wheeler (Near PF-1), (10) Talcher Road (Near Circulating area), (11) Charbatia - 2 Wheeler (Adjacent to station boundary wall), (12) Gundudihatia - 2 Wheeler (In circulating area), (13) Salagaon - 2 Wheeler (Near Waiting hall), (14) Badapadagaon PH - 2 Wheeler (Near Booking Counter), (15) Meramandali - 2 Wheeler (Near PRS counter), (16) Nayagarh - 2 Wheeler (Near station building), (17) Palasa - 2 Wheeler (Near IOW Office).

Auction Start Date & Times: 30.11.2022 at 1000 hrs. (for Sl. No.1 to 17)

Auction End Date & Times: 30.11.2022 at 1030 hrs. (for Sl. No.1), at 1040 hrs. (for Sl. No.2), at 1050 hrs. (for Sl. No.3), at 1100 hrs. (for Sl. No.4), at 1110 hrs. (for Sl. No.5), at 1120 hrs. (for Sl. No.6), at 1130 hrs. (for Sl. No.7), at 1140 hrs. (for Sl. No.8), at 1150 hrs. (for Sl. No.9), at 1200 hrs. (for Sl. No.10), at 1210 hrs. (for Sl. No.11), at 1220 hrs. (for Sl. No.12), at 1230 hrs. (for Sl. No.13), at 1240 hrs. (for Sl. No.14), at 1250 hrs. (for Sl. No.15), at 1300 hrs. (for Sl. No.16), at 1310 hrs. (for Sl. No.17).

E-AUCTION OF PAY & USE TOILETS

Station & Locations : (1) Talcher (MCL siding end), (2) Chatrapur (on PF-3 & 4, Brahmapur end), (3) Kendujhargarh (on PF-1, Naranpur end), (4) Dhanmandal (Outside PF-1, at Cuttack end), (5) Balugaon (on PF-1, at Visakhapatnam end), (6) Ichhapuram (Middle of PF-1), (7) Angul (on PF-1, Talcher Road end), (8) Palasa (on PF-2 & 3, near Booking Office), (9) Khalikot (in Circulating area), (10) Dhenkanal (on PF-1, SSPR end), (11) Brahmapur (on PF-1, Visakhapatnam end), (12) Bhadrak (on PF-1 & 2, middle).

Auction Start Date & Times: 02.12.2022 at 1000 hrs. (for Sl. No.1 to 12)

Auction End Date & Times: 02.12.2022 at 1030 hrs. (for Sl. No.1), at 1040 hrs. (for Sl. No.2), at 1050 hrs. (for Sl. No.3), at 1100 hrs. (for Sl. No.4), at 1110 hrs. (for Sl. No.5), at 1120 hrs. (for Sl. No.6), at 1130 hrs. (for Sl. No.7), at 1140 hrs. (for Sl. No.8), at 1150 hrs. (for Sl. No.9), at 1200 hrs. (for Sl. No.10), at 1210 hrs. (for Sl. No.11), at 1220 hrs. (for Sl. No.12).

Note : Prospective bidders are advised to visit the www.irps.gov.in and check the upcoming e-auctions leaving tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PR-730/N-22/23 | Khurda Road

FOCUS COP27

CLIMATE JUSTICE



As the 'when is now' movement questions the inaction of countries in drastically reducing emissions, leaders are flouting their responsibilities with impunity in delaying achieving practical and predictable climate commitments

September 30, 2022. It was highly anticipated that if the Paris conference (COP21) furnished the agreement and Katowice conference (COP24) and Glasgow conference (COP26) provided the plan, Sharm El-Sheikh (COP27) must have shifted to implementable actions without further talks or delay. Despite the implementation plan being agreed, it remains a non-starter.

The only positive, but symbolic achievement from the COP27 is adoption of a decision establishing a loss and damage (L&D) fund while leaving the details of the fund for the next COPs. Pakistan, representing G-77 + China, which brought the issue officially into discussion in this COP and has suffered severe climate impacts recently, emphasised that L&D is not charity; it is climate justice. For more than three decades, developing countries, especially Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), have demanded compensation from rich and industrialised countries for their historical emissions of GHGs caused by climate change. But the US and other rich countries were apprehensive that they could face unlimited liability for the GHG emissions. Subsequently, they had blocked any progress on the discussion of L&D in earlier COPs.

Loss refers to 'negative impacts in relation to which reparation

or restoration is impossible', while damage refers to 'negative impacts in relation to which reparation or restoration is possible'.

The agreement on L&D fund is one of the longstanding disputes between poor and rich countries in the history of UN climate talks. The agreement in principle calls for a committee with representatives from 24 countries to plan out the institutionalisation of the fund that includes the amount, its contributors, categories of recipients and the venue. There have been nominal commitments by Scotland and Belgium to donate to such a fund. If a \$100 billion pledge from rich and industrialised countries is yet to be realised for the Green Climate Fund in Seoul, what would be the fate of an estimated \$500 billion L&D fund?

The devils will be in the details as we will see in future COPs on L&D fund. Who will pay for the L&D induced by climate change? Has there been any consensus among industrialised countries on what constitutes climate change-induced disasters like floods, cyclones, droughts, and sea level rise in poorer and climate-vulnerable countries? Will the compensation be enough to make the countries bounce back and become resilient societies? How can one differentiate between loss and damage of

small holding farmers in coastal Odisha or fisherfolks in Tacloban (Philippines) suffering from devastating cyclones? The bone of contention will be on addressing incurred and future loss and damage, non-economic dimensions, inclusion with or separation from adaptation, liability and responsibility, compensation regime and funds. Will India and China be contributing to this L&D fund or they would be considered as frontline vulnerable countries? The rich countries would definitely find means and ways to divide between the developing and most vulnerable countries to extend the L&D aid. After establishing L&D fund, rich countries may argue for unabatedly continuing emissions.

Interestingly, India extended unconditional support to Pakistan's proposal on L&D during the plenary. After the 2010 Cancun COP16, one could witness the rare South Asian environmental camaraderie during the negotiations on L&D fund. However, except Pakistan and India, all the six countries are members of the Vulnerable 20 (58 most vulnerable countries to climate change). As the details of the fund would be negotiated, the pressure on India will be high. India will have to walk a tightrope in the next COP28 in the United Arab Emirates. The negotiations over L&D fund will be long and acrimonious.

The trust on COPs have gradually been 'phasing down' if not 'phasing out'. It is good that at least world leaders are returning to the negotiating table every year on climate change, irrespective of their outcomes. As the 'when is now' movement questions the inaction of countries in drastically reducing emissions, leaders are flouting their responsibilities with impunity in delaying achieving practical and predictable climate commitments.

The writer is Principal Scientist at Peri-urban Initiative, IIT Madras, and Senior Fellow at SSPC.



Avilash Roul

SINCE LAST YEAR'S COP IN GLASGOW, ONLY 29 OUT OF 198 PARTIES HAVE COME FORWARD WITH IMPROVED AND PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL PLANS TO CURB CARBON EMISSIONS

The much anticipated annual climate change talks have ended in Egypt with mixed results. The optimism at the beginning of the COP27 gradually faded into thin air with stark division and high-octane politics among the member countries. While climate vulnerable countries hailed the COP27 as historic due to an agreement on a special fund dedicated for compensation, collectively the talks failed miserably on measures to limit the increase in global temperature. The COP27 has delivered 'justice' but failed in 'ambition'.

With the voluntary contributions as agreed in Paris Conference, the world is not at all on track to limit global warming to 1.5 degree C. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the scientific body under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, urged several times for immediate collective action without which future leaders and policymakers won't have much options and time to defend the living beings. Since last year's COP in Glasgow, only 29 out of 198 parties have come forward with improved and progressive national plans to curb carbon emissions. According to the UN, the emissions need to be cut by 45% by 2030 if countries want to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C by the end of 2100. Instead, the world is heading for a 2.6 degree C increase with the current emission scenario. There remains a substantial gap between what governments have promised to do in COPs and the actions they have undertaken so far. A merely 'phasing out' of all greenhouse gases (GHG) as agreed in this COP won't be sufficient.

Nearly two weeks of negotiations on climate change closed without substantial progress on substantive issues. Official delegations landed at the beginning of the COP with a shared sense of urgency due to the devastating climate induced disasters that occurred in 2022. India recorded extreme weather events on 241 of the 273 days from January 1 through

Collateral Damage

The Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana famously warned that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." But sometimes even those who can recall the past have a selective memory and draw the wrong conclusions. This is how the global policy response to the current bout of inflation is playing out, with governments and central banks across the developed world insisting that the only way to tame soaring prices is by raising interest rates and tightening monetary policy.

The Volcker shock of 1979, when the US Federal Reserve, under then-chair Paul Volcker, sharply increased interest rates in response to runaway inflation, set the template for today's monetary tightening. Volcker's rate hikes were intended to combat a wage-price spiral by increasing unemployment, thereby reducing workers' bargaining power and depressing inflationary expectations. But the high interest rates triggered the largest decline in US economic activity since the Great Depression, and recovery took half a decade. Volcker's policy also reverberated around the world, as capital flowed into the United States, resulting in external debt crises and major economic downturns that led to a "lost decade" in Latin America and other developing countries.

But the context for this heavy-handed approach was very different from current conditions, because wage increases are not the main driver of inflationary pressures. In fact, even in the US, real wages have been falling over the past year. Yet that has not stopped some economists from arguing that higher unemployment and consequent larger declines in real wages are necessary to control inflation.

Even some of the most vocal champions of tight money and rapid interest-rate increases recognise that this strategy will most likely trigger a recession and significantly damage the lives and livelihoods of millions in their own countries and elsewhere. There also seems to be little disagreement that rate hikes have not slowed inflation thus far, probably because surging prices are driven by other factors.

One would expect the supposed "adults in the room" of global macroeconomic policy to recognise the problem and seek to craft more appropriate responses. But national policymakers in advanced economies, as well as multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the typically more sensible Bank for International Settlements, appear to have no interest in alternative explanations or strategies.

This intellectual inertia is leading policy badly astray. Research has increasingly shown that the current inflationary surge is driven by supply constraints, profiteering by large companies in critical sectors like energy and food, and rising profit margins in other sectors, as well as commodity prices. Addressing these factors would require sensible policies such as mending broken supply chains, capping prices and profits in important sectors like food and fuel, and reining in commodity-market speculation.

While governments are well aware of these options, they did not seriously consider them. Instead, elected officials worldwide left it to central banks to control inflation, and central bankers, in turn, have relied on the blunt tools of interest-rate hikes. While this will inflict needless economic pain on millions of people in developed countries, the consequences for the rest of the world will likely be even worse.

Part of the problem is that the macroeconomic policies of the world's major advanced economies focus solely on what they perceive as their national interest, regardless of the impact on other countries' capital flows and trade patterns. The 2008 global financial crisis originated in the US economy, but its impact on developing and emerging economies was far worse, because investors fled to the safety of US assets. And when the massive liquidity expansions and ultra-low interest rates that followed in developed countries caused speculative hot money flows to spread worldwide, low- and middle-income countries were exposed to volatile markets over which they had little to no control.

Similarly, today's rapid monetary tightening has revealed just how lethal such integration can be. For many developing and emerging economies, financial globalisation is akin to an elaborately-built house of cards.

An important new paper by Dutch economist Servaas Storm shows the extent of the collateral damage that monetary tightening could cause in low- and middle-income countries. Interest-rate hikes in the US and Europe will likely result in more debt crises and defaults, significant output losses, higher unemployment, and sharp increases in inequality and poverty, leading to economic stagnation and instability. The long-term consequences could be devastating. In its latest annual Trade and Development Report, UNCTAD estimates that US interest-rate increases may reduce the future income of developing countries (excluding China) by at least \$360 billion.

Of course, rich countries cannot remain immune to this amount of damage. While policymakers in the US and Europe do not consider their policies' impact on other countries, the effects are bound to spill over into their own economies. But for low- and middle-income countries, the stakes are much higher: To survive, developing and emerging economies must seek greater fiscal autonomy and monetary-policy freedom that would enable them to manage capital flows differently and refashion trade patterns.

As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis have shown, pursuing greater multilateral cooperation and an equitable recovery is not just about kindness or morality; doing so is in the enlightened self-interest of rich countries. Tragically, however, hardly anyone in those countries - least of all their economic policymakers - seems to recognise that.

The writer, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

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Jayati Ghosh

For many developing and emerging economies, financial globalisation is akin to an elaborately-built house of cards

SPECTRUM INFRASTRUCTURE

Technology for public asset management



Priyadarshi Nanu Pany

TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION CAN EMPOWER GOVERNMENTS WITH ACCURACY, QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF ASSET INFORMATION ON PUBLIC ASSETS

Often, disasters strike us when we are unwarned and unarmed. But when it comes to manufactured disasters, forewarned is forearmed. The recent collapse of the suspension bridge at Morbi (Gujarat) shocked the nation. More than 140 lives lost and officials count the death toll as we debate on the cause of the catastrophic incident. Is it a human-engineered crisis? Weren't safeguards enough to avert this mishap? Was government supervision lax? How could the authorities permit around 500 people when the 150-year-old bridge could barely support 125? More strikingly, why the bridge post its repair was opened to the public minus a fitness certificate from the civic authorities?

As the nation gropes for answers to these questions, the conditioned reflex for many is to heap the blame on the local authorities and the state government. Obviously, the state takes ownership of public assets, and faces brickbats when something goes amiss. But public infrastructure management is more challenging and problems run deeper than what many can fathom. It is easy to pass the buck on the government. Yet, it is important to understand that the local or even the state administration is under-resourced and lacks ample oversight to preclude and manage unanticipated disasters. It's a paradox that public infra-

structure assets despite being the foundation of national and local economies are often mismanaged. Be they schools, hospitals, bridges, parks or electric grids, efficient asset management allows governments to unlock financial and service value from these assets and elevate public service. According to UN data, underinvestment in infrastructure maintenance has been estimated to cost some developing countries up to two per cent growth in GDP. Governments should realise that under-maintained infrastructure assets are more vulnerable and can disrupt essential services like transport, water and sanitation or solid waste management.

A transparent and financially responsible government, local or national, needs to have an Asset Management Action Plan for priority assets. This can help attract additional public and private investments in sustainable development.

A critical first step for governments in the asset management lifecycle is to take stock of the assets they own and manage. And they need adequate data on the location, condition, performance and finances of assets to anticipate the resources that need to be set aside for repair, renewal and replacement over the long term, particularly for critical assets. This is where technology plays in and can potentially turn public assets resilient to shocks.

To illustrate, in Madhya Pradesh, the public assets management department has developed an assets dashboard. It lists essential information like number of assets considered for monetisation, available assets for utilisation in government work, assets sold out, assets under review, assets in tender and auction process. An integrated dashboard offers crucial data to governments on entire project engineering cycle, including the time to schedule repair and renovations, thus preventing accidents induced by human errors. The unified dashboard application can also converge data scattered and siloed across platforms and act as a powerful tool for upgrading policy-making and citizen experience.

GIS mapping and aerial data capture can also be tapped for doing a real-time recce of the status of critical public infrastructure like roads and bridges. Use of open source technologies like Google Maps can mitigate crises connected with roads and bridges by alerting authorities on the timeline of maintenance and repair of these assets. The MP government is already using a GIS-based portal to map and monitor its public assets. Governments can bank on aerial data capture with remote sensors and drones used to capture 3D photogrammetry, LiDAR imagery and other satellite photography. These datasets can then

be leveraged by planners, engineers and maintenance teams to ensure public assets are being looked after.

Digital Twins, a virtual simulation of a physical process, asset or environment can also be handy in upkeep of public assets. It can model demand, forecast maintenance, and provide real-time predictive analytics to aid agencies in planning. Using big data and machine learning, digital twins can perform advanced analytics, making them powerful tools for managing assets.

Virtual Reality (VR) can enable authorities to have a better oversight on infrastructure. VR allows engineers and planners to interact with simulated infrastructure in a realistic way, usually by wearing wearable electronic equipment such as a helmet with a screen inside or gloves with sensors. VR is already being used by several infrastructure projects in Australia to establish a shared project vision, anticipate operational challenges, and obtain buy-in from stakeholders.

Technology adoption can empower governments with accuracy, quality and quantity of asset information on public assets. With the interplay of technology and temperament, they can ensure longevity of any bridge and bridge any trust deficit with the public.

The writer is Founder & CEO, CSM Technologies.

WISDOM CORNER

One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well. VIRGINIA WOOLF

Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present. JIM ROHN

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

WORDSWORTH

Culpon

Those of us faced with cutting a joint to serve at the table would no doubt refer to it as carving, no matter what variety of animal was concerned. It was very different in Tudor times, if we are to believe a book of 1508 by Wynkyn de Worde, once an apprentice to William Caxton, England's first printer. Its title was The Boke of Keruyng. It started "Here begynneth the boke of keruyng and sewynge and all the feestes in the yere", which in modern English would be "Here begins the book of carving and serving and all the feasts in the year".

Culpon, meaning a piece cut off, a portion or slice, is first recorded in Chaucer's Prologue to the Canterbury Tales in about 1386. It's from Old French colpon, via Latin colpus from Greek kolaphos, a blow with the fist. In the early nineteenth century - by then culpon was obsolete - the French word was borrowed again as coupon, which etymologically speaking is a thing cut out.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

A historic first

Sir, COP27, the 27th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change made a historic first in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, November 20 by finally reaching an agreement on the thorniest outstanding issue: paying for climate change damage. Loss and damage payments from wealthy countries to vulnerable nations suffering from the effects of climate change were a central theme at this year's climate negotiations. This is an important step toward climate justice since it recognises that some nations have been paying the costs of climate change without benefiting from the processes that drove such drastic alterations in climate - mainly industrialisation. It is a big win for the poorer nations which have long called for cash - sometimes viewed as reparations because they are the victims of climate worsened floods, droughts, heat-waves and storms. The meeting secured more commitments to cut methane pollution and addressed a renewed, desperate call to keep the planet from warming more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, one of the targets of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. But without everyone working together, there is little hope of slowing the warming of the planet, and the UN climate negotiation is one of the few venues where representatives from different countries hammer out difficult details of how they will curb climate change and adapt to it. It is highly required and necessary.

Bhagaban Nayak, BERHAMPUR

People's power

Sir, The mudslinging by the BJP and the BJD over the rail development in Bargarh-Padampur-Nuapada section is interesting. Development work, more so railways, is a continuous process. It requires planning, survey, approval by the railways, allocation of funds, land acquisition by the state and more importantly, monitoring and follow-up for timely completion of the project. To top it all, it requires a strong will-power to implement the said project. This ever drought prone backward area has been subject to neglect, by both the state and the Centre for decades. Bonded labour problem in western Odisha is a recurring issue which needs special focus. Irrigation, lack of adequate drinking water and paddy procurement centre problems are other perennial issues which require immediate resolution. Perhaps the terse and blunt message of the common people to the politicians is: "Take care of us, we will duly take care of you. Don't take us for granted - Padampur no exception. Development fetches votes."

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

of the day quote

Insightful deliberations with Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr. @RichardMarlesMP on boosting defence ties and deepening cooperation between India and Australia in Siem Reap, Cambodia

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Rahul Gandhi is invisible in Gujarat. He comes to the state like a visiting faculty. He also did not campaign in Himachal Pradesh. He is visiting only those places where there are no elections. May be because he is scared of defeat

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

The Rozgar Melas are a manifestation of empowering our youth with opportunities to serve their country with complete dedication and commitment

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

SFF personnel killed after failed para jump

Kolkata: An assistant leader of the Special Frontier Force (SFF), a covert Special Forces unit under the operational control of the Army, has been killed in north Sikkim after his parachute malfunctioned during a training session near the India-China border. According to a source, Lhagyal (40) was an experienced paratrooper with over 100 jumps (including free falls) under his belt. A resident of Sikkim, he was recruited to the 6 Vikas Battalion of SFF in July 2000. The incident happened Monday.

Farmer leader's fast enters 5th day

Chandigarh/Hoshiarpur: Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Sidhupur) president Jagjit Singh Dallewal's fast unto death to press various demands of farmers entered its fifth day Wednesday. Dallewal began his fast Saturday in Punjab's Faridkot to press for enhanced compensation for land acquired for national highway projects, compensation for crop damage due to inclement weather and pest attack and rolling back of heavy fines imposed for stubble burning.

AIIMS-Delhi server down

New Delhi: The server for National Informatics Centre's eHospital used at AIIMS-New Delhi has been down since 7 am, affecting the healthcare centre's outpatient department (OPD) and sample collection services. All these services are running on manual mode at present, AIIMS authorities said. A team from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) working at AIIMS has informed that this may be a ransomware attack, which is being reported to and will be investigated by appropriate law enforcement authorities, AIIMS said in a statement.

6 cops injured in stone pelting

Jodhpur: Six policemen were injured Wednesday when a group of agitated villagers protesting against the demolition of a temple pelted stones at them in a village in Sirohi district's Abu Road area, officials said. The Rajasthan High Court had ordered the removal of the temple structure which encroached upon a pond in Satpur village, they said, adding that nearly two dozen people have been rounded up for the violence.



For how long will CM @SangmaConrad allow @himantabiswa to take Meghalaya for granted? For how long should Meghalayans live in fear and insecurity. For how long will this injustice go on

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TMC NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

DELHI'S MIN TEMP SETTLES AT 8 DEG C

Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 8 degrees Celsius, the lowest so far this season and 'poor' air quality Wednesday. The capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 237 Wednesday, as against 255 Tuesday



SC OBSERVATIONS ON EC APPOINTMENTS

Oppn accuses BJP govt of weakening poll body

The Congress, TMC, JD(U), RJD and the Left parties said the Election Commission should be above board to ensure free and fair polls, and some of them demanded that key appointments of the poll body be made by a special panel like in the case of the CBI Director

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Opposition parties Wednesday accused the BJP government of weakening the Election Commission and raised doubts over the selection of poll panel members after the Supreme Court asked the Centre to produce the file on the recent appointment of Arun Goel as election commissioner.

Congress spokesperson and senior lawyer Abhishek Singhvi said the Centre should never object to showing appointment papers regarding Arun Goel to the apex court, especially since a Constitution bench is seized of the issue of appointment of EC members.

"Does the Centre have something to hide? Daal mein kya kuchh kaala hai? Yaa daal hi kaala hai?" Singhvi said. JD(U) secretary general K C Tyagi said the Supreme Court's remarks are very alarming and depict the state of affairs in the Election Commission.

The JDU leader also said the Chief Justice of India should be taken into confidence while appointing ECs and must be part and parcel of the appointment process.

Tyagi also demanded that the poll body should have its separate force and poll machinery and staff for the conduct of free and fair elections, as state officials and forces sometimes feel obliged to the ruling party. CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the issue of the appointment of ECs is being reviewed by the



Supreme Court. "While this issue is being reviewed by the Supreme Court itself, we have always demanded that the appointment of the CEC and the election commissioners should be in the process that is in place to appoint the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Lokpal." "There should be a special panel which should include the Leader of Opposition and, in this case, former CECs. Only this will ensure that the sanctity of the poll body is not compromised," Yechury said.

Reacting to the Supreme Court observations on the appointment of Goel, Trinamool Congress' parliamentary leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien alleged that over the years, the poll body has been one of the institutions weakened by the BJP government. "In the last half a dozen years or so, the abbreviation EC has come to mean 'Extremely Compromised'. The Modi government works selfishly to weaken institutions," O'Brien alleged. Loktantrik

Janata Dal general secretary Javed Raza welcomed the Supreme Court's observations in the case. The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) claimed the "critical concerns" raised by the Supreme Court over the functioning of the Election Commission prove that the poll panel has not been following its mandate of conducting free and fair elections for the last couple of years. "They have raised questions on selection criteria and that vindicates our position that in the last couple of years, the Election Commission of India has not been following its mandate under Article 324 which calls for conducting free and fair elections," Jha told PTI.

The poll panel has been silent on hate speeches as well as on unsavoury remarks made by ruling party leaders, the RJD leader alleged. The court said it wanted to know whether there was any "hanky panky" or everything was "hunky dory" in the appointment process as claimed by the government.

AADITYA MEETS NITISH, TEJASHWI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 23: Aaditya Thackeray on Wednesday sought to distance himself from the strident "anti-migrant" stance that the Shiv Sena, founded by his late grandfather Bal Thackeray, has often been accused of.

The Shiva Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader and former Maharashtra minister, whose first trip to Bihar intensified the buzz around "opposition unity", claimed that those who have been hostile towards the Hindi-speaking north Indians were now "with the BJP" and asserted that all communities had "co-existed peacefully when we were in power in Maharashtra".

Notably, Thackeray's father Uddhav headed the "Maha Vikas Aghadi" government that also included Sharad Pawar's NCP and the Congress.

He resigned as Chief Minister of Maharashtra earlier this year after which a rebel faction of Shiv Sena headed by Eknath Shinde formed a new government with BJP.

Aaditya Thackeray, accompanied by party Rajya Sabha MPs Anil Desai and Priyanka Chaturvedi, had "goodwill meetings" with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav.

During a brief interaction with the media here, Thackeray lauded Yadav for his "good work" and disclosed that he had been in touch, over phone, with the RJD leader for quite some time though this was the first occasion for them to meet in person.



Vikram Gokhale passes away at 77

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pune, Nov 23: Veteran Hindi film and Marathi stage, films and TV actor Vikram Gokhale passed away after a prolonged illness here late on Wednesday, hospital sources said. He was 77.

The condition of Gokhale, who was suffering from multiple illnesses and undergoing treatment at the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, deteriorated this afternoon and he breathed his last a few hours later. Son of prominent Marathi theatre and cinema actor Chandrakant Gokhale, some of Gokhale's leading Bollywood films were Sanjay Leela Bhansali's romantic film "Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam" (1999), where he was Aishwarya Rai's music maestro father; Kamal Haasan's "Hey Ram" (2001), as Acharya Yagyaprakash Bharti in "Bhool Bhulaiyaa" (2007) and in Priyadarshan's rib-tickler "De Dana Dan" (2009) and many others.

Border violence: CBI to take over probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Guwahati/Mukroh (Meghalaya), Nov 23: Ahead of a posse of Meghalaya ministers meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Sarma announced Wednesday at Delhi that his Cabinet has decided to hand over the probe into violence at the border of the two states to the CBI.

The cabinet meeting held, quite unprecedentedly in Delhi where the state's ministers had come to attend a central function honoring Assamese medieval hero Lachit Borphukan, also asked the state police force accused of shooting dead five tribal villagers from Meghalaya Tuesday to use restraint while dealing with issues or disturbances involving civilians.

During the special Cabinet meeting held here, the council of ministers decided to bring out a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the police and forest personnel to deal with situations arising out of altercations with civilians.

"We advised police to restrain use of lethal weapons while deal-

NIA set to formally take over Mangaluru blast case



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mangaluru, Nov 23: The Mangaluru autorickshaw blast case would be formally handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) soon, Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood said on Wednesday.

He said the objective of the prime accused Mohammed Shariq was to create a divide between communities. "What else was the objective? His aim was to create differences between two communities, there is no doubt. Differences between communities be it Hindu, Muslim, or Christian grow when there is a blast. It means destabilising the country. He definitely intended to disturb communal harmony and unity..." the DGP said.

Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra visited the blast site near here, along with Sood, and also the hospital where Shariq and auto-driver Purushottam Poojary were being treated. Jnanendra said Shariq had visited different places like Coimbatore and Kanyakumari and an investigation has been on. Several police teams have been formed and been sent to different places as part of the probe.

Sood said the NIA and other central agencies have been working with the Karnataka police from day-one of the blast, adding that the case would be formally handed

over to NIA. With demand growing for an NIA office in Mangaluru, Jnanendra said the State government has brought this to the notice of the Centre, and expressed confidence there would be set an office in this coastal town.

The Minister said the police were working to find the background of the accused in the November 19 blast at Nagori here, his financiers, and, "the forces which are compelling him to repeatedly do such acts."

Jnanendra said Shariq had planned a major blast, but "the bomb exploded midway and did not go off the way it was planned".

"If the entire cooker (carried by Shariq in the autorickshaw) had exploded then it would have led to major damage. He (Shariq) had managed to create a bomb using materials available locally," said the Home Minister.

He said the Home Department has resolved to "completely eradicate the fanatical forces which want bloodbath and kill people and try to disturb the unity and integrity of the country".

The Minister said Shariq was arrested in an objectionable graffiti case in Mangaluru showing his support to the Islamic State and the Lashkar-e-Toiba, but the High Court granted him bail after he spent seven to eight months in jail.



WASTE MENACE: Garbage collected by the side of a road at Jahangirpuri in New Delhi

Women, girls more at risk of being killed at home: Report

The report comes ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women November 25 and is a horrific reminder that atrocities against women and girls is one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: A new study by UNODC and UN Women Wednesday showed that, on average, more than five women or girls were killed every hour by someone in their own family in 2021.

Of all the women and girls intentionally killed last year, some 56

percent were killed by intimate partners or other family members (45,000 out of 81,000), showing that home is not a safe place for many women and girls. Meanwhile, 11 percent of all male homicides are perpetrated in the private sphere.

UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous said: "Behind every femicide statistic is the story of an individual woman or girl who has been failed. These deaths are preventable - the tools and the knowledge to do so already exist."

"Women's rights organizations are already monitoring data and advocating for policy change and accountability. Now we need the concerted action across society that will fulfil women's and girls' right to feel and to be safe, at home, on the streets, and everywhere."

UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly said: "No woman or girl should fear for her life because of



who she is. To stop all forms of gender-related killings of women and girls, we need to count every victim, everywhere, and improve understanding of the risks and drivers of femicide so we can design

better and more effective prevention and criminal justice responses."

"UNODC is proud to launch the 2022 femicide study with UN Women to galvanize global action and salute the efforts of women's rights or-

ganizations around the world to end this crime."

This year's figures also show that over the past decade, the overall number of female homicides has remained largely unchanged, underscoring the urgency to prevent and respond to this scourge with stronger actions.

Even though these numbers are alarmingly high, the true scale of femicide may be much higher: Too many victims of femicide still go uncounted - given inconsistencies in definitions and criteria amongst countries, for roughly four in 10 women and girls killed intentionally in 2021, there is not enough information to identify them as femicide, especially for those killings happening in the public sphere.

As for regional disparities, while femicide is a problem that concerns every single country in the world, the report shows that in ab-

solute numbers, Asia recorded the largest number of gender related killings in the private sphere in 2021, whereas women and girls were more at risk of being killed by their intimate partners or other family members in Africa.

In 2021, the rate of gender related killings in the private sphere was estimated at 2.5 per 100,000 female population in Africa, compared with 1.4 in the Americas, 1.2 in Oceania, 0.8 in Asia and 0.6 in Europe.

At the same time, the findings suggest that the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 coincided with a significant increase in gender related killings in the private sphere in Northern America and to some extent in Western and Southern Europe.

However, gender-related killings, as well as other forms of violence against women and girls, are not inevitable.

VIOLENCE AT ASSAM-MEGHALAYA BORDER

Uneasy calm in Mukroh village

AGENCIES

Mukroh (Meghalaya), Nov 23: Mukroh village Wednesday wore an eerie calm, a day after six people were killed in violence there, along the disputed Assam-Meghalaya border.

Shops remained closed and streets were largely empty as most people stayed indoors.

Security personnel, in large numbers, stood guard in the village to prevent any further untoward incident. Two persons, who are undergoing treatment at a local hospital, having received bullet injuries in the clashes Tuesday, said they had visited the violence-hit area after learning that some of the fellow villagers were in danger.

Cheini Nartiang (48) was shot in his nose, and Elias Samaiang (36) in the chin.

"I saw five people falling unconscious right in front of me before getting hit myself. I don't remember anything after that," Samaiang told PTI, before the two left for North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) in Shillong.

Violence had broken out at the 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.

Six people, including a forest guard, were gunned down amid the clashes.

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma had complained that the Assam police and forest guards entered the state and resorted to unprovoked firing.

Assam officials, however, asserted that the truck was intercepted in West Karbi Anglong district of the state by a forest department team and a mob from Meghalaya attacked the forest guards and policemen from the state, who, in a bid to bring the situation under control, opened fire.

Officials in Assam also said that



Remains of a temple after it was vandalised by miscreants following the violence at disputed Assam-Meghalaya border location, in West Karbi Anglong district, Wednesday

a group of people from Meghalaya vandalised and burnt down a forest office in West Karbi Anglong district, shortly after the firing took place. Mukroh village chief Hambol Sumer, talking to PTI, claimed that similar incidents along the border had gone unreported in the past. Six villagers in Mukroh were shot by armed personnel from Assam back in 2002, but the matter was not reported. No one had the courage to talk about it.

In neighbouring Moolber village, one person was shot dead two years ago and the victim did not get justice till date, Sumer said, adding that locals want justice.

Mukroh village, 30 km east of West Jaintia Hills district headquarters of Jowai, is located around 10 km from the interstate border inside Meghalaya.

"We want the murderers involved in yesterday's killing to take responsibility. The Assam government should hand them over to the Meghalaya Police for a fair trial," Sumer said.

Khasi Students Union echoed Mukroh village chief's sentiments. KSU general secretary Donald V Thabah said the perpetrators should be named, arrested and handed over to the authorities in Meghalaya

for a fair trial.

Activists of the KSU, who were camping since Tuesday at Lalong Civil Hospital at Jowai where the post-mortem of the six deceased persons was being conducted, left in the afternoon after talking to deputy commissioner, who assured them that necessary actions will be taken in the case.

Internet services have been suspended in Meghalaya following Monday's violence.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said the administration, as a precautionary measure, has asked vehicles from Assam and other states not to travel through Meghalaya till the situation normalises.

Meghalaya and Assam have a longstanding dispute in 12 areas along the 884.9-km-long interstate border, and the location where the violence took place is one of them.

The two northeastern states had signed a memorandum of understanding in March this year in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi towards ending the dispute in six areas.

Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972 and had since then challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, which

Assam police could have shown more restraint: Himanta

Guwahati: Reacting to violence that claimed six lives in a village along the Assam-Meghalaya border, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Wednesday said that police could have shown more restraint before firing bullets to quell the mob.

"Tuesday's incident has nothing to do with the Assam-Meghalaya border issue. It was a result of a fight between two parties. Some locals and forest guards engaged in fighting which ultimately led to the incident. The loss of six lives is really unfortunate," he said.

Moreover, the police team could have shown more restraint, the chief minister added.

"It seemed to be a case of unprovoked firing. We have suspended a few police and forest department officials. The Superintendent of Police of the district concerned was transferred. A judicial inquiry has already been ordered. We would like to request an NIA or CBI probe into the incident," he added.

Sarma also briefed about the incident to the mediapersons. He mentioned that few people in the forest area had cut timber and loaded them onto a truck. The forest guards tried to intercept the vehicle and opened fire on the truck and three persons were apprehended after a hot chase at the Mukroh village.

"Hearing a tumult, villagers came out in large numbers and when the police team reached the spot, a scuffle broke out between two parties," Chief Minister added.

had demarcated the border between the two states.

India's first dog on anti-poacher duty Zorba dies

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Nov 23: Zorba, India's first dog to be deployed for tracking down poachers, died in Guwahati due to old age.

The 12-year-old male Belgian Malinois was a member of 'K9', the nation's first dog squad for wildlife crimes.

Zorba was the first dog of the squad and he was credited with helping law enforcement authorities nab over 60 poachers.

He was given a warm farewell by wildlife activists and was buried here Tuesday. Zorba retired from service in 2019 and was honoured for his services with a traditional Assamese 'gamosa' and a citation on Independence Day this year.

He served mostly in the Kaziranga National Park from 2012 till his retirement, and assisted authorities to nab people involved in rhino poaching.

He was also deployed on other national parks on several occasions.

In one incident in Orang National Park, the dog gave vital clues from the crime scene leading to the identification of the suspect's house outside the park, following which the accused was arrested.

The nation's first dog squad for wildlife crimes was set up in Assam under the initiative of biodiversity organisation 'Aaranyak' in 2011. "Zorba's contribution during his lifetime will always be remembered and we will always regard him as a conservation hero," Aaranyak's Chief Executive Officer Bibhab Talukdar said.

The dog's handler, Anil Kumar Das, said he has rich memories with Zorba, who will always remain an inspiration for him.

The K9 dog squad, comprising six Belgian Malinois dogs along with their handlers, has been actively assisting forest and police officials in Kaziranga and Manas National Parks as well as other rhino-inhabited areas in Assam resulting in the arrest of many poachers by law enforcement agencies.

Ker Guv says ordinance seeking his removal as Chancellor infructuous



Khan is at loggerheads with the LDF-led government in the state over various issues, including the appointment of Vice Chancellors at various universities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 23: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan Wednesday said the ordinance issued by the Left government seeking to remove him as the chancellor of universities has become infructuous now as the Assembly is summoned.

The government, earlier this month, had issued an ordinance stripping the Governor of the chancellorship of state universities. It also later decided to convene the Assembly session from December 5.

A visibly irritated Khan also criticised the recent news reports of Raj Bhavan seeking extra vehicles from the government for the Governor's guests and asked whether he should ask them to walk.

"If extra guests come to Raj Bhavan, extra vehicles would be

sought from the government. What is special about it? If the guests of the Governor come, should I ask them to walk on foot?" Khan told reporters in New Delhi in reply to a question.

"Once the House has been summoned, any ordinance, which was sent to Raj Bhavan earlier, becomes infructuous...So, there is no such ordinance now," he said.

When asked whether he got any reply from the Pinarayi Vijayan government regarding the government employees allegedly taking part in the recent protests in front of Raj Bhavan, Khan said he did not seek any reply and it appears as if violation of the law is becoming normal in the state.

One after the other, the court is giving judgements in the last six months, in the case of just one university. Three or four judgements were ordered by the High Court. So, it appears as if violation of the law is becoming normal..., he said.

The Governor said he would give enough space to rectify and correct the situation. But if the law is not respected, then ultimately at some stage the Governor is under obligation to act, he added.

Khan is at loggerheads with the Left Democratic Front-led government in the state over various issues, including the appointment of Vice Chancellors at various universities.

DOUBLE BURDEN

CHIN-KUKI REFUGEES FROM B'DESH SEEK SHELTER IN MIZORAM

Mizoram will provide similar relief to Bangladeshi migrants like Myanmar refugees



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl, Nov 23: While over 30,000 Myanmar nationals took shelter in Mizoram after the military seized power in their country in February last year, over 270 tribals belonging to Chin-Kuki community have fled to the northeastern state from Bangladesh.

Like the Myanmar refugees, Mizoram government will provide similar food, relief, and shelter to the Chin-Kuki tribals, who reached here fleeing the reported crackdown of the security forces against the militant outfit, officials said Wednesday.

Around 272 Chin-Kuki tribals, including women and children took shelter in southern Mizoram's Lawngtlai district Sunday evening from the Chittagang Hill Tracts (CHT) in southeast Bangladesh after the reported anti-insurgency operation by the Bangladesh Army's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) against insurgent group Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA).

The KNA, also known as Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF), is a militant outfit, demanding sovereignty for the tribals.

A Mizoram Home Department official said that Chief Minister Zoramthanga expressing his sympathy has asked the concerned district to extend all kinds of relief assistance including food and basic amenities to the Bangladeshi nationals. The Bangladeshi nationals were lodged at a community hall, a school and a sub-centre in Parva-3 village in Lawngtlai district.

Meanwhile, a leader of the Chin-Kuki tribals said that more refugees from Bangladesh are likely to come to Mizoram due to the ongoing crackdown against the KNA.

The Chin-Kuki tribals and the Mizos in Mizoram belong to the Zo community and share the same culture and ancestry.

Reports from across the border said that trouble began long back in the CHT, a hilly area inhabited by tribals of various communities and Muslims, after the insurgent group KNA started their numerous activities demanding autonomy.

The minority Kuki-Chin community has a population of around 3.5 lakh in the mountainous CHT, adjoining India. The Bangladeshi nationals came at a time when the Mizoram government is struggling to provide food and shelter to over 30,500 Myanmar, who sheltered in the northeastern state after the military seized power in Myanmar through a coup in February last year.

Majority of the Myanmar refugees, including 11,798 children and 10,047 women, are sheltered in more than 156 camps in all 11 districts in Mizoram while a large number of them took shelter in the relatives' houses, community centres, rented houses, government buildings and shelter houses set up by various NGOs, including the Young Mizo Association.

Mizoram shares 318 km unfenced borders with Bangladesh and 510 km frontiers with Myanmar, guarded by the Border Security Force and the Assam Rifles, respectively.

Kerala couple's wedding invitation goes viral after Army appreciation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 23: A Kerala couple's wedding invite that addressed the Indian Army garnered lavish praise and went viral as soon as it was shared on social media, after gaining the army's recognition and praise.

Rahul, an assistant bank manager in Coimbatore and Karthika, an IT professional in Technopark, penned a handwritten note in their invitation card, thanking the army for their relentless service along with inviting them to their wedding ceremony held on November 10, in an auditorium near the Pangode military station.

The letter began with the salutation "Dear Heroes".

It stated, "We (Rahul and Karthika) are getting married on November 10th. We are truly thankful for love, determination, and patriotism towards our country. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to you for keeping us safe. Because of you, we sleep peacefully. Thank you for giving us happy days with our loved ones. Because of you, we are getting married happily. We are extremely delighted to invite you to our special day. We wish your presence and blessings."

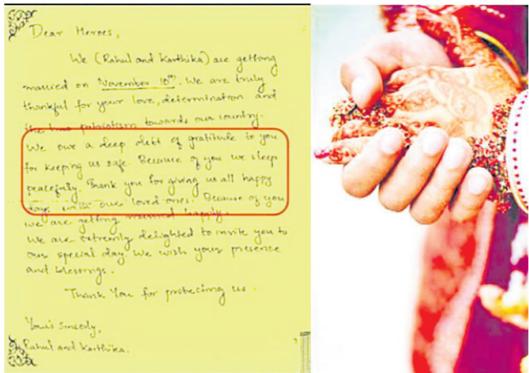
Kerala kids also in grip of football World Cup fever

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malappuram (Ker), Nov 23: A little girl in Kerala's Malappuram district is waiting and hoping for Brazil to lose its first FIFA world cup 2022 game so she could celebrate it with firecrackers in retaliation to supporters of that team mocking her favourite soccer player, Lionel Messi, over Argentina's loss to Saudi Arabia.

This indicates that not only adults, but even children in Kerala are in the grip of football World Cup fever.

It was also evident from how the young girl spiritedly stood her ground and shouted back at Brazil supporters, who outnumbered her, for ridiculing Lionel Messi after Argentina's loss to Saudi Arabia. A video of the little girl defend-



ing Argentina and Lionel Messi by shouting against Brazil supporters has gone viral.

The video shows the girl, donning a dark blue jersey with Messi written on the back, shouting at the Brazil fans who outnumbered her and even drowned her responses with their hooting and jeering.

Not the one to give up easily, apparently, she stands her ground and shouts back at them and then decides to go back.

But as the jeering increases, she rushes back and vehemently yells at the detractors of her favourite player and tells them that Messi has more games to play.

After that she finally walks away in a huff.

The visuals would evoke a smile from anyone, and if the Argentine team or Messi saw it, their hearts

would be warmed by the spirited defense put up on their behalf by her.

Later, as the video became viral, she told media that she was sad

Assam environmentalist gets highest UN honour

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: Purnima Devi Barman, conservation biologist known for initiating all-female grassroots conservation movement from Assam for saving the greater adjutant, one of the world's rarest storks, is among the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2022 Champions of the Earth award announced Tuesday.

Since its inception in 2005, the annual Champions of the Earth award has been awarded to trailblazers at the forefront of efforts to protect the natural world.

It is the UN's highest environmental honour. To date, the award has recognized 111 laureates 26 world leaders, 69 individuals and 16 organizations.

This year a record 2,200 nominations from around the world were received.

Healthy, functional ecosystems are critical to preventing the climate emergency and loss of biodiversity from causing irreversible damage to our planet. This year's Champions of the Earth give us hope that our relationship with nature can be repaired, said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.



This year's Champions demonstrate how reviving ecosystems and supporting nature's remarkable capacity for regeneration is everyone's job governments, the private sector, scientists, communities, NGOs and individuals.

Barman honoured in the Entrepreneurial Vision category is a wildlife biologist who leads the Hargila Army, an all-female grassroots conservation movement dedicated to protecting the greater adjutant stork from extinction.

The women create and sell textiles with motifs of the bird, helping to raise awareness about the species while building their own financial independence.

"The honour is overwhelming and a dream come true for me. I dedicate this award to Mother Earth and all mothers of the planet as the best education begins at home on the mother's lap," said Barman.



over Argentina's loss and some persons had written something bad on a Messi photo put up in the locality, which she could not bear: "So, I got angry and yelled ex-

pletives at them. They (Brazil supporters) were also yelling expletives and making fun of Argentina and Messi. I could not bear that so I said some things about Neymar," she said.

She also said that initially there were other Argentina fans too, but they walked away in the face of the hooting and jeering.

Some of them cried over Argentina's loss, she added. Regarding what happened in the match, the young girl said that the team in green (Saudi Arabia) committed a lot of fouls and played a dirty game.

She also said that she wanted Brazil to lose its upcoming match with Serbia November 25.

"We will burst firecrackers, if Brazil loses," she said with revenge clearly on her mind.

of the day quote

In the past one month alone, Maharashtra and Gujarat have handed out thousands of appointment letters. A few days ago, the Uttar Pradesh government too has handed out appointment letters to several youths. Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh too have organised thousands of youth

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

When I was only a Parliamentarian, I was scared of coming to Ghaziabad just because of the condition and environment

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

The AAP will intensify its campaign through activities like 1,000 Nukkad Sabha, Dance for Democracy, Nukkad Natak, Guitar Show, Magic Show. This campaign will continue till December 2

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

CV Ananda Bose takes oath as Bengal Guv

Kolkata: CV Ananda Bose Wednesday took oath as the new governor of West Bengal. He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Prakash Shrivastava in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Speaker Biman Banerjee at a programme in Raj Bhavan. Leader of opposition in state assembly Suwendu Adhikari, however, skipped the programme. Bose, a retired Kerala cadre IAS officer of the 1977 batch, was named the new governor of West Bengal November 17. He replaced La Ganesan as the state's constitutional head.

2 labourers die of electrocution

Mathura (UP): Two labourers at a construction site died of electrocution and three others sustained critical injuries here, police said. The incident took place in Kirarai village under Farah police station limits. According to reports, five men were trying to build pillars of the house and the iron rod they were erecting, came in contact with a high-tension wire, leading to their electrocution. The deceased have been identified as Surendra, 50 and Yadram, 35. Three others -- Arjun, Mukesh and Mahavir -- are undergoing treatment at a hospital.

₹75 lakh in cash seized from car

Surat: The Static Surveillance team has recovered Rs 75 lakh in cash from a car here days before Gujarat goes to poll in two phases -- December 1 and 5, sources said Wednesday. On Tuesday night, the team intercepted a car with three occupants and on searching, it found Rs 75 lakh in cash. While two persons -- Uday Gurjar and Mohammad Faiz -- were detained and questioned by the police, the third -- Sandeep -- managed to escape. Income Tax department will be joining the investigation.

WB govt employees clash with police

Kolkata: A section of West Bengal government employees Wednesday clashed with the police when they tried to enter the assembly venue over payment of DA instalments by the state. The employees, who had gathered near the downtown Esplanade area of the city, were prevented by the police from proceeding to the Assembly building, officials said.

Aftab will kill and cut me to pieces: Shraddha told Maha police in '20

Taking strong cognisance, the Maharashtra government has ordered a probe into the Palghar Police's 'inaction' on the letter written by Shraddha Walkar in November 2020

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Palghar, Nov 23: Exactly two years ago November 23, 2020, Shraddha Walkar had submitted a written complaint to the Tulinj Police Station in Palghar of threats from her live-in partner, Aftab Ameen Poonawalla and how he threatened to "kill and cut her into pieces".

The letter, which has just surfaced, was duly acknowledged by the local police, who have also said that though they had probed the matter, Shraddha later gave another letter withdrawing her (November 23, 2020) complaint, signalling an end.

In her hand-penned plea, she sounded distressed, stating that Aftab was beating her up, blackmailing her and threatening to murder her and cut her body into pieces.

Nearly two years later, Shraddha's worst fears came true with Aftab recently getting arrested for Shraddha's gory killing in Delhi, chopping her body into many pieces and then disposing them of in installments over several weeks, even as the case created huge sensation.

Shraddha, 25, had mentioned how she and Aftab, 26, were living together in Vijay Vihar Complex, and he had been abusing and beating her up for six months.

"Today he tried to kill me by suffocating me and he scared and blackmails me that he will kill me

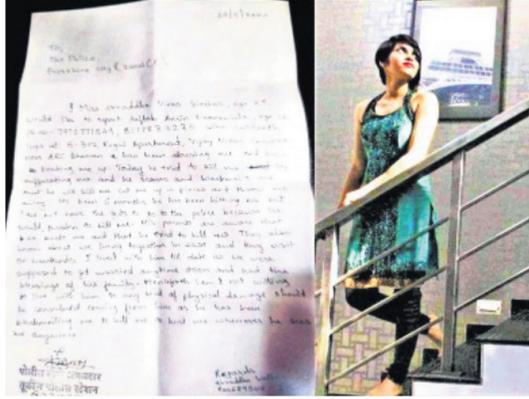
cut me up in pieces and throw me away," said Shraddha. "It has been six months he has been beating me. I did not have the guts to go to the police because he would threaten to kill me," said the letter.

In a revelation, Shraddha said that Aftab's parents "are aware that he beats me and that he tried to kill me". "They also know about we living together and they visit us on weekends. I lived with him till date as we were supposed to get married anytime soon and had the blessings of his family," said Shraddha.

Apparently fed up, she declared that "henceforth, I am not willing to live with him, so any kind of physical damage should be considered coming from him as he has been blackmailing to kill me or hurt me whenever he sees me anywhere".

Poonawalla narco test likely today

NEW DELHI: Narco test on Aaftab Amin Poonawalla, accused of murdering his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, is likely to be conducted Thursday, sources said. The 28-year-old will, however, have to undergo a set of tests to ascertain his emotional, mental, physiological and psychological well-being. The narco analysis cannot be conducted if he is found to be "disturbed" in the preliminary tests.



BJY ENTERS MP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Nov 23: After winding up its Maharashtra leg, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) Wednesday entered Madhya Pradesh.

The foot-march began around 6.30 a.m. after Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole handed over yatra flag to Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath at a village in Burhanpur district around 5.30 a.m.

Of the total 120 people, who are marching along with Rahul Gandhi from Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) and will be part of the entire 3,070 km yatra (from Kanyakumari to Srinagar), 11, including four women, hail from Madhya Pradesh. The list excludes two-time former chief minister Digvijaya Singh, who is the convener of the Yatra.

During a press conference at Burhanpur, Congress general secretary and in-charge of communication, publicity and media department Jairam Ramesh said that the yatra will cover around 21-22 km every day in two parts.

"Padyatra will start every day between 6 a.m. to 6.30 a.m. and continue till 9.30 a.m. During this period, it will cover 14-15 km and second part of the yatra will begin at 3:30 p.m. covering around 8-10 km till 7.30 p.m.," Jairam Ramesh said.



Satyender Jain asks court to stop CCTV clip display

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Delhi Minister Satyender Jain, in the eye of a political storm over leaked videos showing him getting special treatment in jail, Wednesday urged a Delhi court to restrain media from running any footage from inside his prison cell.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull issued notice to Tihar Jail authorities on Jain's plea and directed the prison officials to file their reply by tomorrow, when the court will hear the matter.



PLAY TIME: A student plays volleyball during a tournament at Government College for Women MG Road in Srinagar

Man kills parents, sister & grandmother in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Days after returning from a rehabilitation centre, a 25-year-old drug-addict allegedly stabbed his parents, sister and grandmother to death in southwest Delhi's Palam, police said Wednesday.

Keshav killed his entire family Tuesday night following a quarrel, officials said, adding their bodies were found in separate rooms at their home with blood all over.

The deceased have been identified as Keshav's grandmother Deewana Devi (75), father Dinesh (50), mother Darshana and sister Urvarshi (18). As Keshav went on the stabbing spree, the screams of his family members alerted some of their relatives, who live in the same building, and neighbours.

According to a police officer, they received information around 10:30 pm Tuesday about a quarrel on the upper floor of a house in Palam.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Manoj C said when a police team reached there it found four members of the family dead.



In this combo photo Keshav (in red), a 25-year-old man with his mother, sister, father and grandmother



The caller and his relatives caught hold of the accused and handed him over to the police, he said. Preliminary investigation revealed that Keshav did not have a stable job. He used to work in a company in Gurugram and left the job a month ago, police said.

Prima facie it seems the accused killed his family members following an argument, police said.

A case under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered with the Palam police station and further investigation is on, they said. Keshav's relatives said they are shocked and completely devastated. His cousin Kuldeep Saini caught accused and handed him over to police.

Saini said when police were taking him away, Keshav threatened him, "It will be your number, when I come out of jail."

Saini lives on the first floor of the building and his uncle's family lived on the second.

Saini said when they opened the gate of the house after cutting the iron mesh of the main door, they found the elderly woman and Urvarshi lying dead in the same room and Keshav's parents in the washroom. He further said Keshav used to quarrel with his family over money for his drugs. On Tuesday also, Keshav and his mother had a heated argument over money.

Cong leader moves SC seeking review of verdict upholding 10% reservation to EWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: A Congress leader Wednesday moved the Supreme Court seeking review of its verdict upholding the 10 per cent reservation introduced in 2019 for the economically weaker sections (EWS) in educational institutions and government jobs that excluded the poor among the SC/ST/OBC categories.

The plea filed by Jaya Thakur has sought review of the November 7 verdict saying there was error apparent on the face of records in the judgement.

The review petition has been filed through advocate Varinder Kumar Sharma. In its landmark judgement, a five-judge Constitution bench had said that the use of basic structure doctrine as a "sword" to "stultify" the State's effort to do economic justice cannot be countenanced.

It had delivered a 3:2 majority decision in favour of the 103rd Constitution Amendment. While upholding the 10 per cent reservation introduced in 2019 for EWS in admissions and government jobs that excluded the poor among the SC/ST/OBC categories, the apex court had said it is not discriminatory or violative of any essential feature of the Constitution.

Treating the EWS as a separate category is a reasonable classification and the 50 per cent ceiling on the total reservation under the Mandal judgment is "not inflexible", the judges had said while dismissing the petitions challenging the validity of the law.

The bench headed by then Chief Justice U U Lalit had delivered four judgments on 40 petitions against the Amendment that was passed after the Modi government decided to grant quota to the economically weaker sections ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Covid may increase risk of stroke in kids: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Washington, Nov 23: Children may be at increased risk of stroke after Covid-19 infection, according to a small study conducted in the US.

The research, published this week in the journal Pediatric Neurology, reviewed medical charts and diagnosis codes to identify 16 hospital patients who had an ischemic stroke between March 2020 and June 2021. Most of those took place between February and May 2021, shortly after the surge of Covid pediatric cases. Of those tested for Covid antibodies, nearly half tested positive.

None of the 16 had been severely sick with the virus and some had been asymptomatic, the researchers said. Five patients were not tested for past Covid infection, a limitation of the study, they said.

"It may be that hyper-immune



response that comes later that's causing kids to clot," said MaryGlen J. Vielleux, a pediatric neurology resident at University of Utah Health and lead author of the study. "Overall,

kids have a relatively low risk for stroke, but there is a rare but real risk after Covid," Vielleux said.

The new data shows that the overall number of strokes was sig-

OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH STROKES OF UNCERTAIN ORIGINS HAD AVERAGED AROUND 4 PER YEAR

IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2021, THE HOSPITAL CARED FOR 13 KIDS WITH A STROKE OF UNKNOWN ORIGINS

nificantly higher than what had been seen historically at Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital.

Over the past five years, the number of children with strokes of uncertain origins had averaged around 4 per year. In the first six months of 2021, the hospital cared for 13 kids with a stroke of unknown origins.

The study's results are in contrast to the findings of a 2021 international study of children early in the pandemic that suggested Covid-19

did not cause an increased risk of stroke in children.

The new study also showed that the risk of stroke is independent of whether or not the patient has Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a known complication of Covid.

Only three of the patients had confirmed cases of MIS-C. Of the 16 kids studied, most had few lingering impacts from their stroke by the time they left the hospital.

Researchers hope the new study highlights the need for early evaluation of neurologic symptoms in children to rule out the possibility of stroke.

Children often do not display the symptoms commonly associated with stroke in adults, they said. The data shows that even kids who were asymptomatic from Covid-19 could go on to experience a serious complication like stroke, Vielleux added.

international

of the day quote

I will not dissolve parliament early until the economic crisis can be resolved

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

On the one hand, Iran is under many economic, military, and internal pressures, and on the other hand, it continues to promote its nuclear programme. The IDF strongly promotes all operational plans against the Iranian threat

AVIV KOHAV | CHIEF OF STAFF (IDF), ISRAEL

The gravest threat requiring urgent and resolute intervention by the international community is transnational and cross-border terrorism. Indifference can no longer be a response, as terrorism has found victims globally

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER, INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Nepal polls: Deuba wins HoR seat

Kathmandu: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba was elected Wednesday with a huge margin of votes from the Dadeldhura constituency in far west Nepal for the seventh consecutive time, with his Nepali Congress party leading in the election tally by winning 11 seats so far. Elections to the House of Representatives (HoR) and seven provincial assemblies were held Sunday. The counting of votes started Monday. The 77-year-old Nepali Congress president Deuba is currently holding the post of Prime Minister for the fifth term.

Twin blasts rock Jerusalem; 1 dead

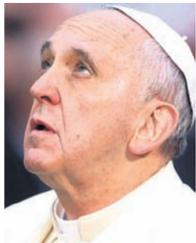
Jerusalem: One person was killed and 21 others injured in two separate explosions at bus stops at the entrances to Jerusalem Wednesday, in what seemed like a coordinated terror attack, Israeli police said. The devices were packed with nails to maximise casualties and controlled by nearly identical remote devices, the police added. Israel Police Commissioner Kobi Shtabti said "this is a framework of attack that we haven't seen for many years". It seemed like a coordinated terror attack, he said. There were no immediate claims of responsibility, however, the Hamas terror group hailed the twin attacks.

Earthquake strikes Turkey; 50 injured

Ankara: A magnitude-5.9 earthquake hit a town in northwestern Turkey early Wednesday, causing damage to some buildings and widespread panic. Around 50 people were injured, mostly while trying to flee homes. The earthquake was centered in the town of Golkaya, in Duzce province, some 200 kilometers east of Istanbul, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said. Dozens of aftershocks were reported, including one with a magnitude of 4.3. The quake woke people from their sleep and many rushed out of buildings in panic in the province that experienced a deadly earthquake 23 years ago.

Trump tax returns to Cong approved

Washington: The US Supreme Court cleared the way for the imminent handover of former President Donald Trump's tax returns to a congressional committee after a three-year legal fight. The court, without comment, rejected Trump's plea for an order that would have prevented the Treasury Department from giving six years of tax returns for Trump and some of his businesses to the Democratic-controlled House Ways and Means Committee.



Saturday begins the anniversary of the terrible genocide of the Holodomor, the extermination by starvation artificially caused by Stalin. Let us pray for the victims of this genocide and let us pray for so many Ukrainians who today are suffering the martyrdom of aggression

POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

MONKEYPOX TO MPOX The World Health Organization is planning to rename monkeypox, designating it as "MPOX" in an effort to destigmatize the virus that gained a foothold in the United States earlier this year, Politico reported



Russia state sponsor of terrorism: EU

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS DECLARED RUSSIA AS A "STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM" OVER THE "BRUTAL AND INHUMANE" ACTS INFLICTED UPON UKRAINE AND ITS CITIZENS SINCE THE LAUNCH OF THE INVASION

AGENCIES

Brussels, Nov 23: The European Parliament Wednesday designated Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism, arguing Moscow's military strikes on civilian targets such as energy infrastructure, hospitals, schools and shelters violated international law.

European lawmakers voted in favour of a resolution calling Russia a state sponsor of terrorism.

The move is largely symbolic, as the European Union does not have a legal framework in place to back it up. At the same time, the bloc has already imposed unprecedented sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

"The deliberate attacks and atrocities carried out by the Russian Federation against the civilian population of Ukraine, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and other serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law amount to acts of terror against the Ukrainian population and constitute war crimes," MEPs said in a non-binding but highly symbolic resolution. "In the light of the above, (the European Parliament) recognises Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism and as a state which uses means of terrorism."

The text merged three different resolutions filed by the European People's Party (EPP), Renew Europe and the European Conservatives and Reformists group (ECR).

In the final version, MEPs denounce Russia's "illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression" against Ukraine and accuse the Russian army and its proxies of committing a long list of crimes, such as the murder of "thousands" of civilians and "hundreds" of children, attacks on essential infrastructure, summary executions, abductions, rape, harassment, torture, mass detentions and forced deportations.

"These brutal and inhumane acts are causing death, suffering, destruction and displacement,"



WHAT MAKES A STATE 'SPONSOR OF TERROR'?

Under US law, countries designated as state sponsors are accused of supporting international terrorism. For example the US accuses Iran of supporting proxies and partner groups in Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, including Hezbollah and Hamas. Graham said Putin had engaged in state-sponsored assassinations, the Wagner group supported by Russia terrorizes the world, and the war crimes being committed in Ukraine on a daily basis shock the conscious. The European Parliament resolution focused largely on Ukraine, but also mentioned the Wagner Group and Russian support for Syrian President Bashar al Assad, among other things. It also declared Russia a state that "uses means of terrorism," according to a press release from the legislature.

WHAT DOES THE DESIGNATION MEAN?

That depends on the jurisdiction. In the US, there is a specific legal instrument listing states that have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism. Inclusion means restrictions on foreign aid, a ban on defense exports to such governments, controls on exports of technology with potential military use and financial constraints. Crucially, it also has implications for Russia's sovereign immunity in US courts. Canada also has a similar instrument condemning state supporters of terrorism. By contrast, the European Union currently has no centralized list of state sponsors of terrorism and no equivalent tool, as the European Parliament motion for a resolution published last week acknowledged. In essence, there will be no hard and fast legal consequences.

MEPs said. The lawmakers also condemned Russia for provoking a "large-scale" humanitarian crisis in Mariupol and "weaponising" food and hunger; with global implications.

"Russia poses a risk to the safety and security of the whole European

continent and the rules-based international order," the resolution reads. As a result of all this, the European Parliament calls on EU member states to develop a brand new legal framework that can enable the designation of an entire country as a sponsor of terrorism,

something that is currently not possible. The EU's terrorist list, which was set up in the aftermath of 9/11 and is reviewed every six months, only allows the bloc to blacklist specific individuals and organisations. So far, only 13 persons and 21 entities have been added, such as Hamas, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN) and the military wing of Hezbollah. As a foreign policy tool, any change to the list would require the unanimity of all 27 EU countries.

The ministers noted almost 40,000 war crimes that have so far been documented in Ukraine

The strongly-worded resolution was overwhelmingly approved with 494 votes in favour, 58 against and 44 abstentions

US State Department currently names four countries - Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria - as state sponsors of terrorism

In the EU, the parliaments of four nations have so far designated Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland

I welcome the text. Russia must be held accountable in order to end its long-standing policy of terrorism in Ukraine and across the globe

VOLODYMYR ZELENKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

I propose designating the European Parliament as a sponsor of idiocy

MARIA ZAKHAROVA | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESWOMAN, RUSSIA

Employees on stir beaten at virus-hit factory in China



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Nov 23: Employees at the world's biggest Apple iPhone factory were beaten and detained in protests over pay amid anti-virus controls, according to witnesses and videos on social media Wednesday, as tensions mount over Chinese efforts to combat a renewed rise in infections.

Videos that said they were filmed at the factory in the central city of Zhengzhou showed thousands of people in masks facing rows of police in white protective suits with plastic riot shields. Police kicked and hit a protester with clubs after he grabbed a metal pole that had been used to strike him.

Frustration with restrictions in areas throughout China that have closed shops and offices and confined millions of people to their homes has boiled over into protests. Videos on social media show residents tearing down barricades set up to enforce neighborhood closures.

The ruling Communist Party promised this month to try to reduce disruptions by shortening quarantines and making other changes. But the party is sticking to a "zero-Covid" strategy that aims to isolate every case while other governments relax controls and try to live with the virus.

Last month, thousands of employees walked out of the iPhone factory operated by Taiwan's Foxconn Technology Group over complaints about unsafe working conditions following virus cases.

Bolsonaro contests Brazil election loss



REUTERS

Brasilia, Nov 23: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has challenged the election he lost last month to leftist rival Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, arguing votes from some machines should be "invalidated" in a complaint that election authorities met with initial skepticism.

Bolsonaro's claim seems unlikely to get far, as Lula's victory has been ratified by the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) and acknowledged by Brazil's leading politicians and international allies. Still, it could fuel a small but committed protest movement that has so far refused to accept the result.

Alexandre de Moraes, the top court justice who currently leads the TSE, said in a ruling that Bolsonaro's right-wing electoral coalition, which filed the complaint, must present its full audit for both rounds of last month's vote within 24 hours, or he would reject it.

Brazil's currency deepened losses after news of the electoral complaint, closing 1.3% weaker against the US dollar. The currency was already suffering from investor concerns about Lula's spending plans and economic policymakers.

Bolsonaro's coalition said its audit of the October 30 second-round runoff between Bolsonaro and Lula had found "signs of irreparable... malfunction" in some electronic voting machines.

"There were signs of serious failures that generate uncertainties and make it impossible to validate the results generated" in older models of the voting machines, Bolsonaro allies said in their complaint. As a result, they urged that the votes from those models should be "invalidated."

Bolsonaro, a far-right former army captain, has for years claimed that the country's electronic voting system is liable to fraud, without providing substantiating evidence.

7 dead including gunman in US Walmart shooting

THE BLOODSHED WAS THE LATEST EPISODE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN THE US WHICH HAS FUELED DEBATE OVER TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS ON GUNS

REUTERS

Virginia, Nov 23: A Walmart employee killed six people and wounded several others before fatally shooting himself at a store in Chesapeake, Virginia, Tuesday night, authorities said, just days after a gunman killed five and injured 17 at a Colorado LGBTQ nightclub.

The shooter, who has not been identified, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, Chesapeake Police Chief Mark Solesky said at a news conference Wednesday.

Six other people were confirmed dead and four were being treated at area hospitals, Solesky

said. The shooter used a pistol and was an employee of the Walmart where the shooting took place, he added.

Walmart said in a statement early Wednesday that it was "shocked" at the violence and that it was working closely with law enforcement. "Sickened by reports of yet another mass shooting, this time at a Walmart in Chesapeake, I'll be monitoring developments closely," Virginia senator Mark Warner tweeted Wednesday.

The assault two days before Thanksgiving, the quintessential American family holiday marked this year November 24, followed a weekend gun attack at an LGBTQ club in Colorado that killed five people. It was also the second mass shooting in the state of Virginia this month: three students at the University of Virginia who played on its football team were killed November 13 by a classmate after a field trip.

ANOTHER WAR ON ANVIL? Erdogan vows Syria ground invasion

Turkey has carried out a series of incursions into Syria since 2016 and already controls parts of northern Syria

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Qamishli, Nov 23: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday he would carry out a land invasion into Kurdish areas in northern Syria.

Turkey has launched a barrage of airstrikes on suspected Kurdish militant targets in northern Syria and Iraq in recent days, in retaliation for a deadly November 13 bombing in Istanbul that Ankara blames on the militant groups. The groups have denied involvement in the bombing.

Ankara's allies, particularly Russia, have attempted to avert a ground incursion, but Erdogan said Wednesday in a speech to his ruling party's legislators in Ankara that the air operations are "just the beginning" and that Turkey is determined to close down all of



our southern borders...With a security strip that will prevent the possibility of attacks on our country.

Erdogan said the new planned military offensive, to be carried out "at the most convenient time for us" would target the regions of Tel Rifaat, Mambij and Kobani, which is also known by its Arabic name Ayn Al Arab.

The commander of the Kurdish-

The day is near when those concrete tunnels which the terrorists use for safety will become their graves

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

led Syrian Democratic Forces in northeast Syria, meanwhile, said his group is prepared to repel a ground invasion by Turkey.

Following the weekend's airstrikes from Turkey, Turkish officials said that suspected Kurdish militants in Syria fired rockets Monday across the border into Turkey, killing at least two people and wounding 10 others.

BLOW TO NATIONALISTS

Scottish independence vote bid foiled by UK

Scotland and England have been politically united since 1707. Scotland has had its own Parl and govt since 1999 and makes its own policies on public health, education and other matters. The UK-wide govt in London controls matters such as defense and fiscal policy

- Scottish govt seeks new vote on independence
- UK govt in London says it won't grant permission
- Supreme Court rules advisory vote not possible
- Scottish public evenly divided on independence question

A law that doesn't allow Scotland to choose our own future without Westminster consent exposes as myth any notion of the UK as a voluntary partnership and makes [the] case for independence. Scottish democracy will not be denied. Today's ruling blocks one route to Scotland's voice being heard on independence - but in a democracy our voice cannot and will not be silenced

NICOLA STURGEON | FIRST MINISTER, SCOTLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 23: The devolved government of Scotland Wednesday lost a major Supreme Court battle in London when judges ruled that a second referendum on its union with the United Kingdom cannot go ahead without the approval of the UK Parliament.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon had proposed a referendum dubbed Indyref2 October 19 next year, which would mark the second such referendum since September 2014 when just over 55 per cent voted to remain part of the UK.

Her Scottish National Party (SNP), which governs the region, has demanded a second say on Scotland's independence since the rest of the UK voted to leave the European Union (EU) in 2016 and the region voted to remain within the economic bloc.



"A lawfully held referendum would have important political consequences relating to the union and the United Kingdom Parliament," said Lord Robert Reed, Supreme Court President, as he read out the unanimous ruling. "It would either strengthen or weaken the democratic legiti-

macy of the Union and of the United Kingdom Parliament's sovereignty over Scotland, depending on which view prevailed, and would either support or undermine the democratic credentials of the independence movement. It is therefore clear that the proposed bill has more than a loose or conse-

quential connection with the reserved matters of the Union of Scotland and England, and the sovereignty of the United Kingdom Parliament," he said. Reed also said the panel of top court judges did not accept the SNP's argument about the "right to self-determination" in international law.

Sturgeon had already said the SNP would use the next general election as an informal referendum if the court ruled against the bill. Tweeting after the ruling was made, the First Minister said while she was "disappointed", she respected the ruling, adding the Supreme Court "doesn't make law, only interprets it".

The pro-independence SNP, which has led Scotland since 2007, insists it has a mandate to hold a fresh vote because of its continued success in elections and because of the change in circumstances since Brexit.

business

of the day quote

With this new fund, we shall ignite and amplify their entrepreneurial capabilities to develop and deploy sustainable solutions that enable a decarbonised world and solve key energy challenges

MUSTAFA WAJID | GENERAL PARTNER, TRANSITION VC

Software is the force behind the transformation of the automotive industry. Together, we will develop SDV technology platforms that will help us maintain market leadership and help the industry accelerate SDV transformation

THERRY CAMMALI | MD, RENAULT SOFTWARE LABS

I am thrilled to announce the beginning of a new chapter in Maharashtra as Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur becomes the second airport in the state to have the Airtel 5G Plus services after Pune airport

GEORGE MATHEN | CEO (MAHARASHTRA AND GOA), BHARTI AIRTEL

SHORT TAKES

Meesho joins ONDC

New Delhi: E-commerce platform Meesho Wednesday said it has integrated with the government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to help connect buyers with hyperlocal sellers. The government is running a pilot of ONDC where all e-commerce ecosystem players will facilitate online purchase of goods and services at competitive prices, thereby reducing cost burden on sellers and consumers. The pilot with Meesho will be launched in Bangalore and gradually rolled out in other locations in coming months. With this, registered buyers on ONDC will be able to access a list of products available on ONDC through Meesho.

India, GCC FTA talks from today

New Delhi: India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will announce the launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) Thursday, which aims at promoting two-way commerce and investments between the regions, an official said. GCC is a union of six nations in the Gulf region -- Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. India's exports to the GCC member countries grew by 58.26 per cent to about \$44 billion in 2021-22, as against \$27.8 billion in 2020-21.

Inox Green makes tepid market debut

Mumbai: Shares of Inox Green Energy Services, a subsidiary of Inox Wind, made a tepid market debut Wednesday and ended with a discount of 9 per cent against the issue price of Rs 65. The stock listed at Rs 60.50, a fall of 6.92 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 10 per cent to Rs 58.50. Shares of the firm ended at Rs 59.10, a decline of 9 per cent. On the NSE, the stock of the firm made its debut at Rs 60, a discount of 7.69 per cent.

NZ hikes interest rate to 4.25%

Wellington: New Zealand's central bank hiked interest rates Wednesday by a record amount as it tries to get inflation under control. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand increased its benchmark rate by three-quarters of a point to 4.25 per cent. It's the first time the bank has raised rates by more than a half-point since introducing the Official Cash Rate in 1999. The new rate is the highest in New Zealand since early 2009.

'FTX was run as personal fiefdom of Sam'

In the highest-profile crypto blowup to date, FTX filed for protection in the United States after traders pulled \$6 billion from the platform in three days and rival exchange Binance abandoned a rescue deal. The fall has left an estimated 1mn creditors facing losses totaling billions of dollars

REUTERS

New York, Nov 23: FTX was run as a "personal fiefdom" of former CEO Sam Bankman-Fried, attorneys for the collapsed crypto exchange said in its first bankruptcy hearing as they detailed ongoing challenges such as hacks and substantial missing assets.

An attorney for FTX said at a bankruptcy hearing Tuesday the company now intends to sell off healthy business units, but has been the subject of cyberattacks and had "substantial" assets missing.

FTX said Saturday it has launched a strategic review of its global assets and is preparing for the sale or reorganization of some

businesses. FTX said Tuesday it was receiving interest from potential buyers for its assets and would conduct a process to reorganize or sell them.

The hearing was held at the US Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Delaware and was livestreamed to around 1,500 viewers on YouTube and Zoom.

An attorney also said the firm had been run as a "personal fiefdom" of Bankman-Fried with \$300 million spent on real estate such as homes and vacation properties for senior staff. FTX, led since the bankruptcy filing by new CEO John Ray, has accused Bankman-Fried of working with Bahamian regulators to "undermine" the US



bankruptcy case and shift assets overseas.

Reuters earlier reported that Bankman-Fried's FTX, his parents and senior executives of the failed cryptocurrency exchange bought at least 19 properties worth nearly \$121 million in the Bahamas over the past two years, official property records show.

STRUCK BY STIRS

Adani's mega port plan in limbo

PROTESTERS ALLEGE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PORT SINCE DECEMBER 2015 HAS RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT EROSION OF THE COAST AND FURTHER BUILDING PROMISES TO WREAK HAVOC WITH THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY LIVING THERE. THEY WANT THE GOVT TO ORDER A HALT TO CONSTRUCTION AND ORDER STUDIES ON THE IMPACT OF THE PORT'S DEVELOPMENT ON THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM

REUTERS

Vizhinjam, Nov 23: On the main road to billionaire Gautam Adani's planned Vizhinjam mega port on the southern tip of India, a shelter built by the coastal region's Christian fishing community blocks the entrance, preventing further construction.

The simple 1,200 square-foot structure with a corrugated-iron roof has since August stood in the way of ambitions for the country's first container transshipment port - a \$900 million project that seeks to plug into the lucrative shipping trade flowing between juggernaut manufacturers in the East and wealthy consumer markets in the West.

Decorated with banners proclaiming "indefinite day and night protest", the shelter provides cover for roughly 100 plastic chairs, although the number of protesters taking part in the sit-ins on any one day is usually much lower.

Across the street, supporters of the port including members of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party and Hindu groups have set up their own shelters.

Even when protester numbers are low, up to 300 police officers with batons will gather nearby each day to carefully monitor the situation. Despite repeated orders by Kerala state's top court that construction should proceed unhindered, the police are unwilling to take action against the protesters, fearful that doing so will set flame to social and religious tensions simmering over the port.

For Adani, the world's third-richest person according to Forbes, it's a high-stakes impasse with no apparent easy solution.

Reuters interviewed more than a dozen protesters as well as port supporters, police officials and reviewed hundreds of pages of filings in legal actions brought by the Adani conglomerate against the Catholic priests leading the protests and against the state government. All point to an intractable divide. Protesters want the government



to order a halt to construction and independent studies on the impact of the port's development on the marine ecosystem

Adani Group said in a statement the project is in full compliance with all laws and that many studies conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology and other institutions in recent years have rejected allegations relating to the port's responsibility for shoreline erosion.

ADANI'S LEGAL ACTIONS

The Indian protests recall the backlash Adani faced in Australia over his Carmichael coal mine. There, activists concerned about carbon emissions and damage to the Great Barrier Reef forced Adani to downsize production targets and delayed the mine's first coal shipment by six years.

In Kerala, the Adani conglomerate

Attorneys also said an investigation must take place into Binance's sale of FTX in July 2021. Binance bought a stake in FTX in 2019.

Separately a filing late Monday by Ed Mosley of Alvarez & Marsal, a consultancy firm advising FTX, showed FTX's cash balance of \$1.24 billion as of Sunday was "substantially higher" than previously thought. It includes around \$400 million at accounts related to Alameda Research, the crypto trading firm owned by Bankman-Fried, and \$172 million at FTX's Japan arm.

Reuters has reported Bankman-Fried secretly used \$10 billion in customer funds to prop up his trading business, and that at least \$1 billion of those deposits had vanished.

Nomura lists nations at severe danger of currency catastrophe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Nov 23: Nomura Holdings, Japan's top brokerage and investment bank, has warned that seven countries -- Pakistan, Egypt, Romania, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Czech Republic, and Hungary -- are now at a high risk of currency crises.

The Japanese bank said that 22 of the 32 countries covered by its in-house "Damocles" warning system have seen their risk rise since its last update in May, with the largest increases in the Czech Republic and Brazil, Geo News reported.

It means the sum of the scores generated by the model on all 32 increased sharply to 2,234 from 1,744 since May. "This is the highest total score since July 1999 and not too far from the peak of 2,692 during the height of the Asian crisis," Nomura economists said, calling it "an ominous warning sign of the growing broad-based risk in EM currencies," Geo News reported.

The model crunches eight key indicators -- a country's foreign exchange reserves, exchange rate, financial health, and interest rates -- to give an overall score.

Based on data from 61 different EM currency crises since 1996, Nomura estimates that a score above 100 indicates a 64 per cent chance of a currency crisis in the following 12 months.

Egypt, which has already devalued its currency heavily twice this year and sought an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, now generates the worst score at 165, Geo News reported citing the estimates. Romania is next on 145 having been propping up its currency with interventions.

Default-stricken Sri Lanka and currency crisis-regular Turkey both generate scores of 138, while the Czech Republic, Pakistan and Hungary notch 126, 120 and 100 respectively.

Nomura also ran the Damocles model on the G7 group of leading economies, with the results showing that all but Japan now have Damocles scores above the 100 thresholds, led by the US and Britain.

EM economies are still more vulnerable. Most have not fully recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic and now face high inflation, limited fiscal space, negative real interest rates, a weaker balance of payments and diminished FX reserve cover.

'T+1 settlement cycle for all F&O stocks from Jan'

T+1 means that market trade-related settlements will need to be cleared within one day of the actual transactions taking place

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: To bring in operational efficiency, stock exchanges Wednesday said that all stocks, on which derivatives contracts are available, will be transitioned to the T+1 (trade plus one day) settlement cycle from January 2023.

Earlier, future and options (F&O) stocks were to be transitioned to the T+1 settlement in two batches -- December 2022 and January 2023, according to a joint statement issued by market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) -- stock exchanges, clearing corpo-



rations and depositories.

In September last year, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) permitted stock exchanges to introduce a T+1 settlement cycle from January 1, 2022, on any of the securities available in the equity segment.

After this, all MIIs issued a joint press release concerning the roadmap for the implementation of the T+1 settlement cycle. Accordingly, all listed stocks, across stock exchanges -- BSE, NSE and MSE -- were ranked in descending order based on daily market capitalisation averaged for October 2021.

Tax mop-up to breach Budget estimate: Secy

For FY23, the tax collection target set in the Union Budget is around ₹27.50 lakh crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: India's tax collection will exceed the budget estimate by nearly Rs 4 lakh crore in the current fiscal on the back of buoyant income tax, customs duty and GST mop-up. Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said Wednesday.

In an interview to PTI, he said the growth in tax revenues will continue to be higher than the GDP growth, helped by formalisation of the economy and better compliance. For this financial year ending March 2023, the tax collection target set in the Union Budget is around Rs 27.50 lakh crore.

Bajaj said the direct tax collection comprising personal and corporate taxes would be close to Rs 17.50 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

Mop up from indirect taxes (customs, excise and GST) would be close to Rs 14 lakh crore.

"The total tax collection is expected to be about Rs 31.50 lakh crore in 2022-23," he said.

The Budget had pegged direct and indirect tax mop up at Rs 14.20 lakh crore and Rs 13.30 lakh crore for current fiscal, taking the total figure to Rs 27.50 lakh crore.

"We are using a lot of data. We have data from income tax and GST departments, and MCA (Ministry of Corporate Affairs). We are also getting data regarding high value expenditure. Formalisation of economy and technology has helped improved compliance," Bajaj said.

Total tax collection is expected to be about ₹31.50 lakh crore in 2022-23, said Bajaj



Last fiscal, the direct tax collection grew nearly 50 per cent to Rs 14.10 lakh crore compared to 2020-21. "The trend of higher tax collection than GDP growth will continue," Bajaj said.

He also said that even though there was a reduction in cus-

tom and excise duties during this fiscal, the government will be very close to the target set in the Budget.

The Budget has set a target of collecting Rs 2.13 lakh crore and Rs 3.35 lakh crore from customs and excise duties, respectively.

Bangalore-based tech firms raised record \$7.5bn in 2022

THE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS EUROPE AS THE FASTEST GROWING REGIONS FOR IMMERSIVE TECH INNOVATION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 23: Bangalore-based tech companies raised record levels in the first three quarters of this year with \$7.5 billion in VC funding -- up from \$5.2 billion in

2021, a report showed Wednesday. Bangalore and London feature among the top 10 cities globally for most amount of VC investment over the last five years, according to the report from London & Partners in partnership with Dealroom.

The two major funding rounds for Bangalore-based companies this year include Swiggy's \$700 million round in January and \$55.7 million Series D for Ather Energy.

In fact, Bangalore is now attracting more investments than other global hubs such as Singapore, Paris and Berlin, the report mentioned.

INDIA'S SILICON VALLEY

Bangalore and London are also two of the world's leading hubs for VC investment into immersive tech startups

It is ranked fourth in the world with \$510 million raised in 2022, followed by London at fifth place

The city is now attracting more investments than other global hubs such as Singapore, Paris and Berlin



"In the last few years, London and Bengaluru have created an increasing number of exciting immersive tech companies. This research proves that these cities are not only the top hubs in their regions for immersive companies but are also competitive on the global stage," said Hemin Bharucha, Country Director at London & Partners.

Bangalore and London are also two of the world's leading hubs for VC investment into immersive tech startups, where Bangalore ranked fourth in the world with \$510 million raised in 2022, followed by London at fifth place. For the Indian companies that

are looking to grow their operation in Europe, "London's strengths in the creative industries and gaming provides the expertise and talent needed to scale successfully", Bharucha added.

In Europe, London is the leading hub for VC investment into immersive tech start-ups. The report highlights Europe as the fastest growing regions for immersive tech innovation, with startups having raised a record \$1.4 billion in 2022 to date.

Fueled by the growth of AR, VR and Metaverse technologies, the report showed that immersive tech funding is bucking the trend for global start-up investment in 2022.

1st Argentina, now Germany

ASIAN TEAMS CONTINUE TO SHOCK THE WORLD AS JAPAN COME FROM BEHIND TO STUN 4-TIME CHAMPIONS GERMANY, A DAY AFTER SAUDI ARABIA SCRIPT THE BIGGEST WIN IN THEIR FOOTBALL HISTORY BEATING ARGENTINA IN THE SAME MANNER



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Nov 23: Another World Cup day, another World Cup shock. Substitutes Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano scored late goals Wednesday to give Japan a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Germany at the World Cup. Both Doan and Asano play for German clubs. The match was played a day after Argentina's 2-1 upset loss to Saudi Arabia.

Ilkay Gundogan had given four-time champion Germany the lead with a first-half penalty. But Doan,

who plays for Freiburg, pounced on a rebound to equalize in the 76th minute after Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer blocked a shot from Takumi Minamino.

Then Asano, who plays for Bochum, sprinted clear of Nico Schlotterbeck and beat Neuer from a narrow angle in the 83rd minute of the first competitive meeting between the two nations.

It was second defeat in a row for Germany against Asian oppositions at the World Cup following their loss to South Korea in their

last group match at the 2018 edition, which denied them a chance to seal a knockout berth.

Before Wednesday's game, Germany's players covered their mouths during the team photo in an apparent rebuke to FIFA following its decision to stop plans to wear armbands to protest discrimination in host nation Qatar.

Nancy Faeser, Germany's sports minister, attended the match at the Khalifa International Stadium and was sitting beside FIFA president Gianni Infantino while wear-

ing the same "One Love" armband that FIFA had outlawed with its threats of consequences.

It was only the third time Germany had lost their tournament-opening game after defeats against Algeria in 1982 and Mexico in 2018. In the other World Cup openers for Germany, the team had won 13 matches and drawn four.

Germany outplayed Japan for much of the match with 24 attempts on goal compared to Japan's 11. Despite giving away the penalty, Japan goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda

made a string of saves.

Germany's buildup was fraught by protests and political statements because of Qatar's human rights record and its treatment of migrant workers and members of the LGBTQ community.

Germany were playing at the World Cup for the first time since its shocking group-stage exit as defending champion in 2018, while Japan are appearing in their seventh straight World Cup and is looking to reach the quarterfinals for the first time.

Germany dominated a frenetic match for large spells but failed to capitalise on their pressure - before Japan caused the Khalifa International Stadium to erupt into a mix of celebration and surprise.

Substitute Asano squeezed in a thumping strike from a tight angle to make it 2-1 to Japan and ran over to the photographers in the corner of the stadium in sheer delight.

There was a collective pause in the arena as the ball rolled down from the roof of the net before supporters realised it had gone in.

Gundogan had given Germany the lead from the penalty spot in the first half, before Japan substitute Ritsu Doan equalised in the 75th minute.

The equaliser came after a string of stunning saves at each end - Japan's Shuichi Gonda pulling off a double stop to deny Serge Gnabry and Jonas Hofmann, before Germany's Manuel Neuer got his fingertips to Junya Ito's effort.

Germany, who finished bottom of their group in Russia in 2018, had missed several chances to extend their lead when the score was 1-0. They face stiff opposition in Group E with 2010 winners Spain to come Sunday, then a final group game against Costa Rica.

Torres scores twice as Spain rout Costa Rica



WREAKING HAVOC: Barcelona teammates Ferran Torres (R) and Gavi celebrate a goal by the former for Spain against Costa Rica, Wednesday

AGENCIES

Doha, Nov 23: Spain made a mockery of Costa Rican defence as the La Roja humbled the North American team 7-0 in their Group E match at the Al Thumama Stadium, Wednesday.

While Japan's stunning victory over Germany may have been the earthquake, Spain's beautiful, brutal dismantling of Costa Rica will have sent tremors through Group E and potentially beyond.

Luis Enrique's men scored a magnificent seven, which could have been 14. After barely half an hour had been played, Spain's young maestros were 3-0 up. The game was out and the Mexican Waves were in.

Ferran Torres struck twice - a penalty in the 31st minute and a strike in the 54th. Dani Olmo drew

the first blood in the 11th minute before Jordi Alba found Marco Asensio, who doubled the advantage 10 minutes later.

Torres' goals, either side of the halftime break, made it 4-0 for La Roja. Then Gavi wrote his name in the history books when he scored from an assist by Alvaro Morata in the 74th. Carlos Soler and Morata complete the rout in the 90th and added on time, respectively.

It was a special night for Gavi, who made his World Cup debut. The 18-year-old is already the youngest player to feature for Spain and is now the youngest to score for La Roja at a World Cup.

The Barcelona starlet also became the youngest player to score at a World Cup since a certain Pele back in 1958. He's also the third youngest goalscorer in World Cup history behind Pele and Manuel Rosas.

DHAWAN OPENS UP ON HIS MATURITY AS LEADER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Dithering and indecision is a thing of past for Shikhar Dhawan, who as the leader of the pack does not hesitate in taking decisions which individuals may despise but are beneficial for the Indian team.

The left-handed batter is getting ready to lead India in the three-match ODI series against New Zealand, starting Friday. It won't be the first time that Dhawan will wear the captain's hat as he has led a second-string Indian team in the past and enjoyed good results against Sri Lanka (2-1), South Africa (2-1) and West Indies (3-0).

The Delhi batter says his decision-making has improved over time, courtesy his presence of mind. "As you play more, you get confident in the decisions you take. Earlier, there used to be instances where I would give an extra over to a bowler out of regard (for him). But now, as I have matured, even if someone is feeling bad, I will take a decision that will help the team," Dhawan told ESPNCricinfo.

Further talking about leadership skills, Dhawan said the key is to maintain balance and earn the players' faith. He is hardly seen feeling any pressure and keep the environment around him happy.

"When you play music on a string instrument, if the string is too loose, it won't sound right, or if



it's too tight, it will break. So it is a question of creating a balance. (As a captain) creating that balance is very important.

"You need to understand when to pull the string tight and when to leave it a bit loose. That is an art. It is a matter of timing. At this stage I also understand when to say things to the players and how much to say

"If a bowler gets hit, it's important to know when to speak to him. I will not do it when they are hot in the head, but instead approach them later and speak with care. It also depends on the level you are leading at.

"If it is at the IPL, most players are mature, so you need to consider if you have to pull the string or not. At Ranji, you have to, at times, show firmness, because a youngster at that level is like a kacha ghada (an unbaked clay pot), so you have to be firm to mould him. Finding that balance is the key," he explained his philosophy.

Giroud, Mbappe script France victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Al Wakrah (Qatar), Nov 23: France showed it can cope without its star striker at the World Cup. In Karim Benzema's absence, Kylian Mbappe scored one and set up the second of Olivier Giroud's two goals to help the defending champions beat Australia 4-1 Tuesday.

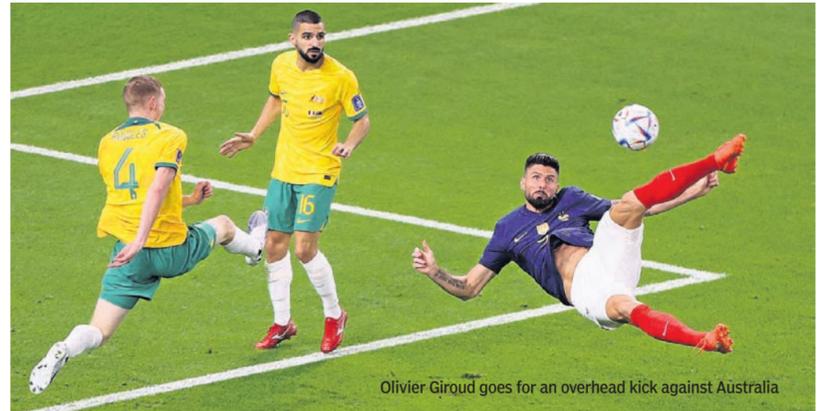
Giroud equalled Thierry Henry's national record of 51 goals with a header from Mbappe's cross in the 71st minute. Giroud, who failed to score at the last World Cup but did find the net at the 2014 tournament, can break Henry's record when France faces Denmark on Saturday.

"It's not just about chasing records but what he always does on the field," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "He's a very important player for us."

Moments before that strike, Mbappe headed in Ousmane Dembele's cross from the right to start this World Cup as he finished the last - with a goal. He knelt with one hand behind his back and his finger on his forehead in a new celebration.

Deschamps joked that Mbappe could now become even more lethal. "He always dreams about scoring headers, so if he starts doing that he'll be even more dangerous," Deschamps said, cracking a smile. "I knew he would be ready tonight because this is his competition."

Craig Goodwin gave Australia the lead when he turned in winger Mathew Leckie's cross in the ninth minute. France midfielder Adrien



Olivier Giroud goes for an overhead kick against Australia

Rabiot equalized with a powerful header in the 27th and set up Giroud's first goal shortly after.

"It's great for our momentum and confidence to have turned things around," Giroud said. "Even though we could have scored more we combined well."

France was playing without the injured Benzema, who was ruled out of the World Cup last week. The Socceros were pumped up and the green-and-gold Aussie fans were loving it. They even mocked Mbappe with chants of "Who are ya? Who are ya?" after he lost the ball dribbling down the left. That's as good as it got for them.

Theo Hernandez curled in a cross for Rabiot to score his first World Cup goal - four years after refusing to go on France's standby



KYLIAN MBAPPE

list in case of injuries. He even emailed France coach Didier Deschamps to be taken off the list and was dropped from the national team for two years.

It's been some comeback for Rabiot. He's now leading a mid-field missing the injured Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante - France's engine room the 2018 World Cup.

"Having Adrien playing at this level is very important for us," Deschamps said. Injuries are hurting Deschamps' team, however, and now the coach could be without Lucas Hernandez - Theo's older brother. He hurt his knee in the buildup to Australia's goal.

"He needs to have tests but unfortunately it does look pretty serious," Deschamps said. "That's the real low point about tonight."

EYES ON CR7 FUTURE POST MAN UNITED EXIT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Nov 23: Cristiano Ronaldo has left Manchester United with immediate effect. Where will he turn up next? The Portugal star has put himself on the market with his explosive pre-World Cup interview that led to the termination of his contract Tuesday.

As a free agent, the 37-year-old forward now has the chance to impress potential suitors and prove he can still perform on the highest level for his country in Qatar. His future may well depend on it after failing to secure a transfer to a Champions League club in the summer.

Midway through the season, his options look even more limited if he is set on playing in the knock-out stages of European club soccer's

top competition when he returns from the World Cup.

The Champions League is now down to the last 16 teams, with only a tiny number of those able to come close to offering Ronaldo anything like the reported 500,000 pounds (USD 594,000) a week salary he earned at United. And there has been little evidence that they would be interested in signing him.

Ronaldo's interview with Piers Morgan, in which he criticized United manager Erik ten Hag and the club's owners, made it clear he still believes he is one of the top soccer players on the planet. But where in the world will his career take him next?

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB

There are only 16 to choose from if Ronaldo harbors ambitions of playing in the competition when it



resumes in February. Then it is a question of who could afford him.

A dream scenario would be to have one last fling with a truly elite club. But perhaps his best

chance of that would be as a short-term fix until the end of the season.

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema has been ruled out of the World Cup with injury and so has Bayern Munich's Sadio Mane. Perhaps Ronaldo would be an attractive emergency option if either of those clubs feared being left short in the second half of the campaign.

A PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB

Chelsea considered a move in the summer, but that never materialized. Ronaldo would not appear to fit in with the long-term planning of new manager Graham Potter, who is already having to deal with one ageing striker in Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Arsenal fan Piers Morgan is pushing for a move to his club, but the Premier League leader has in-

vested in building a young team under manager Mikel Arteta and Ronaldo would be a departure from that. Could Saudi-backed Newcastle be tempted to make a first truly statement signing under its new ownership?

HOMECOMING ON CARDS

To finish his career where it started at Sporting Lisbon would provide a romantic bookend for Ronaldo, while the Portuguese club could provide him with a route back to the Champions League next season. He would have to take a considerable pay cut if he were to take up this option.

SAUDI ARABIA

The only serious interest in Ronaldo in the summer came from Saudi Arabia. While a move there would likely present the most lucrative option for him, it would be

a marked step down in terms of his remaining sporting ambition.

It would deny him the chance to further extend his record as the all-time leading scorer in the Champions League, with 140 goals, and hand his great rival Lionel Messi, who has 129, the chance to overtake him.

MLS MOVE

Perhaps it is time to take his brand to the United States and become the biggest star ever to play in MLS. He could not hope to match his salary and he would have to accept his days playing in the Champions League are over.

But for a man who has more than half a billion followers on Instagram this would be the chance to move to the biggest market in the world off the field - and a new adventure.

4 more boxers confirm medals at Youth Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Four Indian boxers, including Muskan and Tamanna, assured themselves of a medal after reaching the semi-finals with dominating victories at the Youth men's and women's World Boxing Championships in La Nucia, Spain.

Youth Asian Championships silver medalist Kirti (+81kg) and Devika Ghorpade (52kg) were the other two boxers to confirm medals by securing their spots in the last-four stage.

With addition of four more medals, India's total medal count now climbs to 11, same as the last edition, held in Poland.

Tamanna began the day for India on an aggressive note as she outperformed Japan's Juni Toneyawa by unanimous decision in the women's 50kg quarter-final. Devika also notched up an easy 5-0 win against Germany's Asya Ari.



Muskan (75kg) and Kirti proved too strong for their respective opponents - Mongolia's Zyeinyep Azimbai and Livia Botica of Romania - as they were declared winners by the 'Referee Stops the Contest' verdict within the first three minutes of the bouts.

Meanwhile, Preeti Dahiya (57kg), Rhythm (+92) and Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (51kg) exited from the tournament after suffering losses in their respective quarterfinal bouts.

Eight Indian female boxers, including Muskan, Tamanna, Devika, Kirti, Kunjarani Devi Thongam (60kg), Bhawna Sharma (48kg), Ravina (63kg) and Lashu Yadav (70kg), will battle it out in the semifinals later on Wednesday night.

Vanshaj (63.5kg), Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) and Ashish (54kg) will lead India's charge in the men's semifinals at the prestigious event. The finals will be held Friday and Saturday.