



BAN ORDER REMOVED

Delhi Jama Masjid's decision to restrict entry of girls into the famed mosque withdrawn following backlash

NATIONAL P7



CHINA REELS UNDER COVID

Pandemic lockdowns expand across China as the number of Covid-19 cases hits a daily record of 31,444

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA IN SEMIFINALS

India beat France in a thrilling tie-breaker to enter the semifinals of the FIDE World Team Chess Championship

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Two women Maoists killed in Bolangir

Bhubaneswar: Two women Maoists were killed during an exchange of fire with the security forces in Gandhamardan Hills area of Bolangir district Thursday, a senior police officer said. Briefing media persons about the encounter, Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Bansal said, "On the basis of a very specific intelligence input about the presence of Maoists in Bolangir and Bargharh area, we had launched an operation Wednesday midnight." The security personnel saw the movement of five Maoists in the area at about 10:30am Thursday morning. P5

Lt Gen Munir new Army chief of Pak

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday chose Lt Gen Asim Munir as the new Army chief to succeed incumbent General Qamar Javed Bajwa, ending the suspense over the key appointment. Bajwa, 61, is scheduled to retire November 29 after a three-year extension. He has ruled out seeking another extension. Lt Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza had been picked as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC). Information Minister Mairiyum Aurangzeb made the announcement on Twitter. P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Can't say about football but the World Cup for bravery will go to Iranian players

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	62272.68 ↑ 762.10
NIFTY	18484.10 ↑ 216.85
DOLLAR	81.69 ↓ ₹0.04
EURO	85.07 ↑ ₹0.25
GOLD	₹52,678 ↑ ₹227
SILVER	₹62,002 ↑ ₹372

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 30.4°C	30.0°C
	MIN 18.9°C	18.0°C
Humidity	78%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
	Forecast: Mainly clear sky	



STING MENACE: Amid FIFA World Cup-2022 fever, street children play football inside a mosquito net covered playground to spread awareness about dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases in Kolkata, Thursday PFI PHOTO

Edu, skill devpt thrust in Supplementary Budget

State presents ₹16,800cr Supplementary Budget for 2022-23 fiscal in the Assembly amid ruckus by Opposition members

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: Amid ruckus by Opposition BJP and Congress over Archana Nag blackmailing case, the state government Thursday tabled a Supplementary Budget of ₹16,800 crore for financial year (FY) 2022-23 in the state Assembly. Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pradip Kumar Amat presented the budget on behalf of Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari, who was absent in the House Thursday.

Out of the total supplementary provision, ₹9,200 crore has been allocated towards programme expenditure, ₹4,934 crore towards administrative expenditure, ₹2,610 crore towards disaster management and ₹55.54 crore for transfer to local bodies (PRIs and ULBs).

Out of ₹4,934 crore administrative expenditure, ₹3,700 crore has been set aside for budget stabilisation fund and ₹173 crore for maintenance of schools and primary health centres (PHCs) by gram panchayats.

Under disaster risk mitigation plan, the state government has allocated ₹200 crore for assistance to the farmers affected by crop loss during Kharif season of 2021. Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has recently announced the aid for drought-hit farmers, eying Padampur bypoll.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ₹9,200 crore has been allocated towards programme expenditure
- ₹4,934 crore for administrative expenditure
- ₹2,610 crore for disaster management & ₹55.54 crore for transfer to local bodies
- Out of the programme expenditure, ₹2,084 crore has been allocated for education, sports and skill development sectors
- ₹ 200 crore for disbursement of assistance to farmers affected by crop loss during Kharif 2021



Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pradip Kumar Amat presented the budget on behalf of Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari, who was absent in the House Thursday

Out of ₹9,200 crore earmarked for programme expenditure, the highest ₹2,084 crore has been allocated for education, sports and skill development sector while ₹867 crore is allocated for public health. Similarly, ₹782 crore has been earmarked for urban development and ₹128 crore for promotion of culture and tourism.

Likewise, ₹388 crore has been allocated for energy, IT, commerce, transport and R&D sectors taken together. The government has also provided ₹552 crore for rural housing, wage employment, pro-

vision of drinking water and rural infrastructure.

Further, ₹172 crore has been set aside for women and child development, ₹438 crore for ST & SC Development and Minority & Backward Class Welfare initiatives and ₹306.65 crore for irrigation facilities, farmers' welfare and food security.

This will help propel economic growth and at the same time enable the state to carry forward different developmental and welfare programmes, official sources said.

Notably, the Supplementary Budget outlay of the state in FY 2021-22 was ₹19,833 crore.

ARCHANA NAG SEXTORTION CASE

Dhenkanal MLA's bro grilled by ED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: In a major development in Archana Nag sextortion case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths Thursday interrogated Gangadhar Samal, businessman and brother of Dhenkanal MLA Sudhir Kumar Samal over his alleged links with the lady blackmailer. Gangadhar reportedly owns a luxurious vehicle showroom at Pratapnagari on National Highway-16.

Sources claimed that ED officials have recently summoned Samal after they learnt that a financial transaction of ₹30 lakh took place between Archana and Samal's company, Empre Prestige Private Limited. He was grilled

by ED for around 12 hours. Speaking to media, Samal said, "Archana's husband had booked a car from my showroom. However, he cancelled the booking owing to some Income Tax related issues. We had later returned ₹35.11 lakh to Jagabandhu.

Meanwhile, Archana's business partner and aide Khageswar Patra was Thursday produced before the court after the completion of three-day remand. The court reportedly refused to grant further remand of Patra. The ED had requested court to take Patra on remand for two more days.

Earlier, the Special Judge (PMLA), Bhubaneswar November 11 remanded Patra to ED custody for 10 days which was again extended to three more days.

RAGGING: VSSUT STUDENT ROUGHED UP BY SENIORS

University Vice-Chancellor assures action against the guilty

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 24: After a brief lull, yet another incident of ragging has come to the fore as a second year student of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) at Burla in Sambalpur district has alleged that he was assaulted by his seniors in the varsity hostel, Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Anubhav Kumar Khamari, a student of Electronics and Telecommunications department of the university. The matter came to the fore after Khamari lodged complaints at Burla police station, VSSUT authorities and the anti-ragging cell of the university. Police registered a case and are waiting



for a report on the matter from the university authorities, IIC Susant Das of Burla police station said. Legal action will be taken after availability of the report, he added.

Meanwhile, VSSUT authorities also formed a committee and started an investigation into the matter. The complainant said, "I was in Kula Hostel and working on a proj-

ect with one of my friends. Later, I stepped down at around 10pm to buy some chips from the canteen when 15-16 senior students intercepted me. They held my collar, abused me and roughed me up."

"They asked me to look down while talking to them. They even threatened to boycott me from the university if I lodge a complaint with the authorities. I sustained injuries in the attack," said Khamari in his complaint.

He then ran back to his hostel and informed the warden and later lodged a police complaint.

VSSUT Vice-Chancellor Banshidhar Majhi said action will be taken against the guilty and steps taken to eradicate ragging from the campus.

Fresh 5-judge bench to hear pleas against 'nikah halala'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: The Supreme Court Thursday said it will set up a fresh five-judge Constitution bench to hear the pleas challenging the constitutional validity of polygamy and 'nikah halala' among Muslims.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices Hima Kohli and JB Pardiwala was urged by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, who has filed a PIL on the issue, that a fresh five-judge bench was needed to be constituted as two judges of the previous bench-Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Hemant Gupta- have demitted office. "We will form a

bench," the CJI responded.

On August 30, a five-judge bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee, Hemant Gupta, Surya Kant, MM Sundresh and Sudhanshu Dhulia had made the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Commission for Women (NCW) and the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) parties to the PILs and sought their responses.

Later, Justice Banerjee and Justice Gupta retired September 23 and October 16 this year respectively giving rise to the need for re-constitution of the bench to hear as many as eight petitions against the practices of polygamy and 'nikah halala'.

Zakir Naik not invited to attend WC: Qatar



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 24: External Affairs Ministry Thursday said Qatar has informed India that the controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik was not extended any invitation to attend the ongoing FIFA World Cup.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that India had taken up the matter of Naik's extradition with Qatar, after reports that the fugitive preacher, who is now a Malaysian national, was invited to Qatar, where he is expected to deliver religious lectures.

Bagchi said that the issue of Naik being a "wanted" criminal in India, was raised with Qatar.

Naik had fled to Malaysia in 2016, just before the National Investigation Agency started a probe against him.

On Tuesday, reacting to the controversial Islamic preacher's presence at the FIFA World Cup, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had said that India will raise this issue and decisive action will be taken as well.

Naik faces charges of money laundering and delivering hate speeches in India. Naik has taken refuge in Malaysia.

'Second term syndrome' grips Biden, Trump for '24 run

JOE AND DONALD ARE AGING POLITICIANS WHO WILL BE 82 AND 78 WHEN THEY RUN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE IN 2024

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Nov 24: The 'second term syndrome' seems to have sunk into the minds of both the current US President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, anxious to occupy the White House again from where power flows, global attention follows and decisions affecting the world are made.

Both Biden, 80, and Trump, 76, are aging politicians who will be 82 and 78 when they run for the White House in 2024 and generally not favoured by either the Democratic or Republican voters, who both want a younger face like Ron DeSantis, the Republican Florida Governor who won a spectacular race, and Democrats -- California

Governor Gavin Newsom and Vice-President Kamala Harris, all in their 40s and 50s.

Biden has announced his intent to run but he has not made a formal decision or announcement to oppose Trump, though majority opinion in the Democratic party is that if either Trump or DeSantis were to win the primaries, Biden is most favoured to beat them both by a larger margin in case of the former and probably by a smaller margin the latter.

Even as the Democratic National Congress awaits a formal announcement from Biden, a flurry of candidates are already lobbying with their donors and preparing for Plan B, should Biden choose not to contest on health grounds.



Though Biden has been successful in stemming the tide of the Republican Wave against his inept handling of the inflation issue, voters had abortion rights and jobs and election deniers as a threat to

democracy uppermost in their minds while voting.

While 61 per cent of the Republicans want Trump to run, there is a doubt if he will even make it to the primaries because

Democratic and Republican voters want a younger face like Ron DeSantis, the Republican Florida Governor, and Democrats -- California Governor Gavin Newsom and VP Kamala Harris

billionaires and donors and media barons see a great future for the GOP in DeSantis rather than Trump. In fact, billionaire media baron Rupert Murdoch lampooned Trump in his networks from Fox News to the New York Post to Wall Street Journal running edits against him as a liability for the party with his legal baggage. Post-November

midterm polls show a seven per cent rise in popularity for DeSantis against Trump.

Trump has to contend with the January 6 panel hearings of his alleged involvement in the Capitol Hill's insurrection, face the tax fraud evasion case with the New York Attorney General Letitia James (Democrat) suing him for \$250 million in punitive damages for tax fraud, obtaining loans from banks on fraudulent claims by inflating its property values, and the Department of Justice chasing him for the 11,000 top secret documents he spirited away to his Florida home instead of handing them over to the National Archives. This is not going to be easy for him, media reports say. **Continued on P4**

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today, you may want to make a short pleasure trip somewhere; it may either be to a historical place you've not been to, or to your role as a family person, caring and attentive to your loved ones' needs. Ganesh suggests a trip to the nearest park.

TAURUS
There is a strong prospect that an ordinary day will blossom into an extraordinary evening, predicts Ganesh. The afternoon may be filled with stress and tension. However, evening will be totally different when you will bask in the love and affection of your beloved.

GEMINI
You will be in an extremely sensitive and emotional frame of mind today. While it is alright when it comes to family matters, you need to put your head over your heart when making decisions at the workplace. It is a good day to sign new contracts and to take up new projects, says Ganesh.

CANCER
A chance of misunderstanding likely with anyone, says Ganesh. Not the time to take a decision, whereby you repent later. Transfer to a new place, or auspicious function at home are indicated. Ganesh sends his blessings.

LEO
You will pay attention only to your work and will not be distracted by other issues today, says Ganesh. People involved in Research and Development related fields will find that their knowledge will come in handy for them today. Steps taken in the right direction will make your task very easy today.

VIRGO
Today is a day to do some hard training and hard thinking. Ganesh says you will have to exercise both your muscles and your brain. Hard work will eventually lead to rich rewards. A romantic meeting with your beloved in the evening will put you in high spirits.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is a day where you will have to make important decisions so be careful before making them. Those of you who are working professionals may find themselves favored by topmost officials who will be pleased with you and may give you promotions or a bonus. Ganesh says beware of people who wish to take advantage of your generosity and amiable disposition. Share your problems and mental stress and you will see it disappear.

SCORPIO
Ganesh advises you to practice caution today. There may be a lot of people who may be green with envy as you are better than them in every way. Words of wisdom by you may not only change their opinion about you, but also win you accolades in social circles.

SAGITTARIUS
Celebrations galore, foresees Ganesh. Two different individuals may have different opinions, but that should not result into ugly arguments. Watch out for any mishap, warns Ganesh. Your near and dear ones become a priority in the evening. Also, you will look forward to a candle-lit dinner with your sweetheart in the evening.

CAPRICORN
Never judge a book by its cover. Same applies to human beings, also. And, you are one of them. At first, you may not be able to impress the other person with your looks, but once you display your communication power, you win him over, feels Ganesh. You are blessed with an art, the art to convince others. Ganesh advises you to maintain a calm head over your shoulders.

AQUARIUS
What you have been trying to hide in the corner of your heart, may come to the fore today. At work, you will be more patient and calm. Everyone will notice this change in you. Your friends and family members will also be surprised to see a different side of your personality, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Ganesh advises you not to entertain the desire to remain secluded and to spend time with friends and family. If you manage to do this then you will have a happy and exciting day. You will have memorable moments with closed ones and may even end up organizing a small party for them.

MOODS & MOMENTS



Participants listening to the speakers



Student participants taking selfies



An environment exhibition at the venue



Students during the registration



Participants cheering the speakers



Climate activist Arun Krishnamurthy (R) speaking to OrissaPOST and Dharitri Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy

TIDBITS

Spl environment expo a big draw

Aside from the main event, the youths and audience took special interest in the environment exhibition held on the hotel premises. The achievements of 13 climate activists and organisations were displayed for the audience. Prominent among them was Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan which is fighting for the protection of Olive Ridley turtles. The works of climate activists like Sagar Patro and Nirakar Bisoi, both from Ganjam district, Rahul Mahajan of Balipatna of Khurda district, Bapi Gochhayat of Kendrapada and Amaresh Nares Samanta of Paradip were showcased at the expo.

'Any skill can help battle climate crisis'

Neha Shivaji Naikwade, a mechanical engineer and co-founder of Parvaah, a youth cell working towards zero-waste initiatives and who had used her skill set to help launch over 140 green startups, said that each one with any skill can use it to help overcome the climate crisis. "The first step is to educate yourself and then to figure out where your skill can be used. In next 10 years every job is going to be climate job so get ready for that from now," she added

'Small changes lead to big changes'

RJ Varsha the only woman radio jockey (RJ) of the Community Radio Bundelkhand, who with her show educate people about the pivotal role of environment safety in people's lives, said, "If we all feel responsible and bring small changes on our own, then we can succeed in bringing big changes." She adds that Bundelkhand is one of the most drought-affected areas and during hot summer people migrate from the area in large numbers.

Waterman at the event

At the end of the event environmentalist Ranjan Panda, also known as Waterman of Odisha, addressed the gathering. He recalled, "When he started talking about climate change in the early 90s people said I was doing this to get attention. At that time Dharitri helped me in showcasing my study on climate change. Odisha faces a lot of water challenges which are rising due to climate crisis." He said that youth in this conclave touched many important aspects and many students spoke well about the environmental challenges.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

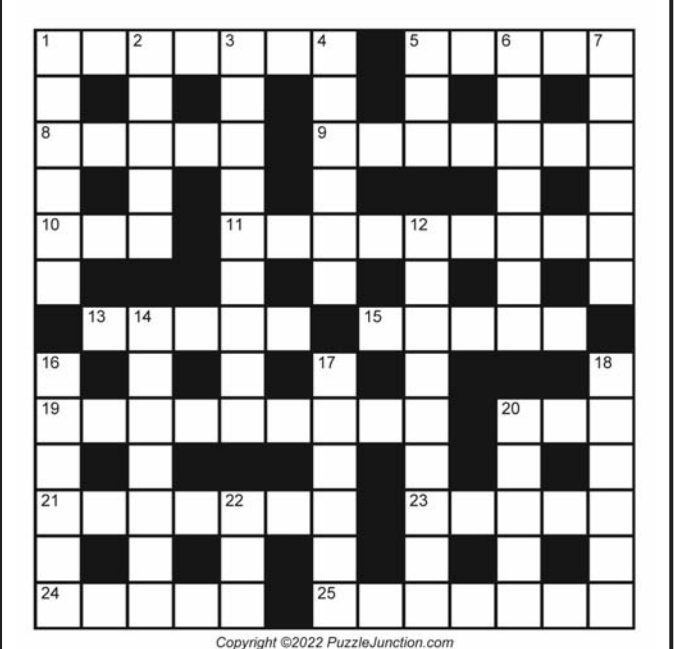


BREVITY



FUN post

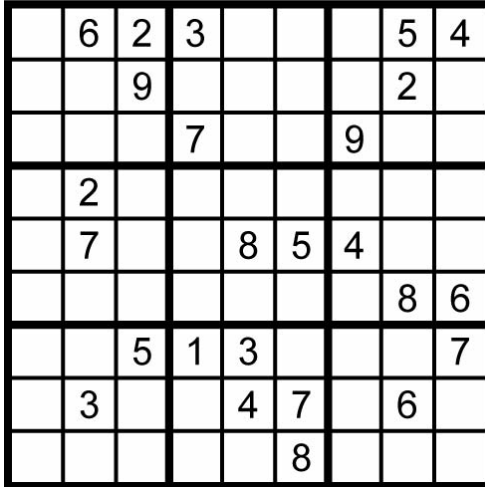
CROSSWORD



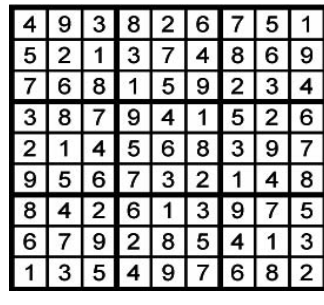
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Medusa and Euryale, e.g.
 - 5 Uncredited actor
 - 8 Boot out
 - 9 Worship
 - 10 Poetic contraction
 - 11 Score in American football (5,4)
 - 13 Creek
 - 15 Savage
 - 19 Small cutters
 - 20 Asian holiday
 - 21 Unfair treatment (3,4)
 - 23 Lament
 - 24 Stratum
 - 25 Engages
 - 4 They're found in a rack, at times
 - 5 Psyche
 - 6 Newts
 - 7 Ring of colour
 - 12 Ready for an evening out (7,2)
 - 14 Flew the coop (3,4)
 - 16 Double helix
 - 17 Lissome
 - 18 Has the wheel
 - 20 Bit of statutory
 - 22 Go astray
- Down**
- 1 Says hello
 - 2 Destroys
 - 3 Away on vacation or business (3-2-4)

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Dharitri fund to boost climate action



(From left) Bakul Foundation's founder & volunteer Sujit Mahapatra, Forest, Environment & Climate Change department Director-cum-Special Secretary K Murugesan, Jane Goodall Youth Leader Arun Krishnamurthy, UNICEF Odisha officer-in-charge Sugata Roy, environmentalist Neelima Mishra and Dharitri & Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy during the first session of 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2022 - Climate Change: The Power of Youth' at hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

ogist Prakash Mardaraj, author Sagar Pradhan and Dharitri & Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy were on the panel.

Split into two sessions, the event was moderated by Bakul Foundation's founder and volunteer Sujit Mahapatra and KSOM Assistant Professor Surya Narayan Mishra.

The event began with the welcome speech by Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy. She said that Dharitri will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. The leading Odia daily has been offering unbiased news for the past five decades. And it has always given priority to the youth and environment, she added.

About the event, the Chief Executive of the two newspapers said that the conclave is an effort to drive consciousness on climate change at the grassroots. The initiative, she said, provides a platform for brainstorming on the climate change and possible solutions for a liveable tomorrow.

The leading Odia daily, in order to encourage climate warriors at the grassroots, has instituted 'Dharitri Climate Fund', she announced.

According to young climate activist Soumya Ranjan Biswal, climate change will impact one and all. "Hence, it's a collective responsibility of all to act today for a better and liveable tomorrow," Biswal said.

Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy said that media plays a key role in making people aware of the impact their actions have on the environment. Initiatives like 'Dharitri Youth Conclave' go a long way in motivating people towards actions that will help reverse climate change.

K Murugesan said that Odisha is the first state to act on the climate change action plan. "Odisha is prone to natural calamities like floods. We also have the largest

population residing in coastal areas. The state has been witnessing a rapid industrialisation in the last few years. We're also the first state in the country to get the green climate fund and prepare special climate budget. Odisha is leading in climate action but we need support of youths," he said.

According to Sugata Roy, about 10 million children were displaced owing to climate-induced migration in the last five years. "It's the reason for which they don't have access to education and health-care facilities. Hence, we're violating the child rights if we cannot take care of climate change today," Roy said.

Neelima Mishra highlighted the real picture of Arctic area through a video. "You can find your Arctic in your area and home and can change that. I have tried to be minimalistic as possible and try to send message that waste management is crucial," said Mishra.

According to Arun Krishnamurthy, Odisha is like a mother with resources for everybody as the coastal state has turtles, elephants and lush green forests. He added, "Dharitri will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. And let's pledge to bring some change by the next conclave."

Vasu Dixit, through his music, tried to narrate a story about the environment. The audience was mesmerised by his soulful voice.

Young Odia writer Sagar Pradhan said Dharitri is setting an example for other media houses in the state by organising such an event. He also said, "More than focusing on 'Smart City' we must focus on the idea of a green city."

Prakash Mardaraj said that unlike humans, animals do not have ways to protect themselves from the effects of climate change. "Due to human encroachment of forest areas, animals are entering the urban localities, leading to conflict and their unfortunate death," Mardaraj added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: Be it the all-consuming wildfires that ravaged the American West or the devastating heat waves that swept through Southern Europe, extreme weather events, so common nowadays, remind us again and again of the ruin we have made of our planet. Though climate change, the cause behind these extremities, has long been established as a consequence of human behaviour; initiatives to reverse it and mitigate its consequences have never been enough.

As it is a problem that needs collective action, cooperation between governments, and mobilisation of people, numerous events and talks are arranged each year at multiple levels to create awareness and enhance the process of climate action. On the occasion of its 49th birth anniversary, leading

Odia daily Dharitri organised such an event in the City here, Thursday.

The focus of the event 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2022 - Climate Change: The Power of Youth' was to highlight the work done by young climate activists and create awareness among the youth about a host of issues - from biodiversity preservation to behavioural change.

The mega event saw participation of various stakeholders such as young climate activists and members of civil society and officials from the government, non-government organisations, and international bodies like UNICEF.

Several talented young climate activists from different parts of the country participated as expert panelists and shared their experiences with the audience. Besides, many young speakers from reputed educational institutions of the state were also in attendance.



Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy delivers the welcome address

Young environmentalists Arun Krishnamurthy, Neelima Mishra, UNICEF Odisha office-in-charge Sugata Roy, Forest, Environment & Climate Change department Director-cum-Special Secretary K Murugesan, UN Youth Climate Leader Neha Shivaji Naikwade, RJ Varsha Raikwar, wildlife biol-



Swetalina Mohanty, BJB Autonomous College



Subhraneel Chattopadhyay, KIIT University



Debanjan Ruj, AIIMS



Ashutosh Arun Mallick, SCB Medical College



Aparajita Das, Rama Devi Women's University



Mohammad Fahim Faisal, Ravenshaw University



Sanath Kumar Swain, Xavier Institute of Management



Anshuman Sahoo, Utkal University



(From left) KSOM Assistant Professor Surya Narayan Mishra, UN Youth Climate Leader Neha Shivaji Naikwade, RJ Varsha Raikwar, author Sagar Pradhan, climate activist Ayadi Mishra and wildlife biologist Prakash Mardaraj during the second session of the conclave



Waterman Ranjan Panda



Climate activist Soumya Ranjan Biswal



Musician Vasu Dixit



Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy with the panellists and climate warriors at the event

OP PHOTOS



UP IN ARMS: Odisha Pachaka Pachika Mahasangha staging a protest at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar seeking fulfillment of their 7-point charter of demands, Thursday

Archana Nag case rocks House

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: On the first day of winter session, Opposition BJP and Congress have created a ruckus in the House over Archana Nag high-profile honey-trap case.

As the house reassembled at 5pm in the evening, Congress legislative party leader Narshingha Mishra raising on a point of order, said the Congress party has demanded a SIT probe into the Archana Nag case in which several political leaders of the ruling party, businessmen and bureaucrats were involved.

Mishra said it was most unfortunate that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is keeping mum on the issue. Stating the Chief Minister has no moral right to continue his post, Mishra demanded resignation of the CM in this case.

Supporting the demand of Congress, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi alleged that the Chief Minister is shielding his ministers and MLAs involved in the Archana Nag sex scandal.

Majhi also said several IAS and IPS officers besides businessmen were involved in the sex scandal and questioned the silence of the Chief



BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi alleged that the Chief Minister is shielding his ministers and MLAs involved in the Archana Nag sex scandal

Minister over the issue.

The people of Odisha wanted to know the names of the ruling party leaders involved in the honey trap case and demanded a statement on the issue from the government, the BJP leader said.

He too demanded that the Chief Minister should step down from the

post owning moral responsibility. The opposition members trooped into the well of the house and shouted slogans in support of their demand.

Speaker BK Arukha however, said in the all party meeting it was decided that only the supplementary budget would be placed in the house and asked the members to go back to their seats.

The Speaker assured the members he would allow them to raise the issue in the House Friday, but the Opposition remained adamant in their stand and continued the sloganeering inside the well of the House. Later, the Speaker adjourned the House till Friday.

'Second term ...'

Continued From P1

The BBC of the UK says Biden is the oldest President in US history and his approval ratings have stalled in the low 40s. "Is President Joe Biden ripe for a primary challenge in 2024," the network asked?

With both of them being too old and voters wanting a young energetic President, there is a chance for a lot of young liberals to make it to the primaries.

Vice-President Harris: Perhaps nobody would benefit more from an aging President stepping aside than his Deputy Kamala Harris, says BBC, adding a former prosecutor who went on to serve as California's Attorney General and as its junior US Senator, the 58-year-old broke glass ceilings in 2020 as the first female, black and Asian-American Vice-President in the US history.

Last year, she briefly served as acting President in the 85 minutes it took Biden to undergo a colonoscopy. Problem here is that Harris is even less popular than the President and some voters have even questioned her competence.

Since assuming office, she has been given some of the administration's toughest portfolios -- influx of immigrants at the southern US border. Conservative critics have accused her of awkward public appearances. High staff turnover and reports of low morale in the Vice-President's office have only made matters worse, the network claimed. But her supporters have claimed she has been a victim of misogyny and sexist slander.

Gavin Newsom: He is in the spotlight among the Democrats garnering a lot of attention in the 2024 buzz for presidency. Newsom, 55, came into national focus when he issued the same-sex marriage licenses in 2004 in utter violation of the state law as the Governor of California. He is a wine merchant who strayed into politics and made it good when he was elected Governor of his home state in 2018.

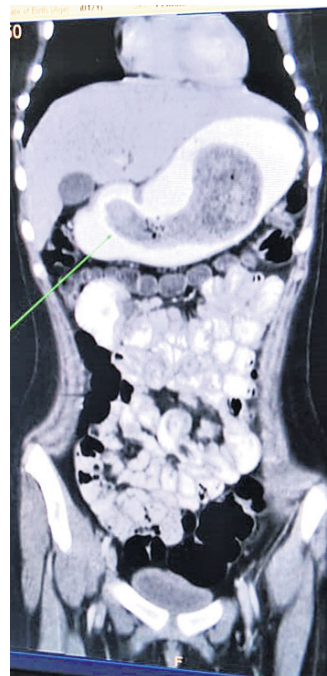
'Rapunzel Syndrome' treated in Shanti Memorial Hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: A unique case of Rapunzel syndrome was recently reported in a young girl of 13 at Shanti Memorial Hospital. Rapunzel Syndrome is the compulsion of young girls pulling out their own hair and swallow or chew it, referred to as trichotillomania and trichophagia. It's a disorder that affects young girls with or without known psychiatric disorders. These chewed hairs consequently develop into gastric trichobezoars (Hairball) which takes the shape of the stomach & extends beyond the duodenum past the small intestine, and sometimes even into the colon producing a long tail-like extension of hair.

This syndrome is named after Rapunzel, the long haired girl in the fairy tale written by the Grimm Brothers in 1812. It tells about a 12-year-old princess who was locked in a tower without stairs or doors and managed to escape with the help of Rapunzel's long tresses.

The patient came with symptoms of pain in the epigastric re-



gion since 1 month and intermittent vomiting after taking solid food. The CT SCAN showed a distended stomach that had a soft

tissue mass of size 12cm X 6cm with entrapped air foci, which extended from body to pyloric region. Endoscopy revealed a large mass occupying the whole stomach, starting from GE Junction upto the 3rd part of duodenum. Post diagnosis, the patient went through a laparoscopic gastro-tomy and the trichobezoar mass (ball of hair) was removed & put into an endo bag & removed by a mini laparotomy. The removed specimen was 28 CM long and weighed 236 GMS.

The patient recovered completely and went home within a couple of days. Treating Surgeon, Sreejoy Patnaik said, "This is the first case of Rapunzel Syndrome that has been reported in our hospital. It is indeed a rare and unique condition. These patients usually require psychiatric evaluation and treatment due to the association with impulsive control disorders, especially trichotillomania. Hence we have advised long-term follow up as well as psychiatric consultation to prevent the event from repeating."

Odisha Day celebrated at Trade Fair

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, November 24: The Odisha State Day was celebrated with fervour at the 41st edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) here Thursday. The celebration was inaugurated by Pritiranjan Gharai, Minister of State (Ind), Rural Development, Skill Development & Technical Education.

Hundreds of people were enthralled by cultural and dance programmes like Odissi,

Dalkhai, Bajasal and modern fusion dance during the state day celebration. While dancers from Rudrakshya Foundation, Bhubaneswar performed the Mahakali Stutee in Odissi, Mahabir Sanskritika Anusthana of Bhowanipatna, Kalahandi performed Bajasal folk dance. Likewise, Lahari Group presented Dalkhai and Susmita Das and her troupe entertained the audience with Modern Fusion Dance.

Significantly, the state of

Odisha is showcasing numerous products manufactured locally by rural women artisans under the theme "Vocal for Local, Local to Global" at the IITF which started November 14 here.

Upcoming events like "Make in Odisha", "Hockey Men's World Cup" as well as Millet Mission Mascot "Mill" are being prominently displayed in the Pavilion, which has a total of 24 stalls and have become the major attraction for visitors to take a selfie with the standee cut out.

1 in 8 older adults developed depression for the first time: Study

Approximately one in eight older adults developed depression for the first time during the pandemic, according to a study conducted in Canada.

For those who had experienced depression in the past, the numbers were even worse, the study said. By the autumn of 2020 almost half (45 per cent) of this group of 20,000 older adults reported being depressed.

The researchers from University of Toronto analysed responses from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, which collected data from participants for an average of seven years, the study said.

"The high rate of first-onset depression in 2020 highlights the substantial mental health toll that the pandemic caused in a formerly mentally healthy group of older adults," said first author Andie MacNeil, University of Toronto.

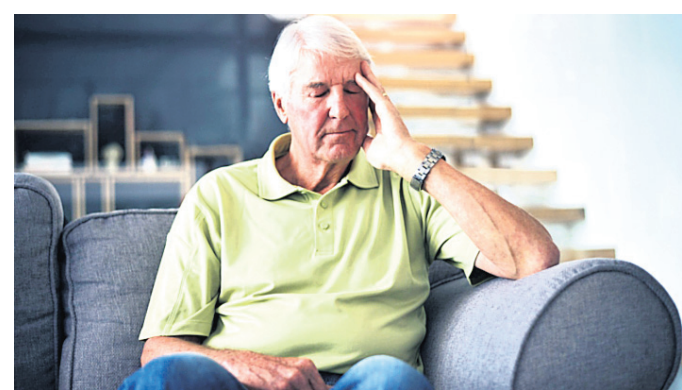
While the surge in prevalence of

depression among older adults during the pandemic is well known, few studies prior to this have identified the percentage of people who experienced it for the first time or the percentage of people with a history of the disorder who experienced a relapse, the study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health said.

"The devastation of the pandemic which upended so many aspects of daily life hit those with a history of depression particularly hard," said co-author Sapriya Birk.

"Health professionals need to be vigilant in screening their patients who had mental health problems at an earlier time in their life," said Birk.

The researchers identified several factors that were associated with depression among older adults during the pandemic, including inadequate income and savings, loneliness, chronic pain, trouble



Older adults who, prior to the pandemic perceived their income to be inadequate for satisfying their basic needs, and those who had fewer savings were more likely to develop depression during the pandemic, the study said

accessing healthcare, a history of adverse childhood experiences, and family conflict, the study said.

basic needs, and those who had fewer savings were more likely to develop depression during the pandemic, the study said.

"These findings highlight the disproportionate mental health burden borne by individuals with low socioeconomic status during the pandemic. Many of these socioeconomic risk factors may have been exacerbated by the economic precarity of the pandemic, particularly for individuals with fewer resources," said co-author Margaret de Groh.

According to the study, individuals who experienced various dimensions of loneliness, such as feeling left out, feeling isolated and lacking companionship had approximately 4 to 5 times higher risk of both incident and recurrent depression.

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Older adults who, prior to the lock-down was particularly difficult for older adults who were isolated and lonely during the pandemic.

"Social connections and social support are essential for well-being and mental health. Better support and outreach are needed for those who are isolated," said co-author Ying Jiang.

Older adults in chronic pain and those who had trouble accessing their usual healthcare, medication or treatments were more likely to be depressed during the autumn of 2020, the study said.

"This finding underlines the importance of streamlining service provision to ensure less disruption of medical services when future pandemics arise," said co-author Professor Paul J. Villeneuve.

Also, according to the study, individuals with a childhood history of adversity were more likely to be depressed during the Autumn of 2020. Older adults who experienced family conflict during the pandemic had more than triple the risk of depression compared to their peers who did not.

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Old issues still pester Padampur electorate

Issues like demand of district status to Padampur, Padampur-Nuapada railway linkage, pending crop insurance claims and input subsidies of farmers go back a long way in the constituency's poll history

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 24: With 10 candidates in the fray, electioneering is heating up for the bypoll to the Padampur Assembly seat in Bargarh district. The bypoll slated for December 5 is set for a tough triangular contest among the BJD, BJP and Congress candidates.

However, voters are now focused on old and lingering major issues like demand of district status to Padampur, Padampur-Nuapada new railway linkage, pending crop insurance claims and input subsidies. Farmers have been pressing for sorting out their issues first.

Political observers say these issues will have much implication on the political fortunes of the candidates. The ruling BJD and opposition BJP are blaming each other on such issues to win brownie points.

Congress has targeted the BJD and the BJP for their negligence in Padampur development.

All these issues are said to be old, but have much significance for the electorate as no efforts have been made to sort them out till date.

In the past, the electorate of

TOUGH FIGHT ON CARDS IN BYPOLL



Padampur has given chances to all the three parties. Considering the electoral history here since 1961, people have given more chances to the Congress. Congress candidates were elected in 1961, 1971, 1974, 1980, 1985 and 2004 from this Assembly seat. Congress candidate Satya Bhusan Sahu was elected thrice from here.

On the other hand, BJP candidate Pradip Purohit, who initially faced debacles, had won the seat in 2014.

However, Purohit had to face the drubbing in 2019, paving the way for BJD's Bijay Ranjan Singh Baraha to win the poll. However, this time, Purohit is confident of his win



claiming that people of Padampur are unhappy with the government and siding with him.

At a press meet, Thursday, he accused the BJD of preventing him from carrying out campaigns in some villages, pointing fingers at Health Minister Naba Kishore Das. Now, the BJD has fielded

Baraha's daughter Barsha and is leaving no stone unturned to ensure her win. A number of BJD stalwarts like Prasanna Acharya, Rita Sahu, Srimayee Mishra, Rohit Pujari and several other western Odisha leaders have been campaigning for Barsha. The ruling party is also hopeful of retaining

the seat. However, people are in fact miffed over the old issues. The demand for district status to Padampur is very old. During the tenure of Biju Patnaik as Chief Minister, people of Padampur had pitched for separate district status to Padampur as he was re-organising the districts at that time.

Padampur is a drought prone district. Insurance claims and input subsidies are two pestering issues of the affected farmers. However, these issues always go unaddressed every year. Besides, railway link to Padampur is another long pending issue.

"When elections approach, parties come with loads of promises, but later nothing happens," said social activist Niroj Dora.

Another local resident Ramesh Gurja observed that now Padampur has become an open theatre. All candidates come with folding hands and some with crying faces to beg for votes exchanging promises.

After elections are over, the leaders forget everything, leaving people to suffer sans facilities, said Kanhei Dora, another villager. He added that people are not taking leaders into confidence.

SCAMS IN NILAGIRI Balasore DM orders probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Nov 24: The District Collector has ordered an investigation into large-scale irregularities allegedly committed in drain cleaning and restoration of Satakholia dam in Naranpur panchayat under Nilagiri block of Balasore. Locals had drawn attention of the Collector and the Vigilance department towards the scams.

Moreover, funds meant for various MGNREGS projects have been misappropriated while job cards have been forged in the names of some minors and differently-abled people. The villagers have accused some officials of the Panchayati Raj department of being complicit

in the scam. They alleged that lakhs of rupees had been sanctioned for a number of projects under MGNREGS in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23. Between 2015 and 2022, over ₹50 lakh sanctioned for various projects of SFC, TFC, Amrit Sarovar, MGNREGS, drain cleaning, pond renovation, plantation and construction of Kamala creek check dam has been embezzled.

At a public hearing here, Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde took serious note of the alleged irregularities and directed two assistant engineers and an assistant executive engineer to look into the irregularities.

Besides, the Vigilance officials have seized eight files related to the projects for investigation.

Couple dies in road accident

Deogarh: A couple died Thursday after a truck rammed into their cart on NH-49 near Asurakhola village under Tileibani block in Sundargarh district. The deceased were identified as Sarat Sahu and his wife Bisakha Sahu of Asurakhola village. The couple was going on the cart to fetch paddy bundles from their farmland in the morning. A truck coming from Deogarh side hit the rear of the cart. The couple was killed in the mishap. Angry over the incident, locals blocked the Sambalpur-Deogarh Road, paralysing traffic for hours. Tileibani BDO Priyadarshini Munda, SDPO Anil Kumar Beuria and Deogarh IIC Surendra Kumar rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the agitators.

**OFFICE OF THE
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
ATHMALLIK FOREST DIVISION
AT/PO: ATHMALLIK, DIST-ANGUL-759125
E-mail: dfoathmallikt@gmail.com, Tel: 9437004236**

**Tender Notice No.7111/IF/2022, Date:20.11.2022
Short Tender Notice for Repair of Ministerial Staff
Quarters in Forest Colony under Athmallik Range,
in Athmallik Forest Division.**

No.MM-292:Sealed Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Odisha, invites Tender for following works from the eligible contractor as detail below.

- Name of the work:** Repair of Ministerial Staff Quarters in Forest Colony under Athmallik Range, in Athmallik Forest Division
- Place of Work:** Athmallik Forest Division
- Period of Completion:** 90 Days
- Commencement of download RFP document on website: www.odishaforest.in Dt. 20.11.2022 Time: 11.00 A.M.
- Last Date of bid submission** (by messenger/courier/post): Dt.05.12.2022 01.00 P.M. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, PO/PS- Athmallik, Pin-759125, Dist. Angul.
- Date of General & Technical and Financial Bid opening:** Dt.05.12.2022 Time:05.00 P.M. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, PO/PS- Athmallik, Pin-759125- Angul.
- RFP document Cost (Non-refundable): Rs.1,000/- By DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, Payable at Athmallik.
- Address for Bid submission-** Office of DFO, Athmallik.
- EMD (Refundable):** Rs. 20,000/- By DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, Payable at Athmallik.
- Bid validity period:** 4 Months from the last date of submission of Bid.
- Latest Tender document and addendum/corrigendum, if any, will be published at the websites www.odishaforest.in
- Disclaimer:**Notwithstanding anything else contained to the contrary in this tender document, DFO Athmallik reserves the right to cancel/ withdraw/ modify fully or partially the "Invitation of Bids" or to reject one or more of the bids without assigning any reason and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such a decision.

**Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division
OIPR-08125/11/0009/2223**

2 women Maoists killed in encounter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Nov 24: Two women Maoists were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces at Gandhamardan hills of Bolangir district Thursday, a senior police officer said.

The deceased cadres were yet to be identified. They are suspected to be area committee members of Bolangir-Bargarh Mahasamund Division of Chhattisgarh. This was stated here by Bolangir SP Nitin Kushalkar at a press meet held

at the district police headquarters here. Two INSAS rifles, two magazines, some Maoist publicity materials and some other articles were seized from the spot.

The gunfight took place in a forest close to Jal Mahadev Temple under Khaprakhol and Lathore police station limits after security personnel of Odisha's elite Special Operation Group (SOG) and Bolangir district voluntary force (DVF) were tipped off about the presence of a Maoist camp on the Gandhamardan hill.



They launched a combing operation from Wednesday night and spotted Maoist activities on the hill. The security personnel gheraoed the camp on the hill and asked the rebels to surrender.

The ultras instead of surrendering opened fire targeting the security forces. The SOG and DVF personnel retaliated in self-defence in which the two women Maoists were gunned down, the SP said. The gun battle lasted for half an hour while the rest of the rebels in the camp fled the scene.

"The bodies are being brought down from the hills to be taken to Bolangir. Around five to seven Maoists were in the camp out of which two women rebels were killed in the gun fight," he said.

Woman stifles hubby to death

Sundargarh: In a shocking incident, a woman strangled her husband to death at Srirammagar under Sundargarh Town police limits Thursday over domestic dispute. The deceased was identified as Hemanta Bagh (37), a resident of Phalsamal in Sambalpur. He was a driver at ITDA. Hemanta Bagh and his wife Sarita Bagh (31) were staying along with their two kids at a rented house in Srirammagar. The couple had a tiff Wednesday night over some issues. Infuriated, Sarita strangled her husband with a saree.

Tribal villagers cut through hill to build road in Koraput district



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Nov 24: The poor tribal residents of Ghantraguda in Koraput may not have heard of the 'Mountain Man' Dashrath Manjhi, but like him took up the task of constructing a road cutting through the hills on their own to address their connectivity woes.

The villagers - men and women - cut through a hill and cleared shrubs and have constructed a 6 km-long kuchha road connecting Ghantraguda with Puki Chhak in the district.

Ghantraguda is located about 35 km from Koraput town in southern Odisha and the diversion due to the lack of road made the villagers travel 52 km to reach it. They were forced to take a detour to reach the headquar-

ter town for various works and often faced problems.

The road constructed by the villagers will reduce the distance by a good 20 km, said Lachna Purasethi, a villager. The requests to the authorities concerned for a shorter road had not helped matters.

"We appealed to the authorities for the road many times, but to no avail. Therefore, we decided to construct the road on our own," said Lochan Bisoi, a villager.

Armed with farm tools like the hoe, sickle, machete and the spade, the poor tribal villagers began carving out the hill, he said.

"In the absence of direct roads we face much difficulty in reaching Koraput town, especially in the nights

and more so during the rainy season. Shifting patients to the hospital at Koraput becomes a nightmare and only God knows how we manage it," he said.

The villagers said a metal road was constructed by the administration about 15 years back but there is no sign of it now due to lack of maintenance. The road constructed by them will help around 4,000 residents of at least nine villages, apart from Ghantraguda, on completion, they claimed.

"The village has been included in the rural connectivity programme and a pucca road will be constructed soon," said Damburudhar Mallick, the block development officer of Dasmantpur, under which Ghantraguda falls.

Dashrath Manjhi was an agricultural labourer of Gehlaur village, near Gaya in Bihar. In 1959 his wife died reportedly due to injury after she fell from a mountain and he could not take her to the hospital in the town, 90 km away in time because of lack of a road. A distraught but determined Manjhi later began to carve a path 110 metre long, 9.1 metre wide and 7.7 metre deep through a ridge of hills using only a hammer and a chisel.

After 22 years of relentless work, Dashrath shortened travel between the Atri and Wazirganj blocks of Gaya district from 55 km to 15 km.

MCL drive promotes eco-friendly measures

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 24: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has initiated a drive to reduce usage of 'single-use plastic' by distributing jute bags in peripheral households motivating people to shun plastic bags and care for environment.

In the first phase of the awareness campaign, MCL will distribute 10,000 jute bags among people in Sambalpur.

The company, through its Department of Environment & Forest, is organising information camps at different locations to spread awareness on clean environment. The drive has received encouraging response from people, particularly the students' community. Celebrating 30 years of excellence, MCL, a 'Mini-Ratna' Government of India enterprise, has also planted over 6.5 million saplings in Angul, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Sambalpur.

Wife, children thrash Bhadrak man to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur, Nov 24: In a shocking incident, a man was allegedly beaten to death by his wife, three sons and a daughter at Khidirpur village under Pirahat police limits in Bhadrak district, police said Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Babua Das, a native of the village. The deceased's 80-year-old mother Benga Das lodged a complaint at the police station. Police launched a manhunt to nab the accused kin who were absconding after sending the body for post-mortem.

Police said a dispute was prevailing between Babua Das and his wife. The incident occurred when Babua was sleeping outside the house Wednesday night when his wife, sons and daughter attacked him and beat him up black and blue.

The victim was critically injured and rushed to the Pirahat hospital and later shifted to the district headquarters hospital as his condition deteriorated. He, however, was pronounced dead on arrival. Though the reason behind the attack is yet to be ascertained, it is suspected that the incident was fallout of an extramarital affair. Police said that the facts can be ascertained after the post-mortem report is available.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL)
PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT, SOUTH DIVISION,
NEAR STPI, AMBAPUA, BERHAMPUR**

Phone-0680-2404455/E-Mail-ees.piwt@yahoo.in
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO-EP/P&IWT(SD)-07/2022-23 DATE-21.11.2022
No.JJ-27:
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1	Name of work	Sinking of 200mm dia Gravel packed Production well including saline sealing where necessary through rotary drilling Rig up to 300m. at Balugaon in Khurda District
2	No. of works	1 No.
3	No. of Covers	Single Cover
4	Value of works	Rs. 11,16,434.00
5	Bid Cost	Rs. 6,000.00
6	Period of Completion	One Calendar Month
7	Time & Date of availability of bid document in the portal	From 12.00 Noon of dated 28.11.2022 to 5.00 PM. of dated 06.12.2022.
8	Last time & date for receipt of bids in the portal	Up to 5.00 PM. of dated 06.12.2022
9	Date of opening of bid documents	At 12.00 Noon of 07.12.2022
10	Class of Contractor	"D" & "C" Class Contractor
11	Name and address of officer inviting Bid	Executive Engineer (Civil), Ports & Inland Water Transport, South Division, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

**Executive Engineer (Civil),
OIPR-38032/11/0004/2223 Ports & IWT, South Division, Berhampur**

Bank of India
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Nimpur Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Nimpur Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

NIMPUR BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Kalandi Behera, S/o.: Mr. Arakhita Behera, At: Najarpur, P.O.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack- 754021 / Guarantor: Mrs. Kanchan Behera, W/o.: Mr. Kalandi Behera, At: Najarpur, P.O.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack- 754021	₹ 29,76,803.34 + interest & expenses thereon	21.07.2022 22.11.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 1425/5926, Khata No.: 772/1863, Thana No.: 71, Area: Ac.0.080 Dec, Tahasil: Tangi Choudwar, P.S.: Tangi, SRO: Tangi Choudwar, Mouza: Nimpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Standing in the name of Mr. Kalandi Behera, S/o.: Mr. Arakhita Behera,

Bounded by North: Buyer, South: Umesh Chandra Panda, East: Baidhar Saran, West: Road
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 25.11.2022
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

SUNDARAM HOME
Regd Office: No. 21, Patulos Road, Chennai - 600 002.
Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai - 600 014.

Branch Office: A/108, 2nd Floor, C/o Sundaram Finance Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007.

DEMAND NOTICE
(Under Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

The under mentioned parties are hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against each of you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, that the notices under Section 13(2) of the Act sent to each of you separately by Regd. Post Ack. Due have been returned unserved. Hence both of you are hereby called upon to take notice to pay jointly and severally the outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Company will proceed against the below mentioned properties to realize its dues with interests and costs as contemplated under the Act. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Company.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Co-Borrowers	File No. Amount (Outstanding Rs.)	Description of Immovable Property
1	Mr. Mrutyunjaya Deo Nadiabhangga, Jajpur Road Jajpur - 755026, Odisha.	File No. 66200002, Rs. 35,18,387/- (+ Interest @ 24% p.a. From 31.10.2022) + Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges	All the piece and parcel of property situated in District: Jajpur, Sub-Registrar/ Tahasil: Dolpur, P.S- Jajpur Road and Jajpur Road Municipality Kalinganagar Development Scheme, Mouza- Chorada, Sthitiban Sabik Khata No.- 94, Sabik Plot No.- 23 corresponding to Hal Plot No.- 451, Sold Area- Ac.0.040 decimal out of Ac.0.093 decimal, Rent- Rs.3/- per annum, Kismam- Sarada 3/Ha Kismam-Gharabari. Bounded By: North- Ramesh Chandra Samal, South- Hal Plot No. 455, East- Plot No. 456, West- Plot No. 455.
2	Mrs. Priyadarshini Patra (Co-Borrower)	File No. BBR20180017, Rs. 37,94,373/- (+ Interest @ 24% p.a. From 31.10.2022) + Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges	
3		File No. BBR20220007, Rs. 6,29,158/- (+ Interest @ 24% p.a. From 31.10.2022) + Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges	

**for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,
Authorised officer.**

FOCUS IMPERIALISM

CHINESE DEBT BONDAGE



It is already clear that China's creditor imperialism carries far-reaching risks, both for the debtors themselves and for the future of the international order

China will pocket a whopping 91% of the port's revenues. Moreover, the China Overseas Ports Holding Company will enjoy a 23-year tax holiday to facilitate its installation of equipment and machinery at the site. Near Gwadar, China plans to build an outpost for its navy – a move that follows a well-established pattern. Debt entrapment enabled China to gain its first overseas naval base in Djibouti, strategically situated at the entrance to the Red Sea. China is also now seeking a naval base on the West African coastline, where it has made the most progress in Equatorial Guinea, a heavily indebted low-income country.

This is the result of a lending strategy that is focused squarely on maximising leverage over borrowers. As one international study showed, "cancellation, acceleration, and stabilisation clauses in Chinese contracts potentially allow the lenders to influence debtors' domestic and foreign policies." China often exercises this policy leverage by reserving the right to recall loans arbitrarily or demand immediate repayment.

In this way, China can use its overseas lending to advance its economic and diplomatic interests. If China can dim the lights in Laos, for example, it has a certain ally in multilateral forums. If it can drive a country to debt default, it can secure all the trade and construction contracts it wants. And if it can control a country's ports, it can strengthen its strategic position. The details of China's loan contracts with developing countries have not yet come fully to light. But it is already clear that China's creditor imperialism carries far-reaching risks, both for the debtors themselves and for the future of the international order.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research.

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Recently released details of Kenya's 2014 loan agreement with China to finance a controversial railway project have once again highlighted the predatory nature of Chinese lending in developing countries. The contract not only imposed virtually all risk on the borrower (including requiring binding arbitration in China to settle any dispute), but also raised those risks to unmanageable levels (such as by setting an unusually high interest rate). With terms like that, it is no wonder that multiple countries around the world have become ensnared in sovereignty-eroding Chinese debt traps.

Over the last decade, China has become the world's largest single creditor, with loans to lower- and middle-income countries tripling in this period, to \$170 billion at the end of 2020. Its outstanding foreign loans now exceed 6% of global GDP, making China competitive with the International Monetary Fund as a global creditor. And through loans extended under its \$838-billion Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has overtaken the World Bank as the world's largest funder of infrastructure projects.

To be sure, since the start of the made-in-China COVID-19 pandemic, China's overseas lending for infrastructure projects has been on the decline (until 2019, it was rising sharply). This is partly because the pandemic left partner countries in dire economic straits, though growing international criticism of China's predatory lending has likely also contributed.

One might hope that this downward trend augurs the end of colonial-style lending by China. But the decline has been offset by an increase in bailout lending, mostly to BRI partner countries – including Kenya – which were already weighed down by debts owed to China. The scale of the bailout lending is massive. The top three borrowers alone – Argentina, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka – have received \$32.8 billion in rescue

lending from China since 2017. Pakistan has been the biggest borrower by far, receiving a staggering \$21.9 billion in Chinese emergency lending since 2018.

This highlights the self-reinforcing debt spiral into which China thrusts countries. Because China, unlike the IMF, does not attach stringent conditions to its loans, countries simply borrow more to service outstanding debts, thus sinking ever deeper into debt.

Crucially, China's loan contracts are typically shrouded in secrecy; Kenya's revelations, for example, were technically in violation of its agreement's sweeping confidentiality clause. In many cases, the loans are hidden from taxpayers, undermining government accountability. China also increasingly directs its lending not to governments directly, but to state-owned companies, state-owned banks, special purpose vehicles, and private-sector institutions in recipient countries. The result is crushing levels of "hidden debt."

Consider Laos, where hidden debts to China eclipse official debts. To stave off default following the pandemic shock, the small, landlocked country was forced to hand China majority control of its na-

tional electricity grid. And it may find itself with little choice but to barter away land and natural resources. There is ample precedent for this. Already, several of China's debtors have been forced to cede strategic assets to their creditor: Tajikistan has surrendered 1,158 square kilometers (447 square miles) of the Pamir mountains to China, granted Chinese companies rights to mine gold, silver, and other mineral ores in its territory, and approved the Chinese-funded construction of a military base near its border with Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka's debt crisis first attracted international attention in 2017. Unable to repay Chinese loans, the country signed away the Indian Ocean region's most strategically important port, Hambantota, and more than 6,000 hectares of land around it, by granting a 99-year lease to China. In Sri Lanka, the port transfer was likened to a heavily indebted farmer giving his daughter to an unyielding moneylender. Despite this sacrifice, Sri Lanka defaulted on its debts earlier this year.

Similarly, Pakistan has given China exclusive rights to run its strategically located Gwadar port for four decades. During that time,

Ethics on the Rocks

To stand for the Truth in all circumstances, to declare it if necessary in the teeth of the worst opposition and to be ready to all you can for its sake, is the definition of heroism.

THE MOTHER



Ethical progress produces a beneficial form of dogmatism. A normal, healthy society does not debate whether rape and torture are acceptable, because the public "dogmatically" accepts that they are beyond the pale. By the same token, a society whose leaders speak of "legitimate rape" – as a former Republican congressman in the United States once did – or of tolerable torture is exhibiting clear signs of ethical decay, and previously unimaginable acts can quickly become possible.

Consider Russia today. In an unverified video that began circulating this month, a former mercenary from the Kremlin-linked Wagner Group is accused of switching sides to "fight against the Russians," whereupon an unidentified assailant smashes a sledgehammer into the side of the mercenary's head. When asked to comment on the video – posted under the header "The hammer of revenge" – Yevgeny Prigozhin, the Wagner Group's founder and a close ally of Vladimir Putin, replied that, "A dog receives a dog's death." As many have observed, Russia's behaviour is now identical to that of the Islamic State.

Or, consider Russia's increasingly close ally, Iran, where young girls who have been arrested for protesting the regime are reportedly being married off to prison guards and then raped, on the grounds that a minor cannot legally be executed if she is a virgin.

Or, consider Israel, which proudly presents itself as a liberal democracy, even though it has gradually come to resemble some of the other fundamentalist-religious countries in its neighbourhood. The latest evidence of the trend is the news that Itamar Ben-Gvir will be a part of Binyamin Netanyahu's new government. Before entering politics, Ben-Gvir was known to display a portrait in his living room of the Israeli-American terrorist Baruch Goldstein, who massacred 29 Palestinian Muslim worshippers and wounded 125 others in Hebron in 1994.

Netanyahu, who was Israel's longest-serving PM before being ousted in June 2021, is fully implicated in this ethical decay. In 2019, the Times of Israel reports, he called "for a fight against rising Muslim and left-wing anti-Semitism in Europe, hours after the [Israeli] government published a report that said the far-right posed the greatest threat to Jews on the continent." Why does Netanyahu ignore far-right anti-Semitism? Because he relies on it. The Western new right may be anti-Semitic at home, but it also staunchly supports Israel, which it sees as one of the last remaining barriers against a Muslim invasion.

Unfortunately, all this is just one side of the story. Ethical decay is also increasingly apparent in the "woke" left, which has become increasingly authoritarian and intolerant as it advocates permissiveness for all forms of sexual and ethnic identity – except one. The sociologist Duane Rousselle has characterised the new "cancel culture" as "racism in the time of the many without the One." Whereas traditional racism vilifies the intruder who poses a threat to the unity of the One (the dominant in-group), the woke left want to do the same to anyone who has not fully abandoned all the One's old categories of gender, sexuality, and ethnicity. All sexual orientations and gender identities are now acceptable unless you are a white man whose gender identity corresponds with your biological sex at birth. Members of this cisgender cohort are enjoined to feel guilty just for what they are – for being "comfortable in their skin" – while all others (even cisgender women) are encouraged to be whatever they feel they are.

This "new woke order" is increasingly discernible in absurd real-world episodes. Just this month, the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania planned to sponsor a student-organised event for all those who are "tired of white cis men." The plan was for attendees to "come paint & write about" their frustrations with "comfortable in skin" white men. Following an outcry and charges of racism, the event has since been postponed.

There is a paradox in how woke non-binary fluidity coincides with intolerance and exclusion. In Paris, the prestigious École Normale Supérieure is now debating a proposal to establish dormitory corridors reserved exclusively for individuals who have chosen mixity/diversity (mixité choisie) as their sexual identity, in order to exclude cisgender men. The proposed rules are strict: anyone not fitting the criteria would be prohibited from even setting foot in these corridors. And, of course, such rules would open a path to even tighter restrictions. For example, if enough individuals define their identity in even narrower terms, they presumably will be able to demand their own corridor.

Three features of this proposal are worth emphasising: it excludes only cisgender men, not cisgender women; it is not based on any objective criteria of classification, but only on subjective self-designation; and it calls for further classificatory subdivisions. This last point is crucial, because it demonstrates how all the emphasis on plasticity, choice, and diversity ultimately leads to what can only be called a new apartheid – a network of fixed, essentialised identities.

Wokeism thus offers a quintessential study in how permissiveness becomes prohibition: under a woke regime, we never know if and when some of us will be canceled for something we have said or done (the criteria are murky), or for simply being born into the forbidden category.

Far from opposing the new forms of barbarism, as it often claims to be doing, the woke left fully participates in it, promoting and practicing an oppressive discourse without irony. Though it advocates pluralism and promotes difference, its subjective position of enunciation – the place from which it speaks – is ruthlessly authoritarian, brooking no debate in efforts to impose arbitrary exclusions that previously would have been considered beyond the pale in a tolerant, liberal society.

That said, we should bear in mind that this mess is largely confined to the narrow world of academia (and various intellectual professions like journalism), whereas the rest of society is moving more in the opposite direction. In the US, for example, 12 Republican senators voted this month with the Democratic majority to codify the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Cancel culture, with its implicit paranoia, is a desperate and obviously self-defeating attempt to compensate for the very real violence and intolerance that sexual minorities have long suffered. But it is a retreat into a cultural fortress, a pseudo-"safe space" whose discursive fanaticism merely strengthens the majority's resistance to it.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School.

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WISDOM CORNER

Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent effort. JOHN RUSKIN

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility. SIGMUND FREUD



Brahma Chellaney

ALREADY, SEVERAL OF CHINA'S DEBTORS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CEDE STRATEGIC ASSETS TO THEIR CREDITOR



Slavoj Žižek

The world is in the midst of a culture war in which both the left and the right are abandoning long-standing norms and principles that had previously been taken for granted

SPECTRUM HEALTHCARE

Renewed focus on traditional medicines

The health infrastructure in the country is quite poor, with overcrowded hospitals in cities and towns and non-existent health facilities in remote villages. An alternative source needs to be seriously considered for providing basic healthcare to the poorer sections. Moreover, it is indeed impossible for around 50% of the population to avail healthcare in nursing homes as costs of specialised treatment are high and government aided hospitals are overflowing with patients. Added to this, is the high cost of allopathic medicines. In such a scenario, it is quite rational to explore homeopathic and ayurvedic treatments, which the government is rightly encouraging in all possible ways.

Around 80% of the world's population is estimated to use traditional medicine. To date, 170 of the 194 WHO Member States have reported the use of traditional medicine, and their governments have asked it to support in creating a body of reliable evidence and data on traditional medicine practices and products. India has a long history of traditional medicine and ayurveda is possibly the most representative system. Like traditional Chinese medicine, ayurveda in India is a life science derived from experience. It emphasises that human health requires both personalised medicine and a holistic approach. In recent years, such

treatments are getting quite popular, and a large section of the population is availing this medium.

The government has rightly been giving impetus to the growth of homeopathic and ayurvedic treatments, considering the cost effectiveness. Many conferences on the subject are being held in various parts of the country and recently one such conclave was held at IIT Kharagpur. The lack of hospitals or wellness centres of traditional medicine in the country was a concern and a major impediment.

Importantly, the WHO and the Indian government early this year established the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar, Gujarat. This global knowledge centre for traditional medicine, supported by an investment of \$250 million from the government, aims to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world, through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet.

There is no denying that some 40% of approved pharmaceutical products in use today derive from natural substances, highlighting the vital importance of conserving biodiversity and sustainability. For example, the discovery of aspirin drew on traditional medicine formulations using the bark of the willow tree, the contraceptive pill was developed from the roots of wild yam plants and child cancer treatments have been

based on the rosy periwinkle. Nobel-prize winning research on Artemisia for malaria control started with a review of ancient Chinese medicine texts. There is a general belief, and not without justification, that ayurvedic medicine can calm people's minds and divide mental energy into three types – 'satwa', 'rajas', and 'tamas'. The harmony of these three kinds of energy can keep people safe from interference and disease, activate people's perception, and make people happy. Indian doctors believe that human health, its first and foremost, the health of the mind, which directly affects the body. For example, music can make people's souls enter the void; music meditation can also bring clear thinking, a healthy body, and harmonious interpersonal relationships.

Based on the priority areas of national development and the advantages of ayurvedic medicine, the government has set the following key research areas – respiratory diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, geriatric medicine and immunotherapy, metabolic diseases, liver diseases, and malaria. There are currently over 400 research institutions engaged in traditional medicine in India, including the Indian Ayurveda Scientific Research Centre, the Central Drug Research Institute, and several private centres. Over the years, the budget allocation for the Ayush sector witnessed gradual increase.

Keeping in view the need for imparting cost-effective treatment to the poorer and marginalised sections of society, it is expected that homeopathic and ayurvedic medicines would come to the rescue of these people. Moreover, with increase in the incidence of diseases, there has to be an effort towards curing the patient and not just giving some relief. In diseases like diabetes, muscular and other types of pain, skin problems it is believed that traditional medicines may be of great use. Of course, surgery wherever necessary must be undertaken.

With government's budget for healthcare quite low by international standards and somewhat insignificant compared to the population, the focus on homeopathy and ayurveda should be of great help. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, has said: "For many millions of people around the world, traditional medicine is the first port of call to treat many diseases," and "Ensuring all people have access to safe and effective treatment is an essential part of WHO's mission." The WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, he added will "help to harness the power of science to strengthen the evidence base for traditional medicine." It is hoped it provides the best healthcare solutions to the world.

The writer is a maxillofacial surgeon.

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Opportunity for India

Sir, The presidency of G20, which refers to as the great 20, has been transferred to India for the upcoming year. G20 includes 19 countries and the European Union. It is a significant grouping as the members account for nearly two-thirds of global population and almost three-fourths of international trade. The transfer of presidency rests great responsibility in the hands of the leadership of India. This will give a chance for India to put its self-interests and problems in front of the rest of the world. The major issues which will be on focus for the upcoming G20 summit are COVID, economic slowdown, energy security, health, food security, and global tension due to war. The government has also unveiled the logo and motto for the summit. India will also get a chance to showcase its deep cultural and historical roots to the world. India should use this as an opportunity to show its relevance to global power.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Arbitrary process

Sir, This refers to "SC: Need a CEC who can act against PM," Orissa POST, Nov 24. The Supreme Court's direction seeking to present the procedure followed by the Centre to appoint the Chief Election Commissioner of India is timely and appropriate. It's well known that the CECs are far from independent actions and are often seen as bending the rules to suit the parties in power in every critical situation that warranted the EC's intervention. The Supreme Court has expressed concern over the absence of a law governing the appointments of the CEC and Election Commissioners. It has also red-flagged the 'disturbing trend' of the CEC being handicapped by a truncated tenure over the past two decades or so. The apex court has also stressed the need for a 'fair and transparent mechanism' so that the 'best man' is appointed as the CEC. It has stated that the CEC should be capable of taking action even against the Prime Minister. But, with opacity dominating the appointments, it's no wonder that the Centre has opposed petitions for a collegium-like system for the selection of CECs and ECs. However, an important exercise such as appointing the CEC and his subordinates should not be left to the whims and fancies of the executive. The arbitrary selection process, which is eroding the sanctity of these Constitutional posts, must be discontinued as it poses a grave threat to India's democratic setup.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

of the day quote

Some people are randomly approaching the court on any issue, as a result the process of fresh recruitment is getting stalled. At the same time, the state exchequer is getting exhausted in servicing the debts

MAMATA BANERJEE | WB CHIEF MINISTER

For India, the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBD-RC) in the light of national circumstances remains, paramount. I urge you to ensure that these foundational principles are respected when you prepare projects for implementation in India

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Azam Khan has not done any work for the uplift of the Muslim society. He has served his own political interest by projecting himself as a messiah for the Muslim community

DANISH AZAD ANSARI | UP MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

HC refuses to quash charges against Tahir

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday turned down former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Tahir Hussain's petition that challenged a trial court's order on framing of charges in a money laundering case against him in connection with the 2020 north-east Delhi riots. The High Court refused to dismiss the trial court order framing charges against Hussain, a former AAP councillor, saying "there is no infirmity in the trial court order". Justice Anu Malhotra of Delhi High Court, hearing the plea, said: "The petition and the accompanying applications are declined."

T'gana Assembly to be convened in Dec

Hyderabad: The winter session of Telangana Legislature will be held for a week in December. There was a shortfall of Rs 40,000 crore in revenue during the current fiscal (2022-23) due to "unnecessary restrictions" imposed by the Centre on the "the progressive state of Telangana" and such measures, block the development of the state, an official release from Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's office said Thursday.

Leopard enters housing complex

Thane: A man who ventured out of his flat with his son suffered injuries Thursday after a leopard entered a housing complex in Kalyan in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said. The big cat sneaked into the premises of Anurag Tower on Chinchpada Road at 6am, leaving panicked residents to call in forest department and police personnel, he said.



No village in Maharashtra will go to Karnataka! The state government will fight strongly in the Supreme Court to get Marathi speaking villages in Karnataka including Belgaum-Karwar-Nipani!

DEVENDRA FADNIS | DEPUTY CM OF MAHA

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE EASES TO 7.2%

Unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas declined to 7.2 per cent during July-September 2022 from 9.8 per cent a year ago, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said Thursday



Jama Masjid removes ban order on girls' entry after backlash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: The Jama Masjid administration's decision restricting entry of "girls" into the famed mosque led to an outrage Thursday and the order was finally withdrawn following Delhi LG V K Saxena's request to the Shahi Imam. The notice, which had no date, came up a few days ago outside the three main entry gates of the 17th century Mughal-era mosque that attracts thousands of devout as well as tourists, sources in the administration said. However, it had come to attention only now. "Jama Masjid mein ladki ya ladkiyon ka akele daakhla mana hai (The entry of a girl, or girls is not permitted in Jama Masjid)," read the notice.

"Jama Masjid is a place of worship and people are welcome for that. But girls coming alone and waiting for their dates... This is not what this place is meant for. The restriction is on that," Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari told PTI. "Any such place, be it a mosque, temple or gurdwara is a place of worship (ibadat ki jagah hai) and there is no restriction on anyone coming for that purpose. Just today, a group of 20-25 girls visited and they were allowed to enter," Bukhari added.

"The LG spoke to me. We have removed the notice boards. But people visiting the mosque have to maintain its sanctity," Bukhari said. Taking strong exception to the mosque's order, the National Commission for Women (NCW) asked the Centre and the Delhi government to take appropriate action against the ban, while Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal termed it a violation of women's rights and sought a detailed action taken report in the matter by November 28. Jama Masjid spokesperson Sabiullah Khan earlier in the day

Earlier in the day, Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari said the decision was taken after some "incidents" were reported on the premises of the heritage structure but it was not applicable to those coming to offer prayers

A controversy erupted over the issue with women's rights activists terming the mosque's decision regressive and unacceptable

Later in the evening, Shahi Imam withdrew the order, after Delhi LG Saxena spoke to him and requested him to take back the decree

said there are women who give time to someone and come to Jama Masjid to make videos.

In the past, music video shoots by visitors were prohibited. An old board outside the entry gate facing the busy Matia Mahal area bears the message: "Music video shoot is strictly prohibited inside the mosque".

During the day, Maliwal on Twitter said, "It is completely wrong to ban the entry of women in Jama Masjid. The kind of rights a man has to praying, women also have the same rights."

"What do they feel? This is not India. This is Iraq? Nobody will raise a voice against discrimination meted out to women openly... Nobody is above the Constitution. For such a Talibanesque act, we have issued a notice to them. We will ensure that this ban is withdrawn," Maliwal said in the video.

The panel, in its notice, has sought details on the reasons for prohibiting the entry of women and girls "without male companions" in the Jama Masjid and the person responsible for

Women rights activists hit out at the Mosque's administration, saying it takes women centuries back.



MEHRAULI KILLING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Delhi Police has seized five knives from the flat of Mehrauli murder accused Aaftab Amin Poonawala, who underwent a marathon polygraph test of nearly eight hours Thursday at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) here, officials said.

However, police said the saw allegedly used by Poonawala to cut

his live-in partner Shradha Walker's body is yet to be recovered.

The incident also took a political turn with Union Home Minister Amit Shah assuring "strict punishment" to the accused in minimal possible time while the CPI-M alleged that the murder and dismemberment of Walker by her Muslim boyfriend was being used for "communal propaganda".

According to the sources in the

police department, the recovered knives were sent to FSL for examination to ascertain if these were used in commission of the crime.

The second session of the polygraph test of Poonawala which started around 12 pm at the FSL Rohini went on for nearly eight hours. "During the session, Poonawala was asked details about the case, what triggered him to kill Walker, if it was a planned event or

he did it in a fit of rage like he claimed in the court. All the sequence of event that transpired ever since they started dating and how he decided to dispose of the body in such a gruesome manner: He was also asked about kind of weapon he used to chop her body into multiple parts along with various other questions related to the case that could give lead to further investigation in the case," an FSL source said.

According to the World Health Organisation, AMR is a global health and development threat

Abuse and overuse of antimicrobials are the main drivers in the development of drug-resistant pathogens

India had organised an AMR conference in 2016 at New Delhi. Pawar congratulated the UN General Assembly, WHO & member states on their focus on AMR, saying: "It is heartening to note that AMR has already been prioritised by UN General Assembly, WHO & member states"

and also praised the aligned efforts by Quadripartite (FAO), (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

A total of 22 participants from more than 15 countries attended the conference. The event witnessed the launch of Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform on AMR by the Quadripartite Organisations.

Pawar also said that Health ministers of 11 member states had signed the Jaipur Declaration on AMR in 2011, signifying their commitment and political support towards one health approach for containment of AMR.

She also said that further action must be taken to synergise the momentum initiated by Global AMR Conference presently and upcoming high-level meeting on AMR at the United Nations General Assembly in 2024, which will serve to strengthen the political support at all levels.

GUJARAT ELECTIONS

AAP fields most candidates with criminal cases in phase 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 24: As many as 167 candidates, of the total 788 contesting 89 seats in the first phase of Gujarat Assembly election, are facing criminal cases, with the Aam Aadmi Party topping the list with 32 such nominees, followed by the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party, a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said Thursday.

Of the 167 candidates with criminal cases, 100 are facing serious charges like murder or rape, it said. With this, 21 per cent of the total candidates have criminal cases against them, while 13 per cent are facing serious charges.

The AAP, which is contesting 88 seats out of the total 89, tops the list among major political parties in the fray with 36 per cent of its candidates having criminal cases. Thirty per cent of its candidates are facing serious cases, such as murder, rape, assault, kidnapping, among others, the ADR said in its report. The number of candidates having criminal cases fielded by the AAP is 32. Interestingly, the AAP has been campaigning on the plank of providing a clean and corruption-free government in the state. The Arvind Kejriwal-led party is fol-



THE RULING BJP, WHICH IS ALSO CONTESTING ALL SEATS IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ELECTION, HAS FIELDIED 14 CANDIDATES WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS

PERCENTAGEWISE, SUCH CANDIDATES ACCOUNT FOR 16 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL NUMBER AND 12 PER CENT ARE FACING SERIOUS CHARGES, THE ADR SAID IN ITS REPORT

lowed by the Congress, which has fielded 35 per cent of its candidates with criminal cases. Twenty per cent of such candidates are facing serious cases. The grand old party is contesting all 89 seats in the first phase and the number of candidates with criminal cases fielded by it is 31, the report said.

In the 2017 Assembly elections, 15 per cent of candidates contesting in the first phase had criminal cases against them, the report said, adding

that eight per cent of the candidates then had serious criminal cases.

Some candidates with serious criminal cases are Janak Talaviya (BJP) and Vasant Patel (Congress), the report said.

Of the 167 candidates from the first phase, 100 have declared serious cases against them in their affidavit submitted to the Election Commission. These include nine cases of crime against women, three cases of murder and 12 cases of attempt to murder. In 2017, there were 78 such candidates in the fray in the first phase, it added.

Some candidates with serious criminal cases are Janak Talaviya (BJP), Vasant Patel (Congress), Amardas Desani (independent). Other candidates with criminal record include Parshottam Solanki of the BJP, Ganiben Thakor and Jignesh Mevani of the Congress, Gopal Italia and Alpesh Katheriya of the AAP.

Lawrence Bishnoi brought to Delhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Thursday brought gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to Delhi from Punjab after getting his ten days custodial remand in connection with the gangster-terror nexus case. Bishnoi is currently lodged in a Punjab jail. Here he would be grilled at the NIA's headquarters.

"Investigations have revealed that Lawrence along with his brothers Sachin and Anmol Bishnoi and associates including Goldy Brar, Kala Jathedi, Kala Rana, Bikram Brar and Sampat Nehra were also raising funds to carry out all such terror/criminal activities through smuggling of drugs and weapons and widespread extortion," said a NIA official.

The investigations have revealed that a terrorist, gangster and drug smugglers syndicate led by Bishnoi was involved in many targeted killings and extortion from businessmen, professionals including doctors and this had created terror among the public at large.

Such criminal acts were not isolated local incidents but part of a deep-rooted conspiracy amongst terrorists, gangsters, drug smuggling cartels and networks, operating from both within and outside the country.



Pilot traitor, can't be made Raj CM: Gehlot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot dubbed his former deputy Sachin Pilot a "gad-gad" (traitor) Thursday and said he cannot replace him as he had revolted against the Congress in 2020 and tried to topple the government.

Pilot hit back saying it is unbecoming of someone like Gehlot's stature to use such language and added such mud-slinging would not help and it was the duty of everyone in the organisation to strengthen the party to help bring a Congress government again in Rajasthan.

Pilot, who walked alongside Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh, said he would never use such language and asked the chief minister to focus on the assembly polls in Gujarat where he

was the senior observer. The Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi, is set to enter the desert state in a few days.

The Congress on its part said Gehlot's differences with Pilot would be resolved in a manner that strengthens the party and asserted that the focus right now should be on ensuring the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"Ashok Gehlot is a senior and experienced political leader. Whatever differences he has expressed with his younger colleague Sachin Pilot will be resolved in a manner that strengthens the Congress party," AICC general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said in a statement. "Right now it is the duty of each and every Congressman and Congresswoman to make the already hugely successful Bharat Jodo Yatra even more impactful in north Indian states," he also said.



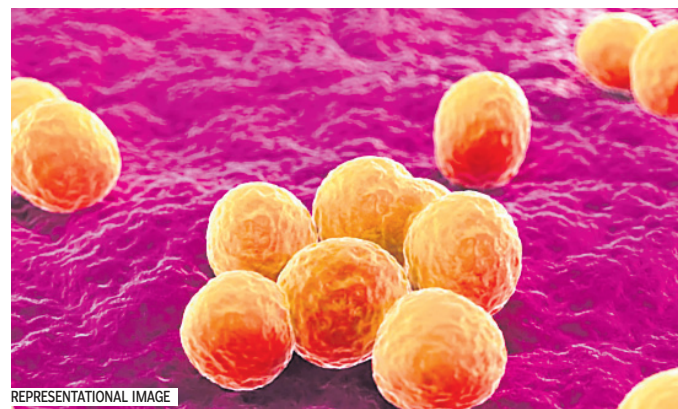
'Antimicrobial resistance is a silent, invisible pandemic'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 24: Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) is a silent and invisible pandemic that cannot be overshadowed by other competing public health priorities, Indian Minister of State for Health Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar said Thursday.

At the ministerial plenary panel of the Third Global High-Level Conference on Anti-Microbial Resistance in Muscat, she, emphasising the prevalence of AMR and its subsequent fatal effects, highlighted that AMR is recognised as global health threat with serious health, political, and economic implications.

Focusing on the steps taken by India in battling AMR, she said that various initiatives have been taken



to address the menace in India. Countering AMR features prominently on the national health agenda, she said, citing how various initiatives undertaken by way of awareness & capacity building, labora-

tory strengthening, surveillance, infection prevention & control, antimicrobial stewardship and research on newer drugs, diagnostics and innovations have garnered political will at the highest level.

SENSING NECK-AND-NECK CONTEST IN HIMACHAL

BJP, Cong hold parleys with rebels

THE PROBLEM OF REBELS SEEMS MORE SERIOUS IN THE BJP AS THE PARTY DENIED TICKET TO 11 SITTING LEGISLATORS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Nov 24: Sensing a neck-and-neck contest between Himachal Pradesh's ruling BJP and the Congress ahead of the Assembly election results to be declared December 8, rebels, who had broken ties with the mainstream parties, have started holding 'in-door' parleys with a belief that in politics, there is no permanent enemy or friend.

The BJP and the main Opposition Congress have begun an exercise to keep their numbers in 'order' in case of a hung House.

Insiders told IANS leaders of both parties are trying to sink their differences with party rebels, whose numbers are nearly 20, to improve their prospects.

The fear of exodus of lawmakers from the Congress is high. "If the BJP realises it would find it difficult to get enough numbers to save its government, it can lure our MLAs with huge sums of money," admitted a senior Congress leader, who didn't wish to be identified. At the same time, he ad-



mitted that there is no harm in holding parleys with rebels. "After all they are Congress men."

The problem by rebels seems more serious in the BJP as the party denied ticket to 11 sitting legislators, shifting seats of two ministers, denying nomination to one minister, whose son was fielded from that constituency, and swapping seats of two veterans owing to infighting. BJP's rebels, mainly from Kangra and Kullu districts, have started holding parleys to project a united face once the results are out. A meeting of BJP rebels, Kirpal Singh Parmar, Manohar Dhimant and Sanjay Prashar, who fought the elections as an Independent in Kangra, state's largest district, was held recently to chalk out a strategy to bring all the like-minded rebels together.

It is learnt that they are holding discussions separately on election prospects with rebels even of the

Congress to form a pressure group. For this, they contacted former Congress MLA Jagjivan Pal, who had also contested the elections as an Independent candidate after the party denied him the ticket.

A senior BJP leader told IANS the doors of the party are open for rebels. The BJP's potential rebels include outgoing lawmaker Hoshiyar Singh, who was in the fray again from Dehra as an Independent candidate. He had joined the BJP in the run-up to the elections but the party ignored his claim for ticket. He contested the elections again as an Independent candidate.

In Mandi, the home district of Chief Minister Jairam Thakur, and Kullu districts, the prominent rebels include Abhishek Thakur, son of six-time legislator Roop Singh, from Sundernagar; Gyan Chauhan from Nachan; and Hiteshwar Singh, the son of

Maheshwar Singh, from Banjar. They contested as an Independent candidate.

The Congress, too, is not lagging in infighting. Upset over the denial of a ticket, seven-time lawmaker Gangu Ram Musafir contested as an Independent from his once pocket borough Pachhad in Sirmour district.

The tradition of forming the government in the state with the support of a rebel dates back to 1998 when Congress veteran Virbhadra Singh had formed a minority government with the support of Independent MLA and BJP rebel Ramesh Dhawala. However, after 18 days of the helm, Dhawala returned to the saffron party and the Congress lost its majority in the assembly of 68 seats. After this, the BJP formed a coalition government in post-election alliance with the Himachal Vikas Congress (HVC), an outfit floated by Congress rebel and former communications minister Sukh Ram. In that election, the HVC had managed to win five seats.

Political observers say there are chances of a 1998 repeat this time too. So both political parties are not taking any chance by banking on their old warhorses to regain their lost political ground. Of the 412 candidates in the fray, 24 are women and 388 men. The poll percentage in Himachal Pradesh stood at 75.6 per cent. In 2017 assembly elections, it was 75.57.

UP: 168 criminals killed in encounters since 2017

The police have arrested 4,557 persons in encounters from a total of 22,234 criminals arrested from March 20, 2017, to November 20, 2022

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 24: The Uttar Pradesh Police has been repeatedly lauded by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for 'cracking the whip and reining in criminals'.

According to data released by the Uttar Pradesh Police, they have gunned down as many as 168 listed criminals in exchange of fire, most of them carrying cash rewards ranging from Rs 75,000 to Rs five lakh on their head.

The police have arrested 4,557 persons in encounters from a total of 22,234 criminals arrested from March 20, 2017, to November 20, 2022. Uttar Pradesh Additional Director General of Police (ADG) (law and order), Prashant Kumar said that during the exchange of fire as many as 13 police personnel were also killed while another 1,375 policemen suffered bullet injuries. However, he added that Uttar Pradesh Police followed Supreme Court guidelines in encounters and till date not even a single encounter done by the police since 2017 has come under the scanner of the apex court.

He also said that two criminals carrying a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh, four carrying a reward of Rs 2.5 lakh, two carrying a reward of Rs 2 lakh, six with Rs 1.5 lakh and 27 carrying Rs



1 lakh cash reward along with several others carrying rewards of Rs 75,000 were gunned down by the police in the last five years.

"Under the policy of zero tolerance against crime and criminals, extensive operations against the gangsters and mafia have been undertaken by the Uttar Pradesh Police since 2017. Not just the Special Task Force (STF) but the police of Commissionerates and the District Police are also running campaigns against the gangsters," Kumar added.

Kumar said that dreaded dacoit Uday Bhan Yadav a.k.a. Gauri Yadav, whose reign of terror expanded to neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, was killed in a police encounter in Chitrakoot in 2021. He carried Rs 5 lakh reward

from Uttar Pradesh and had nearly 50 cases, mostly of dacoity and attempt to murder.

Another criminal Balraj Bhatti, who carried Rs 2.5 lakh reward and had been booked in at least 20 cases, mostly of murder, extortion and attempt to murder in Uttar Pradesh, was also killed in exchange of fire with police in 2018.

The UP ADG said that a maximum of 64 criminals were killed in the Meerut zone, which also topped the eight police zones in the number of arrests (6,494).

"All the criminals who try to engage with the cops were dealt with seriously. Uttar Pradesh Police have dealt firmly with the mafia and criminals who deliberately attacked cops," he added.

Akhilesh hints at contesting 2024 LS polls from Kannauj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kannauj (UP), Nov 24: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav Thursday indicated that he may contest the 2024 parliamentary elections from Kannauj, which had elected him as an MP for the first time.

"It is our job to contest...What will I do sitting idle? I will contest from where I had contested the first election," he told reporters here when asked if he will contest from Kannauj in 2024.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, however, said the party would take a decision at the right time. Akhilesh Yadav was here to attend a private function organised by party leader Sunil Kumar Gupta alias Munna Bhaiya.

Reacting to Akhilesh Yadav's

statement, BJP leader and Kannauj MP Subrat Pathak said, "He is welcome to contest from here (Kannauj). But he won't win. In the 2024 polls, BJP will win all 80 seats in UP."

"SP has a challenge to fight for its existence after the demise of 'Netaji' (Mulayam Singh Yadav) and (Akhilesh) Yadav's statement can be seen in this context. People have confidence in Yogi Adityanath and Narendra Modi governments. After Mainpuri bypoll results, SP will once again blame EVM. We have a number of SP people in touch from Mainpuri and they will join BJP whenever we ask," Pathak said. The bypoll to Mainpuri seat has been necessitated following the death of sitting MP and SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav. To a question as to why he has



fielded his wife Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri in the December 5 bypoll as she had previously contested from Kannauj, the SP chief said, "Elections are in 2024 again."

To repeated questions by media persons if contesting the next Lok

Sabha polls from Kannauj is final, the SP chief said. "The party will decide." Akhilesh who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Azamgarh seat in the last Lok Sabha elections had resigned from the seat after being elected to assembly

“ It is our job to contest...What will I do sitting idle? I will contest from where I had contested the first election

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

from Karhal early this year to remain active in state politics.

The 49-year-old SP leader won three elections from Kannauj parliamentary seat since 2000 - first he won the bypoll and then 2004 and 2009 general elections.

After becoming the chief minister, he was elected to the UP Legislative Council, and Dimple Yadav represented Kannauj winning the bypoll in 2012 and then again winning it in 2014 general elections. She, however, lost the seat in the 2019 elections to BJP's Subrat Pathak.

6,000 govt schools in Himachal have less than 20 students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Nov 24: A total of 6106 government schools in Himachal Pradesh have less than 20 students, according to a report.

The number ranges between 21-60 in 4478 primary and 895 middle schools and 61 to 100 in 681 primary and 47 middle schools, a recent report by Unified District Information System for Education stated. There are 18,028 schools in the state of which 15,313 are government-run.

According to the report, there are 65,973 teachers in government schools including 39,906 male and 26,257 female.

However, 12 primary government schools are running without a teacher while 2,969 have one teacher, 5,533 have two teachers and 1,779 have three teachers, it stated. Similarly, 51 middle schools are being run by a single teacher, 416 by two teachers, 773 by three teachers and 701 by four to six teachers, it said.

The report also stated that one secondary school with minimum of ten classes is being run by two teachers, ten schools by three teachers, 212 by four to six teachers and 710 by seven to ten teachers.

Even the senior secondary schools are facing a shortage of teachers and 22 schools are running with four to six teachers, 189 with seven to ten teachers, 684 with 11 to 15 teachers and 981 schools have more than 15 teachers.

Schools have been opened to comply with the guidelines of the Right to Education Act. As per the act, there has to be a primary school within 1.5 km for school-going children but due to tough demography and topography in the hill state, the strength of students is low

but still they have to be taught. However, the rationalism of teachers is an issue, officials in the education department said.

The student-teacher ratio is 14.68 in primary section, 12.09 in middle schools, 10.38 in secondary and 12.31 in senior secondary schools, they said.

The general enrollment is 100 per cent or above in primary, middle and secondary level and 90 per cent in the senior secondary level while the dropout rate is zero per cent at primary and elementary level and 1.47 per cent at secondary level, they said.

The sustained efforts of the state government to shift students from the government to private schools have yielded results as enrollment in government schools has increased by 37,952 during 2021-2022, the report said.

However, enrollment in all schools in the state registered an insignificant decrease of 1,067 as compared to a drop of 26,154 in 2020-21. The total enrollment in all schools dropped from 13,33,315 to 13, 32,148 but the enrollment in 15,313 government schools stood at 8,31,310 in 2021-22 compared to 7,93,358 in the previous year.

Director of higher education Amarjeet Sharma said, "Har Ghar Patshala" initiative introduced during the pandemic and the use of information and communication technology in government schools has brought them at par with the private sector and we are now focusing on academics, sports and co curricular activities for the overall development of the children.

He said the high fee structure during the pandemic in private schools also compelled parents to shift to government schools.

UP govt to assess mental health of school students

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 24: The Uttar Pradesh government will now make an assessment of the mental health and intelligence quotient of students of the state-run schools.

The assessment, as per officials, will help the government address the issues of primary and secondary students so that they perform better in the future.

For this, the Bureau of Psychology, Prayagraj, has prepared a questionnaire.

There are 48 questions with five optional answers - Agree, Disagree, Neutral, Strongly Agree, and Strongly Disagree.

This will be sent to schools where teachers will take the responses of students and send them back to Prayagraj. Subsequently, psychologists will assess their answers and prepare a report based on them.

Usha Chandra, director of the Bureau of Psychology, Uttar Pradesh, said, "Our sole aim is to ensure that students in primary and secondary schools perform well academically. Our experts have prepared a questionnaire to assess the mental health and in-

telligence quotient of students studying in council schools. We will try to figure out if students are facing any problems at the school level or if anything is lagging at the parents' front."

The draft questions have been sent from the office of the Bureau of Psychology to the Basic Education Officers of all 75 districts. Teachers will be given the responsibility to assess the mental health of children based on the responses given by students.

Initially, the exercise will be carried out in 150 schools in every district. Gradually, it will be covered by all public schools.

The experts of the Bureau of Psychology will evaluate the responses of students and come up with a report suggesting measures to be taken to address the problems (if any). After that, an exercise will be carried out to improve the learning skills of students.

Along with this, a special plan will be prepared to ensure that academically weaker children are on par with other students.

The data of mental health assessment will remain confidential as per the letter sent to Basic Education Officers.

UP police claim: 'Rats ate up 581 kg marijuana'

THE OFFICERS TOLD THE JUDGE THAT MICE AND RATS, THOUGH SMALL IN SIZE, DO NOT FEAR THE POLICE



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mathura, Nov 24: Bizarre as it may sound, the Mathura police have claimed that rats ate up over 500 kilograms of marijuana.

According to a report submitted by Mathura police to a special Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (1985) court, rats 'ate' over 500 kg of marijuana, confiscated and stored in the warehouses of Shergarh and Highway police stations.

Earlier this year, the court had asked Mathura police to produce the marijuana recovered in a case registered under the NDPS Act.

The additional district judge has ordered SSP Mathura Abhishek Yadav to get rid of the 'mice menace' and then deliver proof that rats actually consumed 581 kg, to be precise, of marijuana worth Rs 60 lakh.

The officers told the judge that mice and rats, though small in size, do not fear the police. The court has also issued five-point directions for the auction/disposal of weed stored in police warehouses.

"Time-bound action will be taken in compliance with the court orders," said acting senior superintendent of police (SSP),

Mathura, Martand P. Singh while the special public prosecutor Ranveer Singh said, "The SHOs of Shergarh and Highway police stations have claimed that 581 kg of weed stored in warehouses was destroyed by the rats. The cops have been finding it impossible to protect substances kept in the said storage areas. The court has ordered the police to produce evidence regarding the claim and set November 26 as the next hearing date."

Notably, in May 2020, three men smuggling weed in a truck were arrested in Mathura. The truck was intercepted near Jatwari village in the Shergarh area and 386 kg of weed hidden in millet bags was recovered from the vehicle. The three accused were booked under the NDPS Act and sent to judicial custody.

The court had ordered the police to produce the weed recovered in the case.

A similar case happened in 2021 when cops at Etah district's Kotwali Dehat police station claimed that rodents consumed over 1,400 cartons of seized liquor worth over Rs 35 lakh.

Additional director general (ADG) of police (Agra zone) Rajeev Krishna had tasked an IPS officer from Aligarh to probe the matter.

An FIR was registered against station house officer Indreshpal Singh and head clerk Rasal Singh after a preliminary inquiry revealed that the policemen had sold the seized liquor to gangster Bantu Yadav.



of the day quote

Time has come to take a giant leap now. And, I need your support to form a strong government in Gujarat

The high command will do justice to Rajasthan. I have told about my feelings to Ajay Maken and the high command. It is necessary for the government to return in Rajasthan. I have been CM thrice. It is not necessary for me to be CM

When the TDP was in power, we encouraged every sector, including agriculture and aquaculture but now no Minimum Support Price (MSP) is being paid for any farm product, leave alone aqua products

SHORT TAKES

Arms, ammunition dropped by drone

Jammu: Police Thursday recovered a consignment of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), pistols and cash dropped by a drone from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. Senior Superintendent of Police Abhishek Mahajan told reporters that local people saw the consignment, somewhere between Ramgarh and Vijaypur, about five-six kilometres away from the International Border, at around 6.15 am and they informed the police.

Kamal Haasan hospitalised

Chennai: Actor Kamal Haasan has been admitted for mild fever and he is recovering, a hospital here said Thursday. Haasan, also the Makkal Needhi Maiam chief, was admitted November 23 with mild fever, cough and cold, Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre said in a press release. The hospital said he was getting well and would be discharged in a day or two.

K'taka: Man kills wife, buries body in jungle

Davanagere: A man in Karnataka's Davanagere district was arrested Thursday for allegedly killing his 6-month pregnant wife and burying her body in the jungle - in a pit he had prepared much earlier, police said. The accused is identified as Mohan Kumar, 25, a resident of Gangondanahalli near Channagiri town near Davanagere. Police have launched a hunt for parents of Mohan, who are on the run. The deceased woman was identified as Chandrakala aka Rashmi, 21.

Massive blaze in old Delhi market

New Delhi: A massive fire broke out in Bhagirath Palace market in old Delhi Thursday evening and 35 tenders of the Fire Department are trying to douse the flames at the wholesale market of electrical goods, officials said. According to Delhi Fire Service (DFS) Director Atul Garg, a call regarding fire at a shop was received around 9.20 p.m.

60 families rescued

Gangtok: At least 60 families were rescued as a massive landslide hit Pathing village in South Sikkim, officials said Thursday. The affected families were shifted to Pathing Junior High School where a relief camp has been set up, they said. A quick response team has been set up for the relief of the people affected by the Gagunay landslide area, they added.



India is happy to assist Tanzania with the IIT project. IIT in Tanzania can be a hub for technology education in Africa. I put forward the support required for implementation of the project and also shared India's willingness to establish a 21st century skill centre in Zanzibar

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

MEASLES OUTBREAK HITS MUMBAI

Mumbai has recorded 13 new cases of measles and one death related to the disease, taking the infection tally this year so far to 233 and the fatality toll to 12, according to the city civic body



Vikram Gokhale's family refutes death rumours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 24: Veteran actor Vikram Gokhale is not responding to treatment and is in a critical condition at a Pune hospital, his wife said Thursday, a day after many media outlets reported that he had died.

Gokhale, an actor equally at home in theatre, television and movies, is undergoing treatment at the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital here following health complications. He is 77.

The Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam actor has "multi organ failure", his wife Vrishali Gokhale said in a statement. "Mr Vikram Gokhale is critical since last 24 hours. Doctors are trying their best. He is not responding to the treatment as expected" said Vrishali said Thursday morning.

Dismissing reports of his death on Wednesday night, the acclaimed actor's daughter Neha Gokhale told PTI that her father is "on life support and has not passed yet. Keep praying". A hospital official added that Gokhale was on ventilator support and doctors were trying their best.



JOVIAL MOOD: Artists perform as part of celebrations for 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan on the premises of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati, Assam

Verify Aadhaar before accepting it as proof of identity, says UIDAI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: With a view to curb any misuse, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has said that before accepting an Aadhaar number following the consent of the Aadhaar holder is the right step to establish genuineness of any form of Aadhaar (Aadhaar letter, e-Aadhaar, Aadhaar PVC card, and m-Aadhaar) presented by an individual.

Officials said that it prohibits unscrupulous elements, and anti-social elements from indulging in any possible misuse. It also promotes usage hygiene, and reasserts the UIDAI's stand that any 12-digit number is not an Aadhaar. Tampering of Aadhaar documents can be detected by offline verification, and tampering is a punishable offence and liable for penalties under Section 35 of the Aadhaar Act.



SC questions Centre on appointment of EC

Goel's appointment as an EC came under the scrutiny by the top court which had sought from the Centre the original records pertaining to his appointment for perusal, saying it wanted to know whether there was any "hanky panky"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: The Supreme Court Thursday questioned the "haste" and "tearing hurry" in appointing Arun Goel as Election Commissioner. The Centre vehemently resisted the observations, with the attorney general asking the court to "hold its mouth" for a while and look into the issue in entirety.

At the outset, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph perused the Centre's original file pertaining to Goel's appointment as EC, and said, "What kind of evaluation is this? Although, we are not questioning the merits of Arun Goel's credentials but the process."

As the bench questioned the "lightning speed" with which Goel was appointed as an EC and also that his file did not even move within departments for 24 hours, the Centre through Attorney General R Venkataramani vehemently urged the bench not to make observations without looking into the entire issue pertaining to the appointment process.

"Please hold your mouth for a while. I request to look into the issue in entirety," the top-most law officer told the bench. Justice Ajay Rastogi, who is also a part of the bench, told Venkataramani, "You have to listen to the court carefully and answer



the questions. We are not on individual candidates but on the process."

The attorney general said he is bound to answer the questions of the court. The top court said the 1985-batch IAS officer got voluntary retirement from service in a single day, his file was cleared by the Law Ministry in a single day, a panel of four names were put up before the Prime Minister and Goel's name got the nod from the President within 24 hours.

The bench, which also comprised Justices Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, said none of the four names in the panel were "carefully hand-picked" by the Law Minister so that they could complete a six-year tenure.

Venkataramani responded that there is a mechanism and criteria for selection and there cannot be a scenario where the government has to look back at every officers' track record and ensure that he

completes the six-year tenure. Under the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991, an EC can have a tenure of six years or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

Referring to Goel's appointment, the Attorney General said his profile is important and not the voluntary retirement which is being made an issue. The bench said the 1991 Act says that the EC's tenure is of six years and the government has to ensure that the person who holds the post completes the stipulated period. The top court said it is "struggling" to find the reasons and objects on how the Law Minister selected a panel of four names who were not going to complete the stipulated six-year tenure. The hearing in the matter is underway and the bench said the original file pertaining to Goel's appointment be returned.

2016 note ban a deeply flawed decision, SC told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Calling the demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1000 currency notes "deeply flawed", senior lawyer P Chidambaram told the Supreme Court Thursday the Union government cannot on its own initiate any proposal relating to legal tender which can only be done on the recommendation of the RBI's central board.

Chidambaram, appearing for one of the petitioners opposing the Centre's 2016 decision, submitted before a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer that the right to regulate the issue of bank notes is entirely with the Reserve Bank of India.

"The Central government cannot on its own initiate any proposal relating to currency notes. It can only be on the central board's recommendation. This decision making process should be struck down." "This is the most outrageous decision making process which makes a mockery of the rule of law. This process must be struck down for being deeply flawed," Chidambaram told the bench which also comprised Justices B R Gawai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna.

Noting that demonetisation was a major economic decision which impacted every citizen of the country, the senior lawyer questioned the power of central government to invoke Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India Act to demonetise currency notes and submitted that Section 26(2) gives power to Centre to cancel only certain series of currency notes and not the entire notes of a denomination.

Mangaluru blast: IRC claims responsibility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 24: A little-known outfit Islamic Resistance Council (IRC) has reportedly claimed responsibility for the Mangaluru blast November 19, saying that one of its 'Mujahid brother Mohammed Shariq' attempted to attack a 'Hindutva Temple in Kadri'.

The Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Alok Kumar said the police are verifying the genuineness of the organisation.

"We the Islamic Resistance Council (IRC) would like to convey the message: One of our Mujahid brother Mohammed Shariq attempted to attack the Hindutva Temple in Kadri (in Dakshina Kannada district), a bastion of the Saffron terrorists in Mangaluru," the message which has gone viral in social media said.

It further said, "Although this operation didn't meet its objectives, we still consider it a success from a tradecraft and tactics point of view as the brother in spite of being wanted and being pursued by the state and central intelligence agencies, was not only able to suc-

cessfully evade them but even prepared and mounted an attack."

For the 'prematre explosion' which led to Shariq's arrest, the outfit said such possibilities exist with 'all military and subversive operations.' The outfit even warned the ADGP Alok Kumar.

"As for those rejoicing at the arrest of the brother, especially the likes of ADGP Alok Kumar, we say 'Your joy will be short-lived and you shall reap the fruits of your oppression soon. We have you in our sights and it is just a matter of what and not if we will get to you.'"

Regarding the attack, the IRC said they are forced into this war and the path of resistance by the fascists and "We are only responding to the worst forms of state terrorism."

"We are only retaliating because an open war has been declared upon us, because mob lynching has become a norm, because oppressive laws and legislations are passed to suppress us and interfere in our religion, because our innocents are languishing in prisons, because public spaces today reverberate with call of our genocide," the outfit said.



ASSAM-MEGHALAYA BORDER DISPUTE

Police vehicles torched, petrol bombs hurled in fresh violence

Assam and Meghalaya have a long-standing dispute in 12 areas along the 884.9-km-long inter-state border, and the location where the violence took place is one of those

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamren (Assam)/Shillong, Nov 24: As mob anger over shooting of tribal villagers from the state by Assam police spilled over on to the streets of this picturesque hill town, a police bus and a jeep were torched as stones and petrol bombs flew thick and fast.

Seven people, including four police personnel, were injured in the clash that broke out between the angry protesters and the police, Superintendent of Police (City) Vivek Syiem told PTI. Protestors were demonstrating against the shooting of five tribal villagers by

Assam police in the early hours of Tuesday at Mukroh, on the disputed Assam-Meghalaya border.

Violence had broken out at the border between the two states 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 five tribal villagers from Meghalaya a forest guard from Assam, were killed.

On Thursday, Shillong's street protests took on a violent turn as petrol bombs were hurled at a police bus and jeep, setting them on fire, while a traffic police kiosk was brought down. Stones and



petrol bombs were hurled at police at Barik point, barely metres from the place where a candlelight vigil and sit-in protest was held by different organisations, including the Khasi Students Union, and the Federation of Khasi Jaintia and Garo People, officials said.

Police said they had to use tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Those behind the violence were yet to be identified,

in Meghalaya have announced a "non-cooperation movement" Friday across the five hill districts.

Mobile internet services were suspended in these districts till Saturday morning to prevent the spread of fake news that could foment trouble, Home Secretary CVD Diengdoh said. The Meghalaya government was arranging police protection for trucks transporting essential commodities and oil tankers that were coming from Assam, officials said Thursday night. In a letter to the deputy collectors of at least seven districts, Food and Civil Supplies director Pravin Bakshi directed for the arrangement of police escorts to such vehicles after the Assam Petroleum Mazdoor Union (APMU) announced that it has stopped transporting fuel to Meghalaya fearing violence. "Necessary arrangements for patrolling/providing police es-

corts wherever possible may kindly be explored on all national highways to ensure smooth movement of vehicles carrying essential commodities," the letter stated.

Bakshi also directed the district authorities to ensure sufficient stock of fuel at all petrol pumps. Serpentine queues of vehicles were also seen at petrol pumps across Meghalaya on Thursday evening after the apex body of petroleum workers in Assam said it has stopped transportation of fuel to the neighbouring state. Hundreds of vehicles were seen waiting at the petrol pumps as people scrambled to fill up tanks fearing shortage. The queues of vehicles led to traffic snarls in Shillong and some other parts of the state. Police officers were seen regulating the movement of vehicles at some petrol pumps where motorists turned unruly while waiting for their turn.

international



South Korean group is a faithful dog and stooge of the US. I wonder what sanctions the south Korean group, no more than a running wild dog on a bone given by the US, impudently impose on the DPRK
KIM YO JONG | DEPUTY DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLICITY, NORTH KOREA

WORLD'S OLDEST CAT

The Guinness Book of World Records has officially recognised Flossie, born in 1995, as the world's oldest living cat. Aged 26, the age of the pet is equivalent to 120 human years. The brown and black feline entered the record books at 26 years and 316 days old



of the day quote

America treats Pakistan like a slave. I mean, it is just a fact that the Pakistan-US relationship has been lopsided. It is not, for instance, the US-India relationship, which I call a very civilised relationship, a dignified relationship
IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

We are working hard to hit Russia where it hurts to blunt even further its capacity to wage war on Ukraine and I can announce today that we are working full speed on a ninth sanctions package
URSULA VON DER LEYEN | CHIEF, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The gas cap proposal is key, but what emerged yesterday is a joke. It was presented at the last moment and deviates from what had been proposed before and isn't acceptable as it's higher than current market prices
ANNA MOSKWA | CLIMATE MINISTER, POLAND

SHORT TAKES

World's first parastronaut

Paris: The European Space Agency made history by selecting an amputee who lost his leg in a motorcycle accident to be among its newest batch of astronauts — a leap toward its pioneering ambition to send someone with a physical disability into space. John McFall, a 41-year-old Briton who lost his right leg when he was 19 and went on to compete in the Paralympics, called his selection as Europe's answer to NASA "a real turning point and mark in history".

Iran protests: 50 police killed so far

Dubai: Around 50 police have been killed in the protests shaking Iran since September, the deputy foreign minister said Thursday, giving a first official death toll amid an intensified crackdown on Kurdish areas in recent days. Iranian security forces have clashed with protesters across the country, with the UN rights commission saying more than 300 demonstrators have been killed since the death in custody of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini September 16. UN rights chief Volker Turk said Iran faced a "full fledged human rights crisis" with 14,000 people arrested so far, including children.

Indian-origin teen stabbed in Canada

Toronto: An 18-year-old Indian-origin teenager has been stabbed to death at a high school parking lot by another teenager in Canada's British Columbia province, police said. The victim was identified as Mehakpreet Sethi, who was stabbed at the Tamanawis Secondary School's parking lot in Surrey Tuesday by a 17-year-old following a fight between the two.

LONG WINTER AHEAD

Ukrainians suffer in cold, darkness

Since October, Russia has launched huge barrages of air strikes at energy targets across Ukraine, each time firing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of missiles to knock out Ukraine's power grid. The war's first winter will test Ukraine's campaign to recapture territory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kyiv, Nov 24: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy demanded the United Nations punish Russian air strikes on civilian infrastructure, after a missile barrage caused the worst nationwide power outages yet, plunging cities into freezing darkness.

Munir named Pak's new army chief

REUTERS

Islamabad, Nov 24: Pakistan Thursday named Lieutenant-General Asim Munir as chief of the army, an organisation that plays an extraordinarily influential role in the governance of the nuclear-armed nation.

Munir, who was also Pakistan's chief spy, will take over from outgoing General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who retires later this month after a six-year term, the defence ministry said.

His appointment coincides with a dispute between the military and former prime minister Imran Khan, who blames the army for playing a part in his ouster earlier this year. "It is based on merit, law and as per constitution," Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told reporters after. The army has historically played a outsized role in both domestic and foreign politics, and Munir's appointment could impact Pakistan's fragile democracy, its relations with neighbouring India and Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, as well as its pivot towards China or the United States.

On Wednesday, outgoing army chief Bajwa said the military would have no role in national politics in the future, rejecting as "fake and false" Khan's claims that a US-backed conspiracy topped his government.



IN MEMORIAM: A memorial is seen in the parking lot after a mass shooting at a Walmart in Chesapeake, Virginia, US

REUTERS PHOTO

China Covid infections hit record

The resurgence of infections, nearly three years after the pandemic emerged in the central city of Wuhan, casts doubt on investor hopes for China to ease its rigid zero-Covid policy soon, despite recent more targeted measures in world's second largest economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 24: Pandemic lockdowns are expanding across China, including in a city where factory workers clashed this week with police, as the number of Covid-19 cases hits a daily record.

Residents of eight districts of Zhengzhou, home to 6.6 million people, were told to stay home for five days beginning Thursday except to buy food or get medical treatment. Daily mass testing was ordered in what the city government called a "war of annihilation" against the virus.

During clashes Tuesday and Wednesday, Zhengzhou police beat workers protesting over a pay dispute at the biggest factory for Apple's iPhone, located in an industrial zone near the city.

In the previous 24 hours, the number of new Covid cases rose by 31,444, the National Health Commission said Thursday. That's the highest daily figure since the coronavirus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

The daily caseload has been steadily increasing. This week, au-

- In 24 hours, the number of new Covid cases rose by 31,444
- Highest daily figure since the detection of coronavirus in 2019
- First Covid death in six months this week, bringing the total to 5,232



6.6mn under lockdown; govt calls it 'war of annihilation' against virus

How many people have the savings to support them if things continually stay halted? And even if you have money to stay at home every day, that's not true living
JIM WANG | RESIDENT, ZHENGZHOU

thorities reported China's first Covid-19 deaths in six months, bringing the total to 5,232.

While the number of cases and deaths is relatively low compared to the US and other countries, China's ruling Communist Party remains committed to a "zero-Covid" strategy that aims to isolate every case and eliminate the virus entirely.

Most other governments have ended anti-virus controls and now

rely on vaccinations and immunity from past infections to help prevent deaths and serious illness.

Authorities had announced measures to try to reduce disruptions from pandemic controls by shortening quarantines and making other changes. Some Chinese have expressed frustration and confusion about the apparent policy flip-flops on social media.

A key issue is concern about how

vulnerable people are to the virus. Few Chinese have caught Covid or even been exposed to the virus, so only a small percentage are thought to have built up effective levels of virus-fighting antibodies.

China has an overall coronavirus vaccination rate of more than 92 per cent, with most people having received at least one dose. But far fewer older Chinese — particularly those over age 80 — have gotten the

shots. The government is trying to contain the latest wave of outbreaks without shutting down factories and the rest of its economy as it did in early 2020.

WIDESPREAD OUTBREAKS, LOCKDOWNS

The new local Covid-19 infections broke a record set April 13, when the commercial hub of Shanghai was crippled by a city-wide lockdown of its 25 million residents that would last two months.

This time, however, big outbreaks are numerous and far-flung, with the biggest in the southern city of Guangzhou and southwestern Chongqing, although hundreds of new infections are reported daily in cities such as Chengdu, Jinan, Lanzhou and Xian.

China recently began loosening some norms on mass tests and quarantine, as it looks to avoid catch-all measures such as city-wide lockdowns. Instead, cities have been using more localised and often unannounced lockdowns. Many people in Beijing said they recently received notices about three-day lockdowns of their housing compounds.

ANWAR SWORN IN AS MALAYSIA PM

REUTERS

Kuala Lumpur, Nov 24: Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim was sworn in as prime minister Thursday, capping a three-decade political journey from a protégé of veteran leader Mahathir Mohamad to protest leader, a prisoner convicted of sodomy and opposition leader.

His appointment ends five days of unprecedented post-election crisis, but could usher in a new instability with his rival, former prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin, challenging him to prove his majority in parliament.

Both men failed to win a major-



END TO DECADES-LONG WAIT

ity in a Saturday election, but the constitutional monarch, King Al-Sultan Abdullah, appointed Anwar after speaking to several lawmakers.

The uncertainty over the election threatened to prolong political instability in the Southeast Asian country, which has had three prime

ministers in as many years, and risks delaying policy decisions needed to foster economic recovery. Anwar's supporters expressed hope that his government would head off a return to historic tension between the ethnic Malay, Muslim majority and ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

Anwar takes over at a challenging time: the economy is slowing and the country is divided after a tight election that pitted Anwar's progressive coalition against Muhyiddin's mostly conservative ethnic-Malay, Muslim alliance

PRISONER TO PM

Anwar Ibrahim prepares to take over as Prime Minister, a job he has eyed for three decades. Time and again, the top position had eluded Anwar, despite getting within striking distance over the years, first as deputy Prime Minister in the 1990s and later, as official prime minister-in-waiting, in 2018. In between, he spent nearly a decade in jail for sodomy and corruption on charges he says were politically motivated. He led tens of thousands of Malaysians in street protests in the 1990s against his mentor-turned-foe Mahathir Mohamad.

Russian Duma approves LGBTQ 'propaganda' bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Nov 24: Russian lawmakers Thursday gave their final approval to a bill that significantly expands restrictions on activities seen as promoting gay rights in the country, another step in a years-long crackdown on the country's embattled LGBTQ community.

The new bill expands a ban on what authorities call "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" to minors, established by legislation dubbed the "gay propaganda" law. It was adopted by the Kremlin in 2013 in an effort to promote "traditional values" in Russia. This year, the lawmakers moved to ban spreading such information to people aged 18 and older.

The bill was approved in the third and final reading Thursday by the State Duma, the lower house of parliament. It will go next to the upper house, the Federation Council, and then to President Vladimir Putin, whose signature will give it legal force.

The new bill outlaws all advertising, media and online resources deemed to contain such "propaganda," a concept loosely defined in the bill. The 2013 ban was often enacted against any depictions of same-sex unions and used as a tool to crack down on LGBTQ rights groups and activists.

Russian law stipulates that the criminal code can be amended only



- Violations are punishable by fines
- If committed by non-residents, they can lead to their expulsion from Russia
- The fines range from 1,000 to 2 million rubles (\$1,660-\$33,000)
- For some violations, foreigners could face 15 days' detention prior to expulsion
- The bill does not make violations a criminal offence

through an independent bill. Some lawmakers have suggested they favour such a measure.

Russia explicitly outlawed same-sex marriages in 2020 by adopting amendments to the country's Constitution that, among other things, stipulated that the "institution of marriage is a union between a man and a woman."

business

of the day quote

Monetary policy has to be forward-looking, and that is because when the policy rate is changed, it takes quite a while before it reaches lending rates and aggregate demand in the economy. Hence, we can only target future inflation, not yesterday's

MICHAEL PATRA | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

Duty-related measures taken by the government will boost the business sentiments of the domestic steel industry. The move will boost business sentiments of the steel makers. It will also boost the demand and investments in the sector

FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE | UNION MINISTER

So far, Europe is unable to make affordable EVs. So the big opportunity for India would be to be able to sell EV compact cars at an affordable price, protecting profitability

CARLOS TAVARES | CEO, STELLANTIS

SHORT TAKES

Coal production rose 18% in Oct

New Delhi: Total coal production stood at 448 million tonne in October this year which is 18 per cent higher than that of the corresponding period of 2021. The growth of dry fuel production from Coal India Ltd (CIL) was also more than 17 per cent. According to official sources, the Coal Ministry is planning to build a 30 million tonne stock at domestic coal-based plants by the end of this month. This would help in augmenting the stock of thermal power plants to up to 45 million tonne by March 31, 2023, they added.

Adani's NDTV offer: 28L shares tendered

New Delhi: Nearly 28 lakh shares were tendered by shareholders of NDTV under the Adani group's open offer at the end of the third day Thursday. Adani group's open offer to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake in the media firm New Delhi Television (NDTV) started Tuesday. According to the data, a total of 27,72,159 NDTV shares amounting to 16.54 per cent of the offer size were tendered by the shareholders. Adani's offer price is Rs 294 per share, while NDTV shares settled at Rs 368.40, which is 25.3 per cent higher compared to the offer price.

Volvo Car to hike prices by 1.8 pc

New Delhi: Luxury car maker Volvo Car India Thursday said it will increase prices of its three models -- XC90, XC60 and XC40 Recharge -- by up to 1.8 per cent with effect from November 25 in order to offset the impact of rising input costs. The prices of the S90 Petrol Mild-Hybrid, and XC40 Petrol Mild-Hybrid however remain unchanged. The ex-showroom price of XC40 Recharge will rise to Rs 56.9 lakh from Rs 55.9 lakh currently. Similarly, prices of XC60 will rise to Rs 66.5 lakh and that of XC90 to Rs 96.5 lakh from Rs 94.9 lakh earlier.

Exporters demand fiscal support

New Delhi: Exporters Thursday demanded measures such as creation of a fund and credit at affordable rates in the forthcoming Budget to boost the exports and create jobs. In a pre-budget meeting with Finance Minister, Federation of Indian Export Organisations said depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar is affecting exports' competitiveness and due to that the sector requires more support.



China is not the only weak link in the global economy. The other giant of Asia, India, also suffered a year-to-year decline in the value exports in October. At least India relies less on exports as an engine of growth than does China

STEVE COCHRANE | CHIEF (APAC ECONOMIST), MOODY'S

BISLERI ON SALE

Veteran industrialist Ramesh Chauhan said he is scouting for a buyer for his packaged water business Bisleri International and is in talks with several players, including Tata Consumer Products Ltd. However, the pioneer of the Indian packaged water business denied a report that a Rs 7,000 crore deal has been finalised with TCPL



BLOOD MONEY

Weapons industry booms

ANALYSTS AND OFFICIALS SAY THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT PRESENTED NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EASTERN EUROPE'S ARMS INDUSTRY

REUTERS

Prague, Nov 24: Eastern Europe's arms industry is churning out guns, artillery shells and other military supplies at a pace not seen since the Cold War as governments in the region lead efforts to aid Ukraine in its fight against Russia. Allies have been supplying Kyiv with weapons and military equipment since Russia invaded its neighbour February 24, depleting their own inventories along the way.

The United States and Britain committed the most direct military aid to Ukraine between January 24 and October 3, a Kiel Institute for the World Economy tracker shows, with Poland in third place and the Czech Republic ninth. Still wary of Russia, their Soviet-era master, some former Warsaw Pact countries see helping Ukraine as a matter of regional security.

Poland's PGZ controls more than 50 companies making weapons and ammunition - from armoured transporters to unmanned air systems - and holds stakes in dozens more. It now plans to invest up to 8 billion zlotys (\$1.8 billion) over the next decade, more than double its pre-war target. That includes new facilities located further from the border with Russia's ally Belarus



Taking into account the realities of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the visible attitude of many countries aimed at increased spending in the field of defence budgets, there is a real chance to enter new markets and increase export revenues in the coming years

SEBASTIAN CHWALEK | CEO, PGZ

- EASTERN EUROPE ARMS FIRMS STEP UP PRODUCTION FOR UKRAINE
- HOPE TO FIND NEW MARKETS AS DEFENCE SPENDS RISE
- CAN PRODUCE, SERVICE SOVIET-ERA AND NATO-STANDARD WEAPONRY
- POLAND, CZECHS AMONG BIG SUPPLIERS OF MILITARY AID TO KYIV
- INDUSTRY'S HISTORY STRETCHES FROM 1800s AND THROUGH COLD WAR

for security reasons

Other manufacturers too are increasing production capacity and racing to hire workers, companies and government officials from Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic said.

Immediately after Russia's attack some eastern European militaries and manufacturers began emptying their warehouses of Soviet-era weapons and ammunition that Ukrainians were familiar with, as Kyiv waited for NATO-standard equipment from the West.

As those stocks have dwindled, arms makers have cranked up production of both older and modern

equipment to keep supplies flowing. The stream of weapons has helped Ukraine push back Russian forces and reclaim swathes of territory.

HISTORIC INDUSTRY

Eastern Europe's arms industry dates back to the 19th Century, when Czech Emil Skoda began manufacturing weapons for the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Under Communism, huge factories in Czechoslovakia, the Warsaw Pact's second-largest weapons producer, Poland and elsewhere in the region kept people employed, turning out weapons for Cold War conflicts Moscow

Amazon to shut edtech service Academy's ops

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: Amazon Thursday said it is shuttering its edtech offering called Amazon Academy's operations in India starting from August 2023, and will refund the full fee to those enrolled in the current academic batch.

The e-commerce behemoth officially launched Academy (previously called JEE Ready), last year.

"At Amazon, we think big, experiment, and invest in new ideas to delight customers. We also continually evaluate the progress and potential of our products and services to deliver customer value, and we regularly make adjustments based on those assessments," a company spokesperson told IANS.

"Following an assessment we have made the decision to discontinue Amazon Academy. We are winding down this programme in a phased manner to take care of current customers," the spokesperson added.

Amazon Academy's operations will discontinue starting August 2023, when the existing batch completes its test preparation module.

Customers will have access to full course material online for extended period of an year, until October 2024. The company said that it remains committed to its customers in the country and the decision will have no impact on its services.

In January last year during the pandemic, the company launched Amazon Academy to help students preparing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for entrance to engineering colleges.

'India to grow at moderately brisk rate'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: India is well placed to grow at a "moderately brisk rate" in the coming years on the back of macroeconomic stability, despite global monetary tightening, a finance ministry report said Thursday.

It further said inflationary pressures will ease in the coming months with the arrival of kharif crops and at the same time job opportunities will increase with improvement in business prospects.

The 'Monthly Economic Review for October 2022' also cautioned that the US monetary tightening is a "future risk" which could lead to dip in stock prices, weaker currencies and higher bond yields, resulting in higher borrowing



costs for many governments around the world.

It said a rapid deterioration in global growth prospects, high inflation, and worsening financial conditions have increased fears of an impending global recession.

The spillovers of the global slowdown may dampen India's exports businesses outlook. However, resilient domestic demand, a re-in-

stoked around the world.

"The Czech Republic was one of the powerhouses of weapons exporters and we have the personnel, material base and production lines needed to increase capacity," its NATO Ambassador Jakub Landovsky told Reuters.

"This is a great chance for the Czechs to increase what we need after giving the Ukrainians the old Soviet-era stocks. This can show other countries we can be a reliable partner in the arms industry."

The 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union and NATO's expansion into the region pushed companies to modernise, but "they can still quickly produce things like ammunition that fits the Soviet systems", said Siemon Wezeman, a researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

NOT JUST BUSINESS

"Eastern European countries support Ukraine substantially," Christoph Trebesch, a professor at the Kiel Institute, said. "At the same time it's an opportunity for them to build up their military production industry."

Ukraine has received nearly 50 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) of weapons and equipment from Czech companies, about 95% of which were commercial deliveries, Czech Deputy Defence Minister Tomas Kopecky told Reuters. Czech arms exports this year will be the highest since 1989, he said, with many companies in the sector adding jobs and capacity.

"For the Czech defence industry, the conflict in Ukraine, and the assistance it provides is clearly a boost that we have not seen in the last 30 years," Kopecky said. He said supplying arms to Ukraine was more than just good business.

vigorated investment cycle along with strengthened financial system and structural reforms will provide impetus to economic growth going forward.

"In a world where monetary tightening has weakened growth prospects, India appears well placed to grow at a moderately brisk rate in the coming years on account of the priority it accorded (to) macroeconomic stability," the report said.

India's wholesale and retail price inflation fell in October after remaining high for most part of the year mainly due to supply chain disruptions following outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war in February. Retail or CPI inflation fell to 3-month low of 6.7 per cent, while wholesale or WPI inflation was at 19-month low of 8.39 per cent.

AMONG LARGE IPOs

Paytm shares' 75% plunge is world's worst in a decade



Paytm's grim first anniversary underscores an erosion of confidence in its ability to become profitable after debuting at a time when India's IPO market was enamored with tech startups. It's one among a slew of startups that listed with valuations seen by many as exaggerated

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 24:

One 97

LAST WEEK, JAPAN'S SOFTBANK GROUP CORP SOLD SHARES IT HELD IN PAYTM AS A LOCK-UP PERIOD SET IN THE IPO EXPIRED, FUELING A THREE-DAY SLIDE

NOVEMBER'S 30% SLIDE HAS TAKEN ITS DECLINE FROM THE IPO PRICE OF RS 2,150 TO 79%

communications

Ltd, the operator of India's largest digital-payments provider known as Paytm, has capped the worst first-year share plunge among large IPOs over the past decade - and the pain is worsening.

The company, whose founder compared its challenges to those faced by Tesla Inc shortly after the listing, has seen its stock erase 75 per cent of its market value one year after its \$2.4 billion offering, the largest on record at the time in India.

The dive is the steepest first-

year slide globally among IPOs that raised at least the same amount since Spain's Bankia SA's 82 per cent drop in 2012, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

The stock's losses have deepened this week amid concerns over the emergence of a potential competitor owned by India's biggest conglomerate.

TECH ROUT

Tech stocks globally have been sold off as investors shun loss-making firms amid a deteriorating macroeconomic environment, JM Financial Ltd. analysts led by Sachin Dixit wrote in a note this week.

"This feedback has been well received by company management and we are seeing all Indian internet companies not just prioritizing profitability but also communicating the path forward explicitly," they wrote.

Paytm shares were sold at the top of a marketed range after an offering that attracted strong demand from individuals and funds, although they never traded above the listing price. The sale attracted traditional global stock pickers such as BlackRock Inc. and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board.

In every rally, the market as a whole gets too excited about something. In 2017-2019 we got excited about non-banking financial companies and in 2020-2022 people were just too excited about technology. Some of these companies have good business models still you feel there is not enough margin of safety because these are evolving businesses

SHRIDATTA BHANDWALDAR | HEAD OF EQUITIES, CANARA ROBECO ASSET MANAGEMENT

SENSEX, NIFTY CLOSE AT NEW HIGHS

IN THE THREE-DAY RALLY, NIFTY ROSE BY OVER 2% OR 324 POINTS WHILE SENSEX ADVANCED 1,167 POINTS OR CLOSE TO 2%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 24: Key stock indices Sensex and Nifty rallied over 1 per cent to close at lifetime highs following gains in IT, banking and oil stocks and firm trends in global markets on expectations of slower rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.

Benchmark BSE Sensex rallied 762.10 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at 62,272.68, its record closing peak, as 26 of its components ended in the green. During the day, it jumped 901.75 points or 1.46 per cent to its lifetime high of 62,412.33.

The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange jumped 216.85 points or 1.19 per cent to end at a record high of 18,484.10. As many as 44 of its stocks advanced and six declined. During the day, it hit its 52-week high of 18,529.70, higher by 262.45 points or 1.43 per cent.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys was the lead gainer with a 2.93 per cent rise. HCL Technologies jumped 2.59 per cent, Power Grid by 2.56 per cent, Wipro by 2.43 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 2.39 per cent and TCS by 2 per cent.

Hindustan Unilever, Reliance, ICICI Bank, HDFC, HDFC Bank



TOP GAINERS	
2.93	Infosys
2.59	HCL Tech
2.56	Power Grid
2.43	Wipro
2.39	Tech Mahindra

TOP LOSERS	
-0.14	Tata Steel
-0.11	Bajaj Fin Serv
-0.10	Bajaj Finance
-0.09	Kotak Bank

Rupee appreciated by 23 paise to close at 81.70 against the US dollar

cent). Only consumer durables index ended marginally lower.

"Investors wound up their short positions on the expiry day, triggered by US Fed minutes indicating a moderate pace of rate hikes going ahead that eventually propelled benchmark indices Sensex & Nifty to new all-time highs," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.46 per cent lower at \$85.02 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets Thursday as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,231.98 crore.

Apple makes ₹1.5L/second; most profitable company

In terms of profit per second, the iPhone maker is leading followed by Microsoft, Berkshire Hathaway, Alphabet and Meta

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 24: Do you know how much profit Apple makes every second? It is a staggering over \$1,820 (over Rs 1.48 lakh), making the iPhone maker the world's most prof-

itable company - generating about \$157 million (more than Rs 1,282 crore) a day.

Fellow tech giants Microsoft and Alphabet (the parent company of Google), as well as Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway, also draw in more than a thousand dollars each second, which works out at over \$100 million a day, according to new research by Tipalti, an accounting software financial technology business. At second spot, Microsoft makes about \$1,404 (Rs 1.14 lakh) per second and Berkshire Hathaway \$1,348 (about Rs 1.10 lakh) a second. "To put this into context, the av-



erage worker in the US is projected to earn \$1.7 million in their lifetime, meaning the average American

will earn less in their lifetime than every company on this list earns an hour," according to the research.

At the other end of the scale, Uber Technologies made a huge loss of \$6.8 billion in 2021, equating to \$215 every second. Despite being the world's largest ride-hailing app, Uber has famously never turned a profit

The average annual salary in the US is \$74,738, or \$1,433.33 per week, meaning that Apple makes \$387 (27.01 per cent) more per second than the average American worker makes in a whole week.

While Alphabet makes \$1,277 per second at the fourth spot, Meta Platforms generates \$924 in profit every second. General Electric saw

the biggest increase in year-on-year profits of \$10.68 billion, while Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook) is close behind with a profit increase of \$10.66 billion, according to the research.

Online retail giant Amazon saw the third largest increase in profits, making \$9.74 billion more in 2021 than they did in 2020.

Come, get onto the field of Mutual Funds!

MUTUAL FUNDS
Sahi Hai

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

India start '23 WC auditions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Auckland, Nov 24: Copping a lot of flak for their archaic approach in T20s, the Indian cricket team is expected to turn a new leaf in a different format as it takes on New Zealand in a three-match ODI series, which will mark the start of preparations for next year's World Cup.

India had endured a nightmare back in 2020 in New Zealand when Virat Kohli's side was blanked 0-3 in one of the most lopsided series where the bowling effort was below par.

Exactly 11 months are left for the marquee event in India and the series starting Friday will give the team an initial idea about some of the middle-order slots and also the bowling arsenal in India's armoury.

With five seniors - skipper Rohit Sharma, the talismanic Virat Kohli, team management's favourite KL Rahul, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and No.1 ODI all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja not part of this series, the management can only get a rough idea in which direction the team would move.

All these big guns will now play a lot of ODI cricket, starting with the Bangladesh series, and the



team combination will undergo a sea change once they all come back in due course.

Just like the dilemmas of T20s, Indian coach Rahul Dravid will have a lot on his plate but for now, his understudy VVS Laxman also needs to do a tight rope walking as far as this series is concerned.

Dhawan will be close to 38 during next year's World Cup and in

ODIs in the last two years, he has scored nearly 1000 runs. This is the only international format he plays. Since T20 got more precedence, his appearances have been pretty sporadic.

In the meantime, Shubman Gill has shown his prowess as an ODI opener in a dozen of games he has played so far with an average of 57 runs and a strike-rate of 100 plus.

But even in this format, Dhawan has been a cautious starter in Powerplays and then picked up pace. Team's philosophy will be the main thing along with a decision whether the Delhi southpaw would be persisted for next one year with Rohit, Rahul and Gill also there.

Rahul, in ODIs, has started batting down the order at times and Shreyas Iyer has been one of India's consistent ODI players despite his problems with short ball. Suryakumar Yadav, who is in the form of his life can't be dropped from the middle-order if he is fit to play.

Sanju Samson, with his wide range of strokes, can't be ignored for a long time either and Deepak Hooda brings his all-round skills to the table.

BOWLING ATTACK

Deepak Chahar is expected to start and is likely to have the seasoned Shardul Thakur for company since both offer decent batting option lower down the order.

Arshdeep Singh is likely to be the third option but he has been constantly playing so there could be a chance to check out Kuldeep Sen or Umran Malik. Washington Sundar is also likely to be in playing XI.

Portugal start campaign with victory over Ghana



AGENCIES

Doha, Nov 24: Portugal got their World Cup campaign up and running with a 3-2 win against Ghana as quick-fire goals from Joao Felix and Rafael Leao helped them to victory at Stadium 974 here, Thursday.

Cristiano Ronaldo put his side ahead in the 65th minute with a penalty which made him the first male player to score at five World Cups.

Ghana's Andre Ayew equalised in the 73rd minute, but Portugal responded with 78th-minute and 80th-minute efforts from Felix and Leao. A late effort from Osman Bukari made things interesting but Fernando Santos' side were able to ride out the storm.

S Korea hold Uruguay

Another favoured team has failed to impress in the early stages of the World Cup. This time it was South Korea holding South American powerhouse Uruguay to a 0-0 draw, a result that probably favours the Asian team. Uruguay will next face Portugal in Group H while South Korea play Ghana.

The draw at Education City Stadium was yet another early World Cup match with a surprising result. Argentina and Germany both lost their opening matches against Saudi Arabia and Japan - both Asian sides - respectively in major upsets.

Underwhelming win

Kevin De Bruyne threw his hands up in disgust as another pass went astray Eden Hazard was easily knocked off the ball. Michy Batshuayi was hauled off by his angry coach after a lazy flick to no one at all. Belgium didn't live up to the hype of being the second-ranked team despite starting the World Cup with a 1-0 victory over Canada Wednesday.

Thibaut Courtois saved an early penalty and Batshuayi scored the only goal to spoil Canada's return to the tournament after 36 years.

India sail into last 4 stage at chess Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Nov 24: India defeated France in a thrilling tie-breaker to enter the semifinals of the FIDE World Team Chess Championship here. India will take on Uzbekistan in the semifinals.

After the two sets of matches were shared by the teams by a 3-1 margin, the Indians won the blitz tie-break 2.5-1.5. Nihal Sarin and SL Narayanan did the star turn with victories over Jules Moussard and Laurent Fressinet respectively early Thursday.

Vidit Gujrathi, India's top player, held the top French star Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to a draw in 45 moves while the experienced K Sasikiran was beaten by Maxime Lagarde in 55 moves but the wins by Sarin and Narayanan did the trick.



Earlier in the first of the two matches, Gujrathi pulled off a win over Lagrave and Narayanan defeated Fressinet. Draws for Sarin and Sasikiran ensured a comprehensive 3-1 win.

France turned the tables in the second match with Lagrave beating Gujrathi and Fressinet getting the better of Narayanan. Sarin and Sasikiran held their higher rated opponents-Moussard and Tigran Gharamian to draws. The two wins and the 3-1 win helped the Frenchman level the quarterfinal tie.

Uzbekistan won the first match 3-1 against Ukraine and took the next 2.5-1.5 to march into the semifinals. Spain and Azerbaijan tied their first match 2-2 with games on all four boards ending in draws before the former claimed the second 2.5-1.5 to set up a semifinal clash against China, a winner over Poland.

7 Indian pugilists reach finals at Youth World Championships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 24: Indian boxers continued their dominance at the youth men's and women's World Championships as seven of them stormed into the finals after stunning victories in La Nucia, Spain.

Youth Asian champions Vanshaj and Vishwanath Suresh marched into the summit clash along with Ashish to maintain all-win record for India in the men's semifinals, whereas Kirti (+81kg), Bhawna Sharma (48kg), Devika Ghorpade (52kg) and Ravina (63kg) advanced to the finals in the women's section.

While Vishwanath claimed 4-1

win over Juanma Lopez of Puerto Rico, Vanshaj (63.5kg) and Ashish (54kg) posted close 3-2 and 4-3 triumphs against USA's Deshawn Crocklem and Uzbekistan's Khujanazar Nortojiev respectively in their thrilling semifinal bouts.

Women boxers, on the other hand, recorded comfortable wins apart from Kirti's 3-2 victory against Kazakhstan's Assel Toktassyn. Ravina and Bhawna outpunched their Kazakh opponents Assam Tanatar and Gulnaz Buribayeva respectively by unanimous decision. Devika got the better of USA's Aameedah Joy with a 4-1 margin.

ODISHA FC BEAT CFC, MOVE TO 3RD SPOT IN ISL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 24: Odisha FC scored a last-gasp goal to beat Chennaiyin FC (CFC) 3-2 in a thrilling Indian Super League (ISL) match at the Kalinga Stadium here Thursday. The win lifted Odisha FC from fifth to third spot, level on 15 points with Mumbai City FC.

A 96th-minute goal from Nandhakumar Sekar clinched the win for the Juggernauts after Chennaiyin FC had scored the equaliser in the 94th minute via an Abdenasser El Khayati's penalty.

Odisha FC got their noses in front a minute after the half-hour mark, courtesy an own goal scored by Vafa Hakhamaneshi. Sahil



Nandhakumar Sekar reacts after scoring, while his teammate jumps on him in delight

Panwar whipped in a cross from the left flank before Raynir Fernandes tried to head the ball down to Jerry. While attempting an interception,

Hakhamaneshi redirected the ball into the back of his own net. Just two minutes into the second half, the Juggernauts were awarded

a penalty after Panwar was brought down inside the box by Prasanth Karuthadathkuni. Mauricio stepped up to take it and smashed it into the back of the net.

CFC pulled a goal back at the hour-mark. Ajith Kumar curled a ball into the box from the right flank before Petar Sliskovic flicked it on with his head and El Khayati slotted in their first goal.

In the 94th minute, Saul Crespo brought Hakhamaneshi down in the box and the referee pointed to the spot and El Khayati slotted in the equaliser. The delight did not last long as the hosts retook the lead via Sekar, who pounced on a stray ball that came after Jerry's run was thwarted in the final third.

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