

Massive teachers' stir chokes Capital streets

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Thousands of teachers from across the state gathered Sunday at the Lower PMG in the Capital calling for fulfillment of their multiple demands including abolition of contractual system. The massive protest led to long hours of traffic jam on the streets near Janpath Road area in the City. The demonstra-

tion was staged by teachers under several banners including United Primary Teachers' Federation, Odisha Secondary School Teachers' Association and Odisha School College Teachers' and Employees'

Coordination Committee protesting against the government's contractual recruitment process.

Their other demands included increment to teachers who were appointed since 2001 and the re-implementation of the old pension scheme.

They alleged that the state government had promised them to do away with the contractual appointment system and regularise the jobs of all the teachers at the higher secondary schools who had joined after 2004. But the

government went back on its promise. The notification of the General Administration department lacks transparency. protesters said.

The agitating teachers have warned the state government of disrupting the Matriculation Summative-1 test scheduled November 23, if it doesn't come up with any concrete steps regarding job regularisation of appointees between 2004

and 2013-14. The teachers had protested in the past multiple times alleging that the benefit is not being passed on to them despite serving as contractual employees for years.

Similarly, hundreds of Anganwadi workers under the banner of All Odisha Anganwadi Ladies Workers' Association also have been protesting for the last seven days at Lower PMG. The workers are agitating against the state government's inordinate delay in fulfilling their demands.

Their demands include government employee status, monthly pension of Rs 5,000 after retirement and compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of Anganwadi worker in case of her death.



SEA OF PROTESTERS: A huge crowd of teachers staged a demonstration holding placards at Lower PMG in City, Sunday





Xiro Covid vs Blank Paper

Blank sheets of paper have become the symbol of defiance against stringent curbs under Xi's Zero Covid policy in a rare, open outpouring of public dissent that has gone beyond social media to China's streets and top universities



China has adhered to Xi's signature Zero-Covid policy even as much of the world has lifted most restrictions

Covid-19 cases have hit record

Frustration is boiling just over a

month after Xi secured a third

term at the helm of China's

highs for days together in

infections Saturday

Communist Party

An ICMR survey suggests that a big chunk of patients in India may no longer benefit from the use of some powerful antibiotics as they have developed anti-microbial resistance to it

WEAT	HER		
	BHUB	СТК	
<mark>€</mark> MAX	30.0°C	29.0°	
[₽] MIN	14.0°C	14.8°(≍ Forecast
Humidity	68%	68%	
Rainfall	0.0mm	0.0mm	Mainly clear sky

Decrying Hindi imposition, man immolates self

AGENCIES

Coimbatore (TN), Nov 27: A senior DMK cadre Saturday died of self-immolation near the party office in Thazhaiyur near Mettur in nearby Salem District. He took the extreme step to show his protest against 'Hindi imposition', police said.

Thangavel (85), a former DMK farmers' wing functionary arrived at the party office Saturday morning

He raised slogans against 'Hindi imposition' and allegedly poured kerosene on his body, set himself on fire with the help of a matchstick.

Though the party workers and public tried to save him, Thangave died on the spot, they said.

Police recovered a paper addressing the Central Government which read there is no need for imposing Hindi when Tamil language is here

Expressing grief over the incident, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said he was saddened to hear about the tragic demise of Thangavel.

REUTERS

Shanghai/Beijing, Nov 27: Crowds of demonstrators in Shanghai shouted and jostled with police holding blank sheets of papers Sunday evening, as protests over China's stringent Covid restrictions flared for a third day following a deadly apartment fire in the country's far west

The wave of civil disobedience, which has included protests in cities like Beijing and Urumqi, where the fire occurred, is unprecedented in mainland China

READ PUBLIC PROTEST IS EXTREMELY RARE IN CHINA, WHERE ROOM FOR DISSENT HAS BEEN ALL BUT ELIMINATED UNDER XI, FORCING CITIZENS MOSTLY TO VENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA, WHERE THEY PLAY CAT-AND-MOUSE WITH CENSORS

since Xi Jinping assumed power a decade ago In Shanghai, China's most pop-

ulous city, residents had gathered Saturday night at Wulumuqi Road - which is named after Urumqi - for a candlelight vigil that turned into a protest in the early hours of Sunday. As a large group of police looked

on, the crowd held up blank sheets of paper in silent protest, a tactic used in part to evade censorship or arrest. Later on, they shouted, "Lift lockdown for Urumqi, lift lockdown for Xinjiang, lift lockdown for all of China!" according to a video circulated on social media.

Later, a large group chanted "Down with the Chinese Communist Party, down with Xi Jinping," according to witnesses and videos, in a rare public protest against the country's leadership.

Later Sunday, police kept a heavy presence on Wulumuqi Road and cordoned off surrounding streets, making an arrest that triggered protests from onlookers, according to unverified videos seen by Reuters. By evening, hundreds of people had gathered again near one of the cordons, some holding blank sheets of paper. "I am here because of the fire accident in Urumqi. I am here for freedom. Winter is coming. We need our freedom," a protester told Reuters.

At Beijing's prestigious Tsinghua University, dozens of people held a peaceful protest against Covid restrictions during which they sang the national anthem, according to images and videos posted on Contd...4 social media.

AGENCIES China, with nearly 40,000 new

New Delhi, Nov 27: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued guidelines warning against the use of antibiotics for conditions such as low-grade fever and viral bronchitis while advising doctors to follow a timeline while prescribing them.

The ICMR guidelines stated that antibiotics should be prescribed for a duration of five days for skin and soft tissue infections, five days in case of community-acquired pneumonia and eight days for hospital-acquired pneumonia.

"A clinical diagnosis most often helps us predict causative pathogens fitting into a clinical syndrome which would tailor the correct antibiotic rather than blindly relying on fever, procalcitonin levels, WBC counts, cultures or radiology to make a diagnosis of infection," the guidelines said.

It stated limiting empiric antibiotic therapy to seriously ill patients. Generally, empiric antibiotic therapy is only recommended for a select group of patients suffering from severe sepsis and septic shock, community-acquired pneumonia, ventilator-associated pneumonia and necrotizing fasciitis

Hence, it is important to start smart and then focus, i.e., evaluate if empiric therapy can be justified or de-escalated and then make a plan with regard to the duration of therapy, the guidelines said.

An ICMR survey conducted between January 1 and December 31, 2021 had suggested that a big chunk of patients in India may no longer benefit from the use of carbapenem. a powerful antibiotic administered mainly in ICU settings for the treatment of pneumonia and septicemia, etc., as they have developed anti-microbial resistance to it. Contd...4

Single women farmers become entrepreneurs ALL ABOUT AUTONOMY

The single women of the tribal

Dengasargi village in Rayagada are the main decision makers who farm, market and sell their produce to earn their livelihood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rayagada, Nov 27: Vivid orange marigolds, dense purple aubergines and luminous green cabbages... Not just farm produce but the colours of freedom for the women of Rayagada who defied a society

unwilling to accept their status as single women to collectively find independence.

Out to regain control over their lives and break free of societal shackles, more than 30 widows, divorced or unmarried women formed the Ekal Naari Sangathan (single women collective) in 2019. It was the starting point for a profitable business venture that over time included more women, and the turning point in their lives. As they move through their fields

tending to their crops, the song is back in their lives. Quite literally. Women working as helpers in farms alongside men is a com-

mon sight across India. But look carefully, hear closely and the difference is clear. The women of the tribal

Dengasargi village in Rayagada, who break into song in Kui language, are the main decision mak-



ers who farm, market and sell their produce to earn their livelihood.

The Sangathan began with three acres to grow marigold as well as vegetables such as bitter gourd, aubergine and cabbage. In the three years since, the land

being cultivated has grown to 40 acres. The women's families own land between 0.5 acre to 2 acres on which they grow flowers and vegetables. The collective sells it in the market. The amount earned goes directly in their bank ac-

counts every week. "We had a turnover of Rs 47 lakh last year and this season we have made Rs 76 lakh. Of this, each woman farmer gets between Rs 80,000-1.5 lakh profit depending upon the size of land they are carrying out the cultivation on," said Morepingidhi.

She is a board member of Annapoorna, the collective formed with the help of the government and NGOs, to sell their produce. There are 98 women in the company right now.

The marigold cultivated here is transported to different temples in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and also used in family functions. "The company is now planning to extend its operations to other southern states," Morepingidhi said.

For these women, most from the Kondha tribe, who didn't or couldn't get married, got divorced or were widowed, the financial independence has translated to not just autonomy but also respect and equal status in their families and in society.

"We were abused, called names for stepping out of our homes to farm. But when the money started coming in, our status not just in society but also in our own family changed," Morepingidhi told PTI.

The 35-year-old said she could not get married due to a leg injury and didn't get a chance to study because of her family's financial condition. She worked all her life in a farm where she grew rice and millet, just enough for the family to survive with nothing left to sell in the market.

When her brothers got married, Morepingidhi was left alone and reached out to other women in a similar predicament. And the-Ekal Naari Sangathan was born. Contd...4











leisure



JLO CLEARS UP HER INSTAGRAM HANDLE

Celebrated singer-actress Jennifer Lopez has left her fans and followers shocked after deleting her entire posts on her official Instagram page. Later, the 53-year-old icon changed her profile picture into a black circle but soon she changed it with a photoshoot image.

BOB DYLAN SAYS HE REGRETS NOT HAVING SIGNED BOOKS

Pop culture icon Bob Dylan has issued a rare public statement to admit that he regrets having made an error in judgment in using machine technology to affix duplicate signatures to artwork and books advertised and retailed as hand-signed over the past three years, reports Variety.

Mumbai:

seen

Sooraj

Uunchai

artiste in 1967. Her

Barjatya's

started her ca-

reer as a child

Actor Sarika

who was last

in



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 5518

ARIES Boy! Are you ambitious

today or what! You plan meticulously and perform impeccably. However, you will progress at snail's pace. But don't lose heart, as Ganesha showers his bless ings on you, dear one.

TAURUS

You are going to be excep-tionally intense in the way you communicate your emotions and feelings. You will, no doubt, succeed in making the impact, the impression you are striving to make, says Ganesha. You will be so involved in this that you are likely to get caught in the mysterious and magical web of relationship

GEMINI

You may come up with a precise understanding of others today, says Ganesha. You will please your sweetheart with both your presence and presents. You will browse through dozens of showrooms for that perfect, and expensive, gift for your beloved. You will also work towards achieving your long-term goals. Ganesha wishes you good luck.

Today, you and your soul mate will be rolling in the hay; there will be little time or inclination to do anything else. In fact, vou will show such single-minded devotion to the act of rolling as if the future of the world lies in the haystack. Your mind can think of nothing more, and nothing less.



suit of armour should do fine, says Ganesha. For, you may find some need for it on this day of mixed fortunes as you miss out the expected and come face-to-face with the unexpected. Manage through the day somehow, since the day's distress will eventually give way to an evening of ecstasy and a night of pleasant surprises, portends Ganesha.

VIRGO

Today, you will be aspire to be a master of your own destiny. You have the ability to see through the façade that people put up to shield their true self. You will choose your company wisely and plan for success. Polish your presentation skills and you may need to work an extra bit to get your ideas approved, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

'Can't keep it a secret for long'

Mumbai: When it comes to Hindi film industry's most happening couples, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani are the talk of town. The duo, who on more occasions than one have made their relationship 'almost official', often shell out couple goals and are seen together at events and par-

ties. Recently, rumours have been rife that the duo will tie the knot early next year, reportedly in Chandigarh, however, there has been no official confirmation from both parties. To add to the buzz, earlier Sunday, Kiara posted a video of herself on her IG handle and hinted at an announcement soon. In the video, Kiara is seen smiling and blushing as the wind blows past her hair. She captioned the video as, "Can't keep it a secret for long! Announcing soon... stay tuned. 2nd December.

As soon as she posted the video, fans started speculating that it might be related to her upcoming nuptials. One fan wrote, "Pre-wedding shoot is it?," while another said, "She's getting married or what?.' A third comment read as, "I guess it's a wedding announcement."

Another user tagged Sidharth in the post and said that their relationship is an open secret now. The user wrote, "@kiaraaliaadvani am expecting a wedding with handsome @sidmalhotra.' AGENCIES

IFFI-2022

Jackie, Remo make pitch for a garbage-free planet

Panaji: Jackie Shroff Sunday stated that mother earth will bless us if we take care of her and keep the surroundings clean. The actor, who's also an avid organic farmer, appealed to young people to participate in a 'Clean-a-thon' being organised at the Miramar Beach in Panaji Monday morning.

"The way we keep our house clean, we need to take care of our mother earth. It should be kept clean. It is very simple. We can't consider ourselves wise if we spoil mother earth," Shroff said at the International Film Festiva

'We have to manage garbage. Every

future generation should get to see the

pristine mother earth. Beaches should

PEANUTS

WHAT ARE

YOU WATCHING

of India (IFFI) underway in Goa.



BUT HE WASN'T

ANYONE YOU EVER

HEARD OF !

AUGHH! HE'S

HE KNOWS

NHERE I

IVE !!

not be littered with bottles and other things. We need to respect mother earth," he emphasised.

A collaborative effort of the Government of Goa, IFFI, Divyaj Foundation and Bhamla Foundation, 'Clean-a-thon' will be attended by other film personalities.

Choreographer Remo D'Souza also appealed to people to participate in the event. "We need to take this initiative forward and protect our mother earth," he said.

and Broadcasting Anurag Singh

Thakur will also be present at the

event.

IANS

Union Minister for Information

ing ground. Sarika added that the good part was that the film industry became her school and college. The directors she worked with, became her teachers. She also did other things in the industry hence, kept hopping from one thing to another. Meanwhile, it's really been a good journey for her, she admits and she wouldn't want to change anything. AGENCIES

first film was Humraaz. The actress did three films back-to-back as a child actor. But Sarika believes, it was her calling card since she was a cinema person.

Sarika feels

child actors

bad for

In a recent interview, Sarika said that she started work so early as life took her on that path and it was her destiny. But she feels bad about the fact that she didn't have a regular childhood and that she never went to school. Sarika also feels bad when she sees child actors working so hard and not getting to go to school.

She added that not school, but a film set was her learn

Nora recalls being betrayed in love

Mumbai:Nora Fatehi who is a self-taught dancer has come a long way. Nora is currently seen judging reality dance shows on Television. Recently, the actress was overwhelmed upon seeing one of the contestants act on Bada Pachtaoge.

tions and tears started rolling down her cheeks. Nora, who generally doesn't talk much about her personal life, spoke about it after seeing the act. The actress shared that his performance touched her heart and her emotions were on point. She further stated that this is her song, and she could totally relate

to it as she was personally going through a situation back then. For the unversed, the Bada Pachtaoge song is about being betrayed in love and Nora Fatehi was in a relationship with Angad Bedi back

then. Meanwhile, on the work front, Nora was last seen in Thank God. Next, she has 100 Percent with John Abraham, Riteish

important roles.

AGENCIES

Deshmukh, and Shehnaaz Gill in

The actress couldn't hold her emo-

Ganesha feels the day will be

beneficial for you when it comes to transactions with the government. But you already expect that. It is more than likely that public servants will have encouraging and optimistic achievements lined up for their efforts. Your expertise may be put to test and it is your experience that will come in handy.

SCORPIO

Ganesha feels that you may be confronted with vital decisions at work. You will need to trust the opinions of your close friends and peers so that you may take informed decisions. Keep your mind away from negative thoughts and delegate responsibilities accordingly.

SAGITTARIUS

It is not your nature to warm the bench, but you will wake up feeling lazy and laid-back today, says Ganesha. This may be due to the fatigue of some recent endeavours. For a change, you will try and delegate your work and responsibility to those around you.

CAPRICORN

Plans for expanding business may require you to take risks, leaving you in a dilemma on more than one occasion. In such desperate circumstances, following your instincts can lead you to success, advises Ganesha.

The cupid may strike you today. You don't want make a wrong first impression, so wear something nice and be presentable all the time. Professionally, the day will be favourable for you to make some important decisions.

PISCES

An auspicious time for start ing new projects, today will see vou make substantial investments in your future. Your family is the foundation of your success, and keeping that in mind will provide you with some vital insights. Your smile wins many a hear today, says Ganesha.



THEY HAVE SOME

OF THE MOST BEAUTIEN

FLOATS THIS YEAR

HAS THE GRAND

MARSHAU

YEAH

YOU MISSED









CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

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	7	3		5			2	

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downtown



SAFETY FIRST

ASI officials return after inspecting Srimandir Nata Mandap in Puri, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	64,60,70,091	62,45,79,855	66,36,146
dia	4,46,71,562	4,41,35,687	5,30,612
disha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9 ,20 4



STATE CONVENTION: CITU's all India President K Hemalatha and state President Janardan Pati, and Orissa POST & Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy among other dignitaries during the national-level trade body's 15th state conference at Kasturba Nari Mahal in Unit-1 area of Bhubaneswar. Sunday

Spending on Hockey World Cup up 16 times

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The state government has estimated to spend nearly Rs 1,100 crore for organising the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup (WC) in January 2023.

The state government had invested only Rs 66.98 crore in hosting the last Hockey World Cup in 2018. However, this time, the outlay has been enhanced by 16 times to Rs 1.098.40 crore.

In 2018, the World Cup matches were organised only in Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Hockey Stadium. However, this time, Rourkela's newly-constructed Birsa

'Utkal University is a

୦ତମ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଦିବସ

OUNDATION DAY CELEBRATICAL

ଉତ୍କ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବାଶୀବିହାର

temple of learning'

Munda Hockey Stadium will share

the hosting with Bhubaneswar. According to official sources out of the total outlay of Rs 1,098.40 crore, the state is spending Rs 1.010 crore in development of the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium and its peripheral area in the Rourkela city.

The highest of Rs 875.78 crore is being invested in building of the new stadium at Rourkela, which is at final stage of construction. While Rs 84 crore is being spent on construction of accommodation buildings, Rs 10.50 crore earmarked for peripheral development work in Rourkela and Rs 13 crore for elec-



trical works in Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium. Similarly, the government has provided Rs 17.50 crore to Hockey India for putting synthetic turfs in both Rourkela and Bhubaneswar stadiums. The government will also spend

Rs 75 crore on venue management, accommodation, transportation and media publicity.

Besides, the state will spend Rs 9.15 crore on development of a swimming pool in Rourkela, Rs 5.39 crore for installing flood light in Kalinga Stadium and Rs 8 crore in extension of west stand of the stadium, as per the estimation made by the state's Sports department.

In 2018, out of total expenditure of Rs 66.98 crore, the state government had deposited Rs 25 crore as presenting partner rights fee to Hockey India/FIH (International Hockey Federation). Only Rs 18.89 crore was spent on venue and event management in the previous World Cup. The remaining expenditure had been incurred on transportation, accommodation, publicity and others.

The state government, which is sponsoring the national hockey teams since 2018, has taken a number of projects to ensure that the marquee event is even bigger and better than its previous edition.

To make the tournament memorable for both the participating teams and also common citizens. the state is going to organise several mega sporting and cultural events across the state.

The World Cup will be organised from January 13 to 29 next vear in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

REBA-KAPALI RIVER RENOVATION PROJECT NHRC seeks report on 'denial of aid'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the Bhadrak Collector on alleged denial of compensation to many who have lost land to Reba-Kapali River Renovation Project in the district.

While hearing a plea filed by Supreme Court lawyer and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy November 25, the NHRC asked the Bhadrak Collector to submit the ATR within four weeks.

Tripathy had highlighted the plight of a septuagenarian to inform the commission about the precarious conditions of hundreds of families who are yet to receive the compensation despite losing land to the project during 2007-09.

Surendra Gochhayat of Barikpur in Bhadrak is one of the many who have lost land to the project. However, the septuagenarian has been running from pillar to post to get the compensation. In absence of the compensation, the elderly has been living in misery, Tripathy said.

The rights activist pointed out that the case has been investigated twice by the Special Rapporteur of the NHRC and a team of NCSC. Following the directive of the NHRC, more than a thousand of land losers had received compensation. However, many are yet to receive the compensation owing to

ATR sought on stray dog attack death

T he NHRC has sought an ATR from the Bolangir Collector in connection with the death of a three-year-old girl in stray dog attack in the district October 13 this year. The rights body had earlier

sought an ATR in this regard. But the authorities failed to turn up within the four weeks' time fixed by the NHRC. In case of failure to submit the

ATR within four weeks, the authority in question will be asked for personal appearance before the statutory body, the commission said.

According to sources, Deepa Munda, daughter of Gudam Munda, of Balipata village under Patnagarh police limits in Bolangir was playing with another girl near her house when the dog attacked her, leaving the minor critically injured.

Deepa was immediately rushed to Patnagarh sub-divisional hospital where she succumbed during treatment.

the callousness attitude of the district administration, Tripathy said. In May last year, the land ac-

quisition officer had sought apology for delay in payment of compensation and rehabilitation in a meeting with large number of the displaced mass, he said

Real estate firm boss held for ₹1.72cr fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch has arrested the managing director (MD) of a real estate company for reportedly duping investors of Rs 1.72 crore on the pretext of providing flats in a housing project announced by the firm at Sijua under Khandagiri police limits here.

The accused, identified as Manoj Pattnaik, is the MD of M/s Basera

Designs (P) Ltd. The EOW arrested

Pattnaik while probing the case

Special expo in City to boost handloom sale

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts (HT&H) department is organising the Special Handloom Expo-2022 under the Sambalpuri Bastralaya to boost sales of handloom products and provide regular employment to the weaver members of self-help groups (SHGs).

The special expo was inaugurated by department's Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee. In the inaugural function. Textiles

Shovan Krishna Sahu, HT&H

Saroj Patel, and Sambalpuri

Bastralaya managing director Sisir

department special secretary



CLIMATE

CHANGE

SOLUTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Utkal University celebrated its 80th Foundation Day on the varsity premises here, Sunday.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas graced the occasion as the chief guest.

In his address to the students, Biswas described the university as a temple of learning. He said that both learning and providing education play important roles in human lives. "I'm so proud to be an alumni of this university, especially standing here as the chief guest after 45 years," he said, expressing happiness.

He wished all students of the university good luck for their future.

Biswas also mentioned of an agreement that AIIMS. Bhubaneswar is going to sign with the Utkal University in order to enable research on health care and facilitate development of health services.

Science and Technology department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma graced the event as the guest of honour. "Never give up in your life. Always try to be successful in whatever you pursue. Success is not always about ability, it's also about character," Sharma said in his address.

'The ongoing effort and de-

search, technology, and other

areas has made the university to

aspire for NAAC A++ status,"

said Utkal University Vice-

Chancellor Sabita Acharva. "As

the NAAC committee is likely to

visit the campus anytime now,

we're absolutely ready for the

About the major achievements

of the university. Acharya said

that the efforts to make the uni-

versity campus fully digital are

bearing results as it is helping en-

hance the quality of education and

Incubation (CII), established in

2018, has witnessed many students

and entrepreneurs forming suc-

bration, all the scholars and win-

ners of different competitions

were felicitated with certificate and

On the Foundation Day cele-

cessful startups, she added.

The Centre for Innovation and

research.

cash prizes

physical assessment process.³

termination in education, re-

and Handloom director

Kumar Nag, and president Sambit Acharya were present. The expo will continue

OMONJUL till December 14.

State disburses ₹43cr to kendu leaf pluckers

KITCH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The state government Sunday disbursed assistance to the tune of Rs 43 crore to kendu leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal employees.

The money was given out at a function as part of the state government's special package for the poor people engaged in kendu leaf trade. As a part of the package, Rs

1,000 was given to each kendu leaf plucker, and Rs 1,500 to each seasonal staff and binders in the first phase as an interim measure, an official statement said.

Kendu leaf is used to wrap bidis, and is one of the significant forest produce on which about 8 lakh people have a right for their livelihood

Though the people of 12 districts got the assistance, those belonging to Bargarh will get it after the Model Code of Conduct imposed for the December 5 bypoll to Padampur assembly constituency is lifted, Patnaik said.

The assistance was directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

"Happiness of the poor gives me joy. I have always been with the poor people and I will continue to endeavour for their welfare,' Patnaik said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday wrote to Union Finance

The CM said that though the people of 12 districts got the aid, those belonging to Bargarh will get it after the Model Code of Conduct imposed for the December 5 bypoll to Padampur Assembly constituency is lifted

he CM Saturday wrote to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, urging the Centre to withdraw 18% GST on kendu leaf trade as it is linked to the livelihood of poor people

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urging the Centre to withdraw 18 per cent GST on kendu leaf trade as it is linked to the livelihood of poor people.

"Imposition of GST (18%) on kendu leaves is adversely affecting the trade. As a result, it affects

the livelihoods of Kendu leaf pluckers, binders, and seasonal workers and the implementation of social security and welfare schemes for them," Patnaik said in the letter

The CM said kendu leaf, a minor forest produce (MFP), is the financial backbone of about eight lakh leaf pluckers, binders, and seasonal workers of Odisha and they mostly belong to the tribal community and poorest of the poor of the society

He said tribals collect the leaves as part of their right defined under the Scheduled Tribals and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

(2/20) registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Jyoti Sankar Panda February 6, 2020. In his complaint, Panda alleged that he along with his brother Subha Shankar had booked a 3BHK flat at Rs 41,50,000 in 'Basera Fresco'

project of the Basera Designs (P) Ltd. The victims and the accused on behalf of their firm executed an agreement for the ownership of a flat in the apartment April 25, 2016

The accused allegedly promised to hand over the flat (No. 306) to the siblings June 30, 2017. The victims had taken a housing loan of amount Rs 32 lakh from a bank to finance the purchase

However, Pattnaik neither handed over the flat to the siblings nor returned the amount received from the complainant. The accused even did not renew the approval of BDA after the mandatory 3 years period.

The accused, his wife Suchitra Bisoi and others duped gullible investors to the tune of Rs 1.72 crore on the pretext of providing flats in their project 'Basera Fresco' at Sijua. The accused fled the City after closing the office at Palasuni after they acquired huge amount of loan disbursed to the Basera Designs (P) Ltd. on the strength of tripartite agreements with the victim investors, an official said.

"The accused MD of Basera Designs (P) Ltd. and his wife, respectively being the MD and Director of the company have also cheated so many other investors in their different projects like "Basera Brindaban", "Basera Impression Plus", "Basera Harmony", "Basera Angan" etc. Another case vide EOW PS Case No.21/2018 has also been registered against the present accused, his wife and others. The present accused is also involved in Chandrasekharpur PS Case No.-428/2020," informed the EOW sources.

Earth going through 7th mass extinction, not 6th: Study

arth is currently in the mid-dle of a mass extinction, losing thousands of species each year and new research suggests environmental changes caused the first such event in history, which occurred millions of years earlier than scientists previously thought

Most dinosaurs famously disappeared 66 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous period.

Prior to that, a majority of Earth's creatures were snuffed out between the Permian and Triassic periods, roughly 252 million years ago.

According to researchers at University of California-Riverside (UCR) and Virginia Tech, a similar extinction occurred 550 million years ago, during the Ediacaran period

Although unclear whether this represents a true "mass extinction", the percentage of organisms lost is similar to these other events. including the current, ongoing one, said researchers in a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The researchers believe environmental changes are to blame for the loss of approximately 80 per cent



of all Ediacaran creatures, which were the first complex, multicellular life forms on the planet.

"Geological records show that the world's oceans lost a lot of oxygen during that time, and the few species that did survive had bodies

adapted for lower oxygen environments," said Chenyi Tu, UCR paleoecologist and study co-author. Unlike later events, this earliest one was more difficult to document because the creatures that perished were soft bodied and did

not preserve well in the fossil record.

We suspected such an event, but to prove it we had to assemble a massive database of evidence. said Rachel Surprenant, UCR paleoecologist and study co-author.

To reach this conclusion, the team documented nearly every known Ediacaran animal's environment, body size, diet, ability to move, and habits.

Ediacaran creatures would be considered strange by today's standards. Many of the animals could move, but they were unlike anything now living.

Among them were Obamus coro-

natus, a disc-shaped creature named for the former president, and Attenborites janeae, a tiny ovoid resembling a raisin named for English naturalist Sir David Attenborough.

"These animals were the first evolutionary experiment on Earth, but they only lasted about 10 million vears. Not long at all, in evolutionary terms," said UCR paleoecologist Mary Droser.

"We can see the impact of climate change on ecosystems and should note the devastating effects as we plan for the future," added Phillip Boan, UC Riverside geologist and study co-author. IANS









downtown





CULTURAL FEST: Artistes from Gunjan Dance Academy performing Odissi on the occasion of Gunjan Dance and Music Festival at Saheed Bhawan in Cuttack, Sunday

Cybercrooks dupe ASO of ₹26.81L; nabbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: The Commissionerate Police has an rested two cyber criminals from Madhya Pradesh for duping a government official of Rs 26.81 lakhs promising to extend a loan to the tune of Rs 10 lakhs from a Non **Banking Financial Company** (NBFC). The accused identified as Ankit Kumar Singh, 19, and his brother Balendra Singh, 24, of Gwalior district in Madhya Pradesh. The police brought the accused

from Gwalior on transit remand and produced them before the court here Sunday The accused duo was arrested in

a case (35/22) registered at Cyber Crime and Economic Offence police station on the basis of the complaint lodged by one Abhisekh Hota who works as the Assistant



Section Officer (ASO) in the state secretariat Hota in his complaint alleged

Rs 10 lakhs. that he received a call from one of He was asked to pay Rs 25,000, the the accused on phone in June this first installment of his Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) for loan vear. The caller in a woman's tone impersonating a staff of Bajaj repayment, before the formal dis-

Accordingly, Hota deposited the said amount in the accused persons' account (055451400004138) at a private bank. The later told the

victim to pay another Rs 4 lakhs as insurance fee which was also paid by Hota. The complainant deposited money to the tune of Rs 26, 81,250 in the account of the accused on the pretext of processing fee, stamp duty, loan agreement fee. However, he did not receive the loan and the accused continued to demand more money from him.

bursement of loan by the NBFC.

He also tried to contact Ankit Kumar Singh who owns the private company in which Hota had deposited the amount but received no response.

Finding no other way, Hopta finally registered a case seeking the help of city police to arrest the accused fraudsters.

Odisha bags IITF award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/ New Delhi, Nov 27: Odisha Pavilion has been conferred the prestigious 'Special Appreciation Certificate' award for excellence in display in the category of 'State Government and Union Territory' at the 41st edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2022 held at Pragati Maidan. New Delhi

The trade fair which began November 14 concluded here Sunday. Indramani Tripathy, Director, I&PR, government of Odisha and Subash Nial, Director, Odisha Pavilion at IITF. 2022 received the award from Pradeer Singh Kharola, Chairman and Managing Director, ITPO in a special ceremony organised at conference hall of Exhibition hall No.7 at Pragati Maidan. New Delhi on the final day of the trade fair.

After a series of visit by the jury members to different pavilions, Odisha Pavilion has been selected for the award. Congratulatory messages are pouring in after the

Odisha Pavilion received this high profile national level award. There were joy and jubilation among the officials, exhibitors and other team members present in the Odisha Pavilion. In this mega trade fair, 29 states and Union territories had participated along with big cor-

porate and foreign countries. The Odisha Pavilion, which was

Minister, Panchayati Raj, Forest Environment and Climate Change, Information and Public Relations, had showcased numerous products manufactured locally by rural women artisans and entrepreneurs under the theme 'Vocal for Local, Local to Global' in line with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's vision to empower women and rural entrepreneurs of the state

inaugurated by Pradip Amat,

Chief Secy reviews MIO preparations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra visited Janata Maidan Sunday and reviewed the ground level preparations for ensuing Make in Odisha Conclave. He along with Principal Secretary Industry Hemanta Kumar Sharma looked into arrangements for plennery hall. sectoral meetings, media longue, exhibition stalls and associated logistic facilities.

Mahapatra directed to ensure electricity and fire safety. The concerned officers were asked to take all precautions for no failure in fire safety both before and during

the conclave. They were also asked to stay in all alertness on 24*7 basis

Fire and Power officers were also asked to furnish safety certificates about the venue.

Collector Khurda, Commissioner BMC, Police Commissioner, MD OMC. Director Technical Information and Public Relations along with senior officers of concerned departments joined the field level review meeting after the visit.

Continued from P1

Single women farmers become entrepreneurs

The stories are many. ▲ Saalmeinpedenti, 40, lost her husband when she was very young and started working as a daily wager and a domestic help. She recalls mortgaging a pair of gold earrings 10 times to take a loan to help the family.

"I joined the collective because it gave me a tiny ray of hope that my financial situation may improve and that was the best decision of my life," she said.

Today, Saalmeinpedenti earns enough to be able to send her daughter to college in Bhubaneswar.

Then there is Sivai, who decided to start farming after her husband left her when she gave birth to her

third daughter. "I initially grew vegetables on my own but it was not profitable and I did not know how to sell it in the market. I would wake up at 4am every morning and carry them door to door to sell but it was not yielding any profit. That is when I decided to join

the collective. Now I have bought gold and I am also getting my house renovated." Sivai said. The aim. she said, is to increase turnover of the company to Rs 2 crore by next

vear "There is also a proposal with the state government to open solar cold storage in nearby areas so we can store our produce and sell it when we get the right price in the market," she said. Many married

women have joined the venture. Savita, for instance, who said she got a new way of life. "Now every house has food on their table which was not the case earlier.'

She said distress migration in their village stopped after the collective was formed. "We earned Rs 20.000 to 25.000 but

now I earn more than Rs 1.5 lakh per annum," she said. It has been a tough jo

Avoid antibiotics for mild fever, flu: ICMR

The analysis of the data pointed L towards a sustained increase in drug-resistant pathogens, resulting in difficulty to treat certain infections with the available medicines.

that he was eligible to get a loan of

Resistance to Imipenem, which is used to treat infections caused by E coli bacteria, increased from 14 per cent in 2016 to 36 per cent in 2021.

The trend of decreasing susceptibility of bacteria to specific antibiotics was also observed with Klebsiella pneumoniae as it registered a drop from 65 per cent in 2016 to 45 per cent in 2020 and was at 43 per cent in 2021.

Xiro Covid vs blank ...

Tn one video, a Tsinghua university student called on a cheering crowd to speak out. "If we don't dare to speak out because we are scared of being smeared, our people will be disappointed in us. As

The susceptibility term here

was used to describe the vulnerability of the bacteria to the antibiotic. Carbapenem resistance isolates of E coli and K pneumoniae are also resistant to other antimicrobials, making it very challenging to treat carbapenem-resistant infections. The resistance to broadspectrum antibiotic carbapenem in respect to infections caused by Acinetobacter baumannii bacteria was recorded in 87.5 per cent of the patients who were part of the study in 2021, limiting the availability of treatment options, the

Reuters feeling taken aback by the protest at one China's most elite

universities, and Xi's alma mater. People there were very passionate, the sight of it was impressive. the student said, declining to be named given the sensitivity of the matter. In the central city of Wuhan. where the pandemic began three years ago, hundreds of residents took to the streets on Sunday smashing through metal barricades, over

ICMR report said.

According to HAI Surveillance data included in this report, Acinetobacter causes almost 70 per cent of the urinary tract infections in critically sick (ICU) patients. High levels of carbapenem resistance in acinetobacter baumanii are therefore very alarming and limit treatment options in these patients. Susceptibility of the same bacteria to minocycline is close to 50 per cent, making it the most susceptible antibiotic after colistin for Acinetobacter baumannii, the report stated.

turning COVID testing tents and demanding an end to lockdowns, according to videos on social media that could not be independently verified. Thursday's fire that killed 10 people in a high-rise building in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang region, saw crowds there take to the street Friday evening, chanting "End the lockdown!" and pumping their fists in the air, according to videos on social media

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 27: BJB College Old Students' Association "BJB Friends" Sunday organised an Inter-University Quiz Competition at Geet Govind Bhawan in Unit II.

More than 100 students from various colleges of the state participated in the competition. Shivani Das and Pratistha Barisal of University Law College secured first position while Anurag Samantray and Ashish Mahapatra of KIIT University secured second position. Similarly, Maheswar Sethy

will be awarded by the BJB Alumni Association December 11. The winners will receive a cash prize of Rs 15,000 while the second and third position holders will receive cash award of Rs 10,000 and Rs 5.000 respectively.

The winners will also receive certificates and trophies while all the contestants who participated in_ the competition will also be felicitated. Quiz master Manas Nayak conducted the competition.

Besides, in view of the 30th anniversary of the BJB Alumni Association, various programmes will be conducted. There will be a cricket match between members of BJB Friends and present students at the Town Club ground December 4.

Quiz competition by 'BJB Friends'

wards self sufficiency for the women, many who never received a formal education and struggled to learn the tricks of the trade.

a Tsinghua university student, I

will regret it for all my life." One student who saw the Tsinghua protest described to and Asish Garadia of BJB Autonomous College secured third position. The winners of the competition

Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas, participating in the

Walkathon, called upon the par-

ticipants to take all necessary steps

to create mass awareness on organ

Medical Superintendent SN

Mohanty, Dean PR Mohapatra,

Registrar BB Mishra, DDA Rashmi

Ranjan Sethy, Prabhash Ranjan

Tripathy, Sanjay Giri, Nursing col-

lege Principal Asha P Setty, Prashant

Nayak, Hemant Nayak among oth-

ers participated in the Walkathon.

Pioneer in Liver Transplant surgery

in public sector Viniyendra

Pamecha also took part in the

Walkathon and encouraged the

students. Assistant Professor,

Surgical Gastroenterology

Department Bramhadutta Pattnaik

conveyed thanks to all for the suc-

cess of the event.

donation for the society.

KIIT conferred FICCI India Sports Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: KIIT-DU has been awarded FICCI India Sports Award by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in recognition of the University's outstanding contribution to the field of sports. The award was given away in New Delhi. It was received by the Director General of KIIT Sports Gaganendu Dash.

Founder of KIIT and KISS Achyuta Samanta, in his congratulatory message, said, "The award will continue to inspire KIIT to contribute more to the development of sports in India. KIIT has been promoting sports and athletes for over 20 years. "From the latest and greatest sports infrastructure to creating Olympians, KIIT has made a name for itself around the sporting world," Samanta said. FICCI has been presenting this award for the last 10 years to the best achievers and various stakeholders in the field of sports. The FICCI award comes close on the heels of KIIT being conferred the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022.



ALL FOR LAND: Landless slum dwellers organised a meeting at Sishu Bhawan area in Cuttack demanding lease, Sunday

AIIMS organises Walkathon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: A mass walkathon for 'Organ Donation Awareness' was organised by AIIMS Bhubaneswar today. Hockey India Chairman Dilip Tirkey flagged off the Walkathon and congratulated the institute for its initiatives to create awareness in the society for organ donation through walkathon.

Students of AIIMS should come forward to combat superstitions and wrongs notions existing in the society over organ donation. And, this is really need of the hour, said Tirkey. The Walkathon organised by Department of Gastroenterology witnessed huge success as around one thousand medical students, faculty and employees of the national institute participated in the event. AIIMS



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state

Padampur bypoll: Farmers hell-bent on voting for NOTA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paikamal, Nov 27: As issues of farmers, so far unaddressed, hold the key to electoral fortune of candidates in the upcoming Padampur bypoll in Bargarh district, they have decided to cast their votes in favour of NOTA(None of the Above), a report said.

With political temperatures soar ing high for the bypoll, the candidates in the fray are trying to out wit each other on various issues. mainly farm issues. A blame game has been going on among the three major parties like BJD, BJP and Congress. The problem of agriculture and farmers remains a vexed issue in the Assembly segment with resentment spreading among the latter over non-payment of crop insurance claims and input subsidy. Erratic paddy procurement has also left the farmers fuming in many pockets of the as-

sembly segment.

This has provided the opposition candidates a scope to lambast the ruling party and cash in on disgruntlement among farmers. Farmers alleged that they are yet

to get their crop insurance claims for the 2021 kharif season as well as the input subsidy. In this context, a group of

farmers held a meeting at Paikamal recently and decided

not to vote for any particular candidate but instead cast their votes for NOTA in the electronic voting machines during the bypoll. In the meeting presided over by Biswanath Rana, farmers expressed concern that they are yet to receive their claims under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. In protest against such disregard towards the farmers, they have decided to cast their votes for NOTA (None of the Above) in the bypoll instead of any particular candidate in the bypoll.

The farmers and their representatives attending the meeting were asked to spread the words and make others aware about their decision. Farmers like Balakrushna Banchhor Rahasbihari Sahoo, Shiba Prasad Pradhan, Kishore Sahu and Mahesh Pradhan attended the meeting and unanimously voiced their support for the decision.



SKILLED PERFORMANCE: Students formed a human pyramid during NCC Days celebration at Sundargarh Government College, Sunday

Campaign acquires feverish pitch

Mudslinging match continued on farm issues. Union ministers have hit the campaign trail, accused BJD leaders of peddling lies; ruling party dismissed all allegations as baseless

PNN & AGENCIES

Bargarh/Padampur, Nov 27: As the battle intensified for the December 5 bypoll to Padampur, three major political parties like ruling BJD, the BJP and the Congress went all out to woo the people of the assembly constituency, with their top leaders hitting the campaign trail, Sunday.

Two union ministers -- Narendra Singh Tomar and Ashwini Vaishnaw – hit out at the BJD gov ernment Sunday over farmers' is sues and other development work, as they stepped up campaign for BJP candidate Pradip Purohit, the party's Odisha unit Krushak Morcha president.

Similarly, at least 10 ministers and nearly three dozen MLAs of the BJD descended on the battleground to canvass for nominee Barsha Singh Bariha.

Addressing a joint election meeting at Paikmal in the bypoll-bound Assembly seat, where farmers form a sizeable chunk of the popula-



Tomar claimed that slow PADAMPU pace of work by the BJD government led to delayed BYPOL disbursal of crop insurance in the state

Both the ruling BJD and the opposition BJP in the state had been blaming each other for the delay in payment of crop insurance to farmers affected by drought.

"The Centre has long released funds for crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The farmers here did not get the money due to the Odisha government's slow pace of work. Instead of settling all claims, the state government is now misleading people with fake allegations," Tomar observed, adding that no party should politicise issues that affect farmers' interests

the BJP, will send a clear message Appealing to people to cast their to the people of Odisha that winds votes in favour of BJP candidate of change are blowing in the state," Pradip Purohit. Tomar said that he maintained. Notably, bypoll to farmers would have never suffered Padampur was necessitated by the in Bargarh district. "State's



Commerce and Transport Minister, Tukuni Sahu, and ex-MP Prasanna Acharya have been wrongly blaming the Centre for the non-implementation of the Bargarh-Nupada rail line project,"he said. "I openly challenge the Odisha

government that if it provides land for the rail line tomorrow, we will start work the very next day,' he asserted."While the previous UPA government had allotted 800 crore in annual budget for railway development in Odisha, PM Modi enhanced it to `10,000 crore," he noted.

Rejecting the assertions of Union ministers, BJD vice-president Prasanna Acharya said the responsibility of building a rail line lies with the Centre. He added that in 2019, the railway ministry had said that building this rail line was not viable following a survey and announced that the project has

Drinking water projects caught in tardy pace; deadline extended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saraskana, Nov 27: Works of several drinking water projects taken up under BASUDHA scheme have been caught in tardy pace in 17 panchayats under Saraskana block of Mayurbhanj district. Meanwhile, their deadlines have been extended, but locals alleged that with extension of their deadlines, there would be a cost escalation of the projects, a report said.

According to the report, the state government has awarded contract of the construction works of these drinking water projects and water supply to JMC and Montecarlo agencies.

JMC is looking after the works of the drinking water in three panchayats like Bhurusani, Jalda and Dhangudishola while the works in the remaining 14 panchayats are being taken care of by Montecarlo

The drinking water projects

Baby girl falls off grandpa's arms into well

POST NEWS NETWORK

Binka. Nov 27: A three year old girl drowned in a well after slipping off from her grandfather's arm at Kamira village under this block in Subarnapur district, Sunday. The deceased was identified as

Joshika Mahakur. A pall of gloom spread in the village after reports of her death spread. The incident occurred

nearby temple. Her grandfather Surubabu Mahakur holding her in arms went near a tube well to wash hands. He, however, stumbled on the way following which the girl slipped off from his arms and fell into a 30-foot deep well. The villagers informed fire personnel. but they reached without any equipment. A villager rescued her from the well and rushed her to the Binka hospital where doctors pro-

were supposed to be completed

by October 2022. Since the works

could not be completed in time,

their deadlines were extended to

March 2024, said an official, adding

that the works of these projects are

However, given the rate at which

the works are progressing, people

of the 17 panchayats are not sure

of getting drinking water by 2024.

delay will only lead to cost escala-

tion, giving a good chance to the con-

tractors and some officials con-

cerned to gain financially.

They alleged that inordinate

being expedited.

tion, Union Agriculture Minister

about a proposed rail line project

death of MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh

Ashwini Vaishnaw claimed at the

public meeting that BJD leaders had

been "misguiding people with lies"

Union Railways Minister

Bariha in October.

been be shelved.

had gone to have 'prasad' at a nounced her brought dead.

among kids in Sundargarh

2 killed in accident

G Udayagiri: Two women were killed after their scooty collided with a bike at Nilungia under G Udayagiri police limits of Kalahandi district here, Saturday. The deceased were identified as Pradipta Sahu (34) of Nayagarh, a teacher at Lingagarh Government Girls High School here and Bimala Pradhan (46), a clerk of the same school. He is a resident of Kupaguda village under Maalikapadi panchayat here. The two were on their way to the school when a bike coming from Lingagarh collided with their scooty

NRCs combatting malnutrition Cyber fraudster dupes man of ₹3.44 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 27: A cyber fraudster fleeced a man of ₹3.44 lakh in Silk City on the pretext of taking his house on rent whose advertisement the latter had posted on the OLX website.

The fraudster identifying himself as an armyman called the house owner K Rohit of Rangunibandha Sahi in the city on the phone number which he had shared in the OLX advertisement and won his trust during the conversation.

had the saffron party formed gov

"Padampur bypoll, if won by

ernment in the state.

Later, instead of giving him advance money for the house rent, he defrauded him of ₹3.44 lakh. The caller said that he had been transferred to the Army AD College at Rangeilunda for which he wanted

to take a house on rent. He also asked Rohit to give his bank account and KYC details as required in the Indian Army. Believing him, Rohit shared his bank account and KYC details and was soon defrauded. The matter came to the fore after Rohit realising that he has been duped lodged a complaint at the Cyber police station in Berhampur, Sunday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Nov 27: Binita is mother of an undernourished child. She had taken her kid for treatment at the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) at the district headquarters hospital in Sundargarh after the child was identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) condition.

"I was concerned for my 2-yearold daughter who was underweight. As advised by the Anganwadi Didi, I came here for the treatment of my child. The doctors have given her medicines after conducting necessary tests. She was also provided with a healthy diet at this centre. Now, her appetite and overall health is improving,"says Binita Magar from Barpali village under Hemgir block.

Anis Tharminz of Jhariatoli village under Nuagaon block has a similar tale to tell. "My son was weak and frail. I took him to the NRC in Rourkela where I stayed with him for a fortnight during which he was given various medicines and nutritional care. There they routinely measured his weight and height. He is healthier now,' said Anis. the father of another undernourished child.

Like the kids of Binita and Anis, scores of children in the district with symptomatic of SAM condition are being given necessary treatment and nutritional food at the NRCs in Sundargarh, Rourkela and Bonai which function under the aegis of the National Health Mission (NHM). Regular health check-up is also done to assess the change in the children's condition during their stay at the centres.



Till October 2022, a total of 3,723 children have been benefitted by the special health care services provided at the NRCs being run in the district headquarters hospital, Government Hospital at Rourkela and at the Sub-divisional hospital at Bonai.

When contacted, Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO and PHO) Saroj Kumar Mishra said that children having disproportionate height and weight ratio of significant measure are categorised under SAM.

He said that any deficiency in the nutrition of children can severely impact their physical and mental growth. In many cases, this can lead to various health issues in the later part of their life thus affecting their productivity. The NRCs in Sundargarh are playing an important role in the identification of the problem and nutritional rehabilitation of children suffering from malnutrition, he added.

All the three NRCs in the district are equipped with 10 beds each with doctors, health workers, nutrition experts to attend to them and extend necessary health services to the affected children.

Sasmita Panda, a nutrition expert at the Sundargarh NRC said that following admission at the NRC, vital indexes of the children like weight, height and arm circumference are measured and recorded. Doctors also conduct their pathological tests. Based on the reports, their treatment and nourishment begins. Moreover, mothers at the centre are counselled on the children's diet plan and care when the child returns home, she said.

Reports said, 35 mobile health teams are working in the district under Rashtriva Bal Swasthva Karyakram (RBSK) to identify children suffering from SAM, in coordination with the local Anganwadi workers. Moreover, symptomatic children are also identified during the Mamata Divas -(at the Anganwadi Centres and referred to the nearest NRCs.

No vehicle owner turns up to take subsidy

SUBSIDY MONEY FOR E-VEHICLES LIES IDLE AT BHANJANAGAR RTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Nov 26: In order to encourage faster adoption of e-vehicles in the state, the government has announced to provide 15 percent subsidy on the purchase cost of electric vehicles, a report said.

The decision was taken as per the Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy 2021. The subsidy for two-wheelers is ₹5,000 which is 15% of the cost of the vehicle; for three-wheelers, the subsidy is ₹10,000 and for fourwheelers, it stands at ₹50,000. The subsidy is applicable to the people those who have purchased e-vehicles from September 1, 2021.

However, lack of awareness has hit the plan. Reports said that subsidy money worth several lakhs are lying idle at the regional transport office (RTO) in Bhanjanagar without being distributed to the people who have bought electric vehicles.

A quick examination of e-vehicles registered at the RTO in Bhanjanagar reveals some anom-



alies. Reports said that 87 e-vehicles have been registered at the RTO in Bhanjanagar out of which only 15 vehicle owners have received their subsidy money from the office by Thursday while the rest 72 owners are yet to receive the same.

The vehicle owners who had not taken their subsidy amounts after purchasing e-vehicles after September 2021 are required to log into the link of Odisha Motor Wehicle Department website under State Transport Authority (STA) and apply for payment of the money.

They do not have to pay any fee for availing the subsidy money. The vehicle owners while applying will have to submit the copy of the first page of their bank passbooks along with the registration number. The subsidy amounts will be credited into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries by the RTOs where the vehicles have been registered after completing the online verification of documents. The scheme will be in place till December 31, 2025.

When contacted, Subhendu Ray, regional transport officer (RTO) in Bhanjanagar said that the twowheeler and three-wheeler e-vehicles are being done without any registration fee. The vehicles also

do not require any road permits. Moreover, e-vehicles under 250watt capacity also do not require any registration, he said.

He said that those vehicle owners who have not received their subsidy money will be paid immediately after filing their applications online.

He said that the verification of vehicles will be intensified in the days to come.

On the other hand, the state government has formed a solatium fund to provide financial assistance to the kin of the dead or critically injured persons of road mishaps caused by unknown vehicles.

The kin of persons dying in road mishaps due to unknown vehicles will receive ₹2 lakh as financial assistance. The kin of the critically injured persons will receive ₹50,000 as financial assistance.

The RTO office here has provided $\gtrless 2$ lakh assistance to the next kin of six deceased persons by Thursday while efforts are on to provide the assistance to kin of three more deceased. No critically injured persons have not yet applied to receive the financial assistance, the reports added.

victories.

Neo-Fascism

government

Each victory gained over oneself means new strength to gain more

SRI AUROBINDO

Meloni & Free Speech

Minister Giorgia Meloni, who has just assumed the reins of government,

confirms the fears of things to come in Europe dangerously tilting towards

Two things have happened in quick succession in Italy that leave no one

in doubt about the intentions of Meloni to impose authoritarianism with

such vindictiveness that does not behove a Prime Minister of a democratic

Italy's draconian defamation laws are often misused by the powers that

be to intimidate critics. Investigative journalists have been at the receiving

end. But, the bullying of Roberto Saviano, one of Italy's best-known writ-

ers, has surpassed previous records. Saviano has just gone on trial and he

runs the risk of getting a prison sentence. This is because he is accused of

criminal defamation by the new Prime Minister herself. The case relates to

comments made during a show telecast two years ago, when Saviano had con-

demned Meloni's campaign as an Opposition leader to prevent NGO boats

rescuing refugees in the Mediterranean. In an emotional response to footage

of a grieving mother, whose baby had died when a migrant dinghy capsized.

Saviano called Meloni and her ally on the radical Right, Matteo Salvini, "bas-

tards". Concurrently, he faces separate defamation lawsuits brought by

Salvini, now deputy Prime Minister and Gennaro Sangiuliano, the Culture

Minister. It is indeed rare the way Italy's most powerful politicians have teamed

up to pillory a writer. This is all the more unacceptable since it is happen-

ing in Italy, a founder member state of the European Union. The European

Court of Human Rights has noted politicians should be expected to toler-

ate higher levels of criticism and scrutiny, given their public position. This

is because dissent, on matters of public interest, is an essential part of any

functioning democracy. Meloni's lawyer has defended her lawsuit on the ground

that the "hatred" spewed by Saviano on the programme is intolerable.

However, critics wonder how such a position can be taken after the incen-

diary rhetoric deployed by Meloni herself in relation to migrants - a pet issue

for the Far-Right. The intent seems to instill fear in the minds of liberal tol-

erant people and create a climate of fear and self-censorship among editors

and journalists particularly. The president of Pen International, Burhan Sonmez,

supported Saviano's right to speak his mind. "Criminal defamation lawsuits

Saviano's case has a chilling parallel to the persecution of Salman Rushdie.

Both received death threats and had to go into hiding for their writings. Saviano

incurred the wrath of the Neapolitan mafia for his exposé of the latter's ac-

tivities in the publication of Gomorrah in 2006. He has been forced to be in

hiding since then. He still requires a permanent police escort. In that con-

text it speaks volumes for the insensitivity of Italy's senior politicians who

are also on the highest chair of authority to compound his miseries by

turning him into a high-profile legal target on what appears to be flimsy grounds.

suit after she took charge as PM, the hearing continues.

Contrary to expectations that Meloni's legal team may withdraw the law-

From Italy to Sweden, Hungary to France, the Far-Right is rearing its ugly

head across Europe. In fact, Italy is locked in a bitter fight with France over

allowing a humanitarian ship - Ocean Viking - loaded with 234 migrants, in-

cluding 57 children from Libya to anchor in a port in Italy. The ship had to

wander for three weeks under terrible circumstances seeking permission

from Italian authorities to dock. There was a diplomatic crisis. France was

unwilling to accept the migrants as existing rules say it is Italy's responsi-

bility since it was the nearest place for the ship to anchor. But, the Meloni government used loopholes in the marine laws to deny facilities to the ship on Italian soil in keeping with its Far-Right anti-migrants politics. In the end,

France saved its reputation by agreeing to let the Ocean Viking dock in Toulon,

the rise in Europe. This does not augur well either for the European Union

The two episodes lay bare the true character of the Far-Right that is on

exhaust their victims. They rob them of their time, money and energy."

The abuse of the laws to silence the voice of freedom and free think-

ing has become rampant across the globe, including India, in recent

times. But, the way this is being done in Italy under the Far-Right Prime

FOCUS AIIMS INFO BREACH

PERILS OF CENTRALISING DATA

ealth data is critical. Had one secret been known, the Indian subcontinent may have had different political contours. In 1947, Mohd Ali Jinnah's health conditions were in wraps giving no clue to Congress leaders that his days were numbered. Had there been the slightest inkling, the Indian subcontinental history perhaps could have been different. But did the British rulers know about it? Is that the reason that the Radcliffe Commission drew the lines of Partition in five-week haste without visiting those areas? These are difficult questions, but everyone has secretly admired the way the crucial information on Jinnah remained in shrouds.

The incident is being recalled, as the AIIMS, Delhi, web portal server is nonoperational, since November 23, supposedly because of suspected ransomware. The AIIMS has switched over to manual procedures and sought the assistance of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team or CERT-IN, the nodal emergency agency of the Ministry of Electronics and IT. The AIIMS data breach may be

graver than it appears. It may be recalled that how a global collabo rative investigative project revealed that Israeli company NSO Group's Pegasus spyware targeted over 300 mobile phone numbers in India, including that of two serving ministers in the NDA government, three Opposition leaders, one Constitutional authority, several journalists and businesspersons. No less worrisome was the

Cambridge Analytica, which had allegedly stolen the data of 50 million Facebook users in 2014, and claimed that the Congress party was the firm's client in India. Some other apps were also blamed for compromising data.

The latest move for a data protection law needs to have a wider ambit. Almost all apps on social media, corporate or public, seek unnecessarily access to contacts, camera and location. These must be stopped. The Competition Commission of India (CCI)

The storing of individual information in Aadhaar and linking it to several instruments like income tax data, ballot system and banking are fraught with great risks to the nation and citizens

October 25 imposed a fine of formation, but also to either in-₹936.44 crore on Google for antitentionally or unintentionally alter competitive practices in its Play the data, which could lead to seri-Store policies. The Indian healthous effects on patient health and outcare data is stated to be worth \$7 bilcomes. If this at all happens to lion in the global market. It is just AIIMS or any health data, it can lead not about profiling a population to severe flaws in the line of treatbut information of some key persons ment. The Ayushman Bharat ititself may be worth more than that. self has enormous records along The global healthcare information with ESI Hospitals. The move to have a centralised healthcare data market size was valued at \$359.8 billion in 2021 and is expected to needs rethinking. The AIIMS attack expand at a CAGR of 13.2% till 2030. may have many dimensions. It The risk is far greater than it presumably has sensitive medical can be fathomed particularly in data that can be attacked, copied the light of government using and altered. May 14, 2016, AIIMS. Raipur also similarly suffered an the COVID pandemic to push its plan to digitise the health records attack by a Pakistani hacker, Amir and data of 1.3 billion people, de-Muzaffar. The homepage of the spite concerns about privacy, ininstitute was damaged, and the creased surveillance, technology hacker left messages of bravado. and human rights. It can be That data on the net is not safe, utilised in many ways, including was exposed by Indian hackers for blackmailing, seeking ranclaiming to have accessed more soms or political mapping. The

than 80,000 COVID patients' healthcare records that were insecurely stored on government servers in June 2020. The group, calling itself Kerala Cyber Warriors, announced that it had gained access to the Delhi State Mission website "in less than 10 minutes". Its members claim to have accessed sensitive data including patients' names, addresses, phone numbers, COVID test results, and passport details. In the US itself, in 2019, 41.4 million patient records were hacked. At the initial peak of the COVID,

the Indian healthcare industry registered 7 million cases of cyberattacks. With a 300% surge in such attacks in India, it is necessary to place intrinsic security at the heart of digital strategies. The stolen health records may sell up to 10 times or more than stolen credit card numbers on the dark web The cost to correct a breach in healthcare data is almost three times that of other industries — av eraging \$408 per stolen health are record versus \$148 per stolen nonhealth record, says IBM and Ponemon Institute report.

In May 2017, patient outcomes were threatened when Britain's National Health Service was hit as part of the "WannaCry" ransomware attack on computer systems in 150 countries, resulting in ambulances being diverted and surgeries being cancelled. Similar ambulance diversions due to ransomware happened in the US. The US experts say that with proper planning and investment, it's possible to mitigate this risk. The NIC and AIIMS must do this. The government must protect the information delinking it from Aadhaar, PAN and other instruments.

Healthcare organisations are particularly vulnerable and targeted by cyberattacks because they possess so much information of high monetary and intelligence value to cyber thieves. The targeted data includes patients' protected health information (PHI), financial information like credit card and bank account numbers, personally identifying information (PII) such as social security numbers, and intellectual property related to med ical research and innovation. One reason of the vulnerability is the easy access to the sites for diagnostic and treatment facilities. The gateways for users need separation. The AIIMS or any healthcare breach is perilous, and the nation needs to be extremely cautious on centralised data prospecting.

> The writer is Professor, Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

SPECTRUM ETHICS

Has FTX debacle discredited effective altruism?

FTX, and amid reports that before turning 30, adding, "He just

FTX's founder, Sam Bankman- wants his wealth to survive long

storing of individual informa-

tion in Aadhaar and linking it to

several instruments like income

tax data, ballot system and bank-

ing are fraught with great risks

in 2016 in The Lancet journal, global

expenditure on health is antici-

pated to increase to \$18.3 trillion by

2040 across the globe. So would data

worth multiply. Hackers' access to

private patient data not only opens

the door for them to steal the in-

According to a report published

to the nation and citizens.

WISDOM CORNER

on the French Riviera.

or the rest of the world.

Nature is the source of all true knowledge. She has her own logic her own laws, she has no effect without cause nor invention without MARKET





Shivaji Sarkar

THE INDIAN HEALTHCARE DATA IS STATED TO BE WORTH **\$7 BILLION IN THE GLOBAL**

- By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.
- You have to take risks. We will only understand the miracle of life PAULO COFLHO fully when we allow the unexpected to happen.

WORDS**WORTH**

Cynosure

f you were to be uncivil enough to describe somebody as a dog's tail, that person would almost certainly be offended. Changing the epithet to cynosure would evoke the opposite reaction, since the latter means a person at the centre of attention. And yet in origin they're the same. The connection is astronomy. Like other ancient civilisations, the Greeks were familiar with the star we now call Polaris. It lies at the end of a constellation that we sometimes call Ursa Minor (the little bear) or more colloquially the Little Dipper, with the handle of the dipper having the star at its end. Greek mariners called the handle kunosoura, dog's tail, from kuon, dog, plus oura, tail. They also attached the same name to the star itself. At the time it wasn't the pole star, but one of a group of three bright stars near the pole that served the purpose. The dog's tail should not be confused with the dog star. Sirius, which was given that name because its constellation of Canis Major (the Great Dog) seems to follow at the heels of Orion the hunter, as does his other dog, the constellation of Canis Minor, which contains the lesser dog star, Procyon. The name was taken into Latin as cynosura. From there it moved into French and eventually into English - as cynosure - at the end of the sixteenth century. The meaning at first was of the stella polaris, the pole star. since it had by then moved nearer the celestial pole as the result of a wobble in the earth's axis. In 1596, Charles Fitzgeoffrey wrote in a book about Sir Francis Drake: "Cynosure, whose praise the sea-man sings." He also used it figuratively for a guiding light. Within a few years people transferred it to something that was the focus of attention, as the pole star was to seafarers. It was only a minor step to using it for any focus of attraction, interest, or admiration. We still use it that way, though it has so often fallen into cliché as the cynosure of all eyes that wise writers have to be careful of it.

LOL

Eat the watermelons

farmer in the country has a Awatermelon patch and upon inspection he discovers that some of the local kids have been helping themselves to a feast. The farmer thinks of ways to discourage this profit-eating situation. So he puts up a sign that reads: "WARNING! ONE OF THESE WATERMELONS CONTAINS CYANIDE!"



night without eating any of his melons. The farmer returns to the watermelon patch a week later to discover that none of the watermelons have been eaten, but finds another sign that reads: "NOW THERE ARE TWO!"



Peter Singer

MANY PEOPLE SEEK TO EARN TO GIVE, BUT, UNTIL LAST MONTH. **BANKMAN-FRIED SEEMED TO BE BY FAR THE MOST** SUCCESSFUL

Fried, diverted billions of dollars of clients' funds, some observers have linked the alleged financial malpractice to ideas widely held within the "effective altruism" movement, which Bankman-Fried says inspired him. More specifically, they point to the ethical view that the end justifies the means.

Effective altruism holds that one of our aims should be to do as much good as we can. In pursuing this goal, effective altruists believe, we should use reason and evidence to guide us. We should draw on research to find which charities do the most good, per dollar received. In keeping with these ideas, I founded The Life You Can Save, a charity that encourages giving and curates a list of the most effective charities aiding people in extreme poverty. Another effective altruism website, 80,000 Hours, provides guidance on choosing a career that will enable one to do good. Included among a range of options is "earning to give" – seeking to earn well, not in order to live lavishly, but to be able to donate more to effective charities. Many people seek to earn to give, but, until last month. Bankman-Fried seemed to be by far the most successful. In October

enough to give it all away. Tragically for FTX's clients, investors, employees, and those who would have benefited from the charities to which he might have donated, it didn't. The fund Bankman-Fried created to donate to effective altruist causes had, by June, distributed grants totaling \$132 million, less than 1% of the wealth he was believed to have at the time. (The Life You Can Save has not received any money from Bankman-Fried.)

The Vox journalist Sigal Samuel has speculated about Bankman-Fried's thinking: "Did he reason that the ends justify the means and that the ends of his plan to give away his fortune would be so benevolent that the risk of wiping out customers' savings was okay?" The New York Times columnist Ross Douthat sets out a possible "purely negative reading" of these events. Effective altruism "is corrupted at root by its connection to a utilitarianism that, whatever protestations it may make, will always end up justifying wicked means for the sake of noble-seeming ends.' Douthat connects this corrupting form of utilitarianism to my own work by linking to a hostile review. now more than 20 years old, of two

for non-utilitarians, it is implausible to deny that sometimes the end does justify the means. The nonutilitarian Immanuel Kant disagreed, writing that if a would-be murderer comes to your door pursuing someone who has taken refuge in your house, you must not lie to him. Today we honour those who had the courage to hide Jews from the Nazis and lie when the Gestapo came to their door.

n the wake of the collapse of 2021 a Forbes cover story reported of my books. The problem with grateful Black student wrote to the cryptocurrency exchange that he had amassed \$22.5 billion pointing to "the end justifies the thank one of the donors for the

> Nor is it only when an innocent life is at stake that the end may justify the means. In a forthcoming study of the Southern Black leader and educator Booker T. Washington, Desmond Jagmohan of the University of California, Berkeley reveals that Washington, the founder and president of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, misrepresented what the Institute taught in order to gain financial support from wealthy white donors. Because the donors did not believe that Blacks could benefit from the kind of education provided by colleges for white students, Washington led them to believe that the Tuskegee curriculum was limited to training its students for trades, farming, and domestic service. Washington's secret was nearly blown when a

down Bankman-Fried is that, even study philosophy, politics, and rhetoric. The letter's angry recipient rightly felt that he had been misled, but Washington pretended that the young woman had greatly exaggerated what she had been taught. In the difficult position in which he found himself, Washington's deception was justified by the goal of providing Southern Blacks with the education that would otherwise have been denied to them.

means" as the flaw that brought scholarship that enabled her to

In contrast, the deception in which Bankman-Fried is alleged to have engaged was unnecessary and unjustified. The many examples of successful financiers who have been ruined by unethical and illegal business practices should have been sufficient warning. Kant was wrong to claim that telling the truth is an absolute requirement, but wise effective altruists and utilitarians know that honesty is the best policy and dishonesty is inherently risky. In Bankman-Fried's case, the risk was not only to his wealth, his reputation, and possibly his freedom. It was also to the causes that would have benefited from his support, and to the effective altruism movement itself.

> The writer is Professor of **Bioethics at Princeton** University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

A new structure

Sir, As per the recommendation of the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP), the Central Board of Secondary Education, 19 November 2022 has decided to make a migration to a new education format from the academic session 2023-24. It will do away with the current 10+2 system and move towards a 5+3+3+4 pedagogical structure. Apart from this, the age group for the Right to Education (RTE) is now 3 to 18 years. It emphasises on access, affordability, quality, equity and universalising Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). It is pertinent to highlight the new pedagogical structure which divides children's education into four stages. The first is the foundational stage of five years and next two stages, preparatory and middle, will be three years each. The secondary stage will be four years long. Notably, these new divisions are claimed to be in accordance with the kind of cognitive development stages that children and adolescents go through. CBSE Chairperson Nidhi Chhibber further said that the board would be issuing directions to all affiliated schools for the initiation of the same. A school registry, teacher registry, and a student registry will be created that could track the growth of the new system throughout various stages of schooling. The NEP lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual and aims at producing engaged, productive and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive and plural society as envisaged by our Constitution.

Bhagaban Nayak, BERHAMPUR

Back to roots

Sir, The issue of scarce representation of indigenous culture and roots in Odia cinema has finally been put to rest with the news of 'Daman' being hailed as a critically and commercially successful film. The trend is also believed to continue with Anupam Patnaik's 'Pratikshva' based on Gourahari Das' short story that entails the subtleties of father-son relationship with unemployment being a driving factor. The best element that vouches for these films' success are the highlighting of con- \rightarrow cerning issues such as crumbling health infrastructure and youth unemployment which is relevant to the woes of common people. Hopefully, the next thing that could emanate the taste and flavour of our local culture is the effort of filmmakers to venture into non-Odia markets with authentic cinema. Debadurllava Harichandan, BHUBANESWAR

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and (Ø) 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, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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





national



People will choose the Aam Aadmi Party in MCD too to fasten the pace of development work across Delhi. The BJP extorted money from the common man and emptied their pockets. People are fed up with the BJP's incompetence and hence, they will vote for the AAP in the upcoming civic body polls MANISH SISODIA AAP LEADER

SMOG ENVELOPS DELHI

Delhi was enveloped with a layer of smog Sunday morning and the air quality index (AQI) in the national capital continued to be in 'very poor category' at 315







UDDHAV THACKERAY SHIV SENA LEADER



coming months BHAGWANT MANN PUNJAB CM

Terror attacks were rampant when Congress was in power and terrorists from Pakistan used to kill Indian soldiers but the then ruling party never condemned them due to 'vote bank' politics AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Speeding BMW mows down man

New Delhi: A speeding BMW car mowed down a 50-yearold man riding a cycle on Delhi-Gurugram road Sunday. The onlookers said that the BMW hit the cycle at full speed from behind, throwing the rider off his bike. The driver of the car took the critically injured victim to the Safdarjung Hospital, where he was declared brought dead. The deceased has been identified as Shubhendu Chatterjee, a resident of Gurugram.

Three children crushed to death

Rupnagar (Punjab): Three children were crushed to death by a passenger train near Sri Kiratpur Sahib here on Sunday, police said. The Punjab government has ordered an inquiry into the incident. The incident took place when four children of



Tourists at Gulmarg ski resort in Jammu and Kashmir

Nadda to launch 'Jan Aakrosh Yatra'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 27: BJP chief J P Nadda will on December 1 launch the party's 'Jan Aakrosh Yatra' in Congress-ruled Rajasthan to corner the state government on issues related to farmers and governance.

Nadda will flag off 51 'Jan Aakrosh Raths' at Jaipur that will travel to different assembly constituencies across the state, BJP state president Satish Poonia told reporters at a press conference here. The rath yatras in all 200 assembly constituencies will start from December 3 and 4. The objective of the movement is to cor-

ner the state government on its

fourth anniversary, he said. The Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government is completing four vears on December 17. Attacking the government, Poonia alleged that people of the state are fed up with the Congress rule due to its misgovernance and want a change in which the Jan Aakrosh movement will play a crucial role. Congress had promised loan waiver for farmers but in the last four years of its rule, they have been in distress and committed suicide, Poonia said, adding that lands of 9.000 farmers were attached by the Gehlot government.

G20 presidency big opportunity: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: As India readies to assume the presidency of the "powerful" G20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said the country should focus on global good during its term and asserted that it has solutions to the challenges related to peace, unity, environment and sustainable devel-

opment. India will officially assume the G20 presidency from the current chair Indonesia on December 1. Noting that assuming G20 presidency is a "big opportunity" for India. Modi said the theme that India has given is "One Earth, One Family, One Future" which shows its commitment to 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (world is one family).

"The G20 has a partnership comprising two-thirds of the world's population, three-fourths of world trade, and 85 per cent of world GDP. You can imagine – India is going to preside over such a big group, such a powerful group, from December 1," he said during his

monthly Mann Ki Baat radio programme.

"What a great opportunity has come for India, for every Indian! This becomes even more special because India was awarded this responsibility during 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal (75th year of India's Independence')," the prime minister said.

The presidency of the G-20 has arrived as a big opportunity for India and it has to make full use of this opportunity and focus on global good and welfare of the world. 'Whether it is peace or unity, sensitivity towards the environment, or sustainable development, India has solutions to challenges related to these," he said.

In his 95th Mann ki Baat broadcast, Modi hailed a "unique gift' from a weaver from Telangana, Hariprasad, who sent the PM a G20 logo woven with his own hands. The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia,



South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union.

Talking about India's upcoming G20 presidency, Modi said there should be welfare of all, peace to all fulfillment to all and well being for all. In the coming days, many programmes related to G-20 will be organised in different parts of the country, he noted.

"During this period, people from different parts of the world will get a chance to visit your states. I

am sure that you will bring the diverse and distinctive colours of your culture to the world and you also have to remember that the people coming to the G-20, even if they come now as delegates, are tourists of the future," he said in his address

He also urged people especially the youth to join the G20 in one way or the other. Modi also hailed the development last week of India sending its first such rocket pointed out.

The G20 has a partnership comprising two-thirds of the world's population, three-fourths of world trade, and 85 per cent of world GDP. You can imagine - India is going to preside over such a big group, such a powerful group, from December 1

NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

into space that was designed and prepared by the country's private sector.

"The name of this rocket is – 'Vikram-S'. As soon as this first rocket of the indigenous Space Start-up made a historic flight from Sriharikota, the heart of every Indian swelled with pride," the prime minister noted. He said India is sharing its success in the space sector with its neighbouring countries as well. Just on Saturday, India launched a satellite, which has been jointly developed by India and Bhutan, he

1 dead, 12 hurt

after part of foot

Egypt President to be R-Day chief guest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in January, the Ministry of External Affairs said Sunday.

'This is the first time that the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt will be the Chief Guest at our Republic Day," the MEA said in a statement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had sent a formal invitation to al-Sisi which was handed over to the Egyptian president by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on October 16.

Both countries are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this vear. Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23, the statement said.

"India and Egypt enjoy warm

and friendly relations based on civilisational and deep-rooted people-to-people ties," the statement said. Leaders of friendly nations have graced the Republic Day celebrations since 1950, when the then Indonesian President Sukarno was invited as the chief guest. In 1952, 1953 and 1966, the

Republic Day celebrations were held without a foreign leader as chief guest. In 2021, the then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was invited as the chief guest but his visit had to be cancelled due to the rising COVID-19 cases in Britain. This year, India had invited lead-

ers of the five Central Asian Republics, who were to visit Delhi for the India-Central Asia Summit, as chief guests for the Republic Day celebrations. However, the visit was cancelled due to rising COVID-19 cases in India. The India-Central Asia Summit was held in the virtual format.

migrant labourers were playing near the railway track close to a bridge over Sutlej river, they said. The fourth child was injured in the incident and was admitted to a hospital, said police. The boys were in the age group of 7 to 11 years, police added. Puniab School Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains expressed grief and said an inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

8-yr-old boy dies

Hyderabad: In a tragic incident in Telangana's Warangal town, an eightyear-old boy died after choking on a chocolate his father brought him from abroad. The chocolate stuck in Sandeep Singh's throat. He was rushed to MGM Hospital, where he succumbed.

"Law and order has deteriorated under Congress rule and women are not safe. Even priests are being burnt alive," he said. He said the BJP aims to reach out to two crore people across all assembly con-

stituencies through the yatra. Each rath will have a box in which people can drop their complaints. Based on the complaints and feedback, the party will prepare its manifesto for the 2023 assembly elections, he said. In addition, nearly 20,000 nukkad nataks will be performed, and public meetings in each constituency will be held by party leaders.

of Karnataka police have searched multiple places in Tamil Nadu and summoned a few persons as part of its investigation into the Mangaluru blast case. The police reached Tamil Nadu

to investigate into key accused stay in the state. They have sumthe mansion in Coimbatore where Shariq had stayed.

According to the police, Shariq had used a fake identity and stayed at the mansion. Kamaraju is to appear before the Mangaluru police within three days. The police team

K'taka cops conduct searches in TN

MANGALURU BLAST CASE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 27: A special team

Mohammed Shariq's travel and moned Kamaraju, the owner of



has also questioned the manager of the lodge at Nethaji Road in Madurai where the perpetrator of the Mangaluru blast had stayed. The police identified the lodge tracing the phone details of the accused.

The police reached Tamil Nadu to investigate into key accused Mohammed Shariq's travel and stay in the state

A source in the Tamil Nadu police, who was also involved in searches and raids at various places along with the Karnataka police, said that he had met a few people in Madurai and Nagercoil. It may be noted that the accused had made a call from a phone number of an Assamese migrant worker at Tamil Nadu's Kannivakumari district. The police detained and questioned

the migrant worker but was let off as he had no relation with the accused.

The police is also probing as to why Shariq had kept the photograph of Coimbatore's iconic Adiyogi statue as a WhatsApp display picture (DP) on his mobile phone. The question arises whether it was for misleading the police or whether it was his way of communicating to the world about his target.

After the ban of the Islamist outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) in India, the two incidents of lone wolf attacks at Coimbatore and Mangaluru have made the intelligence agencies focus in detail on individuals who were earlier let off in past incidents of violence.

over-bridge falls PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

> Nagpur/Chandrapur, Nov 27: A 48-year-old woman died and 12 persons were injured as they fell on a railway track after some part of a foot over-bridge (FOB) collapsed at a railway station in Chandrapur district of eastern Maharashtra on Sunday, officials said.

The incident occurred at Balharshah junction railway station in Ballarpur town, located around 150 km from Nagpur, at 5.10 pm, they said. The FOB where the incident took place is connected to platform number 1 and 2 of the station under Nagpur division of the Central Railway (CR).

"A large number of passengers were using the FOB in order to catch a Pune-bound train when a part of it suddenly caved in. As a result, 13 people fell around 20 feet down on the railway track," an official of the Government Railway Police (GRP) said.

The injured were taken to the Ballarpur Rural Hospital and some of them were later shifted to Chandrapur Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) and a private hospital, the district information office said.

"Of the two seriously injured, Neelima Rangari, a 48-year-old woman, died at a private hospital while undergoing treatment and another person is in the intensive care unit (ICU) there," Chandrapur district collector Vinay Gowda said. Five are being treated at the GMCH, while others were discharged after preliminary treatment, he said.

Rangari, a local resident, was a teacher, police said. According to the CR, the pre-cast slab of the FOB connecting platform number 1 and 2 of the railway station collapsed, but the remaining portion of the bridge is intact.

J&K elections would be no cakewalk for any party

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, November 27: Politics and priorities underwent a paradigm shift after the abrogation of Article 370 in J&K as political parties are preparing their course correction for the forthcoming Assembly elections.

There are perceptible changes in the general attitude of local as well as the national mainstream political leaders towards the people in J&K now. Before August 5, 2019, everything else had to wait because all local mainstream politicians were busy 'working for more internal autonomy'

This campaign was projected differently by different political parties and yet the proclaimed objective was the same. What the National Conference (NC), the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP),

Peoples Conference (PC) and some other Kashmir-centric parties differed on was the means to achieve that goal.

The NC called it the 'autonomy document', PDP called it 'self-rule' and the PC called it the 'vision document'. The clamour for internal autonomy vanished after the very article of the Indian Constitution that gave special status to J&K was abrogated by the country's Parliament.

Those 'fighting' for more internal autonomy were shocked beyond words when the abrogation of the special status came together with the downgrading of the state into a UT. The NDA government at the Centre had, in a single stroke, taken away the wind from the sails of the local political parties.

This resulted in a storm of sorts for the 'internal autonomy' seek-



ers. The NC, PDP, PC and other smaller local political parties took time to come to grips with the epochal development. Different equations generated different cur-

rents, under currents and counter currents. There was a newfound space in the mainstream political camp in the state. This space could be taken over

by rivals and critics within and outside the well entrenched parties. Tough competition was awaiting the hitherto well-entrenched parties those had made autonomy and allied issues their political elixir for decades.

Electoral battles can no longer be fought by promising something that is beyond the constitutional power of any local assembly even if a single or the alliance of any number of parties were to get two-third majority during the Assembly elections

"You can only fight the battle for restoration of article 370 in the Supreme Court and in no case by winning an assembly election. "Thus to promise restoration of article 370 if voted to power in the UT is like promising to go to moon on a bicycle, " said Syed Altaf Bukhari, the chief of J&K

barricades between J&K and the rest of the country and we have done that. We now promise better tourism, education, healthcare, in-

Assembly elections.

Apni Party. The BJP on the other

hand has its electoral agenda cut

and dried for the forthcoming

"We promised to dismantle all

dustries, electricity, roads and other infrastructure. That is something we can achieve and we deliver on the promises we make during elections," said a senior BJP leader.

The Kashmir centrist parties, NC, PDP, Awami NC and some others have formed an alliance called the Peoples alliance for Gupkar declaration (PAGD). PAGD stands for restoration of J&K's special status. Will the alliance members fight the Assembly elections together or separately is still unresolved.















Kuki-Chin refugees continue to flee violence in B'desh hills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aizawl, Nov 27: With more batches of refugees escaping violence in Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts, the number of ethnic Kuki-Chin tribals from the neighbouring country who have sought sanctuary in Mizoram has risen to nearly 300, a local leader familiar with the issue said Saturday.

Refugees from the Kuki-Chin tribe numbering 21 crossed the border from Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) late Friday night, local refugee organising committee chairman Gospel Hmangaihzuala told PTL

The organising committee was formed recently by village authorities and NGOs at Parva village in Lawngtlai district to deal with Kuki-Chin refugees, who have fled

to Mizoram after facing alleged violence in CHT. The Kuki-Chin tribe is spread over hilly areas in Bangladesh, Mizoram as well as in Mvanmar.

The new entrants were shifted to Parva village, about 21 km from the border village, by Border Security Force (BSF) soon after they crossed the border, Gospel said. He said that a total of 294 people from Bangladesh are currently taking shelter in a school, a community hall, an Anganwadi centre and a sub-center at Parva.

Gospel, who is also Parva village council president, said that the Kuki-Chin refugees are being provided with food, clothing and other relief material by NGOs. The first batch of refugees entered Lawngtlai district on November 20, he said. The Kuki-Chin people,



who share ethnic ties with the Mizos, fled their homes following armed conflicts between Bangladesh army and an ethnic insurgent group Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA). Despite repeated attempts, state government officials did not respond to calls seeking comments on the issue.

Earlier Tuesday, the Mizoram cabinet had expressed sympathy to the Kuki-Chin refugees and decided to provide temporary shelters. food and other basic amenities to them. Central Young Mizoram Association (CYMA), the largest civil society organisation in the state, has also decided to provide

humanitarian aids to the ethnic Mizo refugees.

Mizoram shares a 318-km stretch of international border with Bangladesh which is guarded by the BSF from the Indian side and by the Border Guards Bangladesh and Bangladesh Army on the other side.

Earlier, a Mizoram based Zo Re-Unification Organisation (ZORO). which is fighting for the re-unification of all ethnic Mizo or Zo tribes, had alleged that the Bangladesh army aligned with the Myanmar based insurgent group Arakan Army (AA) to launch joint operations against KNA.

It had also alleged that the AA abducted nine civilians after an encounter with KNA on November 16. KNA, which is the armed wing of Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF).

Assam lifts travel curbs to Meghalaya



Violence had broken out at Mukroh village near the disputed border between the two states in West Karbi Anglong district in the early hours of Tuesday, after a truck allegedly laden with illegally felled timber was intercepted by forest guards from Assam

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Nov 27: Assam Sunday lifted travel restrictions to Meghalaya, six days after being imposed in the aftermath of violence in a disputed area along the inter-state border, police said. Vehicles from Assam are now

allowed to enter Meghalaya, a senior police officer said. Cachar SP Nomal Mahatta told PTI that police escort and patrolling is being provided at vulnerable areas.

Wherever necessary, vehicles are being escorted. In some areas, police pa-BORDER trolling has been provided," he said. Another VIOLENCE police officer said movement of vehicles has been permitted from Sunday as 'there has been improvement

in the overall situation" An advisory was issued by the Assam Police, asking people to avoid travelling to the neighbouring state following the incident Tuesday, Barricades were erected in Jorabat near Guwahati and Cachar district, the two main entry points to Meghalaya, which were dismantled after the restrictions were lifted, officials said.

No curbs, however, were imposed on commercial vehicles like trucks, carrying goods and other items. Violence had broken out at Mukroh village near the disputed border between the two states in West Karbi Anglong district in the early hours of Tuesday, after a truck allegedly laden with illegally

due to the clashes.

On Saturday, members of various social organisations in Meghalava burnt effigies of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma among others, in protest against the border violence.

Hynniewtrep Indigenous Territorial Organisation, another social entity, also observed 'Red Flag Day' on the premises of the U Soso Tham Auditorium in Shillong. Most state government of-

fices and few banks in Meghalava capital city Shillong Friday wore a deserted look amid "noncooperation day" called by the five local organisations to protest against

November 22 shooting incident. Donald V Thabah, General Secretary of the Khasi Students' Union (KSU), one of the influential bodies of the five pressure groups, said that the five organisations would meet next week to decide their future course of action if the the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance

government fails to take steps on their legitimate demands especially on the safety and security of the Khasi people residing along the areas bordering Assam.

The family of Bidyasing Lekhte, the forest guard killed in the violence will receive Rs 14 lakh ex-gratia and salary till his retirement age, besides a government job for his wife, officials said Sunday.

Immediately after the deadly olence, which left five villagers

'Engage youth in fight against climate change'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Umsaw (Meghalaya), Nov 27: A group of students from carbon-negative Bhutan has this message for the world - do much more to ensure increased participation of youngsters in the fight against climate change.

This group of 12 boys and girls from Orong Central School in Bhutan's Samdrup Jongkhar district was here for the just-concluded Northeast Green Summit.

A few suggested holding of climate change-related competitions and events in schools and colleges will encourage more young people to eventually work in the climate action space.

"You don't have to be a prime minister or politician or government official to protect the environment. Every individual can contribute to the cause by doing small things like planting trees and keeping his or her surroundings clean," Phuntsho Wangmo, a class 12 student, told PTI. She cited

the example of how the district authorities in Samdrup Jongkhar organise an annual competition wherein school students put forth creative ways like recycling waste materials to save the environment. "Our school won the contest in

2017 when the students came up with the idea of using discarded bamboo parts to make planters... The governments need to do much more to engage the youth in this fight," she added. Kezabg Sherab from class 10 student said the students are also expected to clean their surroundings and recycle

plastic waste as part of the event. He too said that youth engagement is pivotal to environmental action. "If we realise our responsibilities towards the environment at an early stage, it will undeniably help us behave more responsibly," he said. The students of classes 10 to 12 from the 'Land of the Thunder Dragon' participated in the seventh edition of the summit at the North Eastern Police Academy here for the first time.

Award-winning drum maker seeks to protect ailing craft

■ *Pung (drum) is the heart* and soul of almost all traditional Manipuri arts, particularly 'Nat Sankirtan'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Nov 27: Shaikhom Surchandra Singh, who became the first traditional drum maker from Manipur to have been selected for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2019, said unless attention is given to those making the musical instrument, its popularity is likely to decrease in the coming days.

The 41-year-old would be given the award, instituted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, for his contributions to 'Pung' (traditional drum) making.

Shaikhom laments that the art form has been "neglected" in the sphere of recognition and assistance provided by the authorities concerned.

"It is very rare for a drum maker to receive these awards and other recognition as many of those in the field had been generally bypassed in the past. The state government's Art and Culture department has made an exception by acknowledging the importance of drums in almost all traditional Manipuri art forms and recommending our names for the award." he said



the necessary sound, beat and rhythm to dance and music, the drum maker said.

"We want to preserve this art form as it is our cultural heritage. Accordingly, recognition and assistance from the government, including the establishment of drum and elder brother were involved in it after having inherited the know-how from our forefathers,' Shaikhom told PTI

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar is awarded to artistes below 40 years of age to en-



The craftsmanship associated with making the percussion instrument has received less recognition as compared to other performing arts even though it provides

shops, and the provision of loans for purchase of materials, would go a long way to help preserve it." "I started following the art of making Pung from my child-

courage and identify outstanding young talents in diverse fields of performing arts and give them national recognition early in their life.

felled timber was intercepted by forest guards from Assam. Six people - five tribal vil-

from Meghalaya dead along with the Forest Protection Force personnel, the Assam government announced ₹ 5 lakh for the families lagers from Meghalaya and a forest guard from Assam - were killed of all the six deceased persons.

16 dengue deaths, 9,559 cases this year in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 27: Punjab has reported 16 dengue deaths and 9,559 cases so far this year, Health Minister Chetan Singh Jouramajra said.

Jouramajra, who is currently campaigning in Gujarat for the Aam Aadmi Party, took stock of the situation on vector-borne diseases in a meeting with health officials by videoconference.

There have been 9,559 cases of dengue and the state has 1,206 active patients, out of which 193 patients are admitted in hospitals, according to an official statement. Sixteen persons died due to dengue so far in comparison to 55 fatalities last year, it said.

The patients who are at their homes are being monitored on a daily basis by the rapid response teams of the health department, Jouramajra said

The minister directed the health officials to coordinate with the local government and rural development departments to step up fogging activities. He stressed on the need to create awareness regarding prevention of dengue and urged people to follow the health department's guidelines to contain the spread



22 IAS, 10 PCS officers transferred Mann accords approval to construct 17 buildings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 27: The Punjab government Sunday shifted 22 IAS officers and 10 PCS officers with immediate effect, according to an official order.

Among senior IAS officers, 1988 batch IAS officer Ravneet Kaur has been posted as special chief secretary, food processing with additional charge of jails while Anurag Aggarwal has been given the charge of additional chief secretary-cum-financial commissioner, cooperation.

Services of IAS officer Malwinder Singh Jaggi have been placed at the disposal of the de-

partment of local government for posting as chief executive officer of Punjab water supply and sewerage board, the order said.

Services of Vipul Ujjwal have been placed at the disposal of the department of transport for posting as managing director, Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Patiala. Harish Nayar goes as special secretary of the public works department while V K Setia has been posted as Registrar of cooperative societies, as per the order. Sandeep Hans has been posted as special secretary general administration and coordination while Kumar Saurabh Raj goes as special secretary, home affairs and justice.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh. Nov 27: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Sunday gave approval for the construction of 17 buildings for sub-divisional, tehsil and subtehsil complexes across the state at a cost of ₹80 crore.

"This is part of my government's commitment to ensure judicious utilization of taxpayers' money for their welfare," Mann said while chairing a meeting to accord approval in this regard.

In an official statement, Mann said thousands of people go to the sub divisional, tehsil and sub-tehsil



offices across the state to get their routine administrative works done.

In order to ensure that they do not face any sort of inconvenience, this decision has been taken, the chief minister said adding that it would ensure better working space to staff working in these offices along with hassle free and smooth delivery of services to the people.

These complexes will come up in Dirba, Cheema, Balianwali, Goniana Mandi, Nathana, Dasuya, Kalanaur, Sultanpur Lodhi, Phagwara, Ahmedgarh, Amargarh, Bassi Pathana, Abohar, Banur, Majri, Zirakpur and Chamkaur Sahib, the statement said.

MIGRATORY BIRDS ARRIVE AT HARIKE WETLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Harike (Punjab), Nov 27: Migratory birds from different countries have started arriving at Punjab's Harike wetland, with around 40,000 winged visitors reaching the northern India's largest wetland so far.

Harike wetland, spread over 86 square kilometers in Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Kapurthala districts, serves as a home to rare species of migratory water birds during the winter season. The wetland is situated on the confluence of Sutlej and Beas rivers

According to an official of Punjab's wildlife preservation department, around 40,000 migratory birds have so far arrived at Harike wetland, which is also known as 'Hari Ke Pattan'. The **MORE THAN 90.000 MIGRATORY BIRDS OF OVER 90 DIFFERENT SPECIES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SIBERIA, MONGOLIA, KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, RUSSIA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD ARRIVE AT THE HARIKE WETLAND EVERY YEAR AFTER** WATER BODIES GET FROZEN IN THEIR NATIVE PLACES IN WINTER

number of migratory birds is expected to rise in the coming weeks, said the official

Winged guests like spoonbills, painted storks, coots, common pochard, ruddy shelduck, gadwall, bar headed geese, greylag geese and common teal have arrived, said Gitaniali Kanwar coordinator. World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) India.

"Shoreline birds like gulls, terns, sandpipers and plovers are the first ones to arrive," she further said. "The migration of birds this time is a bit late but more birds will be arriving in the com-



A total of 94,771 birds of 94 species had arrived at the wetland in 2018 and while in 2019, 1,23,128 winged visitors of 83 different species had flown in.

Kanwar said awareness camps were also organised for riparian communities which are living near the wetland for their involvement in preserving the area of avian guests.

The official of the wildlife preservation department said patrolling teams have been deputed at Harike to check poaching of migratory birds. The department has also deputed guides to facilitate tourists. Apart from the Harike wetland, migratory water birds also arrive at Keshopur Miani wetland, Nangal wetland, Ropar wetland, Kanjliwetland and Beas river wetland in the state.





national

Illegal has become legal because the fringe has now become mainstream. The foremost tangible spirit of our democracy is being distorted and disrespected by people who are using it as a means to push a completely contrasting agenda MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CONGRESS PRESIDENT

MILITARY EXERCISE BEGINS

The bilateral military training exercise between the contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army is scheduled to take place from Monday at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan





Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, giant strides are being taken in the field of Information Technology and new

age technologies for better delivery of governance to citizens JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER

Aam Aadmi Party was established 10 years ago on this day. In these 10 years, with the immense love of the public and

efforts of the workers, the party created many histories in Indian politics. Today, the Aam Aadmi Party has become the new hope of the people of the country. We are trustworthy

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CM

Karnataka has ranked top in the registration of health professionals and stood second in the enrollment of health facilities in the entire country under the Ayushman Bharat Digital

Mission

K SUDHAKAR KARNATAKA HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

4 injured in blast

Kolkata: Four persons were injured, one of them seriously, when several bombs exploded at Jagaddal area in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district early Sunday triggering panic in the area. An official of Barrackpore Police Commissionerate said as per information, an altercation took place between some wedding party members and a local resident over playing music at the marriage hall on Saturday night. Several crude bombs exploded before the marriage hall injuring four wedding party members early Sunday, the official said. Five persons were detained in connection with the incident as police conducted raids in the area. Two more unexploded bombs were seized from the area during raids.

GEHLOT-PILOT TUSSLE

CONGRESS HINTS AT TOUGH DECISIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 27: Amid the power tussle between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh Sunday said if needed, the party will not shy away from taking "tough decisions" to strengthen the organisation in that state. For the Congress, its organi-

sation in Rajasthan is most important, Ramesh, the party's general secretary in-charge of communications, told reporters in Indore during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Gehlot Thursday told a TV channel that Pilot is a 'gaddar' (traitor) and cannot replace him, drawing a sharp response from his

Gehlot said Pilot had revolted against the Congress in 2020 and alleged that he tried to

topple the state government Pilot had hit back at Gehlot

to say it was unbecoming of his stature to use the kind of language to attack him and make completely false and baseless allegations

former deputy who said such "mudslinging" would not help, in an escalation of their rift days ahead of the entry of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra' into the desert state. Gehlot also said Pilot had re-

volted against the Congress in 2020 and alleged that he tried to top-

Smoke on train triggers panic

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Nov 27: Smoke in one of the coaches of Duronto Express near a railway station in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district Sunday sent panic among passengers. However, there were no ca-

sualties. The smoke was noticed in one of the coaches of Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal-Howrah Duronto Express when it was approaching Kuppam Railway Station. As soon as the train was stopped, some passengers deboarded in panic.



However, South Western Railway (SWR) has clarified that there was no fire on the train and the smoke was due to friction of the brake block

Not upset or angry: Tharoor PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Kochi, Nov 27: Congress MP

ple the state government. Pilot

had hit back at Gehlot to say it was

unbecoming of his stature to use

the kind of language to attack

him and make completely "false

Gehlot and Pilot. Ramesh Sunday

Asked about the tussle between

and baseless" allegations.

Shashi Tharoor Sunday said he was not upset or angry with anyone in the Kerala unit of the party and has no reservations in speaking to anyone as "we are not in kindergarten to refrain from talking to each other".

Speaking to media in the port city of Kochi, where he came to attend a state-level conclave of the All India Professionals' Congress, the Thiruvananthapuram MP said he has not spoken against anyone in the party or acted against its directives and has no clue why such a controversy has been created.

"I am not upset or angry with anyone. I have not blamed or accused anyone. There are no complaints or issues from my end. I have no problem seeing everyone as one and neither do I have any reservations about speaking to anyone," he said before the event.

On being asked whether he would



be speaking to Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the state assembly V D Satheesan and Kerala PCC (KPCC) president K Sudhakaran at the event. Tharoor said that the latter was not well and would be participating via video conference.

Regarding Satheesan, he said that "if we see each other at the venue, then we will see"."If they talk to me, will I not respond? We are not in kindergarten to refrain from talking or speaking to each other. But if we are not in the same place at the same time, how will we talk

I am not upset or angry with anyone. I have not blamed or accused anyone. There are no complaints or issues from my end. I have no problem seeing everyone as one and neither do I have any reservations about speaking to anyone

said, "The organisation is most

important for us. On the issue of

Rajasthan, we will decide on a so-

lution which will strengthen our

organisation." "For this, if we

have to take tough decisions, we

will take. If a compromise has to

be made (between the factions of

Gehlot and Pilot), then it will be

Ramesh also said the Congress

leadership is considering a proper

solution to the Rajasthan

issue."But, I cannot fix any time

frame for this solution. Only the

Congress leadership will decide the

time frame for it," he said. Ramesh

further said the Congress needs

both Gehlot and Pilot. He also

said the Rajasthan CM should not

have used certain words in his

done." he said.

interview.

SHASHI THAROOR I CONGRESS MP

or speak to one another?" he asked. Satheesan, without naming Tharoor, had recently said that any kind of sectarianism or parallel activities would not be allowed in the party and warned that such moves would be dealt with "seriously".

It was one of several remarks made by the LoP in the wake of Tharoor's Malabar tour which seems to have rattled a significant section in Congress in the state with a few of them sensing an "agenda" behind his move.

YouTuber arrested



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 27: The Uttar Pradesh Police have arrested a YouTuber for allegedly posting objectionable tweets from the Twitter handle of the Samajwadi Party's media cell, officials said Sunday. SP leaders, however, said the arrested man does not have any links with the party. On November 23,

journalist Manish Pandey registered a complaint at Hazratganj police station against an unidentified person running the SP media cell Twitter handle (@MediaCellSP), police said.

The complainant alleged that the SP media cell posted a tweet about the Gorakhnath mutt and he replied that it should refrain from making such posts as the mutt is the centre of devotion for crores of people, they said.

After this, the complainant said, "insulting and humiliating" tweets were posted from the Twitter handle against him.

In a tweet on November 20, the SP media cell had alleged that people from the mutt were involved in illegal mining. The tweet, however, did not name any mutt.

Additional Commissioner of Police, Hazratganj, Arvind Kumar Verma said that prima facie Anil Yadav posted the tweets from the Twitter handle of the SP media cell.

A detailed probe into the matter is underway, he said.

Yaday, who runs a YouTube channel, was arrested on Friday, the police said.

Additional Commissioner of Police, Hazratganj, Arvind Kumar Verma said that prima facie Anil Yadav posted the tweets from the Twitter handle of the SP media cell

An FIR was registered under sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion), 295 A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 504 (intentional insult), 505 (publishing or circulating any statement, rumour or report with intent to incite) and 500 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the IT Act, the police said.

When contacted, SP leaders said Yadav is not connected to the party in any way. In a series of tweets on Saturday, the SP media cell said, "Journalist Anil Yadav was exposing atrocities and injustice being faced by people under the BJP government through his

YouTube channel. Angered by this, the BJP government got him arrested "unconstitutionally", it charged.

"Anil Yadav should be immediately released and sent back home with honour." the SP media cell said. The BJP government is "strangulating democracy and dishonouring the Constitution", it said.

Mehbooba, 7 ex-MLAs served eviction notices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 27: Authorities in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday asked PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and seven former legislators to vacate government residential quarters within 24 hours failing which action would be taken, officials said. Mufti was served an eviction notice for her 'Fairview' residence at the high security Gupkar area of the city here last month as well. Sunday's eviction notice, by the executive magistrate First class on the orders of the Anantnag deputy commissioner was issued to Mufti and others for the government quarters located in Housing Colony at Khanabal in the south Kashmir district, the officials said. They said other than Mufti, the notices were issued to ex-MLAs Mohammad Altaf Wani, Abdul Rahim Rather, Abdul Majeed Bhat, Altaf Shah, and Abdul Kabir Pathan, ex-MLCs Bashir Shah and Choudhary Nizamuddin.



Three killed as car hits tree

Khandwa (MP): Three staffers of the Madhya Pradesh forest department were killed while another person was injured Sunday when their car rammed into a tree in Khandwa district, officials said. The incident occurred near Kumtha village under the Piplod police station limits, about 40 km from the Khandwa district headquarters, in the afternoon, said Superintendent of Police (SP) Vivek Singh.

Over 40 mobile phones stolen

Mumbai: More than 40 highend mobile phones were stolen by unidentified persons during a concert at the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) here, police said Sunday, Many concert-goers approached the police with complaints that their mobile phones were misplaced or stolen during the concert that took place at MMRDA ground on Saturday night, an official from BKC police said. Hundreds of people had attended the concert after booking their tickets online and the venue was packed, he said.

Three cow smugglers held

Saharanpur (UP): Three alleged cow smugglers were arrested after an encounter and a quintal of beef was seized from their car in Qutubsher area, police said here Sunday. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Suraj Rai said that the Qutubsher police station team nabbed three criminals Nadeem, Ballu and Rihan after an encounter on the information of an informer.

"On train no 12246, Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal-Howrah Duronto Express while approaching Kuppam Station, Chittoor Dist (Bengaluru division/SWR), the Train Manager (Guard) noticed smoke coming in from one of the coaches at about 12.50 p.m.," SWR said in a statement.

was stopped and checked by the train crew. It was found that there has been a brake binding and smoke had come due to friction of the brake block in coach SE LWSCN

The railway officials said the train crew attended it immediately and the train resumed its journey at 1.33 p.m. "There has been no injury/casualty to any passenger,"



"As per standard SOP, the train 193669/S9," it added.

they said.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi rides a bike during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Mhow, Indore

Kumar has been nicknamed as a 'history book'. This is because he often speaks for 40-45 minutes and talks about the work he has done in the state during his rule since 2005. The common people find this very boring. He is behaving like a retired old man, who fondly remembers the days gone by. He should talk about what he would do now and what plans he has for the country. People are also trying to find another adjective for him because they noticed that he speaks incomplete, incoherent and unfinished sentences of late. He starts in earnest, but pauses like the former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and then starts using meaningless syllables and phrases.

Karnataka will go to polls in May 2023.

Five in race

With the Winter Session set to com-mence from December 7, speculation about the new Leader of Opposition (LoP) has picked up speed. Mallikarjun Kharge had quit his post the day he filed the nomination papers for Congress president's post. The names of P. Chidambaram, Digvijaya Singh, Jairam Ramesh and Pramod Tiwari are being mentioned for the LoP's post. All of them have long experience in public and legislative life. It is said that if a new LoP is to be chosen he should be from North India as Kharge is from Karnataka and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is from West Bengal. P Chidambaram hails from Tamil Nadu and Jairam Ramesh also from Karnataka. Therefore, they may not make the cut. It is learnt that legal luminary and Rajva Sabha MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi has thrown his hat in the ring. If at all he is picked up for the post, he will have to quit his roaring legal practice as LoP holds Cabinet rank.

When Modi played tough

 $M_{
m grain}^{
m odi}$ is known for going against the grain and doesn't hesitate to take hard decisions. Though he had to withdraw some of his decisions like the Land Acquisition Act, Farm Bills, he has always been firm in not to dole out incentives having far reaching financial consequences. The last example was during the Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls when Congress promised to restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) if it came to power.

In Himachal, government employees traditionally have been playing a crucial role in the outcome of elections. Senior state BJP leaders conveyed to the party high command that the party should adequately respond to the Congress' googly. BJP Chief JP Nadda who camped in Himachal until the polling day on November 12, promised to discuss it in the core committee meeting. But there was no luck as Modi refused to relent.

Nadda prevails, **Jairam survives**

It is no secret that Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur, wants to be the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. His father, Prem Kumar Dhumal, had ruled the state for two terms. He couldn't become the Chief Minister in 2017 even after BJP won the elections as he lost his own seat. Dhumal's supporters now want that mantle to lead the state should now fall on the shoulders of Anurag Thakur. However, BJP president, JP Nadda, declared that the saffron party will fight the polls under the leadership of the incumbent CM, Jairam Thakur. Though there was anti-in-

РТІ РНОТО

cumbency against Jairam Thakur and the high command had made up its mind to remove Jairam Thakur before the elections, it transpires that Nadda threw his weight behind Jairam Thakur and convinced the high command that he should be retained at this juncture.

Kishor in search of a role

 ${f F}$ ormer poll strategist, Prashant Kishor is trying hard to search for a political role after he fell out with the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. After working with the BJP in 2014 polls and being dumped, Kishor didn't look back. He is a success story as he has a long list of parties and leaders he worked for and chalked out winning strategies for polls. The DMK, YSR-Congress, TMC, Samajwadi Party and many others. During this journey, he developed his own political ambitions and joined the JD (U) but couldn't survive and quit. He decided to take out a 3,500 kilometres-long-march in Bihar to create an alternative to the BJP, RJD and JD(U). He is bitterly attacking them dayin and day-out. Indeed, people have started wondering why the poll strategist is not as aggressive about the BJP as he is about other parties.

Gearing up

Without waiting for the outcome of the Assembly polls in Gujarat, the BJP leadership has put its machinery in top gear in nine other states which will go to polls in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The Assembly polls in Himachal were held on November 12. Prime Minister Modi has conveyed to the BJP leadership to put the winning plan in operation in these nine states and BJP's core group meeting was held earlier this month. It was decided that Assembly polls will be fought under Modi's leadership. The BJP has already ordered internal surveys in these states. A BJP win in these states will increase party' numerical strength in Rajya Sabha too. Nine other states which are to go to polls in February 2023 include Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland while









international



The country's problems with the US will not be solved through negotiation AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER

KIM'S DAUGHTER APPEARS AGAIN

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's daughter made a public appearance again, this time with missile scientists and more honorific titles as her father's "most beloved" or "precious" child. She's only about 10, but her new, bold photos are deepening the debate over whether she's being primed as a successor

WHICH CLIMBED ON TO

VISITORS, VEHICLES AND

LAMPPOSTS

AT TIMES THE CURIOUS

Yongyuth Kitwatanusont, the fes-



uote

Violence kills the future, interrupting the lives of the youngest and weakening the hopes for peace POPE FRANCIS HEAD OF

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA

Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing. **Global temperatures** keep rising. And our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible ANTONIO GUTERRES UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

Army rejects claims about Bajwa's assets

Islamabad: The Pakistan Army finally broke its silence Sunday to reject reports that its outgoing chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's family members and relatives became billionaires during his six-year tenure, terming them as "misleading" and based on "blatant lies." Gen Bajwa, 61, is scheduled to retire November 29 after getting a three-year extension. According to a report published by the FactFocus website, the alleged tax records of Gen Bajwa's family, the current market value of the known assets and business of the army chief, both within and outside Pakistan, amounted to Rs 12.7 billion.

Venezuela's gov, **Oppn resume talks**

Mexico City: Venezuela's government and its opposition on Saturday agreed to create a UN-managed fund to finance health. food and education programs for the poor, while the Biden administration eased some oil sanctions on the country in an effort to boost the newly restarted talks between the sides.

EXPLORING A MEMORY Designer re-creates

a dress for Diana

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 27: This is a dress with a story, and Elizabeth Emanuel wants to tell it.

Shocking pink with a plunging, ruffled neckline and body-hugging shape, the gown was designed by Emanuel for Lady Diana Spencer to wear at a Buckingham Palace party a few days before her marriage to Prince Charles in 1981.

It was a visual coming-out event for the future princess, until then largely known for her conservative sweater-and-pearls look. "This was definitely not a wallflower dress," said Emanuel, who also codesigned Diana's wedding gown. "This was a dress to be seen in and celebrated.'



It was also soon forgotten. In an era before smartphones put a camera in everyone's pocket and social media made private events public, the dress was mostly seen by the party guests, including Queen Elizabeth II. Princess Grace and Nancy Reagan, but no one else. Emanuel doesn't know where it is, or even if it still exists.

So she has re-created it, out of bolts of shiny, satin taffeta cut and stitched to match the dramatic sketches she made more than 40 years ago. Acting on an idea that took shape during Britain's long coronavirus lockdowns, she did it for herself. for her archive.

But also because she wanted to show another side of Diana, who Emanuel believes has been misrepresented by "The Crown," the popular Netflix series that has brought the story of the princess and her ill-fated marriage to a new generation

Indian student in **Canada dies after** truck rams cycle TORONTO: A 20-year-old Indian

Monkeys in central Thailand city mark their day with feast

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lopburi, Nov 27: A meal fit for monkeys was served Sunday at the annual Monkey Feast Festival in central Thailand.

Amid the morning traffic, rows of monkey statues holding trays were lined up outside the compound of the Ancient Three Pagodas, while volunteers prepared food across the road for real monkeys — the symbol of the province around 150 kilometers (93 miles) north of Bangkok

Throngs of macaque monkeys ran around, at times fighting with each other, while the crowds of visitors and locals grew. As the carefully prepared feast

was brought toward the temple, the ravenous creatures began to



Monkeys enjoy fruit during the feast

Snowy Kyiv grapples with power outages

REUTERS

Kyiv, Nov 27: Snow fell in Kyiv and temperatures hovered around freezing Sunday as millions in and around the Ukrainian capital struggled with disruptions to electricity supply and central heating caused

by waves of Russian air strikes. The cold weather is gradually pushing up the energy needs of consumers even as repair workers race to fix wrecked power facilities, grid operator Ukrenergo said.

Electricity producers are still unable to resume full power supply after Russia's missile attacks Wednesday and have no choice but conserve energy by imposing blackouts, it said. The consumption restriction

regime is still in place due to a capacity deficit, which currently stands at around 20%," Ukrenergo said on Telegram.

Moscow has targeted vital infrastructure in recent weeks through waves of air strikes that have sparked widespread power outages and killed civilians. Fresh strikes last Wednesday caused the worst damage so far in the ninemonth conflict, leaving millions of people with no light, water or heat even as temperatures fell below 0 Celsius (32 Fahrenheit). David Arakhamiya, the head of

President Volodvmvr Zelenskiv's

UKRAINE RACING TO REPAIR INFRASTRUCTURE HIT BY RUSSIA WINTER SETTING IN WITH AROUND 20% ENERGY CAPACITY DEFICIT PARTY BOSS SAYS COMING WEEK

Ukraine's 27 regions. The restrictions affect more than 100.000 customers in each of the regions. he said. Affected regions included the capital Kyiv and the surrounding region.

"If consumption increases in outages may increase," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address, reiterating an appeal to citizens to save power.

"This once again shows how important it is now to save power and consume it rationally.

Weather forecasters expected continued snowfall in Kyiv, a city that had 2.8 million residents before the war, until midweek while temperatures are forecast to stay below freezing

FOUR HOURS OF POWER A DAY Sergey Kovalenko, chief operating officer of YASNO, which provides energy to Kyiv, said on Saturday evening the situation in the city has improved but still remained "quite difficult." He indicated that residents should have at



anniversary of the incident, outside Consulate of Pakistan in New York

'NK to have powerful N-force' AGENCIES

Seoul, Nov 27: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country's intends to have the world's most powerful nuclear force as he promoted dozens of military officers involved in the recent launch of a new ballistic missile, state media reported Sunday.

The announcement comes after Kim inspected a November 18 test of the Hwasong-17, North Korea's largest intercontinental ballistic

missile (ICBM) and pledged to

counter what he called US nu-

clear threats. North Korea's "ul-

timate goal is to possess the

tival's founder.

The delighted onlookers were largely undeterred by the risk of petty theft, although some were content to exercise caution.

"We have to take care with them, better leave them to it. Not too near is better." said Carlos Rodway, a tourist from Cadiz, Spain, having previously been unceremoniously treated as a climbing frame by one audacious monkey.

The festival is an annual tradition in Lopburi and held as a way to show gratitude to the monkeys for bringing in tourism. This year's theme is "monkeys feeding monkeys," an antidote to previous years where monkey participation had decreased due to high numbers of tourists, which intimidated the animals.

Members of Indian diaspora stage a demonstration to protest against the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks on the 14th



Deuba's ruling Nepali Congress emerges as single largest party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 27: The ruling Nepali Congress led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on_ Sunday maintained its lead as the single largest party by winning 53 seats in the parliamentary polls held to end the prolonged political instability that has plagued the Himalavan nation.

Elections to the House of

Representatives (HoR) and seven

provincial assemblies were held

the evening, the number of

COULD BE 'REALLY DIFFICULT'

SK: Five die in chopper crash

Yangyang: Five people were killed in a helicopter crash near a Buddhist temple in South Korea's Yangyang Sunday, fire officials said. Identification of the victims was underway, as officials had initially presumed only the two people on board -- a 71vear-old pilot and a 54-yearold mechanic -- had been killed, Yonhap News Agency reported.

student was killed after he was hit and dragged by a pickup truck while crossing a road on a cycle in Canada's Toronto, according to a media report. Though the police have not yet identified the victim, news website cbc.ca in a report published Friday quoted the victim's cousin Parveen Saini as saying that Kartik Saini came to Canada from India in August 2021. Parveen Saini spoke from Karnal, Haryana, where their family is from, the report said. The family is hoping that Kartik's body will be sent to India as soon as possible for proper burial, Parveen said. Sheridan College has confirmed that Kartik was a student there, the report said. According to police the fatal collision happened at the intersection of Yonge Street and St Clair Avenue at about 4:30 pm

Wednesday evening.

party, predicted Russia would carry out new infrastructure attacks this coming week and said the week could be "really difficult".

Zelenskiy said Saturday evening that there were restrictions on the use of electricity in 14 out of



least four hours of power per day.

"If you haven't had at least four hours of electricity in the past day, write to DTEK Kyiv Electric Networks, colleagues will help you figure out what the problem is," Kovalenko wrote on his Facebook page.

world's most powerful strategic force, the absolute force unprecedented in the century," Kim said in the order promoting the officers, adding that building up the country's nuclear capabilities would reliably protect the dignity and sovereignty of the state and the people. He described the Hwasong-17

as the "world's strongest strategic weapon" and said it demonstrated North Korea's resolve and ability to eventually build the world's strongest army.

North Korean scientists have made a "wonderful leap forward in the development of the tech-



nology of mounting nuclear warheads on ballistic missiles," and were expected to expand and strengthen the country's nuclear deterrent capabilities at an extraordinarily rapid pace, Kim was also quoted as saying.

Kim was pictured in photos posing with scientists, engineers and military officials involved in the test.

According to state media, those workers pledged to defend the "absolute authority" of the party and Kim, and vowed that "our missiles will fly vigorously only in the direction indicated" by Kim.

November 20. The counting of votes started Monday. The Nepali Congress has won 53 seats and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML) secured 42 seats in the elections. The CPN-Maoist has emerged as the third largest party

with 17 seats while the CPN-Unified

Socialist has bagged 10 seats.

The newly-formed Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and pro-Hindu Rastriya Prajatantra Party have won 7 seats each. Independent and other smaller parties have emerged victorious on 21 seats. Out of the total 165 seats under direct voting, the results on 8 seats are still awaited.

The ruling five-party alliance has won 85 seats, against 55 seats won by the alliance led by CPN-UML. The ruling alliance includes the Nepali Congress led by Prime Minister Deuba, CPN-Maoist led by Pushpakamal Dahal Prachanda, CPN-Unified Socialist headed by Madhav Nepal, Mahantha Thakur's Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janamorcha led by Chitra Bahadur.

Under the proportionate voting method, the CPN-UML got the first position, securing more than 2.5 million votes and the Nepali Congress received 2.3 million votes. The CPN-Maoist and RSP have secured one million each.



FAMILIES DRUG HUNGRY KIDS TO SLEEP IN AFGHAN

GRIM SITUATION

Ever since the Taliban took over the country, with no international recognition for the new de-facto government, foreign funds flowing into Afghanistan were frozen, triggering an economic collapse that left citizens with no work

UN official in top Afghanistan said that millions of Afghans are on the brink of starvation as winter approaches and humanitarian fund ing is running low.

Afghans are giving their hungry children medicines to sedate them - others have sold their daughters and organs to survive. Farmers are facing severe fertilizer and pes-



ticide shortages and disease outbreaks among their livestock.

Abdul Wahab, speaking to the children so that they feel drowsy? BBC, said "Our children keep cry-Abdul lives just outside Herat, the ing, and they don't sleep. We have country's third-largest city, in a settlement of thousands of little mud houses filled with people displaced and affected by war and natural disasters. Nearly a dozen men from the settlement replied in the affirmative when they were asked if sedating the children was a common practice there.

Another man, Ghulam Hazrat felt in the pocket of his tunic and pulled out a strip of tablets. They were alprazolam - tranquilisers usually prescribed to treat anxiety disorders. The cost of 5 alprazolam pills is around the same as a piece of bread Ghulam has six children, the youngest a year old. "I even give it to him," he said.

Citizens sell kidney

Jobless, debt ridden, and struggling to feed his children, Nooruddin felt he had no choice but to sell a kidney - one of a growing number of Afghans willing to sacrifice an organ to save their families. The practice has become so widespread in the western city of Herat

that a nearby settlement is bleakly nicknamed "one-kidney village." Noorudin was among eight people AFP spoke to who had sold a kidney to feed their families or pay off debt — some for as little as \$1,500. It is illegal to sell or buy organs in most developed nations, where donors are usually related to the recipient or are people acting out of altruism.

In Afghanistan, however, the practice is unregulated. Mohamad Bassir Osmani, a surgeon at one of two hospitals where the majority of Herat's transplants are performed, confirmed "consent" was the key. In developed nations, donors and recipients usually go on to lead full and normal lives, but their after-surgery health is usually closely monitored — and also dependent on a balanced lifestyle and diet.

That luxury is often not available to poor Afghans who sell a kidney and still find themselves trapped in poverty — and sometimes in ill-health. "I sold my five-year-old daughter for 1,00,000 Afghanis," a citizen named Nizamuddin said. That's less than half what a kidney is worth. The dignity that people here led their lives with has been broken by hunger. Hazratullah's daughter Nazia has been sold to be married to a boy from a family in the southern province of Kandahar. At 14, she will be sent away. So far the father has received two payments for her.

What does the Taliban have to say?

Speaking on the situation, Hameedullah Motawakil, spokesman of the Taliban's provincial government in Herat, said "The situation is a result of international sanctions on Afghanistan and the freezing of Afghan assets. Our government is trying to identify how many are in need. Many are lying about their conditions because they think they can get help," he said. AGENCIES



no food, so we go to the pharmacy,

get tablets and give them to our



business



We welcome the government's decision to roll back the export duty on steel products and iron ore, imposed to deal with the inflationary situation, and we acknowledge the same TV NARENDRAN | TATA STEEL CEO

GOLD IMPORTS FALL

Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit. declined 17.38 per cent to about USD 24 billion during April-October due to fall in demand, according to the data of the commerce ministry. Imports of the yellow metal stood at USD 29 billion in the corresponding period of 2021-22.



M-cap of nine

of top 10 firms

climbs ₹79,798cr

uote

I am slightly more worried about the return to the Old Pension Scheme. I think that is more of a concern because

the cost will be borne by future taxpavers and citizens, not the

SUMAN BERY NITI AAYOG VICE CHAIRMAN

Over the next two-year timeframe, will see models which are in the volume segment and the profitable segment of the premium as well, including the platform that we are developing jointly with Harley

NIRANJAN GUPTA HERO MOTOCORP CFO

The auto industry is highly taxed. If we look at a car by the time it's produced and by the time it's sold, in most

cases it is 30 to 50 per cent more than the ex-factory prices (after adding) GST and all the other taxes, including road taxes

VIKRAM KIRLOSKAR, TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR VICE CHAIRMAN

SHORT **TAKES**

Nippon top brass likely to visit India

New Delhi: The race for acquisition of Reliance Capital's 51 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Co (RNLIC) is intensifying, with the top brass of the Japanese partner in the joint venture likely to visit India this week to flag its concerns with the ongoing resolution process under insolvency laws, sources said. Japan's Nippon Life, which holds 49 per cent stake in RNLIC, is opposed to the entry of Aditya Birla Sun Life in the race to acquire Reliance Capital's stake in RNLIC. Sources with knowledge of the matter said Nippon Life's Global President Hiroshi Shimizu along with Minoru Kimura, managing executive officer and head of global business, Nippon Life Insurance, and Tomohiro Yao, regional CEO, Nippon Life Asia

Pharma exports up by 4.22% during April-Oct

THE USA, CANADA AND MEXICO (NAFTA COUNTRIES), EUROPE AND **AFRICA ACCOUNT FOR 67.5% OF THE TOTAL EXPORTS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 27: Pharmaceutical exports from India registered a growth of 4.22 per cent to reach USD 14.57 billion during the April-October period despite a negative trend last month, according to a senior official of an export promotion body under Government of India.

Udaya Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) which is an organisation under the Ministry of Commerce, said he was hopeful of ending the current fiscal at around USD 27 billion as against USD 24.62 billion during the last financial year.

'There was a dip (-0.32 per cent) in July and (-5.45 per cent) and there was 8.47 per cent positive growth in September. I am optimistic that it will be revived in the coming months and may touch USD 27 billion at the end of the

fiscal." Bhaskar told PTL During the same period last fiscal, the exports fetched USD 13.98 billion. The USA, Canada and Mexico (NAFTA countries), Europe and Africa account for 67.5 per cent (nearly USD 5 billion) of the

total exports. "Our exports in the category of vaccines are in a very bad shape. Despite the above and Russia-Ukraine war factors, we are on a positive side," he further said.



In October, exports fell by 5.45 per cent to USD 1.95 billion.

India's overall exports contracted by 16.65 per cent to USD 29.78 billion in October 2022 as compared to the last year's period, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce recently. During April-October 2022, exports recorded

a growth of 12.55 per cent to USD 263.35 billion. Bhaskar said strengthening of dollar against the currencies of some of the key countries has

also resulted in decline in exports during October besides the sanctions resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war.

"For example, Nigeria is one of the top five markets for Indian pharma exports. The continuous depreciation of Nigerian Naira against the US Dollar has forced that country to go slow on imports," the official further said.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in a recent tweet, said India has emerged as a global pharma powerhouse under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule.

Exports of pharma production grew to over ₹90,320 crore during April-October period from nearly ₹38,000 crore in the same period in 2013 up by 137.7 per cent, the minister said tagging an infographic.

FPIs flock to Indian equities, pump in ₹31,630cr in Nov

After remaining net sellers in August and September, FPIs are unlikely to be major sellers going forward, according to experts

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 27: Foreign portfolio investors have rediscovered their liking for Indian equities, making a net investment of ₹31,630 crore in November on hopes of an end to the aggressive rate hikes, and positivity about overall macroeconomic trends

According to experts, after remaining net sellers in August and September, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are unlikely to be major sellers going forward.

Rising expectations of aggressive rate hike cycles nearing an end on relatively easing inflationary curve, better than expected US macroeconomics data and resilience of the Indian economy compared to global counterparts are also driving FPI

According to data available with the depositories, FPIs invested a net



sum of ₹31,630 crore in equities during November 1-25. In comparison, there was a net outflow of ₹8 crore and ₹7,624 crore in October and September, respectively.

In August, FPIs were net buyers to the tune of 51,200 crore and they purchased equities worth nearly ₹5,000 crore in July.

Prior to this positive trend, FPIs remained net sellers for nine straight months starting October 2021 amid a continuous rise in the dollar. Going ahead, FPI flows are ex-

pected to remain volatile in the near term given the geo-political concerns, Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities, said.

So far this year, the total outflow by FPIs in equities stood at ₹1.37 lakh crore.

The spurt in net inflows in November could be attributed to recent surge in equity markets, stability in the Indian economy compared to its global counterparts and stabilisation in the rupee. Morningstar India Associate Director - Manager Research Himanshu Srivastava said.

In a reflection of bullish market sentiments, Sensex and Nifty scaled lifetime highs for the second straight session November 25.



₹79.798.3 crore in market valuation last week, with IT majors TCS and Infosys emerging as the biggest winners.

In the last week, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 630.16 points or 1 per cent. The barometer settled at 62,293.64, its fresh record closing high on Friday. Barring Adani Enterprises, all the 10 most valued firms including Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Hindustan Unilever Limited witnessed gains in their valuation. The market valuation of TCS

jumped ₹17,215.83 crore to ₹12,39,997.62 crore. Infosys added ₹15,946.6 crore taking its valuation to ₹6,86,211.59 crore.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries rallied ₹13,192.48 crore to ₹17,70,532.20 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever climbed ₹12,535.07 crore to ₹5,95,997.32 crore.

ICICI Bank's market capitalisation (mcap) zoomed ₹6.463.34 crore to ₹6,48,362.25 crore and that of Bharti Airtel gained ₹5,451.97 crore to ₹4,71,094.46 crore.

State Bank of India's mcap grew by ₹4,283.81 crore to ₹5,42,125.54 crore and that of HDFC advanced ₹2,674.47 crore to ₹4,87,908.63 crore.

The market capitalisation of HDFC Bank jumped ₹2,034.73 crore to ₹9,01,523.93 crore. However, Adani Enterprises valuation plunged ₹13.281.01 crore to ₹4.44.982.34 crore.

Reliance Industries was leading the chart in the ranking of the most valued firms, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India, HDFC, Bharti Airtel and Adani Enterprises.

BIZ BUZZ

PPL receives Exceed Occupational Health & Safety Award

BHUBANESWAR: Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has once again been recognised for its overall effort in maintaining industrial safety at plant site. PPL was conferred with the prestigious Exceed Occupational Health & Safety Award for the year 2022. Nihar Kanti Rout, Jt. General Manager (Fire & Safety) received the award trophy and certificate from Subhash Phal Dessai, Minister of Social Welfare, River Navigation, Archives & Archeology, Government of Goa at a glittering function at Novotel Goa Candolim, Goa. Rajiv Babbar president of M/s. EKDKN and Neerai Sethi, ex ED- EIL and Hirak Dutta, former ED-OISD were also present. The award will inspire PPL to scale new milestones in industrial safety.



CII urges RBI to moderate pace of interest rates hikes

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 27: India Inc has begun to feel the adverse impact of RBI's interest rate hikes of 190 basis points in the current financial year, industry body CII said Sunday, as it urged the central bank to consider moderating the pace of its monetary tightening ahead of the forthcoming policy.

CII's analysis of results of 2.000 odd companies in the second quarter (July-September 2022) shows that both the top-line and bottomline has moderated on sequential and annual basis. Thus, moderation

in pace of monetary tightening is the need of the hour, it argued.

According to CII, domestic demand is recovering well as mirrored by the performance of a host of high-frequency indicators. However, the prevailing global 'polycrisis' is likely to impinge on

India's growth prospects too. "Given the headwinds to domestic growth mainly emanating from the global uncertainties, the RBI should consider moderating the pace of its monetary tightening from the earlier 50 basis points." the industry body stated. While CII is cognisant of the



fact that RBI's interest rate hikes of 190 basis points so far in this fiscal have been warranted to tame inflationary pressures, the corporate sector has now started to feel its adverse impact, it said. However, given the sticky

ing the key interest rates by an additional 25 to 35 basis points to tame inflation, it suggested.

It pointed out that notwithstanding the recent moderation noted in CPI headline print in October 2022. inflation continues to remain outside RBIs target range for 10 consecutive months.

With a yawning gap existing between credit and deposit growth, an additional rate hike will incentivise savers, thus providing an impetus to deposit growth and help narrow the credit-deposit wedge, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said.

inflows

likely to visit Mumbai Monday.

Scrap export duty on bauxite: FIMI

New Delhi: Miners' body FIMI has sought withdrawal of export duty on bauxite, stating that the move will lead to optimum utilisation of lowgrade mineral resources as it will expedite reopening of closed bauxite mines, create jobs and earn foreign exchange. Bauxite is the principal ore of aluminum and therefore the mineral is the essential raw material for aluminium producers. "The export duty of 15 per cent on bauxite is detrimental to the Indian non- metallurgical bauxite producers and exporters...This Federation therefore request for complete withdrawal of export duty on exports of bauxite," FIMI said in its pre-Budget proposals to the finance ministry. India, it said, is not only self-sufficient in meeting its requirement but has huge potential to be a major player in the international bauxite market.

Macro data to guide markets

New Delhi: Trading activity in the equity market this week will depend on macroeconomic data announcements, monthly auto sales numbers and global trends, analysts said. Bulls dominated Dalal Street last week, supported by favourable triggers like buying by Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) and a drop in crude prices. Last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex rallied 630.16 points or 1 per cent. On Friday, the Sensex settled at 62,293.64 -- its record closing high. The NSE Nifty too ended at its lifetime peak of 18,512.75. SEET

flation at around the 6 per cent mark, the RBI could consider hik-

IDBI Bank to continue as pvt sector bank post strategic sale

AGENCIES

added.

New Delhi, Nov 27: IDBI Bank will continue to operate as an 'Indian private sector bank' after its strategic sale and the government's residual 15 per cent stake in the lender post privatisation will be considered as 'public shareholding', the finance ministry said Sunday.

An 'appropriate dispensation' for the new owner to achieve minimum public shareholding (MPS) over an extended period is under



consideration and the winning bidder will have no restriction on un-

dertaking corporate restructuring of the subsidiaries of IDBI Bank, it added.

These clarifications are part of the responses by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), under the finance ministry, to potential investors' pre-EoI queries.

The government had on October 7 invited bids for privatising IDBI Bank and said that it together with LIC will sell a total of 60.72 per cent stake in the financial institution.

The last date for putting in Expression of Interest (EoI) or preliminary bids is December 16.

The government and LIC together hold 94.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank. The successful bidder would be required to make an open offer for acquisition of 5.28 per cent public shareholding.

Pursuant to the transaction, the government will own 15 per cent stake and LIC 19 per cent shareholding in IDBI Bank, taking their total holding to 34 per cent.

FMCG firms encouraged by early trends from winter products

FMCG makers are expecting rural sales to bounce back in the coming quarters helped by a good harvest and softening of general inflation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: Leading FMCG makers are witnessing encouraging trends from the initial pickup of their winter products portfolio, expect consumption to accelerate further as mercury dips, making them hopeful for growth from the

rural areas. Makers such as Dabur, Emami and Marico are witnessing pickup in their winter-specific products portfolio ranging from skin care products to immunity products such as chyawanprash and honey.

Moreover, the makers are also expecting rural sales to bounce back in the coming quarters helped by a good harvest and softening of general inflation. While winter products are doing well on newage channels such as e-commerce and modern trade channels.

Marico COO India Business and CEO New Business Sanjay Mishra said winter has always been a crucial season for some products in their portfolio like body lotion and the Saffola Immuniveda range, especially from the northern region. "This year again we have seen

consumption going up for both of these as we enter winter," Mishra told PTI.

Marico has witnessed uptake and consumer demand picking up in the winter hair oil category in modern trade channels and e-commerce platforms.

Similarly, in the last couple of months, Marico has witnessed double-digit offtake growth for its body lotion compared to the same period last year. Therefore, this winter season

we are confident to see over 50 per cent Y-o-Y increase in demand growth in the body lotion category. Saffola Honey & Saffola Immuniveda Chyawanprash have also traditionally seen upwards movement in this season," Mishra



said Sharma.

Though demand in rural markets continues to lag urban markets, he said: "With good harvest this season, we expect rural growth to bounce back in the coming quarter." Emami Sales-CCD President

Vinod Rao said: "Winter portfolio has witnessed comparatively a good loading this year in Sept and Oct in anticipation of a good winter season."

The Kolkata-headquartered company, which owns the iconic brand Boroplus in the skin care segment, is "hopeful of fairly good growth" with a good winter.

Rao expects Emami's winter brands to perform well in the rural and wholesale channels, despite the inflation-led demand challenges.

"We are witnessing a higher momentum in our LUP and mid-priced packs, which we expect to contribute significantly to the wholesale and rural channel," he said. Emami's winter portfolio is grow-

ing well in organised channels such as Modern Trade and e-commerce. "Large pack contribution has

also grown significantly over last year same period," Rao said.

Nuvama Group Executive **Director**, Institutional Equities Abneesh Roy said key FMCG companies like HUL, Dabur and Emami having a larger play in the segment as skin creams would also get benefit in the portfolio from the recent crash in palm oil and crude oil prices.

However, Roy also added structurally he is not seeing a recovery in rural demand. Though he also added still base is soft across companies in H2 (second half) so optically

demand should look better in rural in comparison to H1 (first half).

"A harsh winter and softer general inflation can lead to a gradual recovery in rural demand for FMCG companies," he said.

Roy further added: "As per our checks, Consumer demand has started to pick up for skin cream, chyawanprash, honey, honitus etc. This can also potentially benefit to a small extent hot beverages like Tea and Coffee," he said. On the flip side, there would also be an impact on sales of cold beverages and ice creams. "Anyway Q3 is not a big quarter for such products," he added.

Earlier this month a report released by data analytics firm NielsenIQ said the country's FMCG industry continued to witness a consumption slowdown in the September quarter, with rural markets registering a higher decline in volumes compared to the three months that ended June.

The FMCG industry witnessed an overall volume decline of 0.9 per cent in the September quarter in comparison to the preceding three months.



Dabur India Limited Chief

Operating Officer Adarsh Sharma

said the festive season this year has

brought a "little glimmer of hope"

and the company has built a pipeline

for its winter-specific products like

Dabur Chyawanprash, Dabur Honey

and the Gulabari winter range of

of winter, the initial demand for our

winter products is steady. If it turns

out to be a good winter, we should

see demand accelerate further,"

"While these are still early days

skin care products.





OrissaPOST MONDAY NOVEMBER 28 2022 BHUBANESWAR

MESSI SHOW SINKS MEXICO



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lusail (Qatar), Nov 27: Lionel Messi came up with another crucial goal for Argentina in a 2-0 win over Mexico Sunday that ignited the team's World Cup chances. Messi took a touch from Angel

Di Maria's pass across the face of the area and drove a low shot from 25 meters (yards) into the bottom corner in the 64th minute.

He ran towards Argentina's fans with his arms outstretched before getting mobbed by his jubilant teammates. He looked emotional as he grabbed and shook his jersey, then blew a kiss to the crowd before whirling his arms. Substitute Enzo Fernandez added a second goal in

the 87th minute. Argentina bounced back from a

shocking 1-2 loss to Saudi Arabia in its opening match. The team is in second place in Group C ahead of its last match against Poland on Wednesday and might need to win it to advance

The 35-year-old Messi is likely playing in his last World Cup, which is the only major title missing from his collection.

It was an eighth World Cup goal for Messi — the same number scored in the tournament by rival Cristiano Ronaldo and also Diego Maradona, the Argentina great with whom he is so often compared.

the World Cup to join the ranks of

Biggest FIFA WC crowd in 28 years

LUSAIL (QATAR): Lionel Messi played in front of 88,966 spectators on Sunday when Argentina beat Mexico 2-0, the largest attendance at a World Cup match in 28 years. The Lusail Stadium north of Doha, which will stage the final December 18, hosted the most people at the World Cup since the 1994 final in the United States, according to FIFA. There were 91,194 people at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, to see Brazil beat Italy in that penalty shootout after a 0-0 draw. Saturday's attendance was several hundred more than the figure for the two previous games at Lusail Stadium, when Brazil beat Serbia and Argentina lost to Saudi Arabia. Oatar's attendance figures do not rank in the top 30 of all-time World Cup matches. The largest crowd was 173,850 inside the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro in 1950 for Uruguay's 2-1 victory over host Brazil in the final game of that tournament.

Pele and Maradona as soccer's greatest ever players. Thanks to this win, it could still happen.

Until his goal, Messi was enduring a frustrating match, finding himself with two defenders on him each time he received the ball.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni made five changes from the Saudi Arabia game in a bid to inject some more energy into the team but they initially made little difference.

The momentum of the game changed completely after Messi's goal, his 93rd in internationals and his second of the tournament after a penalty against Saudi Arabia.

Morocco pull off another upset



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Morocco players celebrate a goal in front of their fans during their match against Belgium

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Nov 27: Morocco pulled off vet another World Cup shock, and it was Belgium's aging 'Golden Generation' that took the hit this time. The 0-2 upset left Kevin de Bruyne and the 2018 semifinalists in peril of a group-stage exit at what is likely the final World Cup for numerous players on a team that hasn't been able to win a major title.

Morocco substitute Abdelhamid Sabiri gave his team the lead by whipping in a free kick from a tight angle on the left in the 73rd minute that got under the body of goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois - for many, the best in the world at his position.

Zakaria Aboukhlal then guided a shot into the roof of the net off a pass from Hakim Ziyech in stoppage time as Courtois was beaten again. Belgium, the World No.2, had won their last seven group games at the World Cup before the upset. It was Morocco's first win at a World Cup since 1998 and only their third ever.

Belgium would have become the second team after defending champions France to qualify for the knockout stage if they had beaten the Moroccans but now will play 2018 finalists Croatia in what will be a crucial final group game. Morocco, who thrived off the deaf-

ening support provided by their fans

Brussels sees riots BRUSSELS: Police had to seal off parts of the centre of Brussels, deploy

water cannons and fire tear gas to disperse crowds following violence during and after Morocco's upset win over Belgium. Dozens of rioters set steps on fire and pelted cars with bricks. Police moved in after one person suffered facial injuries, said Brussels police spokeswoman Ilse Van de Keere. Brussels mayor Philippe Close urged football fans to stay away from the city center and said authorities were doing their utmost to keep order in the streets. Even subway and tram traffic had to be interrupted on police orders.

at Al Thumama Stadium, also had a goal from a free-kick by Ziyech disallowed in the first half for offside.

Belgium reached the semifinals at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, but lost to eventual champions France. The Belgians were also impressive early at last year's European Championship, eliminating Portugal before losing to eventual champions Italy in the quarterfinals.

round for first time since 1986—the

only time they have ever advanced.

Belgium labored to a 1-0 win over Canada in their opening game in Qatar. Morocco drew confidence from a 0-0 draw with Croatia in their first game and boosted their chances of reaching the knockout

LEO STEALS Doha (Qatar): Guillermo Ochoa's

World Cup magic didn't work against Lionel Messi and Argentina. Mexico's goalkeeper, known for big saves in soccer's biggest tournament, had stopped Robert Lewandowski's penalty attempt in El Tri's World Cup opener. But he was helpless against Messi's second-half blast from distance in the 64th minute Saturday night. At the final whistle, Ochoa and Messi grasped hands, and the goalkeeper known

For some, Messi needs to win

by his nickname Memo affectionately patted a gloved hand on his opponent's head. Ochoa did not speak to reporters after the game.

It might be the final World Cup for both men, who in Qatar each joined an exclusive club of players who have been to five editions of the tournament. Like Argentina depends on Messi, El Tri have looked to Ochoa because their offense is sputtering and they have vet to score in Qatar

Kramaric brace helps

Croatia down Canada

AL RAYYAN (QATAR): Andrej

Kramaric scored a pair of goals

and Croatia crushed Canada's

hopes of advancing at their first

World Cup in 36 years with a 4-1

Ochoa's save of Lewandowski's penalty attempt preserved a scoreless draw for Mexico against Poland, adding to a World Cup mystique that started when he fended off six Brazilian shots including a dangerous header from Neymar — in a group-stage draw against the hosts in 2014.

Then in Russia four years ago, Ochoa had nine saves in Mexico's 1-0 victory over defending champion Germany in the group opener. Ochoa was first tested by Messi in the 33rd minute, when he punched away a free-kick from the corner. Though the chances are slim, Mexico is still vying for an eighth straight trip to the World Cup's knockout round.

El Tri were looking to advance past the round of 16 and play in an elusive "quinto partido" — a fifth game. It's something that has eluded the team since hosting the 1986 tournament. El Tri have never beaten Argentina in four attempts at the World Cup.

Fuller strike leads Costa Rica past Japan Govers helps Oz thrash India history to make at least 400 international appearances.

Hardik Singh (25th) and Mohammed Raheel (PC 36th) struck the other two goals for India, while Harmanpreet completed his brace in the final minute (60th) of the

match from a penalty. India had a counter-attacking

Fuller took advantage of a defensive error when Japan failed to clear the ball and hit the net from 18 meters just off the fingertips of leaping Japan goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda

Al Rayyan, Nov 27: Keysher

Fuller scored in the 81st minute

to lift Costa Rica to a 1-0 victory

over Japan Sunday, leaving both

teams with three points after

two games in Group E of the

ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Cup.

The match at Ahmad Bin Ali stadium was tactical and largely lackluster, particularly in a first half that did not yield a single shot on goal. The second half was slightly better with Japan pressing throughout until Costa Rica broke through. Costa Rica keeper Kevlor Navas came up with several rapid fire saves in the final minutes to ensure the victory.

Japan has one Group E game remaining with Spain, and Costa Rica faces Germany in its final group match. With a victory, Japan could have all but wrapped up a place in the knockout stage after a 2-1 upset of Germany in its opener. Costa Rica was pounded by Spain 7-0 in its first game and just trying to survive. Japan had the edge in corners, shots, and possession but could not find the net. The first half might

have been one of the worst of the tournament that has already seen



SAVING THE DAY: Keysher Fuller goes airborne in celebration after scoring the winner against Japan, Sunday

four 0-0 draws. Neither team had a shot on goal in a tactical stalemate. Ritsu Doan, who scored one of Japan's goals in the 2-1 win over

Germany, looked the most threatening early with runs down the right side looking to cut in crosses. Costa Rica's most menacing player always looked like Joel Campbell, trying to use his speed on the left

There was more action in the first two minutes after the break

than in the entire first half. Hidemasa Morita tested Navas with a blistering shot in the first minute, and Takuma Asano forced another save a minute later.

Despite Japan's attacking intent, the late defensive error cost the team, which seemed headed for a draw and a valuable point. Japan, which is appearing it its

seventh straight World Cup, has reached the knockout stage on three occasions, losing each time in the

victory Sunday. Alphonso Davies scored Canada's first-ever World Cup goal seconds into the match but the team's trip to football's biggest tournament will end Thursday against Morocco, the Group F leaders after a surprise 2-0 victory over Belgium earlier in the day. Marko Livaja and Lovro Majer also scored for Croatia, the runners-up to France at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Captain Luka Modric, 37, was still looking for his first goal of the tournament in what is likely his final World Cup. Morocco's win meant that the Canadians needed a win against Croatia for a chance to reach the knockout stage.

round of 16. Costa Rica reached the quarterfinals in Brazil in 2014. Japan may not win the World Cup, but it's winning goodwill with its tradition of cleaning up fan areas and player dressing rooms after the match. This dates from Japan's first appearance in the World Cup in 1998. This time Japanese team officials have arrived with 8,000 trash bags with thank-you greetings in Arabia, Japanese, and English.



Australian players celebrate a goal by Blake Govers (No.13)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Nov 27: India could play well only in patches as Blake Govers slammed a brilliant hattrick to guide Australia to a dominating 7-4 win in the high-scoring second hockey Test here Sunday. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh

struck even before the home team could settle, firing India to a thirdminute lead with his precise and powerful penalty corner conversion. India looked threatening up front and Harmanpreet almost converted a second one but the home team began to call the shots soon with Govers and Jack Welch leading the goal spree.

The Men in Blue dished out an inspiring show in the third quarter and trailed by just one goal at 3-4, but were blown away in the final 15 minutes due to a sloppy defense.

India endured its 12th straight loss to the world number one side and now need to win the next two games to keep the five-match series alive. The third Test of the World Cup build-up series will be played Wednesday.

Having scored the winning goals in their close 5-4 victory in the first Test, Govers was once again in the thick of action. He scored his goals in the 12th (PC), 27th and 53rd (penalty) minutes, while Welch secured his brace with his strikes in the 17th and 24th minutes. Jake Whetton (49th) and Jacob

Anderson (48th) were the other goal scorers for the Kookaburras led by Eddie Ockenden, who became the only seventh player in

start to their game with Mandeep Singh winning the first penalty corner in the third minute. Skipper Harmanpreet made no fuss about it as the dragflick specialist smashed to the bottom left corner with his powerful effort to give India the early lead.

Govers made his presence felt with his powerful shot on the reverse to bring it level. Harvie dished out some attractive stick work with Whetton in the attacking circle before feeding Welch who slotted it home from a close range to make it 2-1. In space of seven minutes, Welch brought up his brace when he scored from a rebound to make it 3-1.

But soon, Hardik reduced the deficit to 2-3 with five minutes left in the first-half when he nicely intercepted the ball to raid the Australian D. Govers completed his brace before the halftime to restore their two-goal cushion scoring from a field goal.

India made it 3-4 with a well-executed penalty corner this time by the promising Mohammed Raheel in the third quarter. Thereafter it was a one-way traffic for the Kookaburras as India put up an extremely shoddy show in the fourth quarter.

ON TOP OF WORLD

flank.



Canada won their first Davis Cup title Sunday, beating Australia behind victories from Denis Shapovalov and Felix Auger-Aliassime. Auger-Aliassime secured the winning point when he downed Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4 after Shapovalov opened the day by rolling past Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-2, 6-4

Karthika guides Odisha FC past ECoR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 27: Karthika Angamuthu scored late in the game to help Odisha FC secure a 1-0 win against East Coast Railway (ECoR) in the tournament opener of the Odisha Women's League (OWL) football tournament at the Kalinga Stadium here, Sunday.

The match turned out to be an interesting contest of both attack and defence. Both the teams created several scoring opportunities, but failed to find a goal as players headed into the tunnel with the score remain goalless at halftime. After the change of ends, Odisha

FC tried to take control of the game



with more attacking intent. Their effort finally got paid off as the pressure led to a foul inside the ECoR box and the referee pointed

to the spot without any hesitation. Karthika stepped in and calmly slotted it home from the spot to break ECoR hearts

PT USHA SET TO BECOME **1ST WOMAN CHIEF OF IOA**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: The legendary PT Usha is set to become the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as she emerged as the lone candidate for the top post for the December 10 elections.

The 58-year-old Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medallists and a fourth-place finisher in the 1984 Olympics 400m hurdles final, filed her nomination papers for the top job Sunday along with her team for the various posts. The deadline to file nomination papers for the IOA elections ended Sunday.

Usha, a top sprinter in her heyday,

has also been elected as one of the eight Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) by the Athletes Commission of the IOA, making her an electoral college member.

She will also become the first Olympian and first international medallist to head the IOA in its 95year-old history, adding another feather in her cap after dominating Indian and Asian athletics for two decades before retiring in 2000.

Usha is the first sportsperson to have represented the country and also become IOA chief since Maharaja Yadavindra Singh, who played a Test match in 1934. Singh was the third IOA president (1938-60).

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