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ARIES
Your work and family will vie with each other for your attention. Merry-making will seem a good idea in the evening. Your desire for name and fame will meet with success shortly, maybe even today! Ganesh shows his blessings on you.

TAURUS
You will win the heart of your family members today, forecasts Ganesh. Try and delay auction bids or sealed tenders. Job aspirants may look forward to belated success in interviews. Ganesh advises you to take abundant precautions in all critical matters.

GEMINI
It's time you took stock of your personal life. Is there someone you want to propose but are afraid to do so? Ganesh advises you not to let the fear of rejection stop you from making an effort. There are strong indications that you will be accepted if you speak your heart today.

CANCER
Ganesh believes that you are likely to have a heightened interest in the study of philosophy and the working of the metaphysical world. This may be mere curiosity or a part of your effort to improve your professional skills.

LEO
It's fun, fun and more fun on the horizon! Ganesh foresees you taking time out for some leisure and frolic today. Broaden your horizon with a bit of travel since you are very likely to be going on a small trip to recharge your batteries. When it comes to work – which you seem to have put on hold – it is a matter of pride for you to play the role that you essay within your company.

VIRGO
Contemplating on past successes will help you gather the resources for achieving more of it in the near future. New contacts will help you make considerable headway on the road to success. Ganesh says your amiable nature will help you in getting along easily with people.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you need to be more careful in your work field as your enemies or your competitors will try to pull you down today. You will have to be very careful in making business agreements or negotiations regarding give and take in the business. You will see your beloved grow distant from you today.

SCORPIO
Long pending task of getting your home renovated may begin today. There are a couple of object de art that have caught your eyes and you wish to decorate your home with those artefacts. You may even plan a small celebration to share your home's new look! A great day indeed.

SAGITTARIUS
Beauty therapies or a new hair do, pick one; makeover and personal grooming is on your mind. Once you decide to shop, nothing in the world can stop you. You have decided to de-stress yourself with shopping. Clothes and jewellery is what your wardrobe is awaiting for, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Generally, it is difficult for you to maintain a cool head over your shoulders, especially during the stressful times. But, to everyone's surprise, you will display remarkable composure while dealing with challenges today, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
With no major highs or lows, you will have a balanced day today. You will handle everything with great efficiency and Ganesh gives you a pat on your back for that. Continue to work hard for the day as your efforts will get noticed and not only that, you will also understand the value of your hardships.

PISCES
Today will not find you in the best of spirits. You need to guard against being sad for the smallest of reasons. Pessimistic thoughts could creep in, owing to some external influences. You need to keep your will-power strong to remain positive.



NO MAGIC BULLET FOR TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE: GOLDBABER

Daniel Goldhaber, director of 'How to Blow Up a Pipeline', on Friday said that there is no magic bullet or immediate remedy to tackle climate change, but there is a need for the right kind of conversations. "Only the right kind of conversations and interventions are the key".

MARGOT RECALLS BOOZY TRIVIA FOR A RAUNCH SCENE WITH DICAPRIO

Margot Robbie recently revealed doing tequila shots back in 2013 Martin Scorsese directorial film, 'The Wolf of Wall Street', which starred Leonardo DiCaprio. According to report, during her special guest appearance at a BAFTA event, Margot revealed that she needed a bit of liquid courage before filming a raunchy nude scene with DiCaprio.



Alaya wants to keep surprising people

Mumbai: Actress Alaya F, who is all set for her next romantic-thriller 'Freddy', has talked about how there is no end to creative explorations when it comes to acting. Sharing information about her unending creative explorations when it comes to acting, Alaya F said, "My favourite part about the job is that you get to experiment with so many different genres, so many different characters and so many different types of storytelling. I have shot three films since my first and each one is very different than the other, so I'm really excited for the audience to see me really push myself with each project. My journey in the industry hasn't been a very conventional one, so why should my film choices be conventional? I want to keep surprising people, and I really hope I can do justice to all the opportunities I've been given since 'Jawaani Jaaneman'".



Learning to walk again in life: Pooja

Mumbai: Indian actor Pooja Hegde, shared a couple of videos from her recovery journey after she suffered a ligament tear in her ankle.

Taking to Instagram, Pooja shared a video which she captioned, "Two weeks back, me learning to walk for the second time in my life it's so funny how you find your mind blanking on how it's done, an activity I've done all my life! #FirstSteps".

In the video, Pooja could be seen taking baby steps with the help of a walker and her nurse.

Pooja, in October, shared a picture and a video clip on her social media handle, informing her fans that she suffered from an ankle injury which resulted in a ligament tear. She was continuing with work despite the injury as one of the posts featured her getting ready.

On the work front, Pooja will be seen in an upcoming family entertainer film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' alongside Salman Khan.



When Yami was lost in her journey

Mumbai: Actor Yami Gautam, one of the popular actors of hindi cinema who has come a long way from starring in commercials to making a mark in the Hindi film in-

dusty revealed that she felt lost after starring in her first film, 'Vicky Donor'.

Talking about her journey so far, Yami Gautam said, "My journey is still on. I have faced loads of ups and downs but it's all worth it in the end. Right after my

first film, in fact right after the success of the film I did feel lost. I did not know which way to take".

"I was not able to connect to the opportunities I was receiving at that time. Do I stay without work or do I take these opportunities and still try, all these thoughts used to linger in my mind. It took me a while to understand my own self and channelise my voice. I had to rediscover myself to understand my purpose of coming all the way here leaving my hometown," she added.



Acting trick Vicky learnt from SRK

Mumbai: Actor Vicky Kaushal has revealed which advice SRK gave him about doing a film. Vicky recalled Shah Rukh telling him that there is 'always a grammar attached to every film'. He also spoke about his upcoming film Govinda Naam Mera adding that it is a 'very new' world he tried to inhabit as a performer and something he has 'never done before'. In Govinda Naam Mera, Vicky plays the titular character of Govinda Waghmare, a struggling choreographer caught between his bullying wife Gauri (Bhumi Pednekar), and girlfriend Suku (Kiara Advani), who

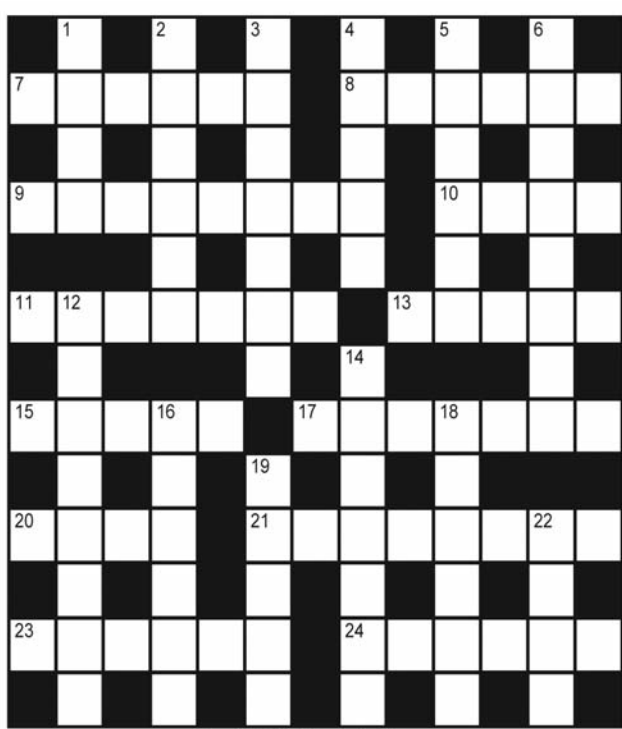
wants to marry him. Vicky said, "It's (world) really something very, very new that I have attempted. Eventually, it is about adding the grammar of the director's vision to your process. That precisely is my process or at least a very integral part of my process. I learned a very interesting thing from Shah Rukh Khan sir. He told me there is always a grammar attached to every film and it comes with the director, what vision he has. It is important to understand

the grammar that the director is coming with and my job is to fully suspend myself".



FUN post

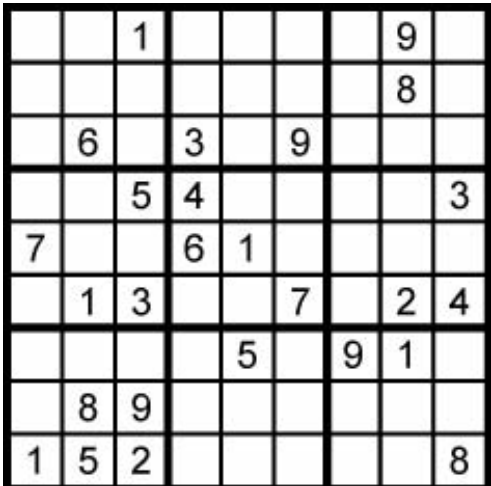
CROSSWORD



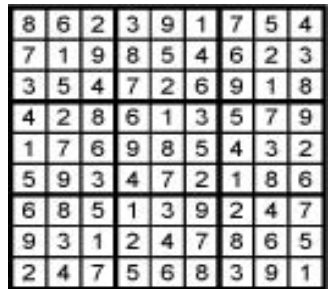
- Across
- 7 Sweet-talk
 - 8 Verbal comeback
 - 9 Australian marsupial
 - 10 Hot rum drink
 - 11 Rough shelters (4-3)
 - 13 Fundamental
 - 15 Willow twig
 - 17 Thin plain-weave cotton fabric
 - 20 Arduous journey
 - 21 Lab item (4,4)
 - 23 Nail polish
 - 24 Make bubbly
 - 3 Transmission casing
 - 4 Newlywed
 - 5 Black mark
 - 6 Firebug
 - 12 Hold sacred
 - 14 Windlass
 - 16 Igloo dweller
 - 18 Apprentice
 - 19 Flower holder
 - 22 Flying mammals
- Down
- 1 Facts and figures
 - 2 Ace of the skies (3,3)

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

SHORT TAKES

Use of Bachchan's voice, image banned

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court passed Friday an interim order restraining unauthorised use of actor Amitabh Bachchan's voice, image or any other trait exclusively identifiable with him by any individual. The court's order came on a lawsuit by the veteran actor alleging exploitation of his 'publicity rights as a celebrity' by several individuals, including the persons behind a 'KBC lottery'. Justice Navin Chawla said it is undisputed that Bachchan is a well-known personality and is likely to suffer an irreparable loss and disrepute if relief is not granted at this stage.

Odisha gets ₹524cr as GST compensation

Bhubaneswar: The Centre has released ₹17,000 crore to states/UTs towards the balance GST compensation for the period April to June this year. For the same period an amount of ₹524 crore has been released for Odisha. With this, the total amount of compensation released to the states/UTs during the 2022-23 financial year has reached ₹1,15,662 crore, the Finance Ministry said in a release. It added that the Centre has released the GST compensation to states/UTs despite the fact that total cess collection till October this year is only ₹72,147 crore. The balance amount of ₹43,515 crore was released by the Centre from its own resources.

Man wounded in cracker blast dies

Cuttack: A 50-year-old man, who was among those who sustained burn injuries in the firecracker explosion November 23 at Balia Bazar in Kendrapara during the immersion ceremony of Lord Kartikeshwar, died Friday while undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here. The deceased was identified as Udaya Bhoi. "Bhoi was among the 11 critically injured patients under treatment at the ICU," said a SCB doctor. More than 80 people suffered injuries when a heap of firecrackers exploded after a spark fell on it. Among those hurt, a number of critical victims were shifted to the SCBMH for treatment.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



For this govt, 24 hours is a long time to appoint an EC, sir. It did demonetisation in 4 hours

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
SENSEX	62293.64	▲	20.96
NIFTY	18512.75	▲	28.65
DOLLAR	81.75	▲	₹0.06
EURO	84.85	▼	₹0.09
GOLD	₹52,568	▼	₹103
SILVER	₹61,620	▼	₹373

WEATHER			
BHUB		CTK	
MAX	29.7°C	29.0°C	Forecast Mainly clear sky
MIN	16.8°C	16.4°C	
Humidity	67%	71%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	



Happy students of Guru Nanak University in Chandigarh pose for a groupie after their convocation ceremony Friday

BJD, Opposition spar over farmers' issues

Despite an all-party meeting, the stalemate between the warring factions continued and the House had to be adjourned

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The second day of the Winter Session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly witnessed a pandemonium Friday as opposition BJP and the Congress and the ruling BJD created ruckus in the House over farmers' issues.

As soon as the House assembled for the day at 10.30am, the Opposition and ruling party members rushed to the Well raising slogans against each other over various demands of the farmers.

BJP members were demanding distribution of input subsidy to farmers and protesting against irregularities in paddy procurement. The BJD members too rushed to the Well of the House demanding enhancement of paddy MSP to ₹2,930 per quintal as suggested by the Assembly. Meanwhile the Congress members blamed both the BJP and BJD governments for not fulfilling the demands of the farmers.

As noisy scenes prevailed in the Assembly, Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha first adjourned the proceedings till 11.30am and then till 4.00pm.

When the pandemonium continued even after 4.00pm, the Speaker adjourned the House till



■ THE OPPOSITION ALLEGED THAT BJD IS CREATING THE RUCKUS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE ARCHANA NAG CASE IN WHICH MANY LEADERS ARE INVOLVED

■ THE BJD POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE REMINDERS ON A REGULAR BASIS THE MSP OF PADDY HAS NOT BEEN ENHANCED BY THE CENTRE TILL DATE

4.30pm and called for an all-party meeting. However, as it failed to break the stalemate, the proceedings were adjourned till Saturday.

During adjournment of the sessions, BJD MLAs staged a demonstration near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the Assembly premises demanding that the Centre hike the MSP on paddy. The Treasury Bench members including ministers later marched to Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum to the Governor demanding ₹2,930 per quintal MSP on paddy.

The BJP members also staged a protest inside the Assembly prem-

ises demanding input subsidy for drought-affected farmers and disbursement of crop insurance to them as soon as possible.

"The farmers of the state especially western Odisha are waiting to get input subsidy for crop loss due to drought. Due to an unholy nexus between millers and government officials, a ₹3,000 crore scam took place in procurement of paddy," alleged BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi. "To divert attention of the people from the Archana Nag case, the ruling party members went to the Well of the House," Majhi added.

Continued on P4

BHUB LAWYERS DEFY SC ORDER

The apex court had earlier warned that licences will be revoked or suspended if judicial work was held up due to lawyers' agitations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The members of Bhubaneswar Bar Association staged Friday a protest before the Bhubaneswar court complex demanding the shifting of Orissa High Court to here from Cuttack. The lawyers' body has also been demanding district status to Bhubaneswar for the past several years.

It is pertinent to mention that recently the Supreme Court had issued a stern warning to the agitating lawyers of Odisha especially those in Sambalpur, who have been demanding the setting up of a bench of the Orissa High Court (OHC) there. The apex court had said that the licences of the lawyers will be revoked if they continue their agitation and judicial work is hampered. However, in spite of the threat,

the Sambalpur Bar Association has said that there will not be any let up of their demands.

Coming amid this backdrop, the demonstration by the lawyers here assumes significance. It will certainly be a boost for the lawyers in Sambalpur. As per reports, advocates in five districts have been demanding the setting up of five benches of Orissa High Court.

However, members of the Bhubaneswar Bar Association rubbished claims that the Supreme Court order has been violated.

"We have not violated the SC directions. We just held a protest peacefully without hampering court work. We have been agitating since 1991 so that OHC is shifted to the state capital," informed Rabi Narayan Samantaray, president of the association. **Continued on P4**



Lawyers protesting at the District and Sessions Court in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Centre defends demonetisation act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Resisting the Supreme Court's attempt to revisit the 2016 demonetisation exercise, the government said Friday the court cannot decide a matter when no tangible relief can be granted by way of 'putting the clock back' and 'unscrambling a scrambled egg'.

The remarks by Attorney General R Venkataramani came after the apex court asked the Centre to explain whether it consulted the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) before undertaking demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination notes in 2016. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice SA Nazeer is hearing a batch of 58 petitions challenging the demonetisation exercise.

"The only submission you have made is that these are all economic issues done by experts (so) don't touch it. What is your opposition to the plea of the other side? Tell us what is your submission to counter their submissions? They said it is

not in conformity with section 26 (2) of the RBI Act," the bench, also comprising Justices BR Gavai, AS Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian and BV Nagarathna, said. "You are arguing that the objectives set out have been achieved. But, we want you to address the allegation that the process followed was flawed," the bench added.

The court's observation came after Venkataramani defended the demonetisation policy and said the court should refrain from exercising judicial review of the executive decision.

"It is well settled that if the relevance of scrutiny disappears, the court will not render opinion on questions of academic value. Demonetisation was not an isolated economic policy. We are not looking at some black money here and there, we are trying to look at the big picture. Also, no well-meaning person will say that just because you have failed, your intention was also flawed. This does not make logical sense," Venkataramani said.

'Kai' chutney likely to get GI tag in Dec



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The famous Kai (Red Ant) chutney of Mayurbhanj district is likely to get Geographical Indications (GI) tag as a meeting in this regard will be held here December 6. An application had earlier been filed by the Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT) to the Geographical Indications Registry seeking the GI tag under 'food' category.

After the application was filed, the GI registry formed a consultative group of experts to ascertain the correctness of particulars furnished in the application. This same group will meet here December 6, to ascertain whether 'Kai' chutney deserves the GI tag.

"The Consultative Group will ascertain the correctness of particulars furnished in the GI Application and Statement of Case referred to in Rule 32(1) of Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules 2002 and make necessary recommendations," the GI registry said in a letter to the chairman of Technology Management Cell, OUAT.

OUAT has been asked to prepare a power point presentation to support the claim. Five experts of the Red Ant variety from Mayurbhanj will be present at the meeting.

It may sound strange but the Kai chutney is one of the delicacies in Mayurbhanj district. The Red Weaver Ants are indigenous to Mayurbhanj and are found in forests, including Similipal. Tribals catch them to prepare not only chutneys, but also soup with spicy ingredients.

The Kai chutney is the main source of protection of health for the tribal people and is also considered the best safety measure to keep diseases at bay. The tribes in the Mayurbhanj district commonly use the species as a delicious food and traditional medicine to treat different ailments in their daily life.

The foundation which holds India together

THE DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION STARTED MUCH BEFORE INDIA GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE BRITISH

AGENCIES

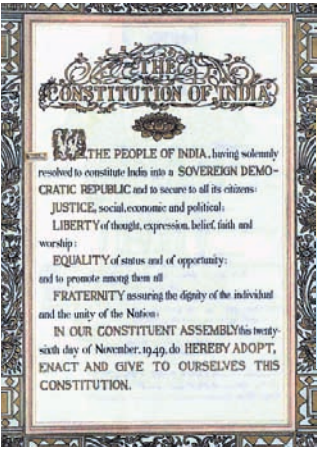
New Delhi, Nov 25: India celebrates its Independence Day, its Republic Day and many more such days with gaiety and fanfare. However, very few people are aware of the 'Constitution Day' which is November 26. Only a select few are realise the importance of 'Constitution Day' or National Law Day as it marks the day the Indian Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

It was in 1915 when the Government of India decided to establish November 26 as 'Constitution Day' to advance 'constitutional values among residents'. The day was declared in the year which marked the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the chairman of the

Drafting Committee of the Constitution.

'Constitution Day' is also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'. After India became independent, the Constituent Assembly entrusted the job of drafting the Constitution to a committee chaired by Dr BR Ambedkar. Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, was the president of the Constituent Assembly, which was established in 1946.

It should be stated here that the original Constitution of India was handwritten by Prem Behari Narain Raizada. He spent six months writing 395 articles, eight schedules, as well as a preamble in both English and Hindi at his desk at the Constitution Hall (now the Constitution Club). For Hindi calligraphy, he utilised dip-pen nibs from Birmingham, and he used a



total of 303 pens. The remarkable calligraphist received a degree from St Stephen's College of the University of Delhi before starting to write the constitution.

At the beginning of 1948, Dr Ambedkar completed the draft of the Indian Constitution and presented it in the Constituent

The Indian Constitution is the largest written constitution in the world comprising 1,17,360 words

The first draft of the Indian Constitution was handwritten by Prem Behari Narain Raizada

Assembly. This draft was adopted with very few amendments November 26, 1949. The Indian Constitution came into effect January 26, 1950, which is observed as Republic Day.

The Constituent Assembly took almost three years to complete the

important and most historic task of drafting a Constitution for Independent India. The Indian Constitution is the largest written constitution in the world with 1,17,360 words (in the English version).

The Preamble of the Constitution of India declares the country as a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic and aims to secure justice, liberty, and equality for all citizens and promote fraternity to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation.

It should be stated here that in 1928, an all-party conference convened a committee in Lucknow to prepare the Constitution of India. Hence much before Indian independence from the British, the work to prepare the constitution had already started.

Virtual courts in 24 dists, SC told

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Registrar General of Orissa High Court has informed the Supreme Court that virtual courts are established in 24 districts in the state and that 1,413 witnesses from remote locations have been examined so far using virtual courtroom facility. Six districts – Dhenkanal, Balasore, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Rayagada – do not have virtual courts. In the affidavit filed through advocate Sibo Sankar Mishra, the HC submitted that a purchase order has been placed November 22 to buy 1216 computers and several other equipment to provide hardware to 44 court complexes. With this, 152 courts in the state will be covered under the e-courts project. It was also stated that all the district courts have one e-filing station while Sundargarh district has two such stations. It was further stated that 11,290 cases have been filed through e-filing portal in district courts.

BJD, Opposition ...

Continued from P1

Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said both the state government and Centre are responsible for delay in disbursement of crop insurance claims to the drought-hit farmers. He blamed the BJD members for disrupting the proceedings in the House. On the other hand, government chief whip Prasanta Muduli said the Assembly in the past had passed a unanimous resolution to hike the paddy MSP to ₹2,930 per quintal but the Modi government had not implemented it. He also alleged that due to discrimination by the Centre in supply of fertilizers to Odisha, the farmers are suffering a lot and are also deprived of insurance benefit under the PMFBY.

Bhub lawyers...

Continued from P1

The lawyers' body in a press note claimed that advocates protesting at the entry gate of the court complex here repeatedly requested the honourable judges to enter the premises for regular work but they refused to do so. The lawyers also claimed that former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik had not only approved of the shifting of the high court but also identified suitable land in Chandrasekharpur locality for setting it up. Meanwhile in a separate development, the Orissa High Court told the Supreme Court that despite its directions, advocates in Sambalpur, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Deogarh and Jharsuguda have observed strikes and obstructed the functioning of judiciary. The Registrar General of OHC, in an affidavit filed through advocate Sibo Sankar Mishra, also apprised the apex court that Bar Associations Tangi in Khurda district, Bar Association Talcher in Angul district and Bar Association Baramba in Cuttack district have resumed work on or before November 15. The Supreme Court has posted the matter for hearing November 28.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

As per affidavit Sri Santosh Kumar Agrawal and Santosh Agrwal is same and one person.

Affidavit No.-27, Dt-22.11.2022 before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar my daughter's name has changed from Sheeha Hafij to Hafsa Hafij. Henceforth she will be known as Hafsa Hafij, D/o- SK Hafijuddin, At/PO.-Jamdhari, PS.-/Dist.- Kendrapara for all purposes.

5 virgin mines to go under hammer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The state government has issued a notice inviting tender (NIT) for e-auction of five virgin mineral blocks including three bauxite mines. The director of Mines and Geology has recently issued the NIT for e-auction of three bauxite and two limestone blocks in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015. The mines which are going to be auctioned are: Ballada bauxite block in Koraput district, Sijimali bauxite block in the border area of Kalahandi and Rayagada districts, Kutrumali bauxite block in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts, Garramura limestone block in Nuapada and Uskalvaga limestone block in Malkangiri district.



Interested bidders can purchase tender documents after payment of tender fee on the website of e-auction platform till January 9, 2023 while January 16, 2023 (till 5pm) is the deadline for submission of the bid

TENDER FEE FOR EACH OF THE THREE BAUXITE BLOCKS IS ₹5 LAKH AND ₹2 LAKH EACH FOR TWO LIMESTONE BLOCKS

All the mineral blocks are unexplored mines. Interested and eligible bidders will have to register themselves on the website of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp). As per the NIT, interested bidders can purchase the tender documents after payment of a ten-

der fee on the website of e-auction platform till January 9, 2023 while January 16, 2023 (5pm) is the deadline for submission of the bid. Tender fee for each of the three bauxite blocks is ₹5 lakh and ₹2 lakh each for two limestone blocks. The two limestone blocks Garramura and Uskalvagu have

been put for auction for the second time. Therefore, the bidders who had purchased the tender document for these two limestone blocks in response to the NIT dated October 22, 2021, will not be required to pay tender fee again to avail the document for the blocks, it said. Interested bidders can submit technical bids in digital or physical mode. However, the financial bids can be submitted only in digital format, it said. Meanwhile, the state government has cancelled the tender issued for auction of four mines in March 2022. The mineral blocks are: Koira iron ore block, Kedesala North East iron ore block, Kusumdihi manganese & iron ore block and Orahuri manganese & iron ore block.



CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA: Artistes performed Odissi at Pragati Maidan's Amphitheatre-1 in New Delhi as part of Odisha State Day celebrations during 41st India International Trade Fair, 2022

Distribute winter aid to elderly by Dec 1: CM

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday asked the officials concerned to distribute financial assistance of ₹300 to social security pensioners to enable them to buy blankets as the mercury has started dropping in many parts of the state. Around 48 lakh beneficiaries under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana and National Pension Scheme will get the benefit. The aid would cost the state exchequer ₹146 crore, sources said. Holding a meeting with senior officials, the Chief Minister has instructed to ensure that no one spends night under open sky. He asked the Panchayati Raj, Housing and Urban Development departments, municipal commissioners and Collectors to take immediate steps in this regard.

Sextortion: ED grills Archana's driver

Bhubaneswar: Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials Friday interrogated the driver of lady blackmailer Archana Nag in connection with the high profile sextortion case. The driver, Chandan, appeared before the ED at its office in Nayapalli here Friday morning. The ED has reportedly been trying to elicit details from Chandan about the illegal activities of Archana, her husband, Jagabandhu Chand and their business partner Khageswar Patra. Meanwhile, Archana's former associate Shradhanjali Friday appeared before the central agency over the matter. She was earlier grilled by ED for more than 14 hours Wednesday.

Feat for Apollo Hospitals-Bhub

Bhubaneswar: Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar has been awarded the 'Best Multispecialty Private Hospital 2022' by The Week magazine's survey, an official said, Friday. The survey was conducted by an independent body assigned by The Week over two months which included onsite assessment of the facility, interviews with clinicians of the state and patients. Speaking on the occasion, Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar chief operating officer and director of medical services Alok Srivastava congratulated the consultants, support staffers for their hard work and dedication in offering excellent medical and support services to the patients.

Govt to revive over 1,700 waterbodies in 115 ULBs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: A capacity building workshop for municipal officials about rejuvenation and mapping of urban waterbodies was organised by Housing and Urban Development department in collaboration with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) at Xavier Institute of Management Auditorium here, Friday. Officials from 21 urban local bodies (ULBs) including BMC and CMC from nine districts participated in the workshop. The workshop was organised for corporators/councillors, ward

officers, municipal engineers, city mission managers, community organisers and TULIP interns to make them aware about the values and technical functions of the urban wetlands and waterbodies. It was aimed at building their capacity for mapping and assessment of urban wetland health, identifying root cause of their degradation and developing community led restoration strategies to restore, preserve, reclaim and rejuvenate the waterbodies. The inaugural session of the training was graced by Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana



Das, special secretary, H&UD, Sagarika Patnaik, H&UD joint secretary Sarada Prasad Panda and State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) director Bhakta Kabi Das among others. On the occasion, Panda said, "We have set a target to rejuvenate and conserve more than 1,700 wa-

terbodies across 115 ULBs by 2024." District officials presented an overview of the ground situation and present water systems in place along with their efforts towards rejuvenation of waterbodies. Khurda Cluster trainees implored on the importance of the programme for the state and

BJD wants enhanced security for Singh

BJD's request to CEO comes days after BJP candidate Pradip Purohit accused the BJD of engineering an attack on his poll meeting in Padampur constituency



PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Apprehending that BJD MLA Susanta Singh might come under attack in bypoll-bound Padampur, with two BJP leaders, who had earlier allegedly assaulted his brother, camping in the segment, the ruling party Friday urged the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to enhance his security. BJD's request came days after BJP candidate Pradip Purohit accused the BJD of engineering an attack on his poll meeting in the Assembly constituency. Singh's brother Subrat was assaulted in 2018 ahead of Bijepur bypoll, following which two BJP leaders were arrested in connection with the case. They were released on bail a year later. A delegation of the BJD submitted a memorandum at the office of the CEO and pointed out that the party feared the Bhatli MLA, also a former state minister, might be targeted again. The party, in the memorandum, said, "It is also being heard that they are now planning an attack on BJD MLA Susanta Singh in this Padampur bypoll and for that they are making preparations (sic)." The memorandum, without taking name, noted that the two BJP leaders, who had allegedly attacked Subrat Singh, are star campaign-

ers of the saffron camp for the bypoll. The BJD alleged that the BJP has a "long history of electoral violence" in Odisha. "We had in fact filed a petition with your office yesterday itself how BJD worker Sanju Bariha was murderously attacked November 23, 2022 by BJP worker Rinku Meher along with other BJP workers at Bubuda village under Padampur block leading to serious head injury for which he had to be shifted to VIMSAR, Burla as his condition worsened (sic)," the memorandum stated. Meanwhile, the district administration of Bargarh, of which Padampur segment is a part, said that elaborate security arrangements are in place for smooth conduct of the December 5 byelection. Of the 319 polling booths, 74 are in Maoist-hit areas and have been identified as 'vulnerable', a district official said. "Keeping this in view, the Election Commission has recommended deployment of nine companies of central forces (each comprising 100 personnel). Five companies have already been deployed in the district. This apart, 41 platoons (each comprising 30 personnel) of state police will also be stationed in Bargarh to maintain law and order situation," the official added.

PADAMPUR BYPOLL Vaishnaw, Tomar to hit campaign trail tomorrow

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The BJP Friday said Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Narendra Singh Tomar will campaign for its candidate for the upcoming bypoll to Padampur Assembly constituency in Bargarh district and highlight how 'non-cooperation' from ruling BJD caused delay in a railway project and crop insurance payment. Railway Minister Vaishnaw and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Tomar will canvass for the saffron party's nominee Pradip Purohit Sunday. The two ministers have been inducted in the election campaign for the saffron camp as the BJD raked up issues, such as delay in payment of crop insurance claims by farmers and a proposed rail line connecting Bargarh with Nuapada Road via Padampur ahead of the December 5 byelection, BJP's state unit general secretary Golak Mohapatra said. He also mentioned that BJP national vice-president Baijayant Panda and party spokesperson Sambit Patra will campaign in the poll-bound constituency Saturday. In a statement, the saffron party accused the BJD of "misleading people of Odisha, particularly, the voters of Padampur" by raking up the railway project issue ahead of the bypoll and claimed that crop insurance payment has been delayed by the state's BJD government as the Centre has 'cleared funds'.

The railway project was accorded permission by the Centre in 2021, but no progress was made due to lack of land required for the purpose, the BJP leader said. Under the programme pilot project of Drain 10 of BDA City Centre is under progress and further other waterbodies shall be shortlisted and funding sourced from multiple avenues such as 15th Finance Commission, AMRUT 2.0 (CWAP) and MUKTA scheme.

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IRREGULARITIES GALORE IN SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME

Collector asked to submit report on pension disbursement



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 25: Large-scale irregularities have marred the social security scheme in Jajpur district as allegations are flying thick and fast that officials are committing irregularities in distribution of pension to elderly and differently-abled beneficiaries.

Taking serious note of such allegations, the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department has asked the district Collector to submit a report on the distribution of pension to beneficiaries within seven days.

As per guidelines of the social security scheme, people above 60 years and of BPL category, people with disability and widows are entitled to get monthly pension.

However, scores of people below 60 years have been enrolled as beneficiaries in Jajpur. Besides, people who have died long ago are being paid pension. This has

raised many an eyebrow.

On the other hand, over 40,000 people have applied for pension in the district. As the government has not given any target for number of beneficiaries since 2019, beneficiaries in queue are chosen one by one only after any beneficiary dies.

There were media reports about such irregularities in the social security scheme following which additional secretary Dipak Routray of SSEPD department issued a letter to the Collector to submit a report in this regard in a week.

It was learnt that 1,95,422 people are paid pension in the district while over 40,000 people are waiting to get it.

The SSEPD department has issued a directive for disbursement of pension money though digital mode to maintain transparency.

However, some unscrupulous officials are against the digital mode of payment of pension. They are paying pension manually.

PEOPLE ABOVE 60 YEARS AND OF BPL CATEGORY, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AND WIDOWS ARE ENTITLED TO GET MONTHLY PENSION

SCORES OF PEOPLE BELOW 60 YEARS HAVE BEEN ENROLLED AS BENEFICIARIES OF OLD-AGE PENSION SCHEME IN JAJPUR

PENSION MONEY OF DEAD BENEFICIARIES IS BEING EMBEZZLED WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT TAKEN ANY STEP TO STRIKE OFF THEIR NAMES

In the last four to five years, many pension beneficiaries have died in the district, but officials are misappropriating their money with forged fingerprints at the instruction of some influential political leaders.

Here are instances of the irregularities. In Kolangiri panchayat under Barchana block, beneficiaries like Dhruba Mohapatra and Debaki Dalai died more than a year ago. But an official concerned of the panchayat is allegedly misappropriating their pensions.

There are several such cases of irregularities in the block. For many years, pension money of dead beneficiaries is being embezzled while the administration has not taken any step to strike off the names of the dead beneficiaries from the official list.

Many people who have tampered with their age are receiving pension. Various quarters and social activists have long been demanding stern action against officials indulging in such illegal activities to loot the government fund.

state



TOURISM BOOST: Various infrastructure development works are expedited for Ecoretreat festival to start from December 1 at Daringbadi in Kandhamal OP PHOTO

2,328 AWCs shut in Ganjam as workers on stir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Nov 24: Child care and supplementary nutrition programme for children and expectant mothers have been hit in Ganjam with many of the Anganwadi centres (AWCs) in the district lying closed due to ongoing agitation of the workers and assistants.

The district has 5,161 Anganwadi centres out of which 2,328 have been shut for the last three days as Anganwadi workers and assistants have staged a stir in Bhubaneswar for fulfillment of their demands. They have joined the agitation despite the state government and the district administration asking them to stay away.

As a result, children have been deprived of attending regular classes and along with them; the benefits of various government

ADMIN PLANNING TO ISSUE SHOW-CAUSE



schemes have eluded the expectant mothers. Currently, only 2,833 AWCs are functioning in the district.

The Anganwadi workers and assistants have joined the strike called by the state body of a par-

Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) of the area where the Anganwadi centres are closed are planning to issue show-cause notices to the agitating workers and assistants. The workers and assistants have joined the agitation despite being warned in advance by the Integrated Child Development Project Officer (CDPO).

The CDPO in a letter November 19 had dissuaded the workers from joining the stir informing that it will hit the Mamata Diwas programme, pre-school management, supply of food to the children, preparation of nutrition tracking list and other related works in their respective Anganwadis of their areas.

However, they refused to abide by the order and joined the agitation leading to closure of 2,328 centres in the district. In Chhatrapur, 47 out of 239 centres are lying closed, the report added.

Funds for Kutia Kondhs embezzled; locals angry



POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Nov 25: Funds worth lakhs of rupees meant for development and uplift of primitive Kutia Kondh tribals are allegedly being misappropriated in Kandhamal district.

Kutia Kondh Development Agency (KKDA) is based at Belghar to carry out various developmental activities to improve the livelihood prospects for these tribals.

Projects, for which lakhs of rupees have been spent for the benefit of tribals, are allegedly marred by irregularities scuttling their purposes.

Hence, the living condition of most of the tribals has not improved till date, it was alleged. They are deprived of the benefits due to rampant corruption. It was alleged that some NGOs, engineers and KKDA officials are embezzling funds.

Here is a case of irregularity in point. An information plaque has been set up near Tidipadar village in Gumma panchayat about an irrigation project. The area falls

under KKDA. It was stated that ₹5 lakh has been spent for building a check dam in 2021-22. In reality, no new check dam has been built at the place. Rather, there is an old check dam across a stream. Villagers of Tidipadar, Guchaka, Deogaon and Belghar alleged that the old check dam has been whitewashed and the fund has been embezzled.

Radhakant Majhi and Kamdev Majhi alleged that this is how KKDA officers, engineers and contractors loot the government funds while tribals are left to suffer without getting benefits.

"The government really wants our development, but officials loot the funds," lamented Dipabani Majhi. Funds sanctioned for various projects are embezzled in this way, they alleged.

"We still depend on selling minor forest produce and khali leaves. We have no other alternative livelihood," they said.

Asked about it, Benudhar Nayak, special officer of the KKDA said that the agency is working for development of better livelihood for Kutia Kondhs. Building houses for them is not their work, he added.

"An NGO was earlier engaged in some work, but after public allegations against it, it was driven out. The engineer can only say about the work of the check dam," the KKDA special officer said.

BPM in soup for birthday bash on block premises

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandbali, Nov 25: Block Project Manager (BPM) of Chandbali block in Bhadrak district Stalin Nayak is in a soup after celebrating his birthday and cake-cutting in the block office, Thursday. BJP's farmers' wing Krushak Morcha has raised objection to it and submitted a memorandum to the district Collector, Friday.



The members of the Krushak Morcha alleged that the block office is functioning without any order while officials and staff are

coming to office at their own will. As a result, common people visiting the block for official work have to face a lot of inconveniences.

Celebrating birthdays of officials is routine at offices while people are not allowed to enter offices for work, the outfit alleged.

It submitted a memorandum to the Collector through the BDO, seeking action against the BPM and those who were involved in it.



ACADEMIC WOES: Students staged protests at Tangarsahi Primary School under Chhendipada block of Angul district over their studies being affected by shortage of teachers, Friday OP PHOTO

Drug menace on rise in Nilagiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Nov 25: Drug peddling has been on the rise in Nilagiri area of Balasore district despite raids and seizures of the contraband by police and special squads of the Excise department.

Excise officials seized 242 gm of brown sugar worth over ₹24 lakh in Santaragadia area under Nilgiri police limits Thursday and a drug peddler was arrested. The accused was identified as Parsuram Panigrahi (65).

This is the second seizure of drugs in the area in last three days.

Three days ago, excise officials arrested a woman drug peddler and seized 135 gm of brown sugar from her at Odhanga.

Notably, Jaleswar has allegedly emerged as a major drug hub in the state. Excise officials and police have seized several kilograms of drugs worth crores of rupees in the past. Locals alleged that though raids are being carried out from time to time, the drug menace in the coastal pockets has not been fully curbed. Supply chain is yet to be broken, they lamented.

Wednesday, Excise officials from Cuttack and Bhograi seized 412 gm of brown sugar at Nahara-Balim Road under Bhograi block in Balasore.

Two youths peddling drugs were arrested. The accused were identified as Pride Patra of Gunaibasan village and Kanhu Gopal Das of Gopinathpur village.

Maoists kill man in revenge act

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 25: In a revenge act, Maoists have killed Lalbati Majhi of Panchkul village under Jugsaipatna panchayat of Bhawanipatna tehsil. His body was found in a forest here Friday. Lalbati was murdered as he had killed a Maoist cadre a few days. Despite being the uncle of Kuni Majhi, another cadre of Niyamgiri area committee, the red rebels did not spare Lalbati. The Bansadhara Ghumsara Nagabali (BGN) division has claimed responsibility for the murder. They left a poster justifying their deed as an act of revenge against Lalbati. Police informed that last year, Lalbati had taken Kuni's father Burja Majhi to Katlang village and murdered him.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ETELCONBST-345E

NAME OF WORK : GENERAL ELECTRIFICATION OF STATION BUILDING, BOOKING COUNTER, SIGNAL & TELECOM GOOMTIES, LEVEL CROSSING GOOMTIES, LEVEL CROSSING GATES, SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER OFFICE (2 NOS.), SRH (1 NO.), 32 BEDDED RUNNING ROOM AT MERAMANDALI, STAFF QUARTERS (TYPE I-66 NOS, TYPE II-21 NOS. & TYPE III-4 NOS.) ALONG WITH POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF 3RD & 4TH LINE BETWEEN SALEGAON - BUDHAPAKH AND 3RD LINE BETWEEN BHADRAK - NERGUNDI IN EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Advertisement Value (₹) ₹ 3,04,05,810.14, EMD (₹) - 3,02,000/- Completion Period of the work: 18 Months.

Bidding Start Date : 30.11.2022, Date and time of closing of tender: At 1200 hrs of 14.12.2022.

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Complete details including e-tender documents are available at <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Chief Electrical Engineer (Con)/ Bhubaneswar

PR-142/CE-22-23

A truckers' village that promotes spirituality

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 25: Truck driving is not all about livelihood for the villagers of Biradia based in lush green surroundings on the Dhenkanal-Kapilash road. The village is known as 'Krushnakumarpur' in records of the Revenue department. However, it is popularly known as 'truckers' village' in the state. The spiritual thoughts of the villagers and their efforts to promote safe driving have given them a special status in Odisha.

The village usually wears a deserted look. However, it is abuzz with activities during holidays, festivals, religious functions and fairs. The drivers of the village, who are most of the time away from duty, return to their homes during these pe-



Septuagenarian Bhramarbar Nayak is the first driver from the village. The village boasts of having more than 160 truck drivers, all because of Bhramarbar

riods. They spend time with their family members, friends and co-villagers before getting back to the wheels to return to their work place.

The life of a truck driver is not easy as hard times and struggles are permanent components of the job. However, they have learnt to become

self-reliant and earn their livelihoods due to their profession.

Septuagenarian Bhramarbar Nayak is the first driver from the village. The village boasts of having more than 160 truck drivers and all because of Bhramarbar's efforts. Bhramarbar learnt driving from Brusingha Pattnaik, a native of Bali in Cuttack district in 1970. Later, he trained many youths in the village to become drivers and earn their livelihood. It is due to the efforts of Bhramarbar that every family in Biradia village has produced at least two to three drivers. From meagre daily earnings, most of them now get ₹300 or more per day by driving trucks. Bhramarbar however, now has quit the profession due to old age.

Road accidents often occur due to consumption of intoxicants by

the driver. However, the drivers of Biradia village are an example for others to emulate. They stay away from liquor due to their inclination towards spirituality. They meticulously follow rules while driving safely. As a result, the families also lead peaceful lives, said Bhimasen Sahu, another driver who resides in the village.

Even though truck driving is an arduous profession, Bijay Samal, 52, said that by taking up the profession he has been able to provide proper education to his children. His only son is working as an assistant engineer in a Dubai based aluminum firm. Samal said that responsibility towards his family prompts him to drive safely. He knows that his kin are waiting at home and so he drives following rules meticulously.

R.S. MAHAVIDYALAYA

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“

Turn all things to honey;
this is the law of divine
living.

SRI AUROBINDO



A Quiet Exit From PMO

The premature repatriation of P Amudha from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) to her parent Tamil Nadu cadre last month went relatively unnoticed despite her high profile as the additional secretary. What’s intriguing about the episode is that Amudha, considered one of the brightest IAS officers from the South, was selected for a promising position in the PMO in July 2020 and seemed poised to become a high-flier: However, barely 14 months later she seems to be out of favour.

Sources have informed DKB that a few months after her repatriation, talk began circulating that her husband, 1991-batch IAS officer Shambhu Kallollikar, was seeking to quit the civil service and join a political party. That has now been confirmed, with Kallollikar reportedly applying for voluntary retirement from service. The buzz is that Kallollikar is likely to join the Congress party and contest the state Assembly elections in Karnataka, his home state. Clearly, the buzz has been around for a long time and a section of babus felt that Kallollikar’s political aspirations of joining “the enemy” or another non-BJP party while his wife was serving in the PMO would be awkward and embarrassing for the government.

So, is the wife paying for her husband’s political ambitions? For a bright and upright officer who served two Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and was poised for higher things in Delhi, hopefully, the sacrifice will be worth it.

Top-heavy police administration

A persistent gripe of the Modi sarkar is that the current shortage of IPS officers at the Centre is due to the states not sending enough officers on Central deputation. Apparently, even BJP-ruled states have failed to meet the Central deputation quota. While many states are becoming top-heavy, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of additional director-general (ADG) and director-general (DG) rank officers than others. At present, the Yogi Adityanath government has a staggering 78 DGs and ADGs against a sanctioned strength of 28! No surprise, therefore, to find many top-ranked police officers are holding posts that have very little to do with policing – such as ADG (special inquiry), DG (power), ADG (telecom).

Official data shows that UP has seven sanctioned posts for DGs but is actually functioning with 15 DGs. Likewise, it has a sanctioned strength of 21 ADGs but actually has 63 ADGs serving in the state. On the other hand, it does not have enough officers in IG and DIG ranks. Against 51 sanctioned posts of IG, the state has only 31 officers, and against 50 DIG positions, it is making do with a mere 39 officers.

Sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which is the cadre controlling authority of IPS officers, say the Centre has only two vacancies each for DG and ADG-rank officers across Central police organisations, agencies and forces. But it has 90 and 30 open posts for DIG and IG positions, according to the latest data.

Poor cadre management seems to be the obvious culprit. Clearly, there is an urgent need to restructure the cadres and rename some positions. Else, the curious situation of top-heavy police administration in the states even as the Centre is unable to fill mid-level vacancies will continue. Mandatory Central deputation for SP and DIG-rank officers is being suggested by some babus, but it may not fly well with some states, especially those run by non-BJP parties.

Prasar Bharati gets new CEO

Ending a long period of uncertainty, the government has finally named 1995-batch IAS officer Gaurav Dwivedi as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of state-owned public broadcaster Prasar Bharati. The post had been vacant since June after the end of Shashi Shekhar Vempati’s tenure, and Mayank Kumar Agarwal was holding additional charge of CEO.

Dwivedi, who is from the Chhattisgarh cadre, will reportedly hold the CEO post on a lien basis, instead of resigning from the IAS. His appointment for a term of five years finally quells rumours about Vempati’s successor or whether the Centre will name Agrawal as the full-time CEO. Apparently, five names were in consideration for the post by the selection committee.

Usually, the Centre keeps its cards close and, sources say, that it had come close to announcing a name earlier but then withheld its decision based on a complaint filed by a senior babu against the government’s preferred choice. The babu was immediately taken off the list and also removed from an important assignment.

Dwivedi, it is assumed, has a clean slate. He is a recipient of the Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Administration and has been a faculty member at the IAS Training Academy in Mussoorie.

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

WISDOM CORNER

- “

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.

CARL JUNG
- “

If you want peace, you don’t talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.

DESMOND TUTU
- “

There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow men. True nobility lies in being superior to your former self.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

WORDSWORTH

Curry favour

Why should curry have anything to do with winning the favour of somebody or ingratiating oneself with him? Its origin lies in a French medieval allegorical poem called the Roman de Fauvel, written by Gervais de Bus and Chailoul de Pesstain in the early 1300s. Fauvel was a horse, a conniving stallion, and the poem is a satire on the corruption of social life. He decided he didn’t like his stable and moved into his master’s house, becoming the master and being visited by church leaders and politicians who sought his favour. There are several layers of meaning in his name: fauve is French for a colour variously translated as chestnut, reddish-yellow, tawny or fawn. A close English equivalent is the rather rare fallow, as in fallow deer, an animal with a brownish coat (it may be that uncultivated ground is also said to be fallow because it looks that colour). Fauve is also a collective name, originally les bêtes fauves, for a class of wild animals whose coats are tawny, such as lions and tigers, and hence ferocious wild animals (the fauverie in a French zoo houses the big cats). In the poem, the name Fauvel can moreover be glossed as fau-vel, a veiled lie, but it is actually a partial acronym of the initial letters of the French words for six sins: flatterie, avarice, vilénie, variété, envie, and lâcheté (flattery, avarice, depravity, fickleness, envy and cowardice). His colour also evokes the old medieval proverbial belief that a fallow horse was a symbol of dishonesty. The poem was well known among educated people in Britain, who began to refer to Fauvel, variously spelled, as a symbol of cunning and depravity. That soon became curry Favel. This curry has nothing to do with Indian food (a word that came into English only at the end of the sixteenth century via Portuguese from Tamil kari, a sauce or relish) but is another ancient word from a French source, still common in English, which means to rub down or comb a horse. The idea behind currying Favel is that the horse was highly susceptible to flattery, figuratively a kind of stroking. For people who didn’t know the poem – then, as now, that was almost everybody – Fauvel or Favel meant nothing. Favour seemed much more sensible a word and by the early part of the sixteenth century popular etymology had changed it and so it has remained ever since.

FOCUS NATION

THE CONSTITUTION AT 73



The present tendency for cultural homogenisation would need to be supplanted by a multicultural India, uniformity by plurality, and hatred for minorities by brotherhood as the Constitution ordains and the courts confirm



Satya Narayan Misra

THERE WAS COMPLETE UNANIMITY AMONGST THE FOUNDING FATHERS THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS WOULD BE THE CONSCIENCE OF THE CONSTITUTION

Between the executive, legislative, and judiciary. Unlike in the US, the Indian Constitution did not mandate that the President will be the head of the executive; Parliament would be supreme in legislation and the judiciary would be the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. This has led to a slew of spats between the Supreme Court (SC) and the Parliament over its powers to amend. The Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) allowed Parliament to amend even the fundamental rights with a caveat that it cannot delete or deface basic features like democracy, federalism, secularism, and independence of the judiciary. The Minerva Mills Case (1980) clearly asserted that the Constitution and not the Parliament is supreme and the desire to have Parliamentary supremacy along the lines of the British Parliament is illusory. It has also settled once and for all, that the SC’s power of judicial review is beyond question.

The other area where the Constitution has provided a window of opacity is the exact relationship between the fundamental rights of citizens and socio-economic justice, incorporated as Directive Principles. In the Champakam Dorairajan case (1951), the court ruled supremacy of fundamental rights over goals.

However, there was opacity in areas like the separation of powers

democracy. The right to free public education was introduced in 2002 as a new Article 21A. Fiscal federalism was brought in through the formation of the GST Council, allowing both states and Centre to impose GST. The latest amendment in 2019 is to give 10% reservation to economically weaker sections.

The Constitution has incorporated a few provisions for ushering in inclusive development. Raising the level of nutrition (Article 47), providing early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years (Article 45) are goals before the State.

After economic liberalization in 1991, we have an ironical situation where the Constitution swears by socialism and distributive justice, but the economic system is propelled by market economics and wealth creation. The handsome growth in GDP, exports and savings is not matched by a perceptible reduction in infant mortality, maternal mortality, malnutrition and improvement in human development capability.

The South African Constitution (1996) has become a template of inclusive growth and development by recognising the right to housing, and a healthy environment as fundamental rights. It’s high time all parties sit together and incorporate these provisions into our Constitution. A vigilant citizenry, a responsible Press, an impartial judiciary and strong political will to improve human development capability, as Prof Amartya Sen fervently argues, are the four strands needed to bolster the majesty of our Constitution. The ever-expanding reservation in jobs also sits uncomfortably on the altar of merit and competition. The present tendency for cultural homogenisation would need to be supplanted by a multicultural India, uniformity by plurality, and hatred for minorities by brotherhood as the Constitution ordains and the courts confirm.

The author is Professor Emeritus, KIIT University.

SPECTRUM RESOURCES

Reimagining our global connections

Europe is facing disruptions to its energy supplies. The Middle East and Africa are grappling with grain shortages. And virtually everyone has been struggling to get their hands on semiconductors. As disruptions to flows of vital products become increasingly common, economies and companies have important choices to make. The most fundamental seems to be whether to retreat from global integration or reimagine it.

For many the temptation to retreat may be strong. From Russia’s war on Ukraine to the Sino-American rivalry, the world order is increasingly contested, and when value chains are global, a single disruption can reverberate across the planet. But, as we show in a new research paper, withdrawing from these value chains would not be nearly as easy as one might assume.

For decades, the world pursued rapid and comprehensive economic integration – and for good reason. By enabling greater specialisation and economies of scale, global value chains have enhanced efficiency, lowered prices, and increased the range and quality of goods and services available. By supporting economic growth, this boosted incomes and employment – albeit not for all – helping to lift people out of poverty. With integration came interdependence. As we show in our paper, no region today is even close to being self-sufficient. Every major world region imports more than 25% of at least one important resource or manufactured good.

In many cases, the figures are much higher. Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia import more than 50% of the electronics they need. The EU imports more than 50% of its energy resources. The Asia-Pacific region imports over 25% of its energy resources. Even North America, which has fewer areas of very high dependency, relies on imports of resources and manufactured goods. This undoubtedly generates risks, especially when it comes to goods for which production is highly concentrated. For example, most of the world’s lithium and graphite – both of which are used in electric vehicle batteries – is extracted largely from three or fewer countries. Natural graphite is highly concentrated not because of reserves, but because more than 80% is refined in China.

Likewise, the Democratic Republic of the Congo extracts 69% of the world’s cobalt, Indonesia accounts for 32% of the world’s nickel, and Chile produces 28% of the world’s copper. A disruption of supplies from any of these sources would have far-reaching consequences.

The question is whether countries – and businesses – can mitigate these risks without giving up the myriad advantages of global trade. Some are already embracing diversification. Many consumer electronics companies have expanded their manufacturing footprint in India and Vietnam to reduce reliance on China and tap into emerging markets. Similarly, the United States, the EU, South Korea, China, and Japan have all announced measures to increase domestic production of semiconductors. Though semiconductors account for less than 10% of total trade, products that directly or indirectly depend on them account for an estimated 65% of all goods exports.

But diversification can take time, and often requires significant upfront investment. Minerals – among the most concentrated products in the global system – are a case in point. As the International Energy Agency has pointed out, developing new deposits of critical minerals has historically taken over 16 years on average. This is not just a matter of developing new mines; countries must also build their processing capabilities and secure workers with the relevant skills. And all of this must be done in a way that mitigates the considerable environmental impact of mining and processing.

Innovation may enable actors to circumvent these hurdles. Already, efforts are being made to develop technologies that are less reliant on natural graphite, and EV manufacturers are experimenting with approaches that use less cobalt, or none at all. Faced with rising palladium prices, the chemicals multinational BASF has developed a new catalyst technology that allows for partial substitution with platinum.

Yet another way to boost resilience may be to change our approach to sourcing. Companies can work with one another and with governments, through public-private partnerships, to leverage their pooled purchasing power, strengthen their supplies of vital goods, and help build more sustainable economies.

Models of such cooperation are already emerging. The Canada Growth Fund aims to use public funds to attract private capital to accelerate the deployment of technologies needed to decarbonise the economy, including by increasing the domestic production of critical materials such as zinc, cobalt, and rare earth elements. And the First Movers Coalition has pledged to use its collective purchasing power to create markets for innovative clean technologies across eight difficult-to-abate sectors. Such strategies show that we can mitigate risks and build economic resilience without abandoning the interconnectedness that has enabled more than a billion people to escape poverty in recent decades. Rather than attempt to retreat from the global economy, we must reimagine it.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Bhubaneswar-751010

Major upsets

Sir, The FIFA World Cup 2022 has witnessed two major upsets in the opening round with former champions Argentina and Germany tasting defeats against less fancied Asian teams. Intriguingly, the two soccer superpowers, whose historic rivalries in the world cups are well known, have been humbled by their opponents in identical fashion and margin with come-back wins of 2-1. Apparently, both Argentina and Germany lacked discipline and solidarity between defensive pairs to stop the aggressive counter-attacks. Another defeat, it will be curtains for the two big guns, which will leave their reputation besmirched in world football. And for Lionel Messi, it will be sad that his dream of winning a world cup for his country will ever remain unfulfilled in all probability.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, BANGALORE

Opposition unity

Sir, ‘Opposition unity’ sounds like a cliché. All discussions about a united Opposition are centered around a few ambitious leaders wanting to make it big. That being said, some non-BJP Chief Ministers and leaders are flexing their muscles to keep hopes alive among the Opposition ranks. West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee took the first step in tying up the loose ends. Though she started off well that critical push to the singular cause was lacking. Now, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Aaditya Thackeray has kept the rumour mill churning by flying to Patna to meet Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of the JD(U) and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD. The leaders were cautious with their words, as they are wary of going ballistic at the BJP. These leaders seem to believe in exercising restraint over their words and emotions. It is important for the Opposition leaders to ensure that they focus on agendas. The BJP-led NDA government’s flops have to be dissected threadbare by these leaders. They need to draw more leaders into their fold - leaders with a good pan-India image. The same goes to many other top non-BJP leaders. Nonetheless, an Opposition front has to take a concrete shape sooner than later, and these politicians should speak in tandem. Any infighting well before the final push may sound death knell for the Opposition unity and leaders’ ambitions.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

I don't think the PM Modi has postured publicly on China. I think the PM has been very firm on China. The PM has been very clear and not just in his words, he has actually been very clear in his actions. Please understand the efforts that were made from 2020 onwards in maintaining such a large force on our borders. It is an enormous enterprise

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

In a terror attack, soft diplomacy does not work. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi said if you attack us, we will enter your home and hit you back

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA DEPUTY CM

There is no need for any worry. Everyone should ensure that their children are vaccinated without any fail. Measles, Rubella or MR vaccine can prevent this disease. The MR vaccine is generally given to children under the age of five years

VEENA GEORGE | MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OF KERALA

SHORT TAKES

EC suspends poll officials in K'taka

New Delhi: The Election Commission Friday directed officials for a review of the deletions and additions in the electoral rolls of three Assembly seats in Karnataka and ordered the suspension of two additional district election officials after allegations of "electoral fraud" in the state. The poll authority also directed the chief electoral officer to share a list of all deletions and additions made to the electoral rolls of the Shivajinagar, Chickpet and Mahadevapura Assembly seats after January 1, 2022 with all the recognised political parties so as to enable them to file claims and objections.

Haryana seeks spl economic package

New Delhi: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Friday asked Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to give a special economic package to the state as 14 districts are included in the National Capital Region (NCR). The state should be given a special economic package keeping in mind that a lot of resources have to be spent on the construction and maintenance of infrastructure in these areas, said Khattar while speaking at a pre-budget consultation meeting with Sitharaman in Delhi.

IEDs planted by Maoists recovered

Latehar (Jharkhand): Security personnel have recovered 12 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), suspected to have been planted by the banned CPI (Maoists), from Budapahad in Jharkhand's Latehar district, a senior police officer said Friday. Budapahad bordering Chattishgarh is considered a den of the outlawed CPI (Maoists), the officer said. In the course of the ongoing anti-Maoist "operation Octopus" jointly launched by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Jharkhand Jaguar, Cobra battalions and district armed police in Latehar district.

Thane sees first measles death

Thane: Thane city has witnessed its first measles death, a senior civic official said Friday. The deceased is a girl from Shil Daighar and she died Thursday, the Thane Municipal Corporation official said, but refused to give further details.



There has to be mutual respect even if we are political rivals. That keeps democracy functioning

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

UNUSUAL COMPLAINT

The police station here received an unusual complaint Friday - action against a youth for drowning a rat. According to police, a youth identified as Manoj Kumar had thrown a rat in a drain after tying a stone to its tail. The incident was reported by an animal activist Vikendra Sharma who entered the ditch to save the rodent, which died after some time



CBI files first chargesheet in Delhi excise scam case

Manish Sisodia, the deputy chief minister of Delhi who was mentioned in the CBI FIR, is not mentioned in the current chargesheet, which was submitted 60 days after the investigation was launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The CBI Friday filed its first charge sheet in the Delhi excise policy scam case against seven accused while Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was named in the agency's FIR, does not figure in the document.

Officials said investigators have kept the probe open into the alleged role of Sisodia, a senior AAP leader, and others named in the First Information Report (FIR). Arrested businessmen Vijay Nair and Abhishek Boinpally were among the seven accused named in the charge sheet.

"Further investigation is continuing to investigate the role of accused named in the FIR and other persons on various allegations including conspiracies with other licensees, money trails, cartelization and larger conspiracies in the formulation and implementation of the Excise Policy," the CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The charge sheet was filed before a special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) judge M K Nagpal who will take up the matter for consideration November 30.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said attempts were made to frame Sisodia in the "fake" ex-



cise policy scam case even as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) hailed the development as 'Satyamev Jayate' (Truth alone triumphs).

Sisodia demanded that Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar be sacked, alleging that he has been a victim of their "witch hunt".

The AAP also asked the BJP to tender an apology to Delhiites and the countrymen for "blatantly lying about the issue" and called Saxena and Kumar the "masterminds" behind the "conspiracy" against Delhi government.

"Manish's name is not in the CBI charge sheet. The whole case is fake. Nothing was found in the raids. A total of 800 officers found nothing in the probe for four months."

"Manish offered hope of a good future to crores of poor children in the country through a revolution in education. I am sorry that a conspiracy was hatched to defame such a person by implicating him in a false case," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi. Besides Nair and Boinpally, those named in the charge sheet are the Managing Director of India Ahead News channel Mootha Gautam, Hyderabad-based liquor businessman and a partner of Boinpally in Robin Distilleries LLP Arun R

Pillai, owner of Indospirit Sameer Mahendru and two former officials of the excise department -- Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Singh and Assistant Commissioner Narender Singh, officials said.

Nair and Boinpally were arrested by the CBI but recently granted bail by a special court. They are still in custody in connection with a Enforcement Directorate (ED) case against them, they said.

The seven accused have been named in the charge sheet under IPC section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of bribery under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the officials added.

The central probe agency has got an alleged "close associate" of Sisodia -- Dinesh Arora -- to turn approver in the case, they said.

Arora recorded his statement under section 164 of CrPC before the magistrate and was granted a pardon by a special court for helping in the investigation.

The CBI, after registering a case against 15 people in August, had carried out searches at various places.

It is alleged the Delhi government's policy to grant licenses to liquor traders was influenced in favour of certain dealers who had allegedly paid bribes for it, a charge strongly refuted by the AAP.

Women look good even without clothes: Ramdev

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thane (Maharashtra), Nov 25: In a potentially controversial development, Yoga expert Ramdev Friday commented on women's attires, raising eyebrows in political and social circles.

Addressing a free Yoga training programme here, Ramdev said without batting an eyelid: "Women look good in saris, they look great in salwar suits, and in my view they look good even if they don't wear anything."

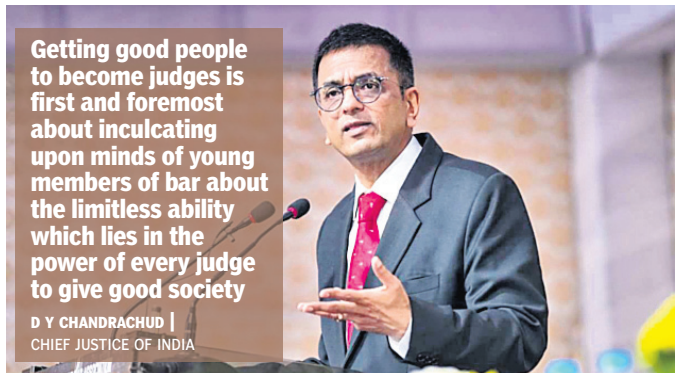
At that time, he was flanked by Thane's Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde, son of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and singer Amruta Fadnavis -- wife of Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and other prominent personalities.



Ramdev, 56, was speaking at a Yoga Science Camp & Women's Meeting organised by Patanjali Yoga Peeth and Mumbai Mahila Patanjali Yoga Samiti here.

He interacted with women who had brought their yoga attires and saris for the conclave and attended a training camp conducted by Ramdev. Since the meeting started soon after the training camp, many women did not get time to change and attended it in their Yoga suits. Observing this, Ramdev said that there was no problem if they had no time to switch to saris and they could do it after going home, and then made his remark -- termed as 'sexist' in some quarters. He also urged the people to remain happy and smiling, similar to Amruta Fadnavis to live a long life.

No institution in democracy is perfect: CJI



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: No institution in a constitutional democracy, including the collegium, is perfect and the solution is to work out within the existing system, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said Friday.

Speaking at the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) here, he said judges are faithful soldiers who implement the Constitution.

Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day.

On the issue of collegium, the CJI said: "Finally, criticism about the collegium. I thought I will reserve the best for the last. No institution in a constitutional democracy is perfect. But we work within the existing framework of the Constitution as it is interpreted and given to us. All the judges of the collegium including me, we are faithful soldiers who implement the Constitution. When we talk of imperfections, our solution is to work

our way within the existing system." He said getting good people in the judiciary and paying them high salaries would not reform the collegium system.

"The president (of SCBA) raised a query about good people. Getting good people to enter the judiciary, getting good lawyers to enter the judiciary is not just the function about reforming the collegium. Getting to be judges is not a function of how much salary you give judges. However high you pay judges, it'll be a fraction of what a successful lawyer makes at the end of one day," the CJI said adding that people become judges for a sense of commitment to public services.

He also said becoming a judge is a call of conscience.

Stressing on the need to make judicial offices appealable to young lawyers, he said we have to ensure that young lawyers are mentored by judges.

The CJI said the Constitution was constantly evolving to meet the new social realities of the time.

He said that the judiciary and the bar were equal stakeholders in the mission of providing justice to common citizens.

Thieves steal train engine from rly yard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muzaffarpur, Nov 25: An entire diesel engine was stolen part by part from a railway yard in Bihar's Begusarai district, police said Friday.

The thieves dug a tunnel to the yard and started stealing parts, slowly doing away with the entire engine that was brought there for repairs, they said.

"Last week, a case was registered at the Barauni police station for the theft of a diesel engine brought for repairs to the Garhara yard. In the course of the investigation, three people were arrested," said PS Dubey, the inspector of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Muzaffarpur.

The thieves dug a tunnel to the yard and started stealing parts, slowly doing away with the entire engine that was brought there for repairs

Based on the information given by them during interrogation, searches were conducted at a scrap godown in Prabhat Nagar area of Muzaffarpur district and 13 sacks full of train parts were found, he said. A search is on for the owner of the scrap godown, he added.

Recovered items include engine parts, wheels of vintage train engines and railway parts made of heavy iron, he said.

"They had dug a tunnel to the railway yard and through it, they used to carry the locomotive parts and other items in sacks," said Dubey.

The gang is also involved in unbolting steel bridges and stealing their parts, he said.

Last year, a railway engineer of Samastipur Loco Diesel Shed was suspended after he allegedly sold off an old steam engine kept at the Purnea court premises.

The engineer had allegedly used a forged letter of the divisional mechanical engineer of Samastipur to sell the engine in connivance with other railway officials and security personnel.

J&K final electoral roll published with increase of 7.72 lakh voters



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 25: The final electoral roll of Jammu and Kashmir was published on Friday with the highest-ever net addition of more than 7.72 lakh voters, officials said.

The release of the electoral roll paves the way for holding of Assembly polls in the Union Territory, the first since Article 370 provisions were abrogated and Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Union territories in 2019.

"There has been a net increase of 7,72,872 electors in the final electoral roll, i.e. A 10.19 per cent increase of the registered electors over the draft roll," he said. The highest number of additions during a special summary revision (SSR)

was less than two lakh earlier.

"This was for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir that more than 11 lakh names were included in a single SSR period," Salgotra said.

During this period, a record 11,40,768 claims were received through Form 6 for inclusion of names in the electoral rolls across the Union territory. Out of these, 11,28,672 claims were accepted and only 12,096 claims were rejected. This included 3,01,961 claims of inclusion in the age group of 18-19. A total of 4,12,157 requests for deletion were received, out of which 3,58,222 were accepted and 53,935 were rejected. There has been an addition of 613 new polling stations in the Union territory, he said.

The gender ratio of the final electoral Roll has increased from 921 to 948, he added. Salgotra said that gender ratio has shown a remarkable increase by 27 points and stands at 948, which is much above the Census gender ratio of Jammu and Kashmir.



Fire Brigade personnel try to douse a massive fire that broke out at the Bhagirath Palace market in Delhi. More than 100 shops were gutted in the massive fire. Five major buildings were also affected during the fire-fighting operations, out of which three have collapsed, officials said

PTI PHOTO

Rlys to export Vande Bharat trains by 2025-26: Official

INDIA WILL GET ITS FIRST TILTING TRAINS BY 2025-26, WITH 100 VANDE BHARAT TRAINS BEING MANUFACTURED USING THIS TECHNOLOGY WHICH ENABLES TRAINS TO MANEUVER CURVES AT HIGHER SPEEDS, JUST AS A MOTORBIKE ON A WINDING ROAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The railways is looking at becoming a major exporter of Vande Bharat trains by 2025-26 to markets in Europe, South America and East Asia, a senior official said on Friday, adding that the latest version of the indigenous trains with sleeper coaches will be operational by the first quarter of 2024. He also said the railways is planning to clock 10-12 lakh kilometers on 75 Vande Bharat trains over the next few years, for these to be export ready.

"The ecosystem to export trains has to be created over the next two to three years. We are on track to manufacture 475 Vande Bharat trains in the next three years and once they run successfully.. There will be confidence in global markets about our product. The Vande

Bharat trains meet all international standards," he said. Talking about these trains, the official said these have a rider index of three, which means no or minimal jolts for passengers; and noise level of 65 decibel which is 100 times less than the sound produced in aircraft.

He also said that while the present Vande Bharat trains are fit for broad gauge, the railways' manufacturing units will customise the trains to run on standard gauges used by countries across the world.

In fact, the national transporter is constructing a 59 km testing track between Gudha-Thathana Mithri in Jodhpur Division (about 70 Km from Jaipur) for carrying out tests/trials of various rolling stocks. This track can test trains running at a maximum speed of



220 kmph, maneuvering a variety of curves. The track will be ready by January 2024 and trains

which will be exported will be tested here for prospective clients, officials said. They also said that

sleeper Vande Bharat trains will be ready by the first quarter of 2024 and will be manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.

A decision is yet to be taken on whether these trains will replace the existing Rajdhani and Duronto trains on routes like Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Howrah and other major routes or run parallel.

In another development, the officials said India will get its first tilting trains by 2025-26, with 100 Vande Bharat trains being manufactured using this technology which enables trains to maneuver curves at higher speeds, just as a motorbike on a winding road. They said 100 of the 400 Vande Bharat trains to be manufactured by 2025 will have this technology.



Ban only on online gambling: TN govt

The Bill seeking to prohibit gambling and regulate online gaming was unanimously passed by the Assembly and sent to the Governor for assent, recently

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 25: The Tamil Nadu government Friday said no complete ban on online games has been proposed but only online gambling has been proscribed in the state, and sought Governor RN Ravi's assent to the Bill to prohibit online gambling and regulate online games in the state.

As per the doctrine of proportionality, no total ban has been proposed, state Law Minister S Raghupathy said.

Games are not completely banned. They have been differentiated as game of chance and game of skill and only online gambling is banned. Therefore, it is a proportional restriction, the minister clarified.

Also, the government submitted its response to certain doubts or clarifications raised by the Governor Thursday on enforcing a ban on online gambling in the state, he said.

The Bill, aiming to give effect to the government ordinance, seeks to prohibit gambling and regulate online gaming. It was unanimously passed by the Assembly and sent to the Governor for assent, recently.

"On Thursday morning, we received a letter from the Governor asking for certain clarifications. We submitted our response within 24 hours. This shows the DMK government under Chief Minister



MK Stalin is keen on enforcing the ban in the interest of the people," Raghupathy told reporters here.

The Bill passed by the previous AIADMK government could not stand legal scrutiny and hence the present regime had to enact a new legislation. "We addressed the issues raised by the Madras High Court and also included certain clauses and sent the Bill for assent," the law minister claimed.

The Governor raised an issue pertaining to the judgment of the Madras High Court that the legislation already enacted on the same subject is not constitutional. In particular, a complete ban without distinction between game of chance and skill is against Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.

"We replied that the proposed Act is within the ambit of the Constitution, and has been framed considering the entries in List 2 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The power of the state government on making laws on gambling can be traced to Entry 34 List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution on betting and gambling public order; public health, theatres and dramatic performances," he said.

This Act is not against the Constitution. This draft law to ban online gambling is constitutional, Raghupathy stressed.

The draft law has been created to ban only online gambling in the current ordinance. In the preamble, this draft law was passed by

clearly mentioning the report given by the expert committee on the subject and the data based on various researches, he added.

It is possible to play knowing who and how one is playing while participating in person (offline). But the law was enacted to ban online games on the grounds that when played online, there are chances for cheating and money laundering as the game is played based on a (computer) programme written by the creator of the game. Therefore, this draft law is subject to the aforementioned Article 34 of the Constitution, the minister said.

In October, the Tamil Nadu government promulgated an ordinance to prohibit online gambling and regulate online games in the state and said an online gaming authority will be established to exercise powers conferred by this ordinance.

The Gazette notification issued by the government October 3 and the ordinance promulgated by Governor Ravi October 1, said the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Ordinance, 2022, will come into force on the date notified by the government.

It said online games and gambling ruined families, led to suicides, caused gaming addiction affecting public health, disturbing social order and prejudices the maintenance of public order.

TOP COURT DISCUSSES JALLIKATTU

If animals can't make choice, can they have liberty, asks SC

Jallikattu is a bull-taming sport played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Supreme Court Thursday while hearing petitions challenging a Tamil Nadu law allowing 'jallikattu', queried, "If the animals cannot make a choice, can they have liberty?"

Some of the petitioners, who have challenged the Tamil Nadu law, contended before a five-judge constitution bench, headed by Justice KM Joseph that perpetuating cruelty cannot be permitted and the bull-taming sport leads to injuries and even fatalities of animals as well as humans.

Jallikattu is a bull-taming sport played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival.

The bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and CT Ravikumar, is considering five questions, which was referred to it in February 2018, by a two-judge bench of the apex court.

One of the questions referred to the five-judge bench reads, "The Tamil Nadu Amendment Act states that it is to preserve the cultural her-



itage of the state of Tamil Nadu. Can the impugned Tamil Nadu Amendment Act be stated to be part of the cultural heritage of the people of the state of Tamil Nadu so as to receive the protection of Article 29 of the Constitution?"

The bench, during the hearing, noted that the Act seeks to prevent cruelty to animals, and cited boxing and fencing, which might lead to injuries.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing petitioners in three separate pleas, said it is about choice and a lack of choice and added that when one enters any sports wilfully, the possibility of injury exists but the person has taken a conscious decision.

At this juncture, the bench asked, "If the animals cannot make a

choice, can they have liberty?" Luthra submitted that in reality there are animal fatalities as well as injuries in 'jallikattu'. He said when someone is inducing fear among animals, it is inherently cruel and cited several provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

The five-judge constitution bench commenced hearing arguments on a batch of petitions challenging the Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra laws allowing jallikattu and bullock-cart races, respectively. The arguments in the matter will continue November 29.

Tamil Nadu had amended the central Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 to allow jallikattu and this law has been challenged in the Supreme Court.

Maha to make voter registration must for admission to colleges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: The Maharashtra government will make it mandatory for students above 18 years of age to get their voter registration done for getting admission to colleges, a state minister has said.

Speaking at a meeting of vice chancellors of non-agriculture universities at the Raj Bhavan here Thursday, state Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil also said that the government will introduce four-year degree courses from June 2023 as mandated under the National Education Policy (NEP) and the universities will have to implement the decision.

There is no option for universities as they will have to implement the four-year degree courses from June as mandated under the NEP, he said, warning that action will be taken against those failing to do so.

The government will soon constitute a committee of retired vice-chancellors to address the concerns of vice chancellors over the implementation of the NEP, Patil said.

Taking note of the dismal percentage of voter registration by students of universities and colleges, he said, "The government will issue a resolution mandating students to get their voter registration done for getting admission to colleges."

As against the goal of attaining the enrolment of 50 lakhs students in the higher education system, Maharashtra has enrolment of only 32 lakh students, Patil said.

The minister called upon universities to run a campaign to improve the enrolment percentage.

He also said there was a need to take into cognisance the recommendations of NEP regarding providing education in mother tongue and skill development.

State Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari called upon vice chancellors of public universities in Maharashtra to turn universities 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) to attain the goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Many private universities are doing well through self finance and distance education programmes, he said, while urging the universities to take steps for effective implementation of the NEP.

The governor, who is also the chancellor of public universities in the state, said the NEP lays thrust on culture and the Indian knowledge system.

He asked vice chancellors to create small advisory committees comprising dedicated officers, professors, young people and resource persons to advise them on the effective implementation of the policy in universities.

The governor said he would hold a follow-up meeting of vice chancellors within six months to discuss what steps were taken on the issues agreed upon in the meeting.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who was present on the occasion, asserted that the state will implement the NEP in the best possible manner.

The state government has decided to make suitable amendments in the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 to make the selection process of vice chancellors and pro-vice chancellors in sync with the guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC), he said.



TERROR TRAIL: Badhwar Park, entry point of terrorists in the 2008 attacks, on the eve of the 14th anniversary of 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai, Friday

Teltumbde likely to be released on bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: Scholar-activist Anand Teltumbde, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, is likely to walk out of prison Saturday after the Supreme Court rejected the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) plea challenging the bail granted to him.

Following the Apex court's order on Friday, Teltumbde's lawyers completed bail formalities before the special NIA court judge Rajesh Katariya here.

ELGAR CASE

The court then issued his release order, one of his lawyers said. Teltumbde is lodged in the Talaja jail in neighbouring Navi Mumbai since his arrest in April 2020.

The Bombay High Court on November 18 granted bail to him, noting that prima facie there was no evidence to show his involvement in any terror activity.

The high court, however, stayed its bail order for a week so that the NIA, the probe agency, could ap-

proach the Supreme Court.

On Friday, A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli rejected the NIA plea against the bail.

Following the SC order, Teltumbde's lawyers submitted a cash bond of Rs 1,00,000 in the NIA court. Teltumbde, 73, is the third of the 16 accused arrested in the case to be released on bail.

Poet Varavara Rao is currently out on bail on health grounds while lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj is out on regular bail.

14 YEARS AFTER 26/11

Locals rename Sultanpur as Rahul Nagar after martyr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: Sultanpur, a village in Maharashtra with a population of around 1,000 and 600 houses, will now be known as 'Rahul Nagar' as the local residents have changed its name in memory of its native, who laid down his life while fighting terrorists during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008.

Rahul Shinde, a constable of the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) attained martyrdom during the terror attacks 14 years ago.

Shinde, who hailed from Sultanpur in Madha tehsil of Solapur district, around 360 km from here, was amongst the first police personnel to enter the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in south Mumbai after reports of firing by terrorists. Shinde was hit with a bullet in his stomach by terrorists, in which he died.

While the government honoured him by conferring the President's Police Medal on him posthumously for his supreme sacrifice, the residents of Sultanpur decided to re-



name their village after him as he was born and brought up there.

However, the official renaming ceremony is yet to take place.

"All the government formalities for renaming the village are done. We are now waiting for the official renaming ceremony," Subhash Vishnu Shinde, father of late Rahul Shinde, told PTI on the eve of the 14th anniversary of the 26/11 attacks.

"We are waiting for the confirmation of dates from the dignitaries and guests and it will soon



be finalised," he said, adding Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Vishwas Nangre Patil, who was then Deputy Commissioner of Police (zone-I) in Mumbai, helped him in the process.

"I had been following up with the government on this for the last 10 years. Finally it is done. I am satisfied now and don't want anything more. I feel honoured that the village now bears the name of my son," he said.

Speaking about his martyred

son, Shinde said he showed courage while fighting against terrorists and made the supreme sacrifice for the country. "I am proud of my son," he said.

Subhash Shinde, has two more children - a son and a daughter. He now lives with his younger son, who got married a few years ago. "Rahul's mother is still under trauma. She has not been able to come to terms with the situation yet...She is still unable to digest the fact that Rahul is no more," he said.

"After Rahul's demise, the government provided financial assistance to us as per rules. We also got a flat in Mumbai and a gas agency at the taluka place, which helps the family earn a living," he said.

The Shinde family is also involved in farming. "This year, we harvested sugarcane on our farm," he said. Shinde also set up a memorial of Rahul in the village in 2010. The aid of Rs 10 lakh, which the family received from the Mumbai civic body, was used in installing the memorial, he said.

"The memorial is meant to inspire the younger generation. The

youth should feel that when it is required, one should be ready to make the supreme sacrifice for the country," he said.

"I did all this by keeping my personal sorrow aside to keep his memories alive," Shinde said, adding that he was just waiting for the official renaming ceremony.

On November 26, 2008, 10 Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists from Pakistan arrived by sea route and opened fire, killing 166 people, including 18 security personnel, and injuring several others during the 60-hour siege in Mumbai.

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, the Oberoi Trident, the Taj Mahal Hotel, Leopold Cafe, Cama Hospital and the Nariman House Jewish community centre, now renamed Nariman Light House, were some of the places targeted by terrorists.

Nine terrorists were later killed by the security forces, including the NSG, the country's elite commando force. Ajmal Kasab was the only terrorist who was captured alive. He was hanged four years later November 21, 2012.

of the day quote

Sisodia's name is not there in the CBI charge sheet. The whole case is fake, as nothing was found in the raids. A total of 800 officers have found nothing in their probe for four months

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

There is no shortage of petrol and diesel in Meghalaya. Necessary actions have been initiated by the Government to ensure no shortage of stocks and supply. Request all citizens to not resort to panic buying of any essentials

CONRAD K SANGMA | MEGHALAYA CM

I wonder what minister @JoshiPrahlaad is doing with tainted coal mafia, Joydeb Khan! Is he discussing ways of filing @BJP4India's pockets or congratulating him on siphoning the Nation's resources? The @dir_ed and the CBI have conveniently ignored this Mafia-Minister nexus

ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TMC GENERAL SECY

SHORT TAKES

Navy team embarks on motorcycle expedition

Guwahati: An Indian Navy bikers' team Friday embarked on an expedition through seven northeastern states with Chief of the Naval Staff flagging off the rally. Admiral R Hari Kumar flagged off the expedition through the virtual mode as the bikers set out here, a defence spokesperson said in a release. "The Indian Navy Motor Bike team, 'The Sea Riders', in partnership with Royal Enfield, has embarked on this motorcycle expedition, as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations'. The rally will end December 14," Defence spokesperson Lt Col. Mahendra Rawat said.

Aaftab taken again for polygraph test

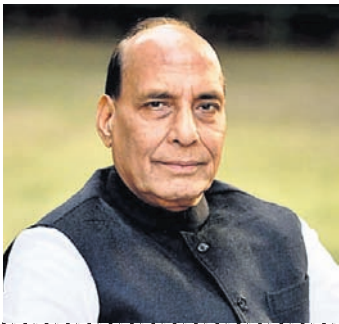
New Delhi: Aaftab Amin Poonawala, who has been accused of killing his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar and then chopping her body into several pieces, was Friday again taken to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) here in Rohini. The polygraph test on Aaftab was stopped midway Thursday after he had complained of fever. According to sources, answers to several questions that were asked to Aaftab are expected to lead to some vital clues that will further help the police probe the murder case.

Landmine weighing 40 kg found in forest

Hazaribag: A landmine weighing 40 kg was found in a forest in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district Thursday, police said. The landmine was found in a forest near the Kharki village in Bishnugarh police station area, they said. It was suspected that Maoists planted it to target security personnel, Superintendent of Police Manoj Ratan Chothe said. The landmine, which weighed 40 kg, was defused by the bomb disposal squad of the Jharkhand Jaguar force, he said. Twenty-six Maoist posters were also found at the spot, he added.

Three men run over by bus in Jabalpur

Jabalpur: Three persons were killed Friday after being hit by a bus on the outskirts of Jabalpur city in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said. The incident took place in the early hours of the day at Jotpur trisection and the deceased have been identified as Nanhe Gond (35), Summi Thakur (45) and Anil Thakur (32), Tiwara police station inspector LS Jharia said.



India believes in a multi-aligned policy which is realised through diverse engagements through multiple stakeholders so that views and concerns of all can be discussed and addressed for prosperity for all

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

ISRO BEGINS COUNTDOWN

Scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) commenced the countdown Friday for the launch of Earth Observation Satellite - Oceansat - and eight other customer satellites on a PSLV-C54 rocket from the spaceport of Sriharikota Saturday



Centre forms panel to revamp MGNREGS

The MGNREGS programme allows citizens to enrol for work such as building roads, digging wells or creating other rural infrastructure, and receive a minimum wage for 100 days each year

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 25: India's federal rural development ministry has formed a panel to revamp its only job guarantee scheme in the hope of directing more work to the country's poorer regions, a senior government official said Friday. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), was in high demand in the Asian nation's

rural areas as they emerged from the pandemic amid soaring inflation and limited non-farm job opportunities.

Residents of relatively affluent states, however, may have fared better in securing work under the key anti-poverty job program, triggering calls for changes to the scheme, the official, who did not wish to be named, told reporters in New Delhi. "The panel will recommend institu-



tional mechanisms, including governance and administrative structures, for more effective utilization of funds, especially to address poverty," the official said. The spending of states such as Bihar and Odisha, for instance, under the jobs scheme lags those of states

such as Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, which have a higher per-capita income, government data shows. The panel, which is expected to submit its report by January, will examine expenditure trends across various states and identify reasons for variations, the official added.

BORDER VIOLENCE

Assam issues fresh travel curbs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati/Shillong, Nov 25: Attendance in government offices in Meghalaya was 'thin' Friday in response to a call by various organisations for a non-cooperation movement in protesting against the November 22 violence along the border with Assam, which left six people dead, officials said.

Assam police officials Friday issued a fresh advisory asking its citizens not to travel to Meghalaya as the situation is still "not very good" in the neighbouring state where police vehicles were torched and several people were injured during protests on the previous night. In a relief to the people of Meghalaya, the Assam Petroleum Mazdoor Union (APMU) decided to resume transportation of fuel to that state, which it has suspended Thursday, following assurance of security of tankers and crew from the neighbouring state.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi Thursday. Shah assured him that a CBI probe will be initiated into the border violence.

Several social organisations and student associations of Meghalaya, including the influential Khasi Students Union (KSU) and the Federation of Khasi Jaintia and Garo People, declared a "non-cooperation movement" following the incident.

- ❖ Violence had broken out at Mukroh village near the disputed 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

"We urged our brothers and sisters working in both central and state governments to support us by not attending offices Friday as a mark of respect to the victims of extra-judicial firing at Mukroh by Assam Police," KSU general secretary Donald V Thabab said.

In the Meghalaya capital Shillong, attendance was thin in both central and state government offices, officials said.

The situation is the same in the seven districts of Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills region, senior officials of the districts told PTI. "Yesterday in Shillong, public burnt police vehicles. The situation is not very good. That's why we are advising people not to travel (to Meghalaya)," Deputy Commissioner (East) of Guwahati Police Sudhakar Singh told PTI.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Nomal Mahatta also said a similar restriction on people and vehicles

from Assam entering Meghalaya through his district also is in force. Violence erupted in a portion of the Meghalaya capital shortly after a demonstration and a candlelight vigil concluded Thursday night.

Police had to use tear gas shells to bring the situation under control as unidentified miscreants lobbed petrol bombs at a police bus and a jeep besides pelting the police personnel with stones injuring four of them. Three civilians were also assaulted nearby.

Shops and business establishments run by non-tribals in Khyndailad, Lewduh and certain other areas in Shillong remained shut since Thursday apprehending violence. Security in areas, identified as vulnerable, in the city was tightened, a senior district official told PTI.

The violence had led to the suspension of fuel supply from Assam to Meghalaya. The Assam Petroleum Mazdoor Union had sent letters to IOC, HPCL and BPCL, informing them of its decision to not load fuel in tankers meant for Meghalaya following attacks on trucks supplying non-petroleum products in the last two days. However, the decision was changed Friday.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma Friday said there is no shortage of petrol and diesel in the state and requested all citizens not to resort to panic buying of any essential commodities.

Food and Civil Supplies director Pravin Bakshi directed the deputy commissioner of seven districts bordering Assam to arrange for police escorts to vehicles coming from Assam after APMU announced that it has stopped transporting fuel to Meghalaya fearing violence.

The authorities have decided to extend the ban on mobile internet service in seven Meghalaya districts till Saturday morning. The suspension was imposed following Tuesday's 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.

The two states had signed a memorandum of understanding in March this year towards ending the dispute in six of the areas.

Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972 and had since then challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, which demarcated the border between the two states.



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra ties shoe-laces of a girl during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, in Khargone, Madhya Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Top court stays Calcutta HC order for CBI probe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVCICE

New Delhi, Nov 25: The Supreme Court Friday stayed a Calcutta High Court division bench order, which upheld a single-judge's direction for a CBI probe into the multi-crore West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) recruitment scam.

Senior advocate AM Singhvi, representing the West Bengal government, mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud that earlier this week a single-judge of the high court had prima facie held that the application filed by the commission was a benami application and sought to know who drafted the same.

Singhvi contended that the secretary of the education department has been summoned by the

WBSSC SCAM



high court for examination. He added that the single bench of high court directed the CBI probe to find out whose brainchild was the application and who was pulling the strings.

The bench, also comprising Justice Hima Kohli, was informed that though the commission sought liberty to withdraw the petition, however, the high court did not permit it, and ordered a CBI probe on the origins of the application.

After hearing Singhvi's submissions, the top court stayed the

high court order directing CBI investigation into who was brain behind the commission's application seeking to protect services of illegally appointed candidates by creating supernumerary posts.

The top court also stayed the high court order directing the personal appearance of West Bengal principal secretary Manish Jain.

The single judge bench of the High Court had directed the CBI to submit a report within the next seven days, to decide on the next course of action and the Principal Secretary of West Bengal was also asked to appear in court. The state government challenged this order before the division bench of the high court, which upheld the single-judge with regard to the fresh CBI probe. The West Bengal government moved the apex court challenging this order.

Fewer women were employed in 2021: Oxfam report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Fewer women were employed in 2021 than in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic and governments worldwide are putting women in danger of unprecedented poverty and overwork to tame inflation and help their economies recover, a new report has claimed.

The report said governments around the world are putting women and girls in danger of unprecedented new levels of poverty, peril, overwork and premature death as a result of near-universal "slash-and-burn" efforts to recover their economies from the pandemic and tame inflation.

"Women were less employed in 2021 than in 2020 as a result of the pandemic," it said. "Women carry most of the physical, emotional and psychological consequences of these cuts to crucial public serv-

ices because they rely on them most.

"The road to post-pandemic recovery is being built upon the lives and sweated labour and security of women and girls," said Oxfam head of Gender Justice and Gender Rights, Amina Hersi.

"Austerity is a form of gender-based violence," she said. Underlining that austerity is not inevitable but a choice, the report said governments can continue to cause harm by cutting public services, or they could raise taxes on those who can afford it.

"A progressive wealth tax on the world's millionaires and billionaires can raise almost \$1 trillion more than governments are planning to save through cuts in 2023," the report said. Recent reports from UN agencies show that women and girls are already living in dire situations.

Oxfam said it believes that aus-



terity policies are contributing to more women and girls joining the 1.7 billion who are already now living below the poverty line of \$5.50 a day.

Between 2019-22, women captured only 21 per cent of all projected employment gains, with

many of those jobs becoming ever more exploitative and precarious, the report said.

The report showed that women are impacted by cuts to services, social protection and infrastructure twice - first directly through rising prices or loss of jobs and then

indirectly because they are made society's shock absorbers' and expected to survive and take care of everyone when the state steps back.

For example, despite the terrible impact of food price inflation, and with more than 60 per cent of the world's hungry being women, the IMF told nine countries, including Cameroon, Senegal and

Surinam, to introduce or increase value-added tax which often applies to everyday products including food, the report said. The report said governments are pursuing their economic policies in a vacuum of gendered data. Oxfam called on all governments to end austerity and instead seek alternatives such as feminist budgeting and progressive taxation, where taxes are invested into universal social protection and public services, putting the specific needs of women, girls, and non-binary people at the heart of policy making.

Oxfam called on the IMF to stop pushing painful, failed austerity measures, and to suspend austerity-based conditionality on all its existing loan programmes.

It also calls on rich countries to urgently advance debt cancellation and debt-free financing for lower income countries.

international

of the day quote

NATO is determined to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia for as long as it takes and will help the war-wrecked country transform its armed forces into a modern army up to Western standards

JENS STOLTENBERG | SECY-GENERAL, NATO

China hoped to strengthen coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs with Cuba. The two will go hand in hand down the road of building socialism with each's own characteristics

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

We're shining sunlight on a shadow government that preferred to operate in darkness, a government that operated in a cult of secrecy and a culture of cover-up which arrogantly dismissed scrutiny from the Parliament and the public as a mere inconvenience

ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA

SHORT TAKES

Nepal's ruling party set to win

Kathmandu: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's Nepali Congress-led ruling coalition was Friday heading towards winning a clear majority in Nepal's parliamentary elections with the alliance bagging 67 seats out of the 124 declared so far. In the 275-member House of Representatives, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportional electoral system. A party or a coalition needs 138 seats to win a clear majority. The Nepali Congress (NC) was set to emerge as the single-largest party after winning 42 seats alone under the direct voting system.

Indonesia quake toll rises to 310

Cianjur: The death count from an earthquake that shook Indonesia's main island of Java this week has risen to 310, the country's national disaster mitigation agency said Friday. The agency's chief Suharyanto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, said 24 people remain missing after the quake caused landslides and building collapses in the West Java town of Cianjur. It is estimated that up to 242,000 people were exposed to very strong shaking and up to 978,000 people to strong shaking.

10 killed in China apartment blaze

Beijing: At least 10 people were killed and nine others injured in a fire at a high-rise residential building in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, days after another blaze left 38 people dead in central China. The fire broke out Thursday night at a residential building in the community of Tianshan District in Urumqi. The blaze was put out in about three hours, officials said. Preliminary investigations suggested an electric socket extension in a bedroom caused the fire.

Ghana plans to buy oil with gold

Accra: Ghana's government is working on a new policy to buy oil products with gold rather than US dollar reserves, Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia said on Facebook Thursday. The move is meant to tackle dwindling foreign currency reserves coupled with demand for dollars by oil importers, which is weakening the local cedi and increasing living costs. Ghana's Gross International Reserves stood at around \$6.6 billion at the end of September 2022, equating to less than three months of imports cover.



Our efforts to sanction the perpetrators and facilitators of these (26/11) terror attacks were blocked in the past for political reasons. These actors continue to walk free and have been organising further cross-border attacks against my country

RUCHIRA KAMBOJ | INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, UN

SUNAK'S POPULARITY PIPS PARTY

One month on since Rishi Sunak took charge as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister, indications Friday are that his popularity with the UK electorate remains on stronger ground than that of the governing Conservative Party



DARK AND COLD



UKRAINE FIGHTS to restore power

Nine months after Russia invaded its neighbour, the Kremlin's forces have zeroed in on Ukraine's power grid and other critical civilian infrastructure in a bid to tighten the screw on Kyiv. Russian barrage has shut down all of Ukraine's nuclear plants for the first time in 40 years

- Only half of Ukraine's power demand being met
- Ukraine a dark patch on the globe at night: NASA
- Russian shelling attacks kills seven in Kherson, says official
- More than 15,000 people missing in war, says expert

REUTERS

Kyiv, Nov 25: Much of Ukraine remained without heat or power after the most devastating Russian air strikes on its energy grid so far, and in Kyiv residents were warned to brace for further attacks and stock up on water, food and warm clothing.

"Together we endured nine months of full-scale war and Russia has not found a way to break us, and will not find one," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a nightly video address Thursday.

Zelenskyy also accused Russia of incessantly shelling Kherson, the southern Ukrainian city that it abandoned earlier this month. Seven people were killed and 21 wounded in a Russian attack Thursday, local authorities said.

Viewed from space, Ukraine has become a dark patch on the globe at night, NASA satellite images showed. Moscow acknowledges attacking basic infrastructure, saying it aims to reduce Ukraine's

ability to fight and push it to negotiate. Kyiv says such attacks are a war crime.

Zelenskyy said that while power, heat, communications and water were being restored gradually, problems still existed with water supplies in 15 regions.

Ukrenerg, which oversees Ukraine's national power grid, said 50% of demand was not being met as of 7 pm Kyiv time Thursday. In the capital Kyiv, a city of three million, 60% of residents were without power amid temperatures well below freezing, mayor Vitaly Klitschko said.

Authorities have set up "invincibility centres", where people can charge phones, warm up and get hot drinks. Russia's barrage killed 11 people Thursday and shut down all of Ukraine's nuclear plants for the first time in 40 years.

Thursday marked nine months since Moscow launched what it called a "special military operation" to protect Russian-speakers. Ukraine and the West say the invasion is an unprovoked war of aggression.

Since early October, Russia has launched missiles roughly once a week in a bid to destroy the Ukrainian power grid. More than 15,000 people have gone missing during the war in Ukraine, an official in the Kyiv office of the Hague-based International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) said.

This week's strikes had created a situation not seen for 80 or 90 years. A country on the European continent where there was totally no light

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

EUROPE SCRAMBLES TO KEEP UKRAINE WARM

Kyiv: European officials are scrambling to help Ukraine stay warm and keep functioning through the bitter winter months, pledging Friday to send more support that will mitigate the Russian military's efforts to turn off the heat and lights. France is sending 100 high-powered generators to Ukraine to help people get through the coming months, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said. She said Russia is "weaponising" winter and plunging Ukraine's civilian population into hardship. British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, arriving Friday in Kyiv for an unannounced visit, said a promised air-defence package, which Britain valued at 50 million pounds. European officials have launched a scheme called "Generators of Hope," which calls on more than 200 cities across the continent to donate power generators and electricity transformers.

EU warns of Covid-19 spike in winter

■ Though there have not been major increases in cases in recent weeks but that could change swiftly during the colder winter months

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Brussels, Nov 25: The European Union's (EU) medicines regulator urged Europe to prepare for a new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic as "cold winter months" arrive.

"Over the last weeks we have not seen a major increase in Covid-19 case rates in the EU as a result of rising immunity following vaccinations and natural infections," Marco Cavaleri, head of Health Threats and Vaccines Strategy of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), told a press briefing.



This virus is maintaining a fast pace in its evolution and new subvariants of Omicron such as BQ.1.1 and its offsprings are on the rise and replacing Omicron BA.5

MARCO CAVALERI | Head (Health Threats and Vaccines Strategy), EMA

"However, this could change rapidly as we are getting into the cold winter months," Cavaleri said.

Vaccine booster uptake in the last few months has been "rather disappointing", with the European average rate at only 29 per cent in people at highest risk, including those aged above 60 with chronic conditions and immunocompromised, he said.

The European average rate of re-vaccination, or receiving booster

doses, was only 29% in the groups of people considered to be at high-risk, such as the elderly and immunocompromised. "It is of concern that those most at risk of hospitalisation or severe COVID are not adequately protected," Marco Cavaleri, told a news briefing.

WHO data released late Wednesday showed that 724,000 new Covid-19 cases were reported in the EU over the past week, down

A TOTAL OF 142 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED

Biggest crackdown on phone scammers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, Nov 25: UK police Thursday said their biggest ever counter-fraud operation had disrupted an international criminal network targeting hundreds of thousands of victims in millions of spam phone calls.

The Metropolitan Police spearheaded the 18-month global probe into the iSpooF.cc website, working with Europol, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies worldwide.

A total of 142 people have been arrested, including one of its alleged London-based administrators. Suspects were arrested in Australia, France, Ireland and the Netherlands, while servers were shuttered in the



Netherlands and Ukraine.

UK police believe organised crime groups are linked to the website and its tens of thousands of users. The site enables users to access software tools to illicitly obtain victims' bank account funds and commit other fraud.

Met Commissioner Mark Rowley said the investigation signalled "a different approach" to criminals exploiting technology "This is about starting from the organised crim-

inals that actually drive and create the fraud that we see in the world around us," he told reporters.

INDUSTRIALISED FRAUD The London force -- the UK's largest -- said in the year to August, suspects paid to access the website and make more than 10 million fraudulent calls worldwide.

Around 40 percent were in the United States. More than a third were in the UK, targeting 200,000 potential victims there alone.

Fraud detection agencies have so far recorded £48 million in losses in the UK alone. Victims lost an average £10,000. The largest single theft was worth three million pounds. Losses to victims worldwide are estimated at over £100 million.



THANKSGIVING PARADE

The Goku balloon flies during the 96th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Manhattan, New York City

REUTERS PHOTO

BEIJING ON EDGE

Residents of some parts of China's capital were emptying supermarket shelves and overwhelming delivery apps Friday as the city government ordered faster construction of Covid-19 quarantine centers and field hospitals. Uncertainty and scattered, unconfirmed reports of lockdowns in at least some Beijing districts have fueled demand for food and other supplies, something not seen in the city for months. Daily cases of Covid-19 across the country are hitting records, with 32,695 reported Friday. Of those, 1,860 were in Beijing, the majority of them asymptomatic.

11% from the previous week. In early October, when experts were warning of a new Covid-19 wave, the number of weekly cases reached 1.5 million.

China sentences pop star Kris Wu to 13 yrs for rape



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Nov 25: A Chinese court Friday sentenced Chinese-Canadian pop star Kris Wu to 13 years in prison on charges including rape.

Beijing's Chaoyang District Court said Wu was given 11 years and six months for a 2020 rape, and 1 year and 10 months for the "crime of assembling a crowd to engage in sexual promiscuity" in a 2018 event in which he and others allegedly assaulted two women they had gotten drunk.

The court said the three victims in the rape case had also been drunk and were unable to consent. It said a combined 13-year sentence was agreed on and Wu would be immediately deported after serving his time.

"According to the facts ... the nature, circumstances and harmful consequences of the crime, the court made the above judgment," the court said.

Wu was also slapped with a fine of 600 million yuan (\$83.7 million) for evading taxes by massively under-reporting his earnings from performances, advertisements and other sources of income.

The June trial of the 32-year-old former member of the South Korean group EXO was closed to the public to protect the victims' privacy. Wu has been detained since August 2021 while police conducted an investigation in response to comments online that he "repeatedly lured young women" to have sex, according to a police statement at that time.

Pak army chief's record and why it's so relevant to India

The military has long been accused of manipulating the democratic process to maintain its dominance. Nineteen of Pakistan's 30 prime ministers were elected, but not one of them completed their five year terms

REUTERS

Karachi, Nov 25: Pakistan named Lieutenant-General Asim Munir as the head of the country's nuclear-armed military, the most powerful institution in a nation seldom far from its next crisis.

The appointment could have a crucial bearing on the future of Pakistan's fragile democracy, and whether relations with India are allowed to improve.

The army's role in Pakistan During the 75 years since independence and formation of Pakistan out of the Partition of India, the army has seized power three times and directly ruled the Islamic republic for more than three decades, fighting three wars with India along the way.

Even when a civilian government holds power, Pakistan's generals retain a dominant influence over security matters and foreign affairs.

Who is Asim Munir?

Munir will replace General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who retires later this month after a six-year term. He served in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and also in Saudi Arabia, a major financial supporter of Pakistan.

He later headed Pakistan's two most influential intelligence agencies - Military Intelligence (MI) in 2017 and then the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in 2018. He was removed as ISI chief after just eight months on the request of

then-Prime Minister Imran Khan. No reason was given for his removal.

Munir is currently serving as the army's quartermaster general, in charge of supplies.

Why it matters globally?

Pakistan's army chief will play a key role in managing risks of conflict with nuclear-armed rival India on its eastern border, while dealing with potential instability and friction with Afghanistan on its western frontier.

Many world capitals, including Washington and Beijing, have direct ties with Pakistan's military, given the country's strategic location in a volatile neighbourhood, and a coastline close to major shipping lanes serving the oil-rich Gulf.

Foreign governments have periodically questioned the safety of a nuclear arsenal, which includes long-range missiles, in a country so frequently needing IMF bailouts and where anti-Western and anti-India terrorist groups have proliferated.

And internal security has been a near constant problem due to insurgencies in ethnic Pashtun and Baloch regions.

Despite all the risks, Pakistan and its military have dismissed foreigners' concerns over the command and control,

and security of its nuclear weapons.

Why is this appointment important domestically?

The military has long been accused of manipulating the democratic process to maintain its dominance. Nineteen of Pakistan's 30 prime ministers were elected, but not one of them completed their five year terms.

Having recently admitted to its past meddling in politics, the army has said it would no longer interfere. Whether the new chief stands by that commitment could be key to Pakistan's democratic evolution.

Pakistan is in the midst of another bout of political uncertainty as Khan has led country-wide protests in an attempt to force Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif into early elections.

The incoming army chief could potentially play a key role in lowering the political temperature as Pakistan attempts to survive an economic crisis and recover from historic floods.

Bajwa's legacy

Bajwa sought to balance ties with China and the United States. While Islamabad moved closer to Beijing, Bajwa also worked to thaw relations with Washington, with

whom he worked closely during the evacuation of Kabul in 2021 when western forces pulled out of Afghanistan.

Bajwa also took an active interest in economic matters, as well he might given how much of the budget goes to the military. He made highly publicised visits to Beijing and the Middle East - helping to secure financial assistance for Pakistan. He also lobbied Washington to help strike a deal with the International Monetary Fund.

He even summoned Pakistan's top industrialists to a meeting at army headquarters to encourage them to pay more tax.

During his tenure, India and Pakistan fought air skirmishes in 2019, but he was a public proponent of better ties and avoided escalation when tensions ran high, such as when an Indian missile accidentally crashed into Pakistan's territory this year.

In early 2021, Bajwa sanctioned a restoration of a ceasefire agreement with Delhi in Kashmir.

Domestically, he was accused of political meddling. Politicians said he helped former cricketer Imran Khan become prime minister in 2018. In an about-turn earlier this year, Khan accused Bajwa of playing a part in his downfall.



of the day quote

Coal India supports India's commitment of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and aims to become a net-zero company by FY 2027

PRAMOD AGRAWAL | CHAIRMAN, COAL INDIA

I think the country's objective is to reduce carbon (emission). You have to look at it holistically and (on a) scientific basis and that's what we are doing

VIKRAM KIRLOSAR | VC, TOYOTA

The education industry post-Covid needs to adapt to new technologies, new programmes, and use of proper tools to meet the changing behaviours of the new generation

BIKASH SAHOO | FOUNDER, CTPL

SHORT TAKES

Pakistan raises key rate by 100 bps

Lahore: Pakistan's central bank raised its key policy rate by 100 basis points to 16% Friday, the bank said in a statement after a meeting of its monetary policy committee. "This decision reflects the MPC's view that inflationary pressures have proven to be stronger and more persistent than expected," the central bank said in its statement. The bank had kept the rate unchanged at its last two meetings in October and September.

Tesla recalls more than 80,000 cars

Beijing: Tesla Inc is recalling more than 80,000 China-made and imported cars produced from as early as 2013, for software and seat belt issues, a statement by the Chinese market regulator revealed Friday. The US-based electric car maker has recalled 67,698 Model S and Model X cars imported to China between September 25, 2013 and November 21, 2020, due to software problems affecting the battery management system in the vehicles. Tesla said it will upgrade the software of recalled vehicles.

Nykaa's Day 1 of Pink Friday sale

New Delhi: Beauty and fashion e-commerce firm Nykaa has recorded a 75 per cent growth in gross merchandise value and a 12-fold jump in revenue on Day 1 of its Pink Friday sale, the company said Friday. The company said that it recorded over 400 orders per minute on the first day of the sale which started November 21. The sale will be live until November 28 on its website, app and Nykaa stores. The number of visitors on Day 1 of Pink Friday grew by 37 per cent to 10 million, the company claimed.

HDFC twins merger to take 8-10 months

Mumbai: HDFC Bank expects to amalgamate its home loan major parent HDFC into itself by September next year, a top official said Friday. Both HDFC and HDFC Bank held general meetings Friday to seek shareholder approvals for what is billed as the largest merger in Indian corporate history at over \$40 billion. At the time of announcing the merger April 4 this year, the entities had said the merger will take 12-18 months. "We believe going by the past practice and going by past trends, it will take about 8-10 months time before an effective date is announced," HDFC Bank's chief executive and managing director Sashidharan Jagdishan said.



India is capable of generating a 9 per cent growth rate but in view of the geopolitical situation, we should be satisfied with a 6.5-7 per cent economic expansion

SANJIV SANJAL | MEMBER, ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PM

EASE OF DOING BIZ

India, UAE discussing trade in rupee, dirham

THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL HELP IN ENHANCING THE UTILISATION OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, IMPLEMENTED BY BOTH COUNTRIES MAY 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The central banks of India and the UAE are discussing a concept paper on promoting bilateral trade in rupee and dirham with a view to reducing transaction cost, a top official said Friday.

India's Ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir said that the concept paper for trade in local currencies was shared by India. The central banks of both countries will discuss the standard operating procedures and modalities, he told reporters here.

The objective of the exercise is to reduce the cost of transactions, he added. The exercise will help in enhancing the utilisation of the free trade agreement, implemented by both countries May 1.

"We are in the process of discussing rupee-dirham trade since we are very large trading partners. UAE is our 3rd largest trading partner and our second-largest destination for exports. Surely the number would go up further and in that growing sense, if we are able to transact business in our two currencies, it's very desirable because the cost of transacting business will come down very effectively," Sudhir told reporters here.

The Ambassador said the issue was first discussed in September.

The development was followed after in July, the Reserve Bank asked banks to put in place additional arrangements for export and import transactions in Indian



UAE is our 3rd largest trading partner and our second-largest destination for exports. Surely the number would go up further and in that growing sense, if we are able to transact business in our two currencies, it's very desirable because the cost of transacting business will come down very effectively

SUNJAY SUDHIR | INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UAE

INDIA'S EXPORTS TO THE UAE ROSE BY 17.6% TO ABOUT \$18BN DURING APRIL-OCT THIS FISCAL
HOWEVER, EXPORTS IN OCTOBER DIPPED BY 18% TO ABOUT \$2BN
BILATERAL TRADE IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM THE CURRENT \$60BN TO \$100BN IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

rupees in view of the increasing interest of the global trading community in the domestic currency.

India's exports to the UAE rose by 17.6 per cent to about \$18 billion during April-October this fiscal, according to the commerce ministry's data. However, exports in October dipped by 18 per cent to about \$2 billion.

Following the trade pact, bilateral trade is expected to increase from the current \$60 billion to \$100 billion in the next five years.

The ambassador also said that the UAE has shown a lot of inter-

est in UPI, a technology-based solution for payments. "Right now we are in the process of discussion," he added.

12 vostro accounts

India's central bank has given approval to banks to open 12 special "vostro accounts" for trade in rupees with trading partners, its Executive Director Deepak Kumar said Friday. Vostro accounts are held by a bank on behalf of another, often foreign bank, and are a key part of correspondent banking.

ULTRAVIOLETTE UNVEILS E-BIKE

Automotive company Ultraviolette commercially launched its first high-performance electric motorcycle F77, starting at an ex-showroom price of Rs 3.8 lakh. Available for customers in three forms -- Airstrike, Shadow, and Laser -- the F77 is made in India from the ground-up and the deliveries will commence in January in Bangalore, followed by a pan-India rollout



FOREX RESERVES RISE FOR SECOND WEEK IN A ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: In the second consecutive week of an increase in the kitty, India's forex reserves have grown by \$2.537 billion to \$547.252 billion for the week ended November 18, the RBI said Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had swelled by \$14.721 billion in the highest weekly rise since August 2021 to \$544.715 billion.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by \$1.76 billion to \$484.288 billion during the week to November 18, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves increased by \$315 million to \$40.011 billion, it said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$351 million to \$17.906 billion, the apex bank said.

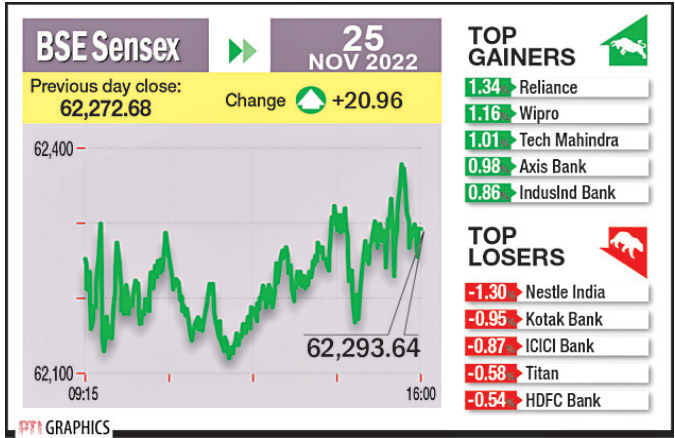
The country's reserve position with the IMF was also up by \$111 million to \$5.047 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.



BULL RUN

Sensex, Nifty scale fresh lifetime highs

The indices have extended the winning run for the fourth day with the Sensex rising by 1,140 points or close to 2% and Nifty gaining 352 points or 2.29%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty advanced further to settle at record highs for the second day in a row Friday, helped by intense buying in index majors Reliance Industries, Wipro and Maruti.

In a choppy and range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 20.96 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 62,293.64, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it jumped 175.05 points or 0.28 per cent to 62,447.73 - its lifetime intra-day peak. Likewise, broader NSE Nifty went up by 28.65 points or 0.15 per cent to end at 18,512.75, its all-time high.

The key indices had gained over 1 per cent to end at record high levels.

Reliance Industries emerged as the biggest gainer among the Sensex firms, rising 1.34 per cent, followed by Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Tata Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the major winners. On the other hand, Nestle, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank

Rupee settled almost flat at 81.71 against the US currency

and HCL Technologies were the major laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.77 per cent and smallcap index jumped 0.69 per cent. Among sectoral indices, realty jumped 1.08 per cent, energy (0.84 per cent), oil & gas (0.69 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.67 per cent) and metal (0.58 per cent). FMCG, financial services, utilities, bankex and power were the laggards.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended lower, while Shanghai settled in the green. Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly lower in the afternoon trade. Wall Street was closed for a holiday Thursday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.21 per cent higher at \$86.37 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors bought shares worth Rs 369.08 crore.

Norms for buying, selling of MFs tweaked

Sebi's latest decision follows the Franklin Templeton episode, in which the fund house's few executives were accused of redeeming their holdings in the schemes ahead of the six debt schemes shutting for redemption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Capital markets regulator Sebi has amended norms to bring buying and selling of mutual fund units under the ambit of insider trading rules. At present, insider trading rules are applicable to dealing in securities of listed companies or those proposed to be listed, when in possession of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI). The units of mutual funds are specifically excluded from the definition of securities under the rules.

"No insider shall trade in the units of a scheme of a mutual fund, when in possession of unpublished price sensitive information, which may have a material impact on the net asset value of a scheme or may have a material impact on the interest of the unit holders of the scheme," Sebi said in a notification issued Thursday.

Under the new rules, asset management companies (AMCs) will have to disclose the details of hold-



ings in the units of its mutual fund schemes, on an aggregated basis, held by the AMC, trustees and their immediate relatives on the platform of stock exchanges

"Details of all the transactions in the units of its own mutual funds... Executed by the designated persons of asset management company, trustees and their immediate relatives shall be reported by the

concerned person to the compliance officer of asset management company within two business days from the date of transaction," the regulator said.

Also, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has prescribed a minimum standard of code of conduct for designated persons in line with provisions of existing insider trading rules.

Further, the compliance officer of the AMC would determine the closure period during which a designated person cannot transact in units of the mutual fund.

Specifying institutional mechanism for prevention of insider trading, Sebi said, "Chief Executive Officer or Managing Director of an asset management company with the approval of the trustee or such other analogous person of an intermediary or fiduciary, shall put in place adequate and effective system of internal controls to ensure compliance with the requirements given in these regulations to prevent insider trading."

These internal controls to prevent insider trading include all employees who have access to UPSI are identified as designated persons and all the UPSI needs to be identified and its confidentiality be maintained. To give this effect, Sebi amended insider trading norms that became effective from November 24.

Cost-of-living crisis casts shadow over Europe's Black Friday

Double-digit inflation has dented consumers' purchasing power and their confidence is also at or close to the gloomiest on record as soaring energy bills add to the spiralling cost of living

REUTERS

London, Nov 25: Europe's retailers are hoping Black Friday discount day will get shoppers spending, though it takes place against a backdrop of a worsening cost-of-living crisis and the distraction of the soccer World Cup.

Retailers across Europe fear the overall Christmas trading season could be the worst in at least a decade as shoppers cut back, while

the costs of doing business show no sign of abating, squeezing profit margins. But to help budget their finances, consumers have begun their Christmas shopping early this year and many still look set to shop on Black Friday.

Some consumers may, however, have other priorities, with Wales, England, the Netherlands and Poland all in action Friday at the World Cup.

Britons will spend 8.7 billion pounds (\$10.5 billion) over the Black Friday weekend (November 25 to November 28), according to research by GlobalData for VoucherCodes - up 0.8% year-on-year but masking a big drop in volumes once inflation is accounted for.

This year, consumers will use Black Friday, which has become more of an online event, much more for jumping on spontaneous deals and for Christmas gifts, rather than for bigger, delayed purchases,



according to consultants McKinsey. Its research shows a quarter of UK consumers have already done their Christmas shopping, while about one in 10 is planning to do

most of it on Black Friday. Idealo, the European price comparison portal, said 65% of online Italian shoppers are ready to buy a product during the event.

In France, 70% plan to shop on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, according to research by PwC France.

However, the Spanish are less keen, with just 24% of shoppers planning to take advantage of Black Friday deals to get a head start on their Christmas shopping, according to the Spanish Association of Mass Consumer Goods Companies.

In the United States, the National Retail Federation has forecast holiday sales would rise at a slower pace this year, while Amazon has forecast its slowest revenue growth for any holiday period in years.

AIR FRYERS

In Britain, the Black Friday trading period is particularly important for the likes of department store group John Lewis, consumer electricals retailers Currys and AO World, and general merchandise retailer Argos, which is part of supermarket group Sainsbury's.

"We're seeing a significant change to behaviour, we're seeing people prioritise things like essential domestic products... things like microwave ovens, air fryers," Currys chief commercial officer Ed Connolly told BBC radio, noting strong demand for other energy saving products such as heat pump tumble dryers.

Some major retailers, including Marks & Spencer, largely shun the event. More than a decade since being brought to Europe by Amazon, Black Friday's worth to retailers still divides opinion.

Supporters say carefully planned promotions in close co-operation with global suppliers allow retailers to boost sales and maintain profit margins.

Naysayers argue the discounts suck forward Christmas sales with reduced profits and undermine consumers' willingness to pay full price again before the festivities.

Latham, Kane cane India



Umran Malik reacts after dismissing Devon Conway



Tom Latham celebrates his century, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Auckland, Nov 25: Indian bowlers crumbled in the face of Tom Latham's counter-attacking hundred as New Zealand rallied to crush India by seven wickets in the first ODI here Friday.

On a ground where a 300-plus total had been chased only once, India fancied their chances after posting 306 for seven and then leaving the New Zealanders at 88/3 in the 20th over.

The hosts had the last laugh in the end though, reaching the target with 17 balls to spare thanks to Latham's unbeaten 104-ball 145 (19x4, 5x6) and skipper Kane Williamson's 94 not out (98b, 7x4, 1x6) as they added 221 runs for an unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership.

At the end of the 39th over, New Zealand needed 91 in 66 balls at nearly 8.30 runs an over. By the time Shardul Thakur (1/63) had completed a forgettable 40th over, the hosts were in total control of the game, with Latham amassing 25 runs with the help of four fours and a six.

That over swung the match

BRIEF SCORES

India 306/7

(Shreyas Iyer 80, Shikhar Dhawan 72, Shubman Gill 50, Washington Sundar 37 n o, Sanju Samson 36; Lockie Ferguson 3/59, Tim Southee 3/73) lost to **New Zealand 309/3** (Tom Latham 145 n o, Kane Williamson 94 n o; Umran Malik 2/66) by 7 wickets.

firmly in New Zealand's favour as the visitors struggled to contain Latham who galloped towards victory.

Tearaway pacer Umran Malik (2/66) made his presence felt on debut with his thunderbolts after an impressive show by the Indian batters, though the youngster from Jammu proved to be expensive.

Coming off a first-ball duck, Shreyas Iyer found form with a neat half century (80, 76b, 4x4, 4x6) before Washington Sundar blazed away to an unbeaten 16-ball 37 (3x4, 3x6) to guide India to a competitive total.

Shikhar Dhawan (72, 77b, 13x4)

and Shubman Gill (50, 65b, 1x4, 3x6), too, struck fluent fifties after the tourists were sent in to bat.

Umran bagged his maiden ODI wicket when Devon Conway went for an expansive drive off a quick delivery, only to get an outside edge for Rishabh Pant to complete an easy catch.

Daryl Mitchell became Umran's second victim when he slashed one towards deep point. That was n't one of the best of deliveries bowled by him on the day but the pressure he generated with his earing pace certainly helped him in getting the wicket.

However, Williamson and Latham rallied to lift the Kiwis to victory with a big partnership, leaving the Indians stunned.

Earlier, Sundar propped up India at the death, while Iyer shone with the bat having entered the game after his duck in the final T20I two days ago.

New Zealand decided to field first after winning the toss and while Kane Williamson's bowlers prevented the Indians from getting off to a flyer, skipper Dhawan

and Gill opened up after being watchful.

Having reached 40 in the first 10 overs after Gill was dropped by Lockie Ferguson off the bowling of Matt Henry, the Indian openers sought to improve the run rate and looked for boundaries.

Their quest paid off as India went past 100 in the 21st over with both Dhawan and Gill clearing the ropes on a regular basis. However, right after reaching his half century, Gill got out after failing to clear Conway in the deep off Ferguson (3/59).

Looking in fine fettle, Dhawan too was dismissed soon after as he hit Southee (3/73) straight to Finn Allen at point. When on 11, Iyer was offered a life by Latham after the batter had attempted the ramp shot against a short Milne delivery.

Pant and Suryakumar Yadav couldn't do much with the willow getting out one after the other. The duo of Iyer and Sanju Samson (36, 38b, 4x4) then forged a 94-run partnership to steady the ship until the latter fell to a brilliant catch by Glenn Phillips.

Injury scare for Selecao as Neymar limps off the field with ankle injury during their FIFA World Cup match

RICHARLISON LEADS BRAZIL PAST SERBIA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lusail (Qatar), Nov 25: With Neymar limping off the field with an ankle injury, Richarlison came through for the Selecao. A spectacular acrobatic kick followed an easy tap-in from close range as Richarlison scored both goals in Brazil's 2-0 victory over Serbia on Friday at the World Cup.

After the match, the Tottenham striker learned of the extent of Neymar's injury. "The most important thing for us is to have him at 100 per cent for the next match," said Richarlison, whose first goal came after a buildup started by Neymar. "When I get to the hotel I'm going to go and see how he is doing."

Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar sprained his right ankle. He declined to speculate on whether he would be available to play in the team's next match against Switzerland Monday.

Neymar was also injured at the 2014 World Cup. Playing at home in Brazil, his tournament ended with a back injury in the quarterfinals against Colombia when he had to be taken off the field on

a stretcher. Brazil ended up losing to Germany 1-7 in the semifinals.

Neymar was fouled nine times in the match against Serbia, four more than any other player so far at this year's World Cup. But while taking care of Neymar, the opposing defense couldn't stop Richarlison.

He had his back to the goal when he used one touch to get the ball up in the air near the penalty spot, then spun around and leapt off the ground before knocking the ball into the net with his right foot in the 73rd minute.

"My childhood dream has come true," said Richarlison, who is playing in his first World Cup. "We knew it was going to be difficult to get past them. I'm used to playing against defensive teams like this in England. I wanted to take advantage of the opportunities that I had and I did."

Brazil had struggled to get past the Serbian defence until Richarlison scored from close range in the 62nd. Vinicius Junior assisted on both goals.

Neymar, seeking his first major title with Brazil, stayed at 75 goals for the national team, two shy of Pelé's scoring record. He was tack-

led hard a few times and sprained his right ankle in the second half. He was crying on the bench after being substituted in the 79th and was limping as he left the stadium.

Brazil coach Tite started with an attack-minded squad that included four forwards — Neymar; Vinicius; Raphinha and Richarlison. Attacking midfielder Lucas Paqueta played alongside Casemiro, the lone defensive midfielder.

But Serbia had several players back and was able to keep Brazil from creating many significant opportunities. Neymar tried to control the pace but struggled to get free. He, Vinicius and Raphinha all squandered chances early on.

Brazil's best chance before Richarlison's opening goal had been a low long-range shot by Alex Sandro that hit the post in the 60th. Neymar had his best opportunities with a free-kick in the 50th and a shot from near the penalty spot in the 55th.

Brazil, trying to win their first World Cup in two decades, is unbeaten in their last 20 opening games, with 17 victories. It has finished first in its group in the last 10 World Cups.



MEMORABLE OUTING: Richarlison goes for an acrobatic finish for his second goal against Serbia, Thursday

Cheshmi goal fashions Iran victory over Wales

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Al Rayyan, Nov 25: Rouzbeh Cheshmi scored in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time to break a scoreless stalemate and Iran went on to defeat Wales 2-0 at the World Cup Friday.

Cheshmi's strike from outside the box was just beyond the diving reach of Wales' backup goalkeeper Danny Ward, who was pressed into duty when starter Wayne Hennessey was sent off in the 86th minute.

Ramin Rezaeian added a second goal moments later and Iran wildly celebrated while some of the Welsh players dropped in disbelief to the field. Hennessey was ejected in the 86th minute for a high challenge on Mehdi Taremi.

Gareth Bale made his 110th appearance for Wales, the most all-time for the national team, but the Welsh appeared sluggish early after a 1-1 draw with the United States in



STUNNING STRIKE: Rouzbeh Cheshmi (with beard) reacts after scoring against Wales having accompanied by a teammate in celebration, Friday

their Group B opener.

Iran, who fell 2-6 to England in their opener to fall to last place in the group, fared better against Wales. Wales were making just their second overall appearance at the World Cup and first since 1958.

Bale remained stuck on 41 goals for the national team, despite surpassing teammate Chris Gunter (109) for most all-time appearances.

Iran, who qualified for the last two World Cups, have never advanced to the knockout round. The Iranians have been peppered since their arrival in Qatar with questions about unrest back home. The players, who did not sing the country's national anthem in their opener in an apparent show of solidarity with protestors, linked arms and sang Friday.

SENEGAL THRASH QATAR Senegal sent hosts Qatar to another loss at the World Cup Friday, winning 3-1 after a defensive error gifted the African champions the

lead. Striker Boulaye Dia drilled in that first goal after Qatar defender Boualem Khoukhi tried to make a clearance under no pressure, didn't connect properly and landed on his backside.

Famara Diedhiou made it 2-0 at the start of the second half with a header from a corner. Mohammed Muntari gave the hosts a glimmer of hope with a header to make it 2-1. But six minutes later, Bamba Dieng put Senegal two goals clear again.

ECUADOR HOLD NETHERLANDS The Netherlands and Ecuador shared points, with the South American underdogs looking the more dangerous throughout their 1-1 Group A draw. The result means that hosts Qatar are the first team to be knocked out of the tournament.

Cody Gakpo put the Dutch a goal up after just six minutes. Minutes into the second period, Enner Valencia became this WC's highest goal scorer — so far, with a goal in the 49th minute.

India face Australia test ahead of WC



India skipper Harmanpreet Singh and Australian co-captain Eddie Ockenden pose with the Test Series trophy at MATE Stadium in Adelaide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Nov 25: The Indian men's hockey team will get another chance to reassess their strength and weakness ahead of the World Cup when they square off against World No.1 Australia in a five-match series, starting here Saturday.

It has always been a herculean task for India to challenge the might of the Australians, who are dominant force in World hockey. It will be the first time they meet since Australia thrashed India 7-0 in the CWG final in Birmingham.

World No.5 India will clearly start as underdogs against the Kookaburras though Graham Reid's team has been a force to reckon with since winning a historic bronze in the Tokyo Olympics last year. India are coming into the match after two victories against New Zealand and mixed results (1W, 1L) against Spain in Bhubaneswar in the fresh FIH Pro League season.

Both Spain and New Zealand are lower-ranked sides — at eighth and ninth respectively — and facing Australia at home will be an altogether different proposition for the Indian side.

With the FIH World Cup in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela less than 50 days away, captain Harmanpreet Singh said each match against Australia will prove vital in their

preparations for the marquee event at home. The FIH Player of the Year is also hoping that his team will get enough support from the Indians residing in Australia.

The Australian squad will be led by co-captains Aran Zalewski and Eddie Ockenden, who is set to play his 400th international in the second match Sunday.

Seven players — James Collins, Tom Craig, Dylan Martin, Ben Rennie, Lachlan Sharp, Jack Welch and Ky Willott — have been added to the squad that won the Kookaburras' seventh straight Commonwealth Games gold medal in Birmingham.

Goalkeeper Andrew Charter will be unavailable for the first two matches because of his marriage. The full Kookaburras squad has not been together since the Commonwealth Games.

The other four matches will also be played here November 27, 30, December 3 and 4.

India squad: Harmanpreet Singh (C), Amit Rohidas (vc), Krishan Bahadur Pathak, PR Sreejesh, Jarmarpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Varun Kumar, Sumit, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Mohd Raheel Mousen, Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh & Sukhjeet Singh.

ABHISHEK FELICITATED FOR SELECTION IN INDIAN TEAM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Differently abled cricketer Abhishek Shukla has been felicitated by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, Rajgangpur after his selection in the Indian team.

Abhishek was selected by the Board of Disabled Cricket Association (BDCA), recognized by the Paralympic Committee of India and the Government of India, for One Day and T20 series against Bangladesh, which will be played at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu December 3-14.

Abhishek was felicitated by DCBL, Rajgangpur in an inhouse event in the presence of Executive Director and Unit Head-Rajgangpur Chetan Shrivastav, Dr. Niladri

Bhusan Parhi, Chandra Sekhar, Prakash Agarwal, Subrat Pattnaik, Subhadarsini Paikray and other key dignitaries.

He was handed over two Well Done cards for his exemplary contribution in the field of CSR. Abhishek, born at Rajgangpur, started his cricket career 14 years back with club matches in Rajgangpur and then went on to play multiple state-level matches.

Apart from this Abhishek has also played a vital role in imparting training on Batik print to the beneficiaries under the ongoing project Hastakala.

Abhishek, on his part, said: "I wish to sincerely thank Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited for the support extended to me. The company has supported me a lot during my practice and training sessions by allowing me to take time off. The company is also supporting me financially after my selection for international cricket. I'm indebted to the company for its continuous support so far and I'm sure that it'll continue in the future as well."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran regime supporters confront protesters

AL RAYYAN (QATAR): Iran's political turmoil appears to overshadowing also Iran's second match at the World Cup, with pro-government fans harassing anti-government fans outside the stadium in Qatar. Some Iran fans confiscated Persian pre-revolutionary Iranian flags from supporters entering the stadium and shouted insults at those wearing shirts with the slogan of the country's protest movement, "Woman, Life, Freedom". Small mobs of men angrily chanted "The Islamic Republic of Iran" at women giving interviews about the protests to foreign media. Many female fans were visibly shaken as Iranian government supporters surrounded them with national flags and filmed them on their phones. Shouting matches erupted outside the security checkpoint at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium between fans screaming "Women, Life, Freedom" and others shouting back "The Islamic Republic". Some anti-government fans waved signs in support of the protest movement at Iran's first match against England earlier this week.



Bhub among hosts for Santosh Trophy

NEW DELHI: The 76th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy will start December 23, with the AIFF zeroing in on three venues — Bhubaneswar, Delhi and Kozhikode. While the Group I will be played in Delhi (December 23-31), the Group II and V will be played in Kozhikode (Dec 26 to January 8, 2023) and Bhubaneswar (Dec 24 to Jan 1, 2023), respectively. The dates and venues of other groups will be released soon. The new format will see 36 states fight it out across six groups for a chance to make it to the final round. Odisha are named in Group V along with Meghalaya, Sikkim, Telangana, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar.