



## RASHMIKA OVERWHELMED

Actor Rashmika Mandana says she is really grateful that people like her for who she is

LEISURE P2



## CHINA COVID PROTESTS

China dismissed concerns over its zero-Covid policy in the face of unprecedented protests

INTERNATIONAL P10



## KNOCK TO REMEMBER

Maharashtra batter Ruturaj Gaikwad smashes seven sixes in an over to set a List A world record in Vijay Hazare Trophy

SPORTS P12

## SHORT TAKES

### Forced conversion a menace: Centre

**New Delhi:** The Centre Monday told the Supreme Court that the issue of forced religious conversion is a menace, and it is cognizant of the gravity and the seriousness of the issue. A bench comprising justices M.R. Shah and C.T. Ravikumar, at the beginning of the hearing, said "this is a serious issue". Citing Centre's reply in the matter, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, this "is a menace". Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing on behalf of an intervenor, submitted that the petition is not maintainable and pointed out that the same petition was filed twice earlier and then withdrawn. **P7**

### Markets at fresh highs

**Mumbai:** Benchmark indices ended at fresh lifetime highs Monday amid foreign fund inflows, a decline in crude oil prices and buying in index major Reliance Industries. Rallying for the fifth day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 211.16 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 62,504.80, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it jumped 407.76 points or 0.65% to its lifetime intra-day peak of 62,701.40. The broader NSE Nifty gained 50 points or 0.27 per cent to end at 18,562.75, its record closing high. **P11**



**WORK IN PROGRESS:** Construction work of Yadadri Thermal Power Plant underway at Damaracherla in Nalgonda district of Telangana, Monday **PTI PHOTO**

## Centre returns 20 files to Supreme Court Collegium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 28:** The government has asked the Supreme Court Collegium to reconsider 20 files related to the appointment of high court judges, including that of advocate Saurabh Kirpal who has candidly spoken about his gay status, sources said Monday. The government expressed "strong reservations" about the recommended names as it sent back the files to the collegium November 25, sources aware of the procedure to appoint Supreme Court and HC judges said. Out of the 20 cases, 11 were fresh cases and nine were reiterations made by the SC collegium, they said. Kirpal's name was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by then CJI N V Ramana, for elevation as a Delhi High Court judge. Saurabh Kirpal is the son of former CJI B N Kirpal. Kirpal's name was sent by the

### TOP COURT OBJECTS TO RIJIJU'S REMARK

**New Delhi:** The SC Monday took strong exception to Law Minister Kiren Rijiju's recent comment on the collegium system of appointing judges, saying it should not have happened. Senior advocate Vikas Singh brought to the court's notice Rijiju's interview to a TV channel, wherein he had said, "Never say that the government is sitting on the files, then don't send the files to the government, you appoint yourself, you run the show then." Delhi High Court Collegium to the collegium in October 2017 for elevation as a high court judge. But the top court collegium is learnt to have deferred deliberations on his name three times. He had recently told NDTV that he believed the reason behind the limbo was his sexual orientation. **Continued on P4**

# Suspend agitating lawyers' licence: SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Nov 28:** Expressing displeasure over the agitation by members of bar associations in some districts of Odisha, the Supreme Court (SC) Monday asked the Bar Council of India (BCI) to take appropriate action against them, including suspension of their licences. Observing that the agitating lawyers have to resume work, the apex court said though one of the issues for the protest is the demand for establishment of a permanent bench of the Orissa High Court in western Odisha, high court benches cannot be at the 'doorsteps'. "What is the core issue? Every district wants high court benches?" a bench of Justices SK Kaul and AS Oka observed, adding, "You can have district judiciary at your doorsteps, you cannot have a high court at your doorsteps." "It cannot be done. Odisha is not such a big state," it said. The apex court was hearing an application filed by the Registrar General of the Orissa High Court which has said that abstention of work by members of the bar associations in several districts has seriously hampered the judicial work in the subordinate courts of the state. It had November 14 asked the agitating members of the bar associ-

- ▶ The apex court asked the police to provide foolproof arrangements for ingress and egress of the judicial officers, willing members of the bar & also the litigants
- ▶ It said appropriate steps, including preventive arrest or otherwise, as required, may be taken by the administration
- ▶ The SC had November 14 asked the agitating members of the bar associations to resume work by November 16. But it observed that the agitation and picketing continued in some areas of the state

**What is the core issue? Every district wants high court benches? You can have district judiciary at your doorsteps, you cannot have a high court at your doorsteps**

**SC BENCH OF JUSTICES SK KAUL AND AS OKA**

ations to resume work by November 16. During the hearing Monday, the bench perused the supplementary affidavit filed by the high court's registrar general which said that the agitation and picketing continued in some areas of the state. "If you (agitating lawyers) do not want to work, you leave the profession," the bench observed, adding, "The court work cannot stop." The bench termed as "intolerable" the conduct of lawyers who are holding the agitation which is disrupting the functioning of the district courts there. It noted that despite its observations November 14, the agitation and picketing continued in some districts. "We had already cautioned the bar associations on many occasions in the earlier proceedings as well on the last occasion that if they fail to conduct themselves as members of this novel profession, they lose any protection," it said. "If leaders of the bar associations in Odisha seek to invite action, we will have to oblige them," the bench said. **Continued on P4**

## Raid politics ahead of Padampur bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 28:** The raids by the Income Tax (I-T) officials on three businessmen considered close to the ruling BJD and Odisha Goods and Services Tax (GST) sleuths on commercial establishments linked to BJP workers in bypoll-bound Bargarh's Padampur Monday led to a slugfest between the two political parties. The I-T officials raided the residence of three businessmen - Md Sajid of Bahidarpada, Manabhanjan Sahu of Sahupada and Gaju Agrawal of Badapada area in Padampur. The three were supporters of late BJD MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha, whose death necessitated Padampur bypoll December 5. Denouncing the I-T raids, senior BJD leader and MLA Shashi Bhusan Behera said, "The I-T raids during the byelection are not acceptable. I-T had all the days to raid any place, but, unfortunately, they conducted it during the bypoll." BJP state general secretary Prithiviraj Harichandan, however, justified the I-T raids saying, "It's unfortunate that some people are opposing I-T raids. Should the investigating agency probing into different crimes wait for the election to be over? The I-T conducts raids as and when they get confirmed information regarding irregularities." The I-T department raided the residences of three businessmen with CRPF jawans engaged for se-



I-T raid at Md Sajid house



GST raid at Sunil Agrawal's shop

curity. The CRPF jawans were brought from neighbouring Chhattisgarh for I-T raids. Hours after the I-T raids, Odisha's GST sleuths carried out raids at multiple premises linked to BJP workers in the district. The GST officials raided a cloth store of BJD leader and Padampur Town president Sunil Agrawal in Bheunria Chhik. Besides, a petrol pump and medicine store at Paikamal belonging to BJP worker Gobardhan Agrawal were among the places raided by the GST sleuths. BJD leader and former chairman of Padampur NAC Satyaban Agarwal termed the GST raids as motivated. Harichandan dubbed the GST raids as desperate attempts by BJD to terrorise the BJP workers. Meanwhile, protesting the GST raids, Padampur traders' association called for a 12-hour bandh Tuesday.

## Woman, son chop man into 10 pieces

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 28:** In a chilling recall of the Shraddha Walkar murder case, a woman and her son allegedly killed her husband, chopped his body into 10 pieces, and kept them in a fridge before dumping them across east Delhi, police said Monday. Anjan Das (45) was killed May 30 by his wife Poonam (48) and step-son Deepak (25) who were arrested from east Delhi's Pandav Nagar. Some of his body parts were found stuffed inside a bag at the Ramlila Ground in east Delhi's Kalyanpuri June 5, police said. Over the next few days, his legs, thighs, skull and a forearm were recovered following which a case was registered under Sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence and giving false information) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Pandav Nagar Police Station. The victim has a wife and eight sons in Bihar, but he hid this fact from Poonam, police said, adding that a team will be sent there to collect DNA samples of Das' kin to match the body parts. The mother-son duo had killed Das over suspicion that he was eyeing his stepdaughter and step-son's wife. They had disposed of the body parts at different places in east Delhi over a period of three to four days and buried the skull, they said.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't spend so much on campaigning. We might need money after elections.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VAR.
SENSEX	62504.80	↑ 211.16
NIFTY	18562.75	↑ 50.00
DOLLAR	81.68	↓ ₹0.07
EURO	85.14	↑ ₹0.22
GOLD	₹52,424	↓ ₹120
SILVER	₹61,590	↓ ₹86

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	29.6°C	28.5°C
MIN	14.0°C	15.0°C
Humidity	71%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

## Archana issue sets House on boil

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 28:** The opposition BJP and the Congress Monday staged a walkout in the Assembly, questioning Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 'silence' in lady blackmailer Archana Nag case, which, they claimed, involves several leaders of the ruling BJD. Countering the allegation, MoS for Home TK Behera told that the BJD government never protected criminals and the charges made by opposition members are baseless. The issue was debated in the House after the BJP moved an adjournment motion for it, which was accepted by Speaker BK Arukha. The BJP members alleged that the state government was shielding the culprits of the case, involving 26-year-old Archana Nag, who has been arrested, along with her husband, on charges of black-



mailing rich and influential people by threatening to make public photos and videos of their intimate moments. Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi of the BJP and Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra, who had earlier demanded Patnaik's resignation over the issue, claimed that attempts were being made to hush up the matter as several BJD leaders,

including ministers, are involved in it. Behera, rebuffing the allegations, said two complaints have been registered, and a probe is underway. "Action will be taken against anyone found involved in the case, no matter how powerful he or she is," the minister asserted. As the debate over the extortion case escalated in the House, the MLAs of the opposition BJP and the Congress staged a walkout. Majhi, outside the House, said that the CM's silence on the issue has created 'confusion'. Patnaik, though in charge of the Home department, was yet to give any reaction, despite the fact that pictures of BJD leaders have surfaced in the blackmailer's email account, he pointed out. Mishra sought to know why the police have not interrogated any bigwig involved in the case thus far.

## Gaslighting: Merriam-Webster's word of 2022

LOOKUPS FOR THE WORD ON MERRIAM-WEBSTER.COM INCREASED 1,740% IN 2022 OVER THE YEAR BEFORE

**New York, Nov 28:** 'Gaslighting' — mind manipulating, grossly misleading, downright deceitful — is Merriam-Webster's word of the year. Lookups for the word on merriam-webster.com increased 1,740% in 2022 over the year before. But something else happened. There wasn't a single event that drove significant spikes in the curiosity, as it usually goes with the chosen word of the year. The gaslighting was pervasive. "It's a word that has risen so quickly in the English language, and especially in the last four years, that it actually came as a surprise to me and to many of us," said Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's editor at large, in an ex-



(File) Gas lamps illuminate St. Louis' Gaslight Square April 2, 1962. Despite its relatively recent prominence, the word was brought to life more than 80 years ago with 'Gas Light,' a 1938 play by Patrick Hamilton

**It (gaslighting) is a word that has risen so quickly in the English language, and especially in the last four years, that it actually came as a surprise to me and to many of us**

**PETER SOKOLOWSKI | MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S EDITOR AT LARGE**

clusive interview with The Associated Press ahead of Monday's unveiling. "It was a word looked up frequently every single day of the year," he said. There were deepfakes and the dark web. There were deep states and fake news. And there was a whole lot of trolling. Merriam-Webster's top definition for gaslighting is the psychological manipulation of a person, usually over an extended period of time that "causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and typically leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem, uncertainty of one's emotional or mental stability, and a dependency on the perpetrator." Gaslighting is a heinous tool frequently used by abusers in relationships — and by politicians and other newsmakers. It can happen between romantic partners, within a broader family unit and among friends. It can be a corporate tactic, or a way to mislead the public. There's also "medical gaslighting," when a health care professional dismisses a patient's symptoms or illness as "all in your head." **Continued on P4**

# leisure



## EMMA BATS FOR GENDER-NEUTRAL AWARD CATEGORIES

English actress Emma Corrin, who played Diana Frances Spencer, Princess of Wales in Season 4 of the streaming series *The Crown*, has called for genderless categories at major entertainment awards shows, reports *Variety*.

## NICOLE KIDMAN BIDS \$100,000 FOR JACKMAN'S HAT ON BROADWAY

Nicole Kidman received a warm welcome on Broadway Sunday when she made an appearance at a performance of Hugh Jackman's *The Music Man* revival. During an auction for the charity Broadway Cares, Kidman made her presence known when she bid a hefty sum of \$100,000 for a hat signed by Jackman.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

Today is just another busy day. You may remain hassled sorting out problems at office and then at home. Your bosses may allow you certain concessions and this will ease things to some extent. Ganesh says you will gain valuable guidance from elderly people.

#### TAURUS

Today might be a day of untying and getting out of the tangles, says Ganesh. You may take the blame for the actions of another. Things may get frustrating around the afternoon and your confidence levels may stoop. Work on your strength and work out your weaknesses, advises Ganesh.

#### GEMINI

You need to guard against hurting anyone's feelings because of your ill-temper or harsh language. You need to help others in their troubles. You ought to reflect on the toll that the troubles that have visited you have taken on you, and accordingly empathise with others, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

Intimate friends will be impressed with your attitude. You will try to make them happy and spend a happy evening with them. Affection and cordial ties will linger for long and prove fruitful.

#### LEO

Your mind will be filled with conflicting emotions, says Ganesh. You will feel extreme happiness one moment, and then will be depressed the next. You need to guard against mood swings and find a balance to achieve success in your work today. Financial gains are indicated.

#### VIRGO

The remarkable manner in which you function at work will earn you a lot of accolades and supporters. Your seniors will appreciate your dedication to work. There will be fun and entertainment in the evening. Ganesh says you can look forward to relaxing with some soft music.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says governmental work will be beneficial today. Those of you who are officials in the government will be having a positive and good day ahead. Your family members will show their support for you and this is something that you will need from them. Children will progress in life. This is a good time to take important decisions.

#### SCORPIO

The stars are aligned in a way that they produce a constructively favourable day for you today, predicts Ganesh. You know the importance of a team and treat everyone - seniors & juniors as equals. This will make the work environment harmonious.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Your imagination knows no boundaries. Your kind heart is ready to forget and forgive the evil. As Ganesh puts it, this attitude will take you a long way! Charity and donation, too are on your mind today. You enjoy a benevolent time today.

#### CAPRICORN

Aren't you tired of doing the same thing again and again? Ganesh advises you to come out of your shell and breathe in some fresh air. Moving to a bigger and better house is on the cards for you, foretells Ganesh. It will take a major chunk out of your savings, but you are not complaining. You are not a spendthrift.

#### AQUARIUS

A romantic liaison is headed towards you. Quite naturally, you don't want to be caught dead in a ratty old tee. Today, you want to keep everyone happy and amused, both at home and at work. And you manage wonderfully, says Ganesh.

#### PISCES

You will have no idea how time flies by today, while you struggle to complete an unceasing flow of tasks. You might end up missing out on the smaller details owing to your work load. Hence you need to concentrate on your daily routine.



A scene from Spanish movie *I Have Electric Dreams*

## Golden Peacock for Spanish movie at IFFI

The nine-day festival featured 280 films from 79 countries opened with the Austrian film *Alma and Oskar*, directed by Dieter Berner, while Polish director Krzysztof Zanussi's *Perfect Number* was the closing film.

**Panaji:** The 53rd edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) concluded Monday with Spanish film *I Have Electric Dreams* directed by Valentina Maurel winning the prestigious Golden Peacock for the best film of the festival.

The event witnessed participation of filmmakers and cinema lovers from across the globe.

Vahid Mobasseri, lead actor of *No End*, was honoured with Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Male), while Daniela Marin Navarro, lead Actor of Best Film *I Have Electric Dreams* was honoured with Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female). Iranian writer and director Nader Saeivar gets Silver Peacock for Best Director for *No End*, Filipino filmmaker Lav Diaz bagged Special Jury Award for *When the Waves are Gone*. Award for Best Debut Feature Film of a Director has been snatched by Asimina Proedrou for *Behind The Haystack* and Praveen Kandregula has received Special Mention for *Cinema Bandi*.

The nine-day festival featured 280 films from 79 countries opened with the Austrian film *Alma and Oskar*, directed by Dieter Berner, while Polish director Krzysztof Zanussi's *Perfect Number* was the closing film.

Megastar Chiranjeevi was conferred the Indian Film Personality of the Year award on concluding day of International Film festival of India.

Legendary Actress Asha Parekh, Akshay Kumar, Ayushmann Khurana were felicitated on the occasion.

# Can't be someone else off camera: Rashmika 3-day OALF off to a colourful start

**Mumbai:** While on camera she can put on multiple personalities, off it, Rashmika Mandanna comes across as this chirpy, bubbly girl. Be it during her interviews or when she is caught surprised through paparazzi spotting, the *Pushpa* actress is always all smiles, radiating a happy mood.

Talking about her off screen personality, Rashmika says, "Well, that's just how I am. This is my personality. I can't fake it as people will catch it that I am doing all this just for the camera. Moreover, I just can't pull off an act off camera, as that's not me. I am just really grateful that people like me for who I am."

Unlike the south industries, Rashmika, who made her Hindi film debut with Amitabh Bachchan starrer *Goodbye* this year,

says that the paparazzi culture is quite new to her. She shares, "All the photographers are so adorable. Initially I used to get nervous when suddenly so many of them would come around, but then after talking to them and understanding their job I realised their hard work too. I realised that just like me, they were doing their job. It is then I decided that when they are around me, for those few seconds or minutes I will make them smile."



**Bhubaneswar:** The 7th edition of Odisha Art and Literature Festival (OALF), a confluence of poetry, fiction, art, music, dance and discussions, organised by Dhauli Review Trust, was inaugurated here at Gitagobinda Sadan, Monday. In the first session, eminent writer and publishing personality David Davidar along with poet Satya Mohanty and OALF director Manu Dash lit the ceremonial lamp to open the three-day event followed by their inaugural address.

In the second session, speaking on 'State of fiction in India, creative writing and publishing in the 21st Century' Davidar said the success of a book does not depend on a writer or a publisher: It is only the readers who make it so.

Author Subha Sharma, poet Chirashree Indrasingh and Manu Dash discussed 'Things To Leave Behind: Legacy of the Past Encounters with Modernity' in the third session.

The first day was also marked

by a reading session where poets from different parts of the globe including Amir Or, Annemarie Ni Churrein, Diti Ronen, Kira wuck and Maryam Al Amjadi recited their poems. Poet and critic Kedar Mishra moderated another session on the subject Bhima Bhoi: The Poet & the Rebel. Basudev Sunani, Pradip Kumar Panda and Panindam Deo took part in the programme.

In the next session translators from Odisha and abroad discussed 'Historicizing Translation'. Eminent writers and translators such as Manisha Chaudhari, Rabindra K Swain, Snehaprava Das and Manu Dash spoke during the session.

In the seventh session, poets Kailash Ray, Netrananda Samantaray, Kamadev Moharana, Rabi Satpathy, Debi Prasanna Nanda, Manu Das and Manua Das read poems with music by Jadunath Panda and associates. Jnanee Debasish Mishra curated the event. The final programme of the day was Sugama Sangeeta curated by Jadunath Panda.

Four books, published by Dhauli Books, were released on day 1.

## Uorfi takes on Chetan Bhagat

**Mumbai:** Internet personality Uorfi Javed took on popular writer Chetan Bhagat as a result of a comment made by the latter in which he called her a 'distraction' for boys. Although Bhagat later clarified that he'd been quoted out of context, Uorfi went after him, all guns blazing.

She took to her Instagram Stories and shared a series of his chats that had gone viral

a few years ago during the #MeToo campaign. He was then accused of sexual misconduct by author and yoga instructor Ira Trivedi.

The former *Bigg Boss OTT* contestant asked what was the need for the Two Stars author to take her name in a literature festival, even though she is neither a writer, nor of his age.

"I do not understand the need of mentioning my name at a literature festival. I am not an author. Also,

you said the youth is getting distracted by watching my photos. Leave that aside. First, tell me why you, who is double the age of youth, were sending messages to girls half your age? Was that not distracting? Were your marriage and your children not getting affected by it?" Uorfi asked.

Bhagat also took to his Twitter handle to clarify that he was being unnecessarily questioned for what he had not said.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

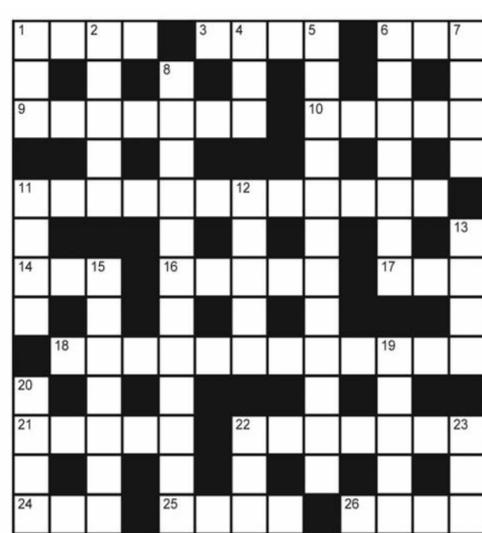


### BREVITY



### FUN post

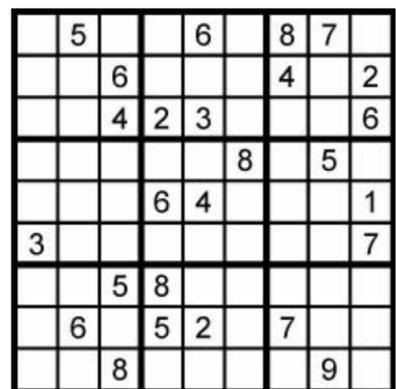
### CROSSWORD



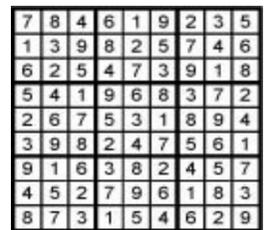
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Machinist's tool
  - 3 Gyro meat
  - 6 Stein
  - 9 Witch's mate
  - 10 Sanctuary
  - 11 Tiger type of old (5-7)
  - 14 Shack
  - 16 Barks
  - 17 Beast of burden
  - 18 Some tennis matches (5,7)
  - 21 Wrath
  - 22 Brass instrument
  - 24 Long-jawed fish
  - 25 Highway hauler
  - 26 Henrik Ibsen's work
  - Down**
  - 1 Solemn promise
  - 2 Chocolate substitute
  - 4 Tablet holder
  - 5 Sauropod dinosaur
  - 6 Writing genre
  - 7 Burst of wind
  - 8 Type of club (6,6)
  - 11 London district
  - 12 Embrocated
  - 13 Hawaiian strings
  - 15 Revolver part
  - 19 Place for a pin
  - 20 Piquancy
  - 22 Balmoral cousin
  - 23 Give it a whirl

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

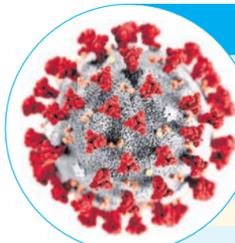


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**CULTURAL FEST**

An artiste performing Odissi at Saptaranga organised by Mrudugunjan at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,62,82,424	62,48,45,579	66,36,723
India	4,46,71,853	4,41,36,116	5,30,614
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

# Ruckus in House over teachers' protests

Speaker asks government to look into the demands of teachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 28:** The Opposition BJP and Congress created a ruckus Monday in the state Assembly over the demands of primary teachers, who have been staging protests here at Mahatma Gandhi Marg since Sunday. Later on in the day, after listening to the Opposition members, Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, Bikram Keshari Arukha asked the state government to look into the demands of the agitating teachers.

As soon as the House assembled for the day at 10.30am, both the Congress and BJP members rushed to the Well of the House and stalled the question hour over the primary school teachers' stir. Despite, the Speaker's assurance that they could raise the issue during Zero hour, the MLAs refused to go back to their respective seats. It forced



the Speaker to adjourn the house till 11.30am.

Again, when the House re-assembled at 11.30am, the Congress and BJP members created a similar noisy scene in support of the agitating teachers. Seeing no other option, the Speaker convened an all-party meeting adjourning the House till 11.45 am. After the meeting, normalcy returned.

Thousands of primary school teachers have resorted to agita-

tion occupying the entire Mahatma Gandhi Marg in front of the state Assembly since Sunday in support of their three-point charter of demands. It includes abolition of contractual system, resumption of old-age pension and increase in grade pay while counting their six years of teaching experience.

Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said, "The Chief Minister has recently announced

that the contractual appointment system for teachers has been abolished. If it is true, then why are the teachers on the protest path? Their demand is genuine. When nearly two lakh primary teachers are protesting where is School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash?"

Similarly, senior Congress leader Taraprasad Bahinipati also backed the demands of the teachers. He threatened to paralyse the Assembly over the teachers' issues.

Bahinipati also questioned the absence of Dash and other ministers. "No Minister is here to listen to the plight of teachers. The Odisha government has adopted an anti-teacher policy. We are strongly opposing it," Bahinipati said.

The All Odisha Primary School Teachers Association has warned that all the 54,000 primary schools in Odisha will face closure if their demands are not met.

# Awareness campaign to eradicate anaemia launched

Approximately 5,000 officers and employees of the State Secretariat would get benefits of this facility

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 28:** Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra inaugurated Monday a campaign against anaemia for all officers and employees of Lok Seva Bhawan here. The campaign titled '3T' (test, treat and talk) was launched on the lawns of the Lok Bhawan in presence of Women and Child Development Secretary, Subha Sarma and other senior officers.

Mahapatra said that anaemia is seen as a health hazard across various social categories. One of the main reasons for prevalence of anaemia is the failure to diagnose



the disease and ignoring symptoms, he pointed out.

The Chief Secretary directed the departments of Women and Child Development and Health and Family Welfare to intensify hemoglobin testing and counseling throughout Odisha.

Mahapatra also advised all officers and employees of Lok Seva Bhawan to get tested and take necessary medicines in the interest of their own health.

Sarma said that six stalls for testing of anaemia with awareness materials have been set up. Test reports are available within two minutes and medicines are also being provided free of cost for those affected by anaemia, she informed. At the stalls, nutrition experts are also present to provide a proper diet chart for those suffering from anaemia, she added.

Officials said that approximately 5,000 officers and employees of the state secretariat would get this facility. The stalls would function from 11.00am to 4.30pm daily from November 28 to December 2.

Recently, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had launched Anemia Mukta Lakshya Abhiyan (AMLAN) for Odisha to eradicate anaemia from the state. Around 55,000 government and government-aided schools and 74,000 Anganwadi centres would be used for this programme.

## Woman's body found in Puri beach; family cries murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Puri, Nov 28:** Claiming that the woman, whose body was found on the beach here, was kidnapped from the hotel, raped, killed and disfigured before being thrown into the sea, her family members on Monday demanded a high-level probe into the incident.

The police, however, suspect the death of the woman, who hails from a village in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh, was due to drowning in the sea. The family members have met Puri Superintendent of Police KV Singh and demanded the high-level investigation.

The disfigured body of the 18-year-old woman, dressed in only her underclothes was found in the beach near the Penthakata area, five km from Swaragadwar, November 26, three days after she went missing. It was her father who had identified her from her earrings, and gold nose pin.

Puri police said the face of the woman was absolutely blackened, probably by chemicals like acid and her fingers were mutilated. "It could, however, also be due to the long exposure to saline water of the sea as the body had floated face down. Her fingers may have been eaten away by any marine creature".

## Haryana man nabbed for cheating Bhub hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 28:** Commissionerate Police have recently arrested a person from Haryana for duping officials of two private medical college and hospitals in the city of approximately ₹70 lakhs on the pretext of providing ambulances during the Covid-19 pandemic. The 55-year-old accused Devender Kumar Gera, is a resident of Rajouri Garden locality in the national capital. However, he was residing at Suraj Kund in Faridabad district of Haryana and was working as a senior vice-president of 'Bafna Health Care Private Ltd'.



In the first case, the authorities of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan deemed to be university placed an order with the Haryana-based company for the supply of seven TATA Winger ambulance vehicles during the pandemic in 2019. The company had

also agreed to do fabrication and installation of equipment inside the vehicles as per the norms and specifications mentioned by the complainant. The accused firm received ₹92,60,280 to complete the task.

However, the healthcare company delayed handing over the vehicles and also carried out a poor-quality work flouting specifications. The accused company thereby caused losses to the private medical college and fraudulently took excess money to the tune of ₹21,85,350.

Based on a complaint filed by SOA, Khandagiri police registered a case (No 494/22) and started investigations.

Similarly, the accused had also received ₹47,49,394 from another private hospital in Patia to supply three ambulances in 2020. However, he neither handed over the vehicles nor returned the money.

A team of Infocity and Khandagiri police after completing investigations visited Faridabad November 25 and arrested Gera. The accused was Monday produced before a local court here and then sent to judicial custody.

## Bengal follows Odisha's lead, takes up census of fishing cats

The fishing cat census was the second of its kind in the world after the first one was conducted in Chilika lake in June this year



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, Nov 28:** In June this year, in a joint collaboration between the Fishing Cat Project (TFCP) and the Chilika Development Authority, the Odisha government had conducted a census of fishing cats in state's Chilika Lake.

Recently, West Bengal made an attempt to conduct a census of the fishing cats, the state animal, which inhabit the mangrove forests of the Sunderbans, and the state Forest department has decided to conduct an awareness drive on the protection of these animals.

A department official said that camera-traps were laid in different pockets of the mangrove forests and upon analysing the footage, it has been found that currently there are 385 of them scattered over the four ranges of

Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary, National Park East, National Park West Bengal and Basirhat.

The fishing cat census was the second of its kind in the world after the first one was conducted in Chilika Lake in June this year in a joint collaboration between The Fishing Cat Project (TFCP) and the Chilika Development Authority.

The number of fishing cats detected in the Chilika region was 176, which was less than 50 per cent of the number detected in the Sunderbans census.

However, what has kept the Bengal forest department worried is that the increasing incidents of the fishing cats becoming victims of the animal-human conflict.

According to the deputy field director of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve, S Jones Justin, there is a necessity for creating larger public awareness

about these fishing cats.

"They prefer to stay in the moist areas in the jungles which are adjacent to the water bodies. However, of late there had been instances of human encroachments in the area, which is endangering the existence of the fishing cats in the region," he said.

Meanwhile, a state Forest department official said that one major reason for this conflict with human beings is the prevailing misconception about general people regarding these fishing cats essentially because of their body texture that resembles somewhat like that of a mini-leopard.

"So, when these fishing cats enter the human habitations, the local villagers often kill them out of this misconception. So, there is a necessity to create an awareness drive about fishing cats among local people," the official said.

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(\*CBDT Circular No. 21/2022 in F.No. 275/25/2022-IT(B) dt. 27/10/2022)

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# MIO to facilitate growth of startups in Odisha

Expansion in startups will create large employment opportunities, say officials



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 28:** The 'Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave 2022' scheduled to be held November 30 to December 4, is expected to bolster innovation and expansion in Odisha's startup ecosystem with an aim to maximise investment and opportunities in the state.

The five-day event promises to be an effective platform to network, impart knowledge, forge partnerships and facilitate growth of startups across sectors. As the business climate in Odisha is conducive and there is support avail-

able from the government, start-ups from outside also can assess the prospect of setting up their businesses here.

'Startup Odisha' will play a pivotal role at MIO and will be seen as an important step in the development of the economy of the state. The aim is to maximise investment through innovative programmes that showcase the startup prowess of Odisha. Under the guidance of the honourable Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 'Startup Odisha' will continue to work towards making the state a preferred start-up hub of India.

The thematic session of 'Make in Odisha' will be conducted by 'Startup Odisha' with the theme 'Startups, Paradigm Shift and The Road Ahead'. Patnaik is expected to grace the event. The session will be conducted under the guidance of MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman, 'Startup Odisha' and Saswat Mishra, Principal Secretary, MSME department. Some of the best speakers, influencers and leaders for have been roped in for the session. The aim will be to inspire and encourage youth of Odisha to come up with innovative ideas and transform them into successful companies.

Make in Odisha Conclave 2022, is poised to attract significant investment into the state, support startups and thereby create multiple job opportunities. The conclave will provide a platform that would not only boost the start-up ecosystem but also enhance the contribution of various sectors such as agritech, food and beverages, healthcare, manufacturing and non-IT startups towards the economic growth of the State.

## Atmamanthan by BMC

**BHUBANESWAR:** A workshop Atmamanthan was organized by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for the ward core committee consisting of the Corporator, ward officer, NGO partner, Swachha Supervisor and Swachha Sathis. On the occasion, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das said that Bhubaneswar can be first in sanitation and development initiatives with the coordination of all.

## 2 from Odisha get 'Shilp Guru' award



POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, November 28:** A total of 15 master craftspersons from Odisha were conferred Monday with the 'Shilp Guru' award and the 'National Award' for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 Monday here. Bijay Kumar Parida (Palm leaf Engraving) and Maheswar Parida (Stone Carving) received the 'Shilp Guru' awards for the year 2018.

Five craftspersons each were conferred with the 'National Awards' for the year 2017 and 2018 while three were awarded for 2019. According to a release from the Union Ministry of Textiles, the main objective of the awards is to recognise their excellence in craftsmanship and their valuable con-

tribution to Indian handicrafts and textiles sector.

The 'Shilp Guru' awards are given to legendary master craftspersons in recognition of excellent work and the role played by them as gurus to pass on the traditional knowledge to other artisans. The award consists of a gold coin, Rs 2 lakh in prize money, a tamrapatra, a shawl and a certificate. A total of 30 master craftspersons, including six women were honoured with the 'Shilp Guru' awards for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The 'National Awards' are being conferred since 1965 for outstanding craftsmanship in different craft categories. The major segments for which the awards are conferred are metal engraving, chikan hand embroidery, khurja blue pottery, pachedi kalamkari, bandhani, tie and dye, hand block bagh print, warli art, stone dust painting, sozni hand embroidery, work on terracotta, Tanjore painting, sholapith, kantha hand embroidery, palm leaf engraving, brass wire inlay on wood, wood tarkashi, Madhubani painting, gold leaf painting and straw craft.



**UP IN ARMS:** Members of Odisha Milita Vidyalaya Pachika Sahayika Sangh staging protest over several demands at Master Canteen in Bhubaneswar, Monday

## CAPITAL GEARS UP FOR WINTER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 27:** With the temperature dipping in the Capital city, netizens are bracing up themselves to face the cold waves. People can be seen clothed in winter wear especially during the evenings. Rush can be witnessed to buy wollen clothes.



To meet the demand stalls selling winter wear have come up in the city with colourful apparels, including sweaters, jackets, mufflers, gloves, socks, shawls, blankets, on display, in a bid to attract customers.

Leather jackets, woolen sweaters, half-sleeved jackets, high neck jackets (with mandarin collar), scarves, stoles, mufflers of various lengths and shades are being stocked by the sellers keeping the fashion trend of the people in mind.

"Though the weather hasn't turned that cold, cotton jackets are preferred by women over the woolen ones. Similarly, college girls choose woolen sweaters, as they are easy to pair with a pair of jeans. Prices of jackets range from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2500, while price range of sweaters starts from Rs. 1000," said Balaram Dalai of Fbb Big Bazar.

## Continued from P1 Suspend agitating lawyers' ...

It noted that the BCI is represented before it in the matter.

"We would expect the BCI to take appropriate action against members of the different bar associations and logically, we would expect their licenses to be suspended at least till the work is resumed," the bench said.

The apex court said it expects the police to provide foolproof arrange-

ments for ingress and egress of the judicial officers, willing members of the bar and also the litigants.

It said appropriate steps, including preventive arrest or otherwise, as required may be taken by the administration.

The bench, which posted the matter for hearing December 12, said it is the administration's duty and ob-

ligation to see that courts are functional. "Hundred per cent work has to be resumed. There is no other option," the bench said, adding, "If you do not get back to work, you will face the consequences."

While hearing the matter November 14, the bench had observed that access to justice is the very foundation of a legal system.

## 'Gaslighting' is Merriam-Webster's ...

Despite its relatively recent prominence — including "Gaslighter," The Chicks' 2020 album featuring the rousing angry titular single — the word was brought to life more than 80 years ago with "Gas Light," a 1938 play by Patrick Hamilton.

It birthed two film adaptations in the 1940s. One, George Cukor's "Gaslight" in 1944, starred Ingrid Bergman as Paula Alquist and Charles Boyer as Gregory Anton.

The two marry after a whirlwind romance and Gregory turns out to be a champion gaslighter. Among other instances, he insists her complaints over the constant dimming of their London townhouse's gaslights is a figment of her troubled mind. It wasn't.

The death of Angela Lansbury in October drove some interest in lookups of the word, Sokolowski said. She played Nancy Oliver, a young maid hired by Gregory and told

not to bother his "high-strung" wife. The term gaslighting was later used by mental health practitioners to clinically describe a form of prolonged coercive control in abusive relationships.

"There is this implication of an intentional deception," Sokolowski said. "And once one is aware of that deception, it's not just a straightforward lie, as in, you know, I didn't eat the cookies in the cookie jar."

## Centre returns 20 files ...

Justice Ramana's predecessor, then CJI S A Bobde had reportedly asked the government to send more information on Kirpal. Finally, the collegium headed by Justice Ramana took a decision in favour of Kirpal in November 2021.

The government has returned all the names related to fresh appointments in various high courts on which it had "differences" with the Supreme Court Collegium, the sources said.

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed anguish over the delay by the Centre in clearing the names recommended by the collegium for appointment as judges in the higher judiciary, saying it "effec-

tively frustrates" the method of appointment.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka said a three-judge bench of the apex court had laid down the timelines within which the appointment process had to be completed. Those timelines, it said, have to be adhered to.

Justice Kaul observed that it appeared the government is unhappy with the fact that the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act did not pass the muster; but that cannot be a reason to not comply with the law of the land.

The apex court had in its 2015 verdict struck down the NJAC Act and the Constitution (99th

Amendment) Act, 2014, leading to the revival of the Collegium system of existing judges appointing judges to constitutional courts.

During the hearing on Monday, the apex court told Attorney General R Venkataramani the ground reality is that the names recommended, including those reiterated by the apex court collegium, are not being cleared by the government.

"How does the system work?" the bench asked, adding, "Our anguish we have already expressed."

"It appears to me, I would say, unhappiness of the Government of the fact that NJAC does not pass the muster," Justice Kaul observed.

# To change corrupt behaviour, change the message

Every day we are bombarded with messages that try to persuade us to change our behaviour for the good of ourselves and society. Drink less alcohol! Eat less food! Wear a mask! Get vaccinated!

Millions of dollars are spent each year on information campaigns designed to foster more cohesive and inclusive societies.

In developing economies, this includes efforts to foster democratic attitudes and more effective political systems.

Say no to gender-based violence! Reject corruption! Do not sell your vote!

Given how pervasive they are, the most surprising thing about these campaigns is that many just don't work.

Some even make the situation worse.

The reason why is important, because it tells us something about why it's so hard to change human behaviour.

Take anti-corruption campaigns. Almost all of the programmes designed to reduce graft in high corruption countries include an 'aware-

ness raising' component.

The idea is that through raising awareness about an issue, citizens will become more willing to reject requests for bribes and act against corruption.

The hope is they'll report it or vote against corrupt politicians.

But until the last five years, no one had systematically tested whether these messages were effective.

When researchers started to look into this, they got a nasty surprise: in most cases anti-corruption messages don't make citizens more likely to reject or condemn graft.

A test in Lagos, Nigeria, a nation with a history of high-level corruption, had some alarming results.

From 1200 randomly selected participants, it found people were actually more likely to pay a bribe.

The 1200 took part in a bribery game. They were told that paying a bribe would mean another participant would lose money — much like in the real world.

Some participants received an anti-corruption message and some did not.

Those who received an anti-cor-



ruption message were on average more likely to pay a bribe. In other words, the effect of the messaging was the opposite of what was intended.

This means the millions of dollars being spent on anti-corruption messaging in countries like Nigeria may not just be wasted — it may actually be making things worse.

Blame human nature. Recent research in political and social psychology found that when

we hear about topics that are pervasive, we tend to become cynical and focus on how big the problem is.

The way we behave is less shaped by what we are told to do than by what we believe our peers are already doing.

So, we are more likely to get vaccinated and follow social distancing protocols if we think all our friends have already done so than if the government tells us.

Individuals who were already particularly pessimistic about the

prevalence of corruption were significantly more likely to be negatively affected by reading an anti-corruption message.

The biggest worry is that this logic doesn't only apply to corruption. One study tested messages designed to prevent the theft of wood from Arizona's Petrified Forest

National Park. It found that signs that described the problems caused by others' behaviour — stealing wood — were "most likely to increase theft".

It's important, then, to realise that raising awareness may actually make the problem worse.

Before embarking on awareness-raising campaigns policymakers could try and design less problematic messages.

One way to do this may be by focusing on those who behave 'appropriately', and the negative feelings people hold about those who do not, rather than highlighting the extent of the problem.

Emphasising the strength of feeling within society and the number of people who want to see change can inspire and motivate rather than depress and discourage.

But even then messages still have a risk of backfiring — and so no message should be communicated to the public before it has been systematically tested.

Only then can we make sure that when we try and do good, we do no harm.

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**FOLK CULTURE:** Tribals performed a folk dance at the Synergy Lok Sanskritik Mahotsav organised by the CSR department of Rourkela Steel Plant at Kopranda village under Bisra block in Sundargarh district

## Undertrial wields knife at judge

PNN & AGENCIES

**Berhampur, Nov 28:** Sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) Pragnan Paramita Pratihari had a close shave after an undertrial man brandished a knife and threatened to kill the judge inside her court chamber here Monday, a police officer said.

Lawyers and court staff present there overpowered Bhagaban Sahu, who was out on bail, and handed him over to the police. The accused was identified as a resident of Jemadai Sahi under Bada Bazaar police limits of the Silk City.

Sahu was arrested under various IPC sections including 307 (attempt to murder). Preliminary inquiries suggested that delay in hearing of cases registered in his name might have prompted him to attack the SDJM. Further investigation is underway, he said. The accused having previous



criminal antecedents has three cases registered in his name at Bada Bazaar police station and one in Baidyanathpur police station, where he is lodged.

The incident has sent shockwaves in the city raising serious questions on the security arrangements on the court premises.

The SDJM is safe, Berhampur Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M informed after his visit to take stock of the situation. A case has been registered at Baidyanathpur police station and the accused will be produced in the court, Tuesday. The SP said that police personnel will be deployed at the court from Tuesday.

The incident occurred when a court hearing was underway at around 3pm in the afternoon when the accused suddenly made an attack bid. He reportedly climbed up the dais in an agitated state and charged towards the SDJM with a knife.

However, the bid was foiled as one of the court staffers rushed to the SDJM's rescue in time and snatched the knife away from his possession. Meanwhile, other court employees gathered by then and handed over the accused to the police.

## Education in shambles in schools of Rayagada

**ONLY FOUR BEOs IN 11 BLOCKS**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Nov 28:** School education has gone haywire in Rayagada with the posts of block education officers (BEO) in seven out of 11 blocks of the district lying vacant.

As there are not enough BEOs, the four BEOs are forced to manage and shoulder the education system in all 11 blocks. Moreover, the post of a BEO in one of the blocks is set to go vacant after this month.

The four BEOs with enormous responsibilities in their hands have not been able to do justice to the affairs of all the schools in 11 blocks of the district. With hardly anyone to look after, the attendance has declined in many schools while lack of adequate number of teachers has hit scores of schools.

In this situation, lack of adequate number of BEOs to manage the affairs of the schools and get the problems redressed by the district administration has left the school education in the district in shambles.

Reports said that the posts of permanent BEO is lying vacant in Gudari block since 2017, Kashipur since 2021, Kalyansinghpur since 2021, Sadar block since June 2022, Chandrapur block since 2021, Gunupur block since February, 2022 and for the last two months in Bissam Cuttack block. Currently, only four blocks namely Padmapur, Muniguda, Ramnaguda, and Kolnara blocks have permanent BEOs. All the four BEOs have been given additional charge of their nearest block as well as their own blocks.

With enormous responsibilities in their hands, the four BEOs are not able to properly look after their



**With no one to keep tabs, the attendance has declined in many schools of the district while lack of adequate number of teachers has hit scores of schools**

duties. Moreover, the BEO of Kolnara block will retire this month following which all the schools in 11 blocks will have to be managed by only three BEOs.

It is also alleged that many schools in the district lack adequate number of teachers while in many more schools they report late for duty. It is not humanly possible for the four BEOs to manage the day-to-day affairs of all the schools. As a result, the management of the schools, teachers and other employees and supervision of classroom teaching have been hit. Moreover, providing education materials and information to the teachers has also been affected.

It is alleged that teachers in remote Chandrapur, Kashipur, and Kalyansinghpur blocks leave for

their homes after taking their attendance without teaching the students as no BEO is there to keep tabs on them. The teachers are neglecting their duties without having any fear of action as the DEO, ABEo and CRCCs are also not touring the schools and conducting any inquiry.

When contacted, district education officer (DEO) Purna Chandra Bariha said that this problem can be resolved if the senior teachers in Class-II ranks could be promoted. Mahendra Bibhar, headmaster of Manikjholia Government UP School under Rayagada Sadar block said that the absence of the BEOs has hit the education system. The problems of the schools are not getting resolved on urgent basis while they are not even getting their salaries in time, he lamented.

Balaji Panigrahi, headmaster of Panganpadar Government UP School under Gudari block said there is no one to take stock of the problems of the school. Balakrushna Sahu, convener of school management committee of Gudari Block Colony Primary School said the posts of BEO and ABEo are lying vacant since last five years.

## ₹2.77 cr Chaberi bridge project in limbo

People of six villages in Dasmantpur block press for action against the construction agency

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dasmantpur, Nov 28:** For the past five years, construction of a bridge project across Chaberi river with an estimated cost of ₹2.77 crore has remained confined to its foundational level in Dasmantpur area of Koraput district.

Owing to apathy of the administration and the contractor concerned, work on the project has failed to make headway while thousands of people living in six villages have been dealing with



commuting woes.

Chaberi river flows through Nandia panchayat under Dasmantpur block. In the absence of a bridge, people of Salapuga, Kumundaguda, Tentuliguda and several other villages have to wade across the river to reach their destinations every day.

"As there is no bridge, our villages

are deprived of education and emergency healthcare services and many other facilities. In monsoon, when the river is in full spate, people have to remain totally cut off from the rest of the world for days together. Life becomes miserable without essential items. When people need emergency medical care, it is too difficult to take

them across the river and finally to the nearest hospital," lamented some locals.

Taking note of their plight, the government decided to build a bridge across the river in 2017. An estimated ₹2.77 crore fund was allocated for the project while its work awarded to Maa Bhagawati Construction was started from August 7, 2017. It was supposed to be completed by January 6, 2019.

Already three years have passed after its deadline of completion, but the work is yet to show any progress. Locals warned of agitation if nothing is done to carry forward the bridge work. Our correspondent tried to know the reasons for the delay from the authorities of the construction agency, but none of them was available.

## Girl hangs self

**Berhampur:** There is no let-up in suicide cases in the state as a 19-year-old girl hanged herself at Arabinda Nagar under Baidyanathpur police limits in the Silk City, Monday. The deceased was identified as Rojalini Sahu, 19, daughter of late Santosh Sahu of Kabisuryanagar area here. Preliminary inquiries suggested that she might have taken the extreme step out of depression. On being informed, police rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. An investigation was launched after registration of a case. The incident took place when the girl's mother had gone to her brother's house at Patrapur. The house owner smelled something fishy after Rojalini did not open the door till 8am in the morning. He informed her mother over phone and asked to come back. Her mother arrived and alerted the police when the girl did not respond. Police broke open the door in the presence of her mother and found the girl hanging from the ceiling fan.

## YOUTH SETS COUPLE ON FIRE OVER PAST ENMITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada/Kaptipada, Nov 28:** In a horrific incident, a couple sustained critical burn injuries after one of their neighbours set them ablaze by pouring petrol on them over past enmity at Nuasahi village under Kaptipada police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Sunday night.

The victims were identified as Arjun Dandapata and his wife Sumati Dandapata of the village. Hearing their screams, their daughters and locals rescued them and rushed them to Udala Hospital first and later shifted them to PRM Medical College and Hospital in Baripada.

Later, Sumati was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital first after her condition deteriorated further. Arjun sustained 50 per cent burn injuries while his wife was diagnosed with 80 per cent burns.

The accused sneaked in when the couple was asleep and set them afire. He then fled the scene when the couple screamed for help.

Meanwhile, family members of the victims alleged that one of their neighbours resorted to this act entirely out of spite and demanded action against him.

On being informed, Kaptipada police reached the spot and launched an investigation. A case has been registered.

## Renovation of 1,700 water bodies soon

**Chhatrapur:** With groundwater level plummeting at an alarming rate, the state government has laid focus on restoration of water bodies in a big way across the state. As many as 1,700 water bodies will be renovated soon. This was revealed at a recent workshop of the Housing and Urban development department at Rushikulya Bhawan. Joint secretary of the HUD department Sarada Prasad Panda said that a decision was taken to renovate 1,700 waterbodies in 115 urban areas and all the works will be completed by 2024. Significantly, women SHGs will be tasked to carry out such renovation work. As many as 22 SHGs have been engaged in this drive.

## Koraput tribal women keep traditional rice variety alive

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Koraput, Nov 28:** Odisha's near-extinct Kala Jeera rice is making a comeback, thanks to the tribal women who are cultivating and marketing it to the outside world from Machhara village in Koraput district with the help of MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Jeypore, and Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS).

Researchers had warned that Kala Jeera rice would gradually vanish in 12 years, but the village women brought about the much-needed change. In fact, the seeds sowed by them also reaped the fruits of financial freedom.

Eight years on, over 100 women farmers in Machhara and nearby villages are now involved in Kala Jeera rice production. They have formed a collective 'Sabari Producer Group' which not only cultivates rice but also collects, processes, brands and sells it on the e-commerce platform Amazon.

Apart from Machhara, the group purchases Kala Jeera rice from farmers of over 10 nearby villages, including Mandia, Bajra, Suan, Dangarrani, Sukriguda, Bodapadar, Podaiguda and Mendhaguda.

"Most people in our village belong to Paraja, Godaba and Bhumiyana tribal communities. Traditionally, we cultivate rice to feed our families. We also worked under the MGNREGA scheme. Even



then, we could barely manage to keep ourselves alive," said Machhara-based Chitta Chendia, who now has three acres under Kala Jeera rice cultivation.

She says adopting Kala Jeera variety has enhanced her source of income as it is priced at ₹25 to 30 per kg in the market against the ₹15 of a basic paddy variety. According to Daimati Chendy, not everyone was involved in farming Kala Jeera rice initially. But on realising the demand for the product on Amazon, many women joined the initiative. "Even landless women now take up cultivation on leased plots," Chendy says.

Sita Jani of Machhara expanded her Kala Jeera cultivation by getting another plot on lease, apart from utilis-

ing her small piece of land. Seeds are available easily and at affordable prices, and there is no struggle to sell the produce either, she says.

Traditional farming practices are employed in Kala Jeera rice cultivation, which is fully organic. "Instead of chemical fertilisers, we make organic manure using readily available components such as cow urine and leaves of neem, papaya and pomegranate, among others," explains Jani. Additionally, the researchers at the MSSRF have trained the villagers of Koraput district to enhance productivity while staying true to traditional methods.

According to Surajita Turuk, the MSSRF field officer and officer-in-charge of Machhara village, traditional fertilisers and seed purification methods used by tribals for generations are the easiest ways to ensure organic farming. "We have branded them as 'Jibamruta' and 'Bijamruta'."

"Seeds for the seed bank are collected from relatives and surrounding villagers, and then distributed among beneficiary farmers. We have a special committee for the seed bank," Haribola Pitia explains. Anyone who gets seeds from the bank has to return more seeds than they have taken. This is the rule, though it varies from village to village. "In Machhara, if someone takes 10 kg of seed, she has to return 12 to 13 kg. In Kundra, you have to return 14 kg for every 10 kg taken," informs Pitia.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL)**  
**PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT, SOUTH DIVISION,**  
**NEAR STPI, AMBAPUA, BERHAMPUR**  
Phone-0680-2404455/ E-mail: ees.piwtt@yahoo.in

**TENDER CANCELLATIONS NOTICE**

No.JJ-29: Due to unavoidable circumstances the Tender Call Notice invited by the Executive Engineer (Civil), Ports & IWT, South Division, Berhampur vide No.EE/P&I-WT(SD)-07/2022-23 dated 21.11.2022 for the work "Sinking of 200mm dia Gravel packed Production well including saline sealing where necessary through Rotary drilling Rig upto 300m at Balugaon in Khurda District" is hereby **CANCELLED**.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Civil)  
Ports & IWT, South Division, Berhampur  
OIPR-38032/11/0005/2223

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.B-886:**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**SUNDARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**  
E-mail ID: pwd\_sng@yahoo.co.in

**"e" Procurement Notice**

Bid Identification No. SE-R&B-SNG-34 of 2022-23  
Letter No. 6860 Date: 23.11.2022

- The Superintending Engineer, Sundargarh (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in single cover system on ONLINE mode from eligible contractors with valid licenses for execution of Roads & Electrical works as detailed in DTCN.
- Nature of Work : Road & Building Work
- No. of Work : 03 (Three) Nos. (Road Work-1 No. + Building Work-2 Nos.
- Tender Cost : Rs.6,000/-
- Class of Contractor : 'C' & 'B'
- Availability of bid document in the website : From 11.00 AM Date 30.11.2022 to 05.00 PM Date 09.12.2022
- Date of Opening of Bid : 11.00 AM On Dt. 12.12.2022
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website (https://tendersodisha.gov.in). Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer  
Sundargarh (R&B) Division  
OIPR-34043/11/0011/2223

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DEOGARH**  
Email: deogarhmunicipality@gmail.com  
Website: deogarhmunicipality.com  
Office No. 06641-226231

**Letter No. 2656/DM, Dated 23.11.2022**

No. C-1650:- Deogarh Municipality proposes to Design, Manufacture, Supply & Erection of Tensile Fabric Roofing for Construction of food zone Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverable from public sector undertaking / Autonomous Bodies/ consulting registered architectural firms that have requisite experience in Tensile Fabric Roofing for Construction.

Details may be obtained from The Office of Municipal Council, Deogarh.

The completed application as per instructions in the EOI document, should reach the following address by hand/Registered Post/Speed Post/ Courier latest by 3.00 PM on Dt.29.11.2022. Deogarh Municipality reserves the sole right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

- Last date of sale of tender paper :- Dt. 29.11.2022 up to 1.00 PM
- Last date of receipt of tender Paper :- Dt. 29.11.2022 up to 3.00 PM
- Date of opening of sealed tender :- Dt. 29.11.2022 at 5.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Officer  
Deogarh Municipality  
OIPR-13088/11/0014/2223

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DEOGARH**  
Email: deogarhmunicipality@gmail.com  
Website: deogarhmunicipality.com  
Office No. 06641-226231

**Letter No. 2660/DM, Dated 23.11.2022**

No. C-1651:- Deogarh Municipality proposes to Ornamental light post and Half ball fountain at near college road park and Ganesh Park. Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverable from public sector undertaking / Autonomous Bodies/ consulting registered architectural firms that have requisite experience in Ornamental light post and Half ball fountain.

Details may be obtained from The Office of Municipal Council, Deogarh.

The completed application as per instructions in the EOI document, should reach the following address by hand/Registered Post/Speed Post/ Courier latest by 3.00 PM on Dt.29.11.2022. Deogarh Municipality reserves the sole right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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Sd/- Executive Officer  
Deogarh Municipality  
OIPR-13088/11/0017/2223

FOCUS NATION

# FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY



One must remember that the ultimate minority is the individual. And individual freedoms and rights must be protected at all costs

a duty toward minorities, as the latter have chosen to be under majority rule. One must remember that the ultimate minority is the individual. And individual freedoms and rights must be protected at all costs. The Constitution gives primacy to individual rights, not collective rights. This was a major debating point, whether collective identity like village councils (or khap panchayats) would supersede the right of the individual. Dr Ambedkar was firm on this point, that even though village communities have survived for millennia, one cannot romanticise the village republic. Indeed, they have led to ruination of India, he asserted. The Constitution puts the individual's right above everything else, and certainly above collective rights. This is an ongoing tussle. Finally, we must recollect the prophetic words of Dr Ambedkar from that speech of November 26. He said we have a contradiction, that in political life we have equality (one person one vote) but in social and economic life we have inequality. If we don't address this, he warned that those who suffer from increasing inequality and deprivation will blow up the magnificent edifice of democracy. His words were spoken in 1949, almost twenty years before the first explosion of Naxal activity. If anything, in the past seventy years inequality has worsened in every conceivable dimension, be it income, wealth, gender, access to good quality education and healthcare and now even digital inequality.

The founding principles of our Constitution lay stress on justice, liberty, fraternity and equality. The latter does not mean perfect equality, but at least means reducing the widening inequality in society. We must rededicate ourselves to those founding principles as we celebrate one of the most glorious Constitutions in the world.

The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

Indians got freedom on 15 August 1947 and responsibility on 26 January 1950. Freedom and responsibility go together and are two sides of the same coin. One cannot exist without the other. Being free means not being ruled by anyone else. It establishes our sovereignty. Being responsible means setting the rules on how we will conduct ourselves as a society. These voluntary rules have to be codified from the beginning, and we take an oath that we will abide by these rules. The rules also include the rights of the people and their responsibilities. This codification is the foundational document of our republic, whose final draft was formally adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949. That is why we celebrate 26 November as our Constitution Day. Our Constitution is one of the finest in the world. Its formation benefitted from all other Constitutions that preceded it, such as the ones from the United States and France, which are older democracies. The United Kingdom does not have a written Constitution.

Our Constitution is not merely a synthesis or a "copy paste" of those other documents that came before it. It distilled what were some of the best features and incorporated all of them into something which is uniquely Indian. The chairman of the drafting committee, also called the chief architect of India's Constitution was Dr Ambedkar, whose speech of 26 November 1946 is worth reading again and again. That speech is the culmination of the drafting process, which took nearly two years of intense, free, and frank debates. Those debates too are worth reading, not just for scholars of history, but for all who care about India's sovereignty, its democracy and the republic.

All the debates of modern times, whether they are about the uniform civil code, whether India should have a Hindu ethos-based Constitution, whether the discussion is about the balance of power between the Centre and the states, or about how much protection

should be given to minorities, or about the limits to freedom of expression and so on, all these subjects have been thoroughly discussed during those debates. Of course, the Constitution debates did not pronounce a final word on all debates for all times to come. Even then, when it was drafted, the Constitution did not represent a compromise, but a consensus. That consensus will last a long time due to the process that drove it. However, our Constitution has not been frozen forever. It has been amended more than a hundred times in the past 73 years. This does not mean that it was flawed at the beginning. It means it is a living document, and has enough flexibility to accommodate changing times, changing preferences of society. As Professor SN Mishra wrote recently, despite those many amendments, the key amendments are only 10, roughly the same that the United States has seen in two and a half centuries.

What would you consider the most important part of the Constitution? It has got to be the fundamental rights. These are not God given nor do they come from any scriptures. As Dr Ambedkar said, these are the gifts we have given to ourselves. But these rights are not absolute rights as enshrined in the American Constitution. They can be qualified by the state. The most

essential rights are the right to life, freedom of expression, freedom of mobility and the right to not be discriminated against. Parliament of course has the power to amend the Constitution, including constraining some rights. This however is subject to judicial review. Parliament's power to amend does not mean that it can alter the basic structure of the Constitution itself. This was the famous 1973 judgement of the Supreme Court, a verdict which passed with the thinnest of majority. Amendments (such as the recent one granting a reservation quota for economically weaker sections) are possible, but Parliament cannot pass laws which go against the basic structure doctrine. Also, our Constitution gives the right to the Supreme Court to review every law passed by Parliament. In this respect it is not the Parliament which is supreme (as in the UK) with unlimited rights to alter the Constitution. The Constitution is superior to the Parliament. This is an important feature and that is why many politicians call the Indian Constitution the Holy Book of our democracy.

Another important aspect of the Constitution is the protection of minorities. There are abundant safeguards to protect minorities against the arbitrary use of power by the majority. As Dr Ambedkar said, the majority has



Ajit Ranade

THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF OUR CONSTITUTION LAY STRESS ON JUSTICE, LIBERTY, FRATERNITY AND EQUALITY

## Intolerant India

A hero fears nothing, complains of nothing and never gives away.



THE MOTHER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name figures in a list that includes former heads of states in Africa allegedly persecuting their political opponents. The report has been released by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). It is an independent, bipartisan American government agency that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion and makes policy suggestions to the White House. PM Modi has been bracketed with the likes of Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe and Congo's Joseph Kabila in the report. Mugabe, during his tenure, allegedly assassinated political rivals without any compunction and Kabila's security staff did not even spare protesters in Washington condemning his ruthless persecution of his critics.

Significantly, the report comes at a time when India is basking in its positive diplomatic campaign in the recent G20 summit. Modi's failure as Chief Minister of Gujarat to prevent anti-Muslim riots in 2002 that had left hundreds dead, had led to the denial of a US visa to him. The ban continued till he became Prime Minister. It only shows the US has not changed much its appraisal of Modi, but suspended the ban for its business interests that would otherwise be hampered.

The report appears to give the message to India under BJP rule that though the latter could be a geopolitical counterweight to China, the Biden administration is not prepared to lend support to Modi the way the Trump administration did. It seems Biden has not forgotten the unkindest cut from Modi who openly canvassed for Trump among the India diaspora in the US during the Presidential race.

The report provides a broad overview of religious freedom conditions in India in 2021 and 2022. It examines how various policies adopted and implemented by the Indian government have created "an environment that is increasingly hostile toward religious minority communities." This trajectory, alongside an escalating government crackdown on civil society and dissent, is deeply alarming in a diverse, secular, and democratic country whose Constitution is intended to protect religious freedom, the report stated in an unambiguous language.

It has recommended the Biden government to designate India as a "country of particular concern" for engaging in or tolerating systematic violations of religious freedom. The panel said the US Congress should raise matters related to religious freedom during the US-India bilateral meetings and highlight concerns through hearings, briefings, letters and congressional delegations.

India is among 15 countries listed by the USCIRF for religious freedom concerns. The other countries are Afghanistan, Myanmar, China, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Vietnam.

As expected, the external affairs establishment of India slammed the USCIRF as a 'biased' report betraying its ignorance of the reality in India. The report claims that conditions linked with religious freedom in India significantly worsened in 2021.

The panel said during the year the BJP-led Central government escalated its promotion and enforcement of policies, including those promoting a Hindu nationalist agenda, it that harmed Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and other religious minorities in the country. "The government continued to systemise its ideological vision of a Hindu state at both the national and state levels through the use of both existing and new laws and structural changes hostile to the country's religious minorities," the report states.

It cited the treatment meted out to 84-year-old Stan Swamy, a Jesuit priest who was arrested in the Bhima Koregaon case. 'Swamy was arrested on dubious UAPA charges in October 2020 and never tried. He died in custody in July 2021 despite repeated concerns raised about his health,' the report stated.

The external affairs ministry is left in the lurch, damaging its credibility by rubbishing the report without a point-by-point rebuttal. As expected, no high sounding Central BJP leader has come out to defend the country's image, leaving this particular matter in the hands of bureaucrats of the ministry.

SPECTRUM HEALTH

## The best investment we can make

No one could have predicted the extent to which COVID-19 would erode decades of progress in global public health. And the world is still reeling from the shock. But we have the opportunity – and the duty – to learn the right lessons to mitigate the ongoing pandemic, while minimising the risk of similar events in the future.

Though there are new threats on the horizon, we must not allow our focus to move away from COVID. The pandemic highlighted significant gaps in our global health systems. To leave them unaddressed would be bad public policy and bad economics, because there can never be a trade-off between health and economic development. COVID has demonstrated that health is central to development, prosperity, and national security.

The pandemic's disruption of health services has resulted in spikes in HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and many non-communicable diseases – both unreported cases and deaths. These are diseases that the world had previously made great gains toward controlling. Making matters worse, the pandemic has led to decreased life expectancy, lower basic immunisation coverage, and increased psychosocial and mental-health challenges.

Compounding the pandemic's painful legacy, the war in Ukraine

has triggered an extensive humanitarian crisis, endangered global food supplies, increased food and energy prices, and threatens to cause recession and economic hardship around the world.

Moreover, higher interest rates and tightening financial conditions have raised the specter of widespread debt distress in low- and middle-income countries. By subjecting public finances to great strain, recent global shocks have put vital, long-term health investment at risk. Global solidarity and equity are the underpinnings of any effective response to the challenges we face. We must advance on three fronts to preserve the central role that health systems – and more precisely primary healthcare – play at all times, and especially when economic crises hit.

First, investment in primary healthcare must increase, because investment gaps in health widen during difficult times such as we are experiencing now. These gaps, in turn, increase the risks people face from global threats, manmade or otherwise. It is in everybody's interest to help all countries that lack resources to invest sufficiently in health-system resilience and pandemic preparation and response.

Second, innovation in life sciences needs more financing, especially to scale it up in a sustainable

manner. This means supporting local production or mental-health service delivery innovations that reach millions and are incorporated into primary healthcare system.

Third, multilateral organisations should collaborate to prepare us all to confront future health threats more effectively. Here, initiatives such as a legally binding pandemic accord, developed and ratified by countries and rooted in the WHO constitution, can provide the desperately needed playbook for preventing and responding to pandemics. Unfortunately, even before COVID, the world was lagging in the race to meet globally agreed health targets, including many of those enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

In times of rising debt and increasing risks to debt sustainability, governments, international organisations, and financial institutions must cooperate closely to get us back on track. While illustrating the many shortcomings in global cooperation, COVID has also demonstrated the importance of working together. That is why our two organisations have committed to combining our strengths to promote and increase investments in health. For example, with support from the European Investment Bank, the WHO, the Wellcome Trust, and others, the AMR Action Fund

is investing in innovative solutions to tackle antimicrobial resistance and ensure that there is a pipeline of new drugs to address key needs. The scientific community already identifies antimicrobial resistance as "the silent pandemic" and a serious threat to global health and development. Moreover, we are working to channel additional resources from other partners, such as the European Commission, development finance institutions, and private-sector actors, to boost health services where they are needed most. Earlier this year, we announced a partnership, in cooperation with the European Commission and the African Union, to strengthen health systems, in particular primary healthcare, in Africa. New cooperative projects are already moving ahead in Africa and the Middle East. Good health and well-being are goals the whole world shares. To accelerate the deployment of innovative health solutions, countries and institutions must work together, fostering cooperation not only between states, but also between governments and the private sector.

Werner Hoyer is President of the European Investment Bank. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is Director-General of the WHO. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Werner Hoyer & Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AND EQUITY ARE THE UNDERPINNINGS OF ANY EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

WISDOM CORNER

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all.

EMILY DICKINSON

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.

THICH NHAT HANH

To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float.

ALAN WATTS

WORDSWORTH

Dab hand

This is mainly a British Commonwealth phrase, commonly used in sentences such as "My son has become a dab hand at renovating cast-off computers". We're able to trace its origin back to the end of the seventeenth century, but then the trail runs into the sand. The phrase dab hand turns up first in the early nineteenth century and is widely recorded in English regional and dialect usage through the century. The first recorded use of dab by itself in a related sense is in the Athenian Mercury of 1691. It's also in the Dictionary of the Canting Crew of 1698-99: a dab there is "an exquisite expert" in some form of roguery. The US word dabster for an expert comes from the same source, and is recorded from about the same time. Dab is often reported as being school slang, but that may be a later development, as the early sightings all seem to have had criminal associations. Nobody is even sure where the original dab came from: it may be linked to the Old Dutch dabben and German tappen. The verb first appears about 1300, when it meant to give somebody a sharp blow; it weakened in sense over time, until in the sixteenth century it arrived at its modern meaning of pressing lightly and repeatedly with something soft (the criminal slang dabs for fingerprints seems to derive from this sense, perhaps with a nod towards dab hand). It's difficult to see how the idea of expertise grew out of the various senses of dab and it's possible that in this sense it is a separate word, perhaps from adept.

Dactylonomy

To define the word as the art of counting on the fingers is to severely underestimate the skill of those who employed this technique. For it was not just a matter of using the whole finger, as some of us are likely to do when we suffer temporary numerical embarrassment. After all, every finger has a knuckle, two joints and three bones (one joint and two bones for the thumb) and all of them, on both hands, were used to count up to 9,999. There are descriptions of the method from the Middle East, Asia and other places, and by the Venerable Bede from the north-east of England in the eighth century AD. Paintings exist from more than four thousand years ago showing Egyptians counting in this way, and we know it was common in classical Greece and Rome. Related methods were used in some civilisations to negotiate prices between buyer and seller, with the hands hidden under a cloth, in a serious exchange reminiscent of paper-scissors-stone, or that ancient finger game called morra in Italy. The word is from Greek daktulos, finger, plus -nomia, related to nomos, law, that we use to mark some specified area of knowledge.

Pernicious move

Sir, The Central government is all set to introduce Hindi and other regional languages as the medium of learning in MBBS course. In Madhya Pradesh, it has already been introduced by publishing MBBS books in Hindi, at a programme held in Bhopal in the presence of the Union Home Minister. The government is trying to validate this move by claiming that it will help the students. But, studying and grasping medical science comprehensively up to its highest level is not possible in any language other than English in our country, because most of the authoritative books, studied across the world, comprising pioneering research, inventions and discoveries in medical sciences, are written in English and the majority of the terminologies are in English and Latin. Even standardised translation of the contents of those books is not available in Hindi or other regional languages till date. So, it is almost impossible to teach medical science in Hindi or any other regional language. Further, this move will eventually create two classes of students—one section, studying in English, will go ahead for higher education, and another section, studying in Hindi or regional languages, would not be able to acquire a comprehensive knowledge in their field. Needless to say, if a student passes MBBS in Hindi or any other regional language, he or she would face problems while pursuing higher studies, not only abroad, but also in other states of our country.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Proud moment

Sir, The 'Queen of Indian track and field' PT Usha will now take charge as the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). She will be the first woman to hold this prestigious post. PT Usha, a top sprinter during the 1980's and 90's and lovingly called as the 'Payoli' 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. PT Usha is one of the most renowned among Indian athletes and has a record number of medals and laurels - national and international. It's definitely a proud moment for the association, Indian athletic field and the whole nation that such a great sportsperson is at the helm of a noteworthy position.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

# national

## of the day quote

I am going to make a prediction in writing in front of you all...Note down the prediction that the AAP is going to form government in Gujarat. After 27 years of misgovernance, the citizens of Gujarat will get relief from these people (BJP)

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

Every state wants a land in Mumbai. But, Maharashtra doesn't have a place in other states. Its industries are taken away and even claim is staked on its own land

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UDHAV BALASAHEB THACKERAY) LEADER

J-K is going through difficult times. I know there is too much unemployment, but our life has become an agony. Youths are being arrested. On one hand, militants kill us in the name of informers. They kill our policemen, Kashmiri Pandits or those who come from outside. But, on the other hand, our own country's gun is killing the youth here in the name of hybrid militant, white-collared militant

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Centre extends term of Kwatra

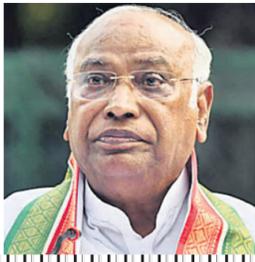
**New Delhi:** Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been granted a 14-month extension in the post beyond his date of superannuation on December 31 this year, a Personnel Ministry order said. Kwatra had assumed office as Foreign Secretary on May 1 this year, succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla to the post.

### Woman kills baby

**Bijnor (Uttar Pradesh):** A one-and-a-half-year-old baby girl was strangled to death allegedly by her mother in a fit of rage only to spite her husband. The incident took place in the Aurangpur Bhikku village in Bijnor district. Bijnor superintendent of police, Dinesh Singh, said, "The child's father, Ankit Singh, has filed a complaint that his daughter died under mysterious circumstances on Saturday. We sent the body for post-mortem, which revealed that the death was caused due to suffocation."

### 2 intruders held

**Kolkata:** Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) said on Monday that their personnel manning the Panitanki India-Nepal border in Darjeeling district of West Bengal have arrested two illegal intruders at the borders. The arrests were made on Saturday. Fake Indian identity documents like that of Aadhaar cards, PAN cards and driving licenses were seized from them. After initial investigation, one of the two persons arrested has been identified as Andrew James, a resident of New Zealand. The other person arrested has been identified as Mohammad Nurul Islam, a resident of Bangladesh.



**Modiji and (Union Home Minister Amit) Shah ask what Congress did in 70 years? Had we not done anything in 70 years, you would not have got democracy. And people like you who always claim to be poor. I am also poor. I am from the poorest of the poor. I come from the untouchable caste. At least people drink your tea. People do not even drink my tea**

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

## SC REJECTS TEJPAL'S PLEA

The Supreme Court Monday declined to entertain a plea by former editor of Tehelka magazine Tarun Tejpal seeking in-camera hearing on Goa government's appeal against his acquittal in a sexual assault case



French Minister of Armed Forces Sébastien Lecornu inspects a Guard of Honour at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi

# OVER 3,000 BOOKED FOR VIZHINJAM VIOLENCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 28:** Over 3,000 persons have been booked under unlawful assembly, rioting and criminal conspiracy charges on Monday in connection with the violent attack on the Vizhinjam police station Sunday night as part of the ongoing protest against the under-construction Adani port.

In the FIR, police have registered a case against 3,000 identifiable persons including women and children for vandalising the station and injuring police personnel. As many as 40 police personnel and numerous locals were reported to be injured in the violence that ensued.

Police said around 3,000 people gathered at the Vizhinjam police station demanding release of one accused in a case registered on Saturday and other suspects, Leo Stanley, Muthappan, Pushparaj and Shanki, who were under custody. "The mob reached the police station at around 6 PM with iron rods, sticks, stones and bricks and created a hostage situation inside the police station...They threatened to set the police station ablaze if the accused were not released...They damaged five police vehicles and destroyed the office



equipment inside the police station," the FIR said. It also states that there was a loss of around ₹85 lakh due to the attack. Sections of IPC including 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 447 (criminal trespass) and 353 (Assault on public servant) have been invoked. Meanwhile, Thiruvananthapuram City Police Commissioner told the media that the attack on the police station cannot be justified at all. "We had already deployed enough police personnel. Attack on the police station cannot be justified. The people reached the station demanding to release one person who was charged under Section 307 of the IPC," the Commissioner said. The district administration has called an all-party-meeting Monday to solve the issue. Meanwhile, the four persons who were taken into custody were released on station bail after recording their arrest. Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), MR Ajith Kumar, had told the media that around 36 police officers were admitted to various hospitals of the city after getting injured in the attack by the mob which vandalised the police station on Sunday. "...A mob gathered at the police station in the evening and demanded the release of a few persons

As many as 40 police personnel and numerous locals were reported to be injured in the violence that ensued

who were arrested in another case. They vandalised the police station and attacked the officers. An SI has received an open fracture on his leg. It seems like he was hit by a brick," Kumar had told the media. The mob targeted the police station using sticks and bricks, and attacked police officers after a person was arrested and a few others were taken into custody in connection with the violent protests on November 26. Considering the sensitive situation prevailing in the area, the Kerala government has deployed more police officials from the other districts also. The agitators also attacked mediapersons who were present at the site. The cameraperson of a local channel Sheriff M John was attacked by the protesters, who damaged his camera and snatched his cellphone.

## Professor suspended for calling student 'Kasab'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Nov 28:** Following a public outcry and internet fury, an engineering college professor in Karnataka has been 'debarred from classes' and a probe ordered into the matter by college authorities, two days after he allegedly addressed one of his students, a Muslim, as 'Kasab' in the classroom.

The controversy broke out after a 45-second video showing the student calling out the professor over being called a terrorist, went viral on social media. Ajmal Kasab was the Pakistani terrorist captured during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks of 2008. He was later hanged to death by the Indian authorities. The issue reportedly occurred in

the Manipal Institute of Technology in Manipal on November 26, the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. "Being a Muslim and facing this everyday is not funny," the student can be heard saying angrily in the video which was seemingly recorded by another student in the class. Even as the contrite professor tried to apologise and mollify him by saying he is like his son, the student refused to relent saying it wasn't funny. "Will you talk like that to your son? Will you call him a terrorist? How can you call me like that in front of so many people? This is a class, you're professional, and you are teaching. You can't call me that," the student can be heard saying in the video.

## Van carrying Aaftab attacked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 28:** A police van carrying Aaftab Poonawala, accused of killing his live-in partner, was attacked by some weapon-wielding people outside the Forensic Science Laboratory in Rohini where he was taken for a polygraph test on Monday, sources said. A car stopped the police van in the evening after overtaking it. A few people came out of the car and started attacking the van carrying Poonawala, they said. The van was driven out of the spot while two attackers were detained, the police said, adding the incident took place around 6.45 pm.

In videos of the purported incident circulating on social media, a police personnel could be seen pulling out his service revolver to disperse the attackers carrying



The van was driven out of the spot while two attackers were detained, the police said

A car stopped the van after overtaking it. A few people came out and started attacking the van

swords. In one of the clips, a few attackers claimed that they belonged to a right-wing group and that their intention was to avenge the killing of Shradha Walkar by chopping

Poonawala into pieces. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) G S Sidhu said, "Two persons have been detained for questioning."

## AGuH terror module busted in Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Nov 28:** In a major breakthrough against terrorists infrastructure in Kashmir, security forces busted a module of Ansar Ghazwatul Hind (AGuH) by arresting four persons including one handler of the outfit, police said on Monday.

Incriminating materials, huge cache of arms and ammunition have also been recovered from their possession, a police spokesman said.

"Police and security forces busted a module of AGuH by arresting its handler for north Kashmir and four OGWs cum terrorist associates in Sopore," he said.

"Upon an information by sister agency regarding movement of main terrorist handler, Sopore Police along with 22RR established an MVCP grid in Sopore.

During checks, two individuals identified as Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat (main handler) of Chanapora, Srinagar and Ishfaq Ahmed Shah resident of Budgam were arrested. One Pistol, one magazine, 10 rounds and three grenades were recovered from their possession," he said.

On further interrogation, two more terror associates identified as Abdul Majeed Kumar resident of Bernate, Baniyar and Abdul Rashid Kumar resident of Pattan were arrested.

One pistol, one magazine, 10 rounds and 11 grenades were also recovered from their possession, the spokesman said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the busted terrorist module of AGuH was being handled by Ahsaan Dar and another individual named Chaudhary from across the border (PoK), he said.

# Hackers demand ₹200 cr in cryptocurrency from AIIMS

IT IS FEARED THAT DATA OF AROUND 3-4 CRORE PATIENTS COULD HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED DUE TO THE BREACH DETECTED WEDNESDAY MORNING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 28:** Hackers have allegedly demanded an estimated ₹200 crore in cryptocurrency from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi as its server remained out of order for the sixth consecutive day, official sources said Monday. It is feared that data of around 3-4 crore patients could have been compromised due to the breach



Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN), Delhi Police and representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs are investigating

the ransomware attack. A case of extortion and cyber terrorism was registered by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic

Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police on November 25. Official sources said internet services are blocked on computers at the hospital on the recommendations of the investigating agencies.

The AIIMS server has stored data of several VIPs, including former prime ministers, ministers, bureaucrats and judges.

"Hackers have allegedly demanded around ₹200 crore in cryptocurrency," one of the sources said.

Meanwhile, the NIC e-hospital database and application servers for e-hospital have been restored. The NIC team is scanning and

cleaning infection from other e-hospital servers located at AIIMS which are required for delivery of hospital services, an official source said.

Four physical servers arranged for restoring e-hospital services have been scanned and prepared for the databases and applications. Also, the AIIMS network sanitisation is in progress.

Antivirus solutions have been organised for servers and computers. It has been installed on nearly 1,200 out of 5,000 computers.

Twenty out of 50 servers have been scanned and this activity is ongoing 24x7, the source said.



## MP leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra raises political temperature

Expressing happiness over the Yatra gaining people's participation and appreciation, Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath said that the enthusiasm shown by the people in greeting Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi showed that the campaign would create history in the state

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Nov 28:** Even as Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh are about one year away, the political temperature here has risen after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra entered the state.

In the 2018 Assembly elections, the Congress won 114 out of 230 seats, while the BJP bagged 109 seats—there was a difference of only five seats between them.

Since both the parties could not get absolute majority in the elections, they have been working on a new strategy for the polls to be held in 2023.

Bharat Jodo Yatra, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi has reached Malwa-Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh.

Gandhi attacked Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia without taking his name, accusing the BJP of forming the government by spending crores of rupees to buy 20-25 'corrupt' MLAs. While the Congress had formed the government by winning in the polls, he added.

Expressing happiness over the Yatra gaining people's participation and appreciation, Madhya Pradesh



Congress president Kamal Nath said that the enthusiasm shown by the people in greeting Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi showed that the campaign would create history in the state.

The BJP, on the other hand, has been organising Tribal Pride Yatras in tribal areas including Nimar-Malwa region.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma have been visiting areas with tribal population and apprising them of the work being done by the government for them and the benefits of

the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act.

Sharma took a jibe at Gandhi and asked him to think why leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad and Kapil Sibal left the Congress. He added that the present day Congress had been reduced to being a party of one family.

Political analysts believe that the upcoming Assembly elections would be decisive, which even former Congress Chief Minister, Digvijay Singh has accepted.

They say that Congress' defeat or victory in the polls will decide their future course of action.

### MAINPURI BYPOLL

## Mulayam card may not be enough for Dimple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mainpuri, Nov 28:** Winning the Mainpuri bypoll will not be a simple affair for SP's Dimple Yadav unlike the past elections when her father-in-law Mulayam Singh Yadav used to register effortless victories, some local residents feel.

But many are of the view that she will make it, particularly because of the public sympathy for the veteran Samajwadi Party leader who died recently.

The SP had announced the name of Dimple Yadav, wife of party chief Akhilesh Yadav, as its candidate for the Mainpuri parliamentary seat November 10.

"The bypoll will certainly not be simple for Dimple Yadav as the BJP is making all efforts to snatch the seat from the SP. A large number of BJP leaders are already camping in the city," businessman Dhirendra Kumar Gupta told PTI.

At the same time, Gupta said, the going will not be easy for the saffron party as its candidate Raghuraj Singh Shakya is meeting and greeting the voters as a formality. Unless the BJP workers undertake door-to-door campaigning, it will be tough for Shakya to win, he said.

For hotelier Hemant Pachauri, the upcoming bypoll is the best possible opportunity for the BJP to breach the SP fortress of Mainpuri due to the absence of Mulayam Singh Yadav or 'neta ji' to his legions of supporters.

"If the SP loses the seat this time, it will prove to be the last nail in their political coffin. When



in power, the SP had unleashed hooliganism in the city and people were feeling harassed. Now, the scene has changed. This bypoll is a fiercely contested one. At this point in time, it is difficult to say who will win or who has the edge. Things are different this time, especially in the absence of neta ji," he said.

Local trader KK Gupta, however, said there is "no sympathy" for Dimple Yadav as people were fed up with the misrule of the SP when it was in power.

"They heaved a sigh of relief after the BJP government came to power in the state, and the criminals were arrested. Since then, there has been a dip in crimes," he claimed.

Resident Bhupendra Singh too ruled out a sympathy wave for the SP and said the BJP will "create history" in the bypoll and win the seat.

"The sympathy for Akhilesh Yadav vanished the day he took over the reins of the party from his father following a feud in the family. There is absolutely no sympathy for him, Dimple or for the SP," he claimed.

However, Shyam Bahadur Yadav, a self-proclaimed 'Samajwadi tapasvi' rejected the observations, saying people of Mainpuri are extending wholehearted support to the SP in general, and the 'Saifai family' (Yadavs) in particular.

"It is the people of Mainpuri, who are fighting the elections (against the BJP). The elections are important as they are being held after the demise of 'neta ji'... The people of Mainpuri will elect Dimple and send her to Lok Sabha," Yadav told PTI.

Asked whether SP's door-to-door campaigning will be any match for the BJP's high-tech canvass-

ing, the 50-year-old said, "The BJP indulges in high-decibel campaigning, and it is their only work. They are liars and are always flaunting. They play (songs on) the DJ, while we silently go from one house to another."

A resident of Kishni assembly constituency, Pushpendra Singh said Mulayam Singh Yadav had done a lot of work like constructing roads, schools, and hospitals and ensuring water and electricity supply for the people of the constituency.

"What has the BJP done for the people of this place?" he said.

Reacting to the BJP accusing the SP of indulging in dynastic politics, he said there is no 'parivaarvaad' in the party.

Rishi Yadav (17), a student of BSc first year from Karhal assembly segment, who aspired to join the Indian Air Force, said, "Though I will be voting in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, I am closely watching the election campaign and the SP is going to win the bypoll."

"From roads to expressways, whatever we have got, it is only due to neta ji. The young voters have shown their inclination towards the SP, and Dimple Yadav will win the bypoll with a greater margin," he said.

Akhilesh Yadav represents the Karhal assembly seat, which is part of the Mainpuri Lok Sabha constituency.

Polling in Mainpuri will be held December 5 while the counting of votes will take place December 8.

## MP min's Africa tour before cheetah shifting comes under scanner

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Nov 28:** Nearly three months after eight cheetahs were successfully transported from Namibia and released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday (September 17) at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, a controversy has arisen over a tour by state forest minister Kunwar Vijay Shah and two senior officials to Tanzania and South Africa in August.

The translocation of cheetahs was processed and completed under

details of the 'study report'.

"If it was a study tour, then why that study report was not made public domain, this the first question arises. Second, the amount for this study tour was estimated at Rs 15 lakh in April, and four months later, the amount for the same tour became Rs 35 lakh, how?" Dube said.

Dube further said, "Besides all these, this tour is also questionable because translocation of cheetahs was the Centre sponsored project with Indian Oil funds under CSR (corporate social responsi-

## Three green corridors set up to transport organs of Bhopal youth

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Nov 28:** The family members of a 25-year-old youth in Bhopal, who died in a road accident, have donated his organs which will give new lease of life to six persons.

The organs were sent to Indore and Ahmedabad, for which green corridors were set up from the Siddhanta Hospital to the Raja Bhoj Airport by Bhopal police Monday afternoon.

The youth, Anmol Jain, met with a road accident in Bhopal November 17 following which he was rushed to the Narmada Hospital in a critical state. Later he was shifted to Siddhanta Hospital, where the doctors declared him brain dead Sunday after a week's treatment.

Anshul Taran from Siddhanta Hospital told IANS that Anmol had received injuries on his head and there was hardly 15 per cent chance of his survival. In the last seven days, the doctors tried their best but his condition continued to deteriorate. He could survive for one week despite multiple injuries because he was young and healthy.

"Being a doctor, I knew that there was very little chance of his survival because of the serious nature of his injuries. We knew that Anmol being a healthy person, his organs could give new



lease of life to others. So I discussed the matter with the senior doctors of the hospital, who said it would be good if the parents agree to donate his body."

"After Anmol was declared brain dead, I spoke to Anmol's sister and she agreed with my thought. Then I spoke to Anmol's father, Abhishek

Jain, who said if the organs are functional, they should be donated," said Taran, who happens to be a cousin of the deceased.

Subsequently, the process to donate organs was initiated, for which some mandatory procedures had to be followed. A request proposal was sent to Bhopal's organ society for fulfilling the procedures after which the operational process was done at Siddhanta Hospital Monday.

According to Taran, Anmol's eyes were sent to Gandhi Medical College in Bhopal, while one of his kidneys was kept at Siddhanta Hospital. The second kidney was given to Chirayu Hospital in Bhopal. His liver was sent to Chirayu Hospital in Indore, while the heart was sent to SIMS hospital in Ahmedabad.

Notably, three green corridors were set up in the city for the timely transfer of the organs from the hospital. One green corridor was set up to Chirayu Hospital, and another corridor for Indore. One route was set up till Bhopal airport to send the organ to Ahmedabad.

The deceased person's elder brother, Aditya Jain, told IANS that it was Anmol's desire that his organs be donated.

"We are proud that people will get a new lease of life because of our Anmol," Aditya said.

## 10-hr in police custody for torturing mouse to death

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Badaun, Nov 28:** A 34-year-old man landed in police custody after an animal activist shot a video of him torturing a mouse to death.

Manoj Kumar had reportedly spend 10 hours in police custody even as the police officials said further investigation into the allegations against him was underway.

Circle officer Alok Mishra, however, told reporters that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was not applicable in the case as mice did not come under the category of 'animals'.

"We have sought legal opinion in the matter and action will be taken accordingly," he stated.

The officer said the animal activist, Vikendra Sharma, lodged the complaint and sought action against the man for drowning a mouse in the presence of his children.

"I saw that the accused was torturing the mouse by tying a stone to its tail and drowning it in the drain water. On questioning him, Manoj Kumar replied that he will repeat the act," the complainant read.

The complainant added that he tried to rescue the mouse but could not. Interestingly, the police recovered the dead mouse and sent it to a veterinary hospital for post-mortem. However, the staff at the veterinary hospital refused to conduct the autopsy after which the dead rodent was sent to Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly, nearly 60 km from Badaun.

Another police official said the IVRI authorities have sought a week's time to send back the autopsy report. He said the complainant himself paid Rs 225 required to be paid for the examination of the dead rodent.



the supervision of the Centre, but, state forest minister Kunwar Vijay Shah and two senior officials' Tanzania (East Africa) and South Africa tour in August (around one month before eight the cheetahs were transported from Namibia) still remains a puzzle here. Vijay Shah was accompanied by senior forest department officials, including chief of forest - RK Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, and Shubhranjan Sen, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Madhya Pradesh.

A Right to Information (RTI) reply available with IANS, revealed that the 10-day long study tour has cost Rs 35 lakh to the state government, which was more than double from an estimated amount for the same tour. Documents revealed that the proposal for study tour was made in April and had estimated that it would cost around Rs 15 lakh. Out of total expenses (around Rs 35 lakh) on so-called study tour, Rs 31,71,500 were spent on air tickets, accommodation and local visiting.

But, more importantly, it was a study tour to learn how wild animals are reared in the wild and what are the different modalities adopted in the African countries. This study tour was also seen in connection with relocation of the cheetahs from Africa to Kuno. Madhya Pradesh based wildlife activist Ajay Dube claimed he sought the

Supreme Court (SC) is monitoring this project. They (MP government) claimed it was a tourism project tour, then questions arise, why even after over 90 days of the visit, no development took place on translocation of African cheetahs. It was against the SC's guidelines for the cheetah translocation project and I am going to file a petition in the issue," Ajay Dube added.

He further claimed that the Madhya Pradesh government has no role in this cheetahs translocation project, except that cheetahs were released at Kuno National Park, and officials were on study tour in Africa? "If they really did some study, then that study report should be in the public domain," Dube asked.

Contrary to that, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, R.K. Gupta, who was one of the officials on the study tour with MP forest minister Shah, while talking to IANS claimed that the study report has already been submitted to Madhya Pradesh Wildlife Society. "It was a study tour and the study report was submitted within one or two weeks after coming from Africa. It is a mandatory procedure to follow and it was done," Gupta added.

IANS also tried to seek a reply from MP Forest Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah on this matter, however, calls were not answered.

## Recorded langur voices, cutouts to deal with monkey menace

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Nov 28:** As the monkey population increases rapidly in the state capital, various organisations have started finding new ways to scare the simians. Life-size cutouts of langurs have been installed at 10 metro stations to ensure the safety of passengers in Lucknow.

The authorities also play recorded voices of angry langurs on speakers to contain the monkey menace.

Pushpa Bilani, senior public relations officer of Lucknow Metro, said, "Initially, we played angry langur voices on speakers. It did have some impact but not enough. Simians are too smart. They understood the trick and started ignoring the fake langur voice. Now, the management has decided to display life-size cutouts of langurs. Meanwhile, we continue to play the fake voices as well."

The administration of OCR Buildings at the Burlington Crossing has also installed similar langur cutouts. The building officials say that the monkey menace

has reduced to some extent after the move.

Charbagh railway station authorities have hired 45-year-old Kismet, who mimics the langur's voice to shoo away monkeys.

"I was the first one to be hired by the railways here. Today, I work with several other men who imitate the langur voice. They work in Aliganj, Indira Nagar, Alambagh, and other areas. Some people even sprinkle langur urine to keep the monkeys at bay," said Kismet.

The station has a footfall of about 1 lakh passengers per day.

Meanwhile, the management of the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) has brought in actual langurs to scare away monkeys, who often steal from the hospital and patients.

The initiative has met partial success, said SGPGIMS officials. People living in the residential colonies say that the authorities have been passing the buck on the issue rather than taking preventative steps.

"When we reach out to the Lucknow Municipal Corporation



(LMC) for help, they ask us to call the forest department, which never comes to our rescue. Contrary to the tall claims of the administration, monkeys are striking everywhere at will, biting individuals, and snatching food items," said Sneha Khanna, a resident of Gonti Nagar.

According to officials, around 50 cases of monkey bites are reported across the city almost every month. Besides, the LMC helpline

receives at least one or two calls regarding monkey menace per day. These calls, as per civic officials, should ideally be going to the forest department.

Lucknow mayor Sanyukta Bhatia said, "Recently, during our LMC meeting, it was decided that the forest department would cooperate and coordinate with other departments to address the issue. Also, the LMC has come up with a

plan to set up a Vanar Vatika (monkey garden) where captured simians can be released."

The additional municipal commissioner of the animal welfare department, Dr Arvind Rao, said, "Ideally, the forest department must set up a helpline to check the simian menace. However, we can coordinate with them in forwarding the problems faced by residents through our helpline numbers."

Ravi Kumar Singh, district forest officer, said, "The forest department is keen to work out a mechanism for coordinating problems faced by residents due to monkey menace. We are also ready to work with the LMC to set up monkey habitats. The monkey is a scheduled animal but this does not mean that it cannot be caught by a municipal corporation. The rules say that local bodies can catch monkeys and put them in habitats. We can supervise the LMC in this work. The forest department, along with the mayor, has already marked some areas in Kanha Upvan and Atal Upvan that are ideal for developing monkey habitats."

of the day quote

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is an engineer himself. He has developed a complete plan to eliminate these mountains of garbage from Delhi. This time, the people will vote the AAP to power in the MCD too. Immediately after coming to power in the civic body, the work on eliminating these mountains of garbage will begin

People have come to realise that (Chief Minister and AAP national convener) Arvind Kejriwal says something and does exactly the opposite. AAP leaders know through their internal surveys that they are badly losing the polls

The Central agencies are the strength of citizens in the country and if people are afraid of these forces, then surely this negative power weakens the nation

SHORT TAKES

IAF personnel ends life

Gwalior: An on-duty Indian Air Force personnel allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh on Monday, a police official said. The incident occurred when he was posted on duty at a watch tower at the IAF station in Maharajpura area of Gwalior and it was detected when his colleague arrived as part of shift change in the morning, City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Ravi Bhadoria said.

Couple burnt alive in Begusarai

Patna: A woman died while her husband is fighting for his life after they were set afire by miscreants over a property dispute in Bihar's Begusarai district, an official said Monday. According to the official, the victim Sanjay Yadav has a property dispute with one Ramesh Yadav in the village Barihari under Chakia police station in the district.

India-Malaysia joint drill begins

New Delhi: A joint military exercise between troops of India and Malaysia began on Monday that aims to enhance inter-operability in planning and execution of various operations in jungle terrain, the defence ministry here said. The India-Malaysia joint military exercise, 'Harimau Shakti-2022', commenced at Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia and will culminate on December 12.

Two held for robbery in MP

Bhopal: Police have arrested two members of a gang from Bihar that allegedly robbed gold worth around Rs 5 crore and Rs 3.5 lakh in cash from a bank in Madhya Pradesh's Katni district, an official said Monday. Six members of the gang Saturday looted the valuables and cash at gunpoint from the gold loan offering bank in Bargawan area, he said.

Illegal liquor racket busted

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women with the help of the Excise Department, Delhi Government has busted a racket of illegal liquor and drugs in Jasola. The commission received a complaint from the residents that illegal liquor and drugs are being sold openly in their area.



The BJP has been maligning Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and this should stop. There are important issues facing the country which should be addressed to. You will not benefit by criticising national heroes who had fought for Independence. Everyone has positive and negative aspects. There is no need to highlight the negative side now

RAJ THACKERAY | MNS PRESIDENT

MEHBOOBA VACATES OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

President of Peoples Democratic Party, Mehbooba Mufti Monday vacated her official residence in Srinagar and shifted to a private house in the city's outskirts



Assam student jumps off building to escape ragging

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dibrugarh (Assam), Nov 28: The authorities at Assam's Dibrugarh University Monday rusticated at least 18 students for their alleged role in ragging a student who eventually jumped off a two-storey building of the varsity hostel "to save himself from mental and physical harassment".

The incident happened on Saturday evening. The harassment meted to the student - identified as Anand Sharma, an M.Com first semester student, continued till Sunday morning. Sharma was later admitted to a hospital on Sunday afternoon. The accused students have also been expelled from the university hostel.

An FIR lodged by the Registrar of the university in the incident mentioned that Sharma was mentally and physically assaulted from 4.30 p.m. on Saturday at Padmanath Gohain Baruah hostel at the campus. The assault continued until 5 a.m. in the morning on Sunday.

An official of the Dibrugarh University said that at around 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, Anand Sharma, in the pretext of going to the bathroom, jumped off the B block of the hostel to save himself from the "extreme mental and physical torture". He sustained serious injuries. "A few students of the hos-



The incident happened Saturday evening. The harassment meted to the student - identified as Anand Sharma, an M.Com first semester student, continued till Sunday morning

Students of Dibrugarh University stage a protest outside the administrative building of the university after a student of the university got injured in an alleged case of ragging, in Dibrugarh

The university authorities have named five accused in the FIR including a former student of the university in the alleged ragging incident. Police have detained four accused in this case

tel took him to a nearby hospital in critical condition. Later, the varsity authority shifted Sharma to another hospital for advanced treatment," the official added.

The university authorities have named five accused in the FIR including a former student of the university in the alleged ragging incident. Police have detained four accused in this case. But the alumnus Rahul Chetri is still absconding.

Sharma is a student in M.Com's first semester. He is undergoing treatment in ICU at a private hospital in Dibrugarh. The victim's mother Sarita Sharma said: "My

son was mentally and physically tortured, forced to drink liquor. He was not allowed to take food. The seniors used to send him for bringing liquor for them. He told me earlier to leave the hostel... I insisted him to stay at the hostel as we cannot afford a rented house. But, I never imagined the level of torture he was facing at the hostel. The seniors also threatened him not to complain anything to the authority."

However, she claimed that the family earlier lodged a complaint with the university administration but no steps were taken to stop these activities.

FAKE CBI JOINT DIRECTOR HELD



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The CBI has arrested a man who allegedly met private individuals at the Tamil Nadu Bhavan here and demanded costly gifts posing as a joint director of the agency, officials said on Monday.

The arrested, identified as Visakhapatnam-resident Kovvi Reddy Srinivas Rao, allegedly demanded gifts from private individuals assuring them of lobbying with unidentified public servants on their behalf for getting favourable response in various matters, including in cases registered by different central investigative agencies, they said.

It is alleged that Rao posing as a senior IPS officer allegedly met six persons after coming to the national capital on November 22 on various occasions, allegedly offering them favourable outcome in various matters pending before government authorities, they said.

From offering employment to allowing entry of goods vehicles of a private company during no-entry hours in the National Capital Region, Rao assured solutions to problems faced by his victims, they said. He also demanded costly gifts from private persons by claiming that the gifts needed to be further handed over to senior government officers.

Tension in Warangal; Sharmila arrested

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 28: Attack on YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) leader Y. S. Sharmila's convoy allegedly by the supporters of ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and her subsequent arrest by the police triggered tension during her padyatra in Warangal district on Monday.

Police stopped Sharmila's padyatra and arrested her and YSRTP leaders and workers accompanying her in Chennaraopeta mandal.

YSRTP cadres tried to resist the arrests and raised slogans against the police and the TRS government. The police used mild force to control the situation. Sharmila, sister of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was arrested after she allegedly made certain objectionable comments about TRS MLA P Sudershan Reddy.

Sharmila wanted to know from police why were they taking her into custody instead of arresting those who attacked her bus.

YSRTP alleged that the bus which Sharmila is using to rest during her ongoing Praja Prasthanam padyatra was attacked and burnt down by the members of the ruling TRS party.

The mob also damaged cars belonging to YSR Telangana Party leaders. The incident happened near Lingagiri village, under Chennaraopeta mandal in Warangal district.

Sharmila was participating in the



Police stopped Sharmila's padyatra and arrested her and YSRTP leaders and workers accompanying her in Chennaraopeta mandal

padyatra on 23rd day when a group of men chanting pro-TRS slogans and hailing KCR, reached the place where the caravan was halted and torched it. "For the past 223 days, me and my Party leaders and representatives are holding a peaceful Padyatra to highlight the plight of various sections of people in Telangana. Our rising popularity has jolted Chief Minister KCR and his party men, who want to stop me at any cost," she said.

Daughter of former chief minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy said that it is highly unfortunate that some police officers are siding with the ruling party and disrupting 'our efforts to reach the people and raise their issues.'

Gehlot, Pilot are assets: Rahul



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 28: Amid the power tussle between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday said both the leaders are assets to the party.

Addressing a press conference near Indore, Gandhi, the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad in Kerala, also said the decision to contest again from Amethi would be taken after one or one-and-a-half years. "At present, my focus is on the Bharat Jodo Yatra," he said.

Union minister Smriti Irani had defeated Rahul Gandhi in his family's bastion Amethi in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. To a query on different statements being given by Rajasthan leaders Gehlot and Pilot amid their power tussle, he said, "It will not affect the yatra and both the leaders are assets to

the Congress party." Gehlot on Thursday told NDTV that Pilot is a 'gaddar' (traitor) who cannot replace him as he had revolted against Congress in 2020 and tried to topple the state government, drawing a sharp response from his former deputy who said such "mud-slinging" would not help.

Some reporters also asked Rahul Gandhi whether he would like to contest again from Amethi if given an opportunity, as the road to power in Delhi goes via Uttar Pradesh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi also contested from Varanasi in UP. To this, Rahul said, "I don't want to give any headline to the media as at present my focus is on the Bharat Jodo Yatra."

"See, once again these are all attempts to distract from the main idea. You want newspapers to say tomorrow whether I will contest from Amethi or not," Rahul Gandhi said. "I want the newspapers to write about the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the ideas and philosophy behind the yatra," he said.

"The answer to your question will come may be in a year or year-and-a-half," he said. To a query on plans for solving the unemployment problem in the country, Rahul said the main problem at present is that the entire wealth of the nation is confined in the hands of three-four industrialists.



Farmers wash turnips after harvesting at a village on the outskirts of Jammu

PTI PHOTO

DELHI SCHOOL THREATENED VIA EMAIL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 28: An email regarding a bomb being placed on a school campus in south Delhi was received on Monday. However, no bomb was found during the search operation by the police, said an official.

According to Chandan Chowdhary, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South), on Monday at around 1:19 p.m. an email was received on the official email ID of Indian Public School, Sadiq Nagar that there is a bomb in the premises of the school.

"The school administration immediately informed Defence Colony police station following which bomb disposal squad, dog squad along with police teams reached the spot," said the DCP. "The school was evacuated and a thorough search has been made. But no bomb has been found," said Chowdhary.



IN GUJARAT ELECTIONS, A BATTLE OF PRESTIGE

The BJP which has been in power in Gujarat for over a quarter century is battling anti-incumbency like a doctor who is unable to diagnose the disease and uses a broad spectrum antibiotic to tackle it.

Alternating between on-stage theatrics and off-stage muscle flexing, the two-highly placed sons of the soil, are hard at work weaving a past, present and future scenario that can turn imagined slights into a shower of votes. Criss-crossing the state in support are Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states and an army of lesser known leaders drawn from all over the country who are carpet-bombing the state spewing venom at their Congress and Aam Aadmi Party(AAP) opponents.

Thus you have Prime Minister Narendra Modi adroitly playing the victim card reminiscing about the phantom 'abuses' being hurled at him which he converts into energy and Union Home Minister Amit Shah taking credit for demilitarisation man heroes. From history distortion for electoral benefits, the Union Home Minister changes

gears rapidly to a communally loaded message. "Can the Congress put down those who cause communal riots", Shah questions the audience while addressing election rallies in Khambhat and Sabarmati in Ahmedabad.

It was back to the tried, tested and familiar at Valsad in South Gujarat on Saturday when the Prime Minister cautioned people against the 'anti-Gujarat' gang that spreads falsehoods, uses foul language and defames the state. No names were mentioned, neither political parties as the soliloquy continued.

Despite the larger than life size persona of the Prime Minister hanging over every aspect of Gujarat's political life since he took charge of the state, the persistent fall in seats, election piled on every election, has been giving the ruling party nightmares. Political analysts believe that the Prime Minister who single-handedly carries the weight of the Gujarat elections on his shoulders is becoming too predictable in his unpredictability. "Every tactical move is now foreseen and

few surprises remain", points out one of them. Both Modi and Shah had criss-crossed Gujarat over the last one year virtually 'electioneering' with inaugurations/foundation stone laying ceremonies/plain rallies, all at state costs.



Adivasis are the first 'malik' of their land for the Congress, for the BJP they are Vanvasis says Rahul Gandhi who took a day's break from his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' to address two campaign meetings, one in Rajkot, Saurashtra region and the other in Surat, South Gujarat. Modi in Surendranagar, Gujarat the same day asked voters to punish the Congress as Narmada protest leader, Medha Patkar had joined his yatra. Apparently the spirit of Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo' walkathon

seems to be rubbing off on his party's campaigning. There is no effort by the Congress to answer the BJP's 'provocative' tirade against the Nehru-Gandhi family with a retaliatory repartee or AAP's fierce on-ground propaganda that the Congress has vanished leaving it to engage the BJP frontally. Instead the stress is on door to door contact and group conversations or 'khatia' parishads.

In fact caught in a propaganda pincer between the BJP and AAP in the initial stages, the absence of the Congress gave rise to the impression that it had ceded ground to the latter. This made the BJP cadres concentrate on AAP, until Prime Minister Modi warned them not to be complacent as the Congress was creeping up from the floor.

It is for the first time that the Congress has organized itself up to the booth level in its planning. "The hype and hoopla created by AAP may at best be a distraction, the fight is essentially between the BJP and the Congress", says state election in-charge and Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot. The absence of the Gandhi

family in active poll campaigning seems to be a strategic move aimed at denying Modi and his team the pleasure of diverting attention from core issues. The desperation was visible in the campaigning in Himachal Pradesh as BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad kept taunting the Congress at the absence of their star campaigners.

The irony of the emerging scenario is that the BJP has acquired all the negatives of the Congress of old with extreme centralization as the norm under Modi while the Congress is on a journey in the opposite direction with much greater say of state and local units in decision-making.

In a twist of sorts, Gujarat has now become a question of prestige for AAP, the latest entrant who has turned the electoral contest into a triangular one. While the ruling BJP was upbeat when AAP began its campaigning from Saurashtra region strengthening the oft repeated claim that it is the 'B' team of the RSS out to damage the Congress. But no sooner did the AAP move towards urban areas that the ruling BJP trained its

guns at its convener Arvind Kejriwal.

Surat which AAP chose to make its mark by bagging 27 seats in the 120-member Surat Municipal Corporation is being watched closely as AAP poses a strong challenge to the BJP which had bagged all 12 seats here in 2017. The Congress last won a seat in Surat 20 years ago.

In 2017 BJP had bagged all the five Patidar dominated seats of Varachha, Katargam, Karanj, Kamrej and Surat North, where a triangular contest this time is expected to significantly alter the situation. For the moment Surat remains the best bet for AAP to open its account in the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha. The withdrawal of candidature by Kanchan Jariwala, AAP candidate for Surat(east) Kanchan Jariwala on the night of November 14 created a stir of sorts following allegations that it had been done under BJP pressure though he subsequently denied it. The incident, nevertheless, has set the tone for the ensuing elections in this BJP fortress under AAP siege.

# international



From now on, a country with a vision for space can lead the global economy and solve the problems facing humanity  
YOON SUK-YEOL | SK PRESIDENT

## JAPAN BIRTHS AT NEW LOW

The number of babies born in Japan this year is below last year's record low in what the top government spokesman described as a "critical situation." Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno promised comprehensive measures to encourage more marriages and births



## of the day quote

The Pakistan Army had always remained a dominant player in national decision-making. Due to its historic role in the country's politics, the military drew criticism from the public and politicians alike  
QAMAR JAVED BAJWA | PAKISTAN'S ARMY CHIEF GEN

While youth crime is now much lower than in the past, the risks and harm from ram raids and other retail crime is concerning communities and creating victims  
JACINDA ARDERN | NEW ZEALAND PM

We understand that terrorists are preparing new strikes and as long as they have missiles, they won't stop  
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINE PRESIDENT

# China defends zero-Covid policy as protests intensify

FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE DAY, CHINA HAS REPORTED CLOSE TO 4,000 CASES IN BEIJING



AGENCIES

Beijing, Nov 28: China Monday dismissed concerns over its controversial zero-Covid policy in the face of unprecedented demonstrations, which have spread to Beijing even as it reported close to 40,000 coronavirus cases and authorities scrambled to contain the fresh surge in infections and protests against the Xi Jinping regime. The protests, which came nearly a month after President Xi was elected as the ruling party's top leader for a third consecutive term, have spread to Shanghai, Beijing and many parts of the country in the last few days against the stringent policy under which cities and localities are kept under prolonged lockdowns and isolations. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian also defended the arrest of a BBC journalist covering the demonstrations in Shanghai, maintaining that the scribe did not present his media credentials. "What you mentioned does not reflect what has happened," Zhao told a media briefing when asked, given the widespread display of anger and frustration on zero-Covid policy across the country. "China has been following the dynamic zero-Covid policy and has been making adjustments based on realities on the ground," Zhao said. He said so far China issued nine versions of pandemic protocols and recently released 20 measures

Shanghai, Beijing police make presence visible on streets

The protests, which came nearly a month after President Xi was elected as the ruling party's top leader for a third consecutive term

Backlash is a setback for efforts to stamp out virus

News of the protests roils global markets

to contain the outbreak. To another question on protests at home and abroad calling for an end to zero-Covid policy with some calling for Xi to step down, Zhao said, "I just answered your question and I am not aware of what you mentioned." Under the policy, those who tested positive along with those who came in contact with them were taken away to mass covid treatment centers which have caused public resentment. China's National Health Commission said 39,452 new cases were reported Monday, including 36,304 local asymptomatic cases, as authorities scrambled to contain the fresh surge in infections. Asked about the calls on social media expressing concern over a fire in an apartment building reportedly under Covid lockdown a few days ago in Urumqi in Xinjiang which has become a rallying point for protesters, Zhao accused some

## BACKLASH

The backlash against Covid curbs is a setback for China's efforts to eradicate the virus, which is infecting record numbers after swathes of the population have sacrificed income, mobility and mental health to prevent it from spreading.

"forces" with "ulterior motives" behind such campaigns. He said that the Urumqi city government has already addressed a press conference on this issue. "On social media, there are forces with ulterior motives that relate this fire to the local Covid-19 response. The city government of Urumqi has made clear the facts and rebutted this information and smears," he said.

The BBC in a statement issued in London said "BBC is extremely concerned about the treatment of our journalist Ed Lawrence, who was arrested and handcuffed while covering the protests in Shanghai". Crowds carrying lighted candles in memory of those killed in the fire at an apartment block reported under Covid-19 lockdown in Urumqi in Xinjiang shouted slogans against the arbitrary lockdowns by the government to curb the spread of the virus and in solidarity with the weekend protests in Shanghai. Several diplomats and foreigners watched the protests as they took place close to the diplomatic residential compound in Beijing. Eyewitness accounts said the protests went on for several hours and the police detained a number of people. Protesters in Shanghai Saturday and Sunday called on President Xi and the ruling Communist Party to step down besides opposing the lockdowns and forcible evictions of people into coronavirus medical shelters. Students' protests also broke out at the prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing and Communication University in Nanjing.



People with traditional clothes on camels parade at a beach in Al Wakrah, Qatar

PTI PHOTO

## WHO RENAMES MONKEYPOX

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 28: The World Health Organisation has renamed monkeypox as mpox, citing concerns the original name of the decades-old animal disease could be construed as discriminatory and racist. The UN health agency said in a statement Monday that mpox was its new preferred name for monkeypox, saying that both monkeypox and mpox would be used for the next year while the old name is phased out.



WHO said it was concerned by the "racist and stigmatising language" that arose after monkeypox spread to more than 100 countries. It said numerous individuals and countries asked the organisation "to propose a way forward to change the name". In August, WHO began consulting experts about renaming the disease, shortly after the UN agency declared monkeypox's spread to be a global emergency. To date, there have been more than 80,000 cases identified in dozens of countries that had not previously reported the small-pox-related disease. Until May, monkeypox, a disease that is thought to originate in animals, was not known to trigger large outbreaks beyond central and west Africa.

# Ukraine on edge for more attacks

AGENCIES

Kyiv, Nov 28: Ukraine prepared for more Russian strikes Monday and warned of the possibility for a new round of evacuations from the capital during a relative lull from the airstrikes on energy facilities and other key infrastructure in recent weeks.

In the West, meanwhile, preparations were stepped up to boost humanitarian aid to Ukraine so that the population can enjoy some warmth during their coldest months of need and keep the resolve of the nation as high as possible. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Russian troops "are preparing new strikes and as long as they have missiles, they won't stop." "The upcoming week can be as hard as the one that passed," he said.

In the capital, Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said that part of the city's 3 million people might well have to be evacuated to places where essential services would be less prone to shutdowns caused by missile attacks. Russia has pounded energy facilities around Kyiv with a



The Pentagon is considering a Boeing proposal to supply Ukraine with cheap, small precision bombs fitted onto abundantly available rockets, allowing Kyiv to strike far behind Russian lines as the West struggles to meet demand for more arms

barrage of missile strikes, resulting in power outages and halts in water supplies to the city. And with temperatures hovering around freezing, and expected to dip as low as minus 11C (12 Fahrenheit) in little more than a week, international help was increasingly focused on items like generators and autotransformers, to make sure blackouts that affect everything from kitchens to operating rooms are as limited and short as possible. Russian President Vladimir Putin "continues trying to make Ukraine a black hole—no light, no electricity, no heating to put the Ukrainians into the darkness and the cold," said European foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

## SHORT TAKES

### Buffalo gunman pleads guilty

Buffalo (US): The white gunman who massacred 10 Black shoppers and workers at a Buffalo supermarket pleaded guilty Monday to murder and hate-motivated terrorism charges, guaranteeing that he will spend the rest of his life in prison. Payton Gendron, 19, entered the plea Monday in a courthouse roughly two miles from the grocery store where he used a semiautomatic rifle and body armour to carry out a racist assault he hoped would help preserve white power in the US.

### Indonesia relaunches multiple entry visa

Jakarta: Indonesia has relaunched the multiple entry visa which was deactivated amid the Covid-19 pandemic, a top official said Monday. "With this visa, business people and foreign tourists are allowed to travel to Indonesia many times a year without re-applying for a visa," Xinhua news agency quoted Acting Director General of Immigration Widodo Ekatjahjana as saying.

### Australia lowers terror threat level

Canberra: For the first time in almost a decade, the Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) Monday officially changed the country's terrorism threat level from "probable" to "possible". It marks the first change to the level since 2014 when it was upgraded in response to the emergence of the Islamic State (IS) terror group, reports Xinhua news agency.

### China renews cold wave alert

Beijing: China Monday renewed an orange alert, the second highest, for a cold wave, forecasting massive temperature drops, winds, sandstorms, rains, and snow in vast regions of the country. From Monday to Wednesday, temperatures are expected to plunge by 10 to 16 degrees Celsius in most of central and eastern China, Xinhua news agency quoted the National Meteorological Centre as saying.

### Polio is back in Indonesia

Pidie (Indonesia): Children in school uniforms and toddlers with their parents lined up Monday for polio vaccinations in the Sigli town square on the northern tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, after four children were found infected with the highly contagious disease that was declared eradicated in the country less than a decade ago.

## Somali forces storm hotel held by extremists, free 60 people

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mogadishu (Somalia), Nov 28: Somali forces Monday stormed a hotel in the capital, Mogadishu, where Islamic extremists had been holed up for more than 18 hours after killing eight civilians and trapping dozens in the building, officials said. Police spokesperson Sadik Dodishe said all six extremists died during the operation at the Villa Rosa hotel, and one member of the security forces was also killed. Dodishe said about 60 people who had been trapped in the hotel were freed and none of them were injured. It was not immediately clear whether others were missing. According to Dodishe, five of the attackers were killed by security forces, and one blew himself up.

Islamic extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack. Mogadishu resident Mohamed Suleyman told the AP that two of his relatives, both civilians, died in the attack. Al-Shabab said in a broadcast on its own radio frequency on Sunday that its fighters attacked the hotel, which has a restaurant popular with government and security officials. The attack is believed to have started with an explosion before gunmen penetrated the hotel's gates. The hotel is not far from the presidential palace, Villa Somalia, in one of the most protected parts of central Mogadishu. A successful attack near the seat of the federal government is likely to instill deep fear among residents of the seaside capital that has long been prone to attacks by militants.

# Hawaii's Mauna Loa starts to erupt

The largest active volcano in the world, has erupted for the first time in nearly 40 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Honolulu, Nov 28: Hawaii's Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, has started to erupt, prompting volcanic ash and debris to fall nearby, authorities said Monday. The eruption began late Sunday night in the summit caldera of the volcano on the Big Island, the US Geological Survey said. Early Monday, it said lava flows were contained within the summit area and weren't threatening nearby communities. "However, lava flows in the sum-



mit region are visible from Kona. There is currently no indication of any migration of the eruption into a rift zone," the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said in a statement. A rift zone is where the mountain is splitting apart, the rock is cracked and relatively weak and it's

easier for magma to emerge. The USGS warned residents at risk from Mauna Loa lava flows should review their eruption preparations. Scientists had been on alert because of a recent spike in earthquakes at the summit of the volcano, which last erupted in 1984.

# 'Twitter lacks transparency in fight against misinformation'

In a third yearly report on "the fight against the manipulation of information," Arcom pointed to Twitter's "very loose transparency regarding data" on the matter

REUTERS

Paris, Nov 28: Twitter has shown a lack of transparency in the fight against misinformation, France's regulator in charge of digital communications Arcom said Monday, as the social media platform faced heightened scrutiny following steep job cuts. In a third yearly report on "the fight against the manipulation of

information," Arcom pointed to Twitter's "very loose transparency regarding data" on the matter, adding that the company had provided "imprecise" details on how its automated tools worked. A spokesperson for Twitter in France did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment. The spokesperson has not responded to queries since Elon



Musk's takeover of Twitter last month. Arcom has no power to sanction online platforms for the spread of false information. But under a French law adopted in 2018, 12 of these platforms must dis-

close the processes they have put in place to handle their own definition of misinformation, leading to "naming and shaming" presentations by the authority. The 12 online platforms include

Alphabet's YouTube, online encyclopaedia Wikipedia, Meta's Facebook and - for the first time - the fast-growing short-video platform TikTok, owned by China-based firm ByteDance. French laws also compel large online platforms to provide means to its users to report false information that could alter the potential outcome of an election. Twitter wasn't the worst in class, according to Arcom's report. "TikTok, Yahoo and, to a lesser extent, Google, stand out particularly by the absence of tangible information allowing Arcom" to analyse the effectiveness of meas-

ures aimed at fighting information manipulation, the authority said. The report comes a week after Twitter France's head announced his resignation. Twitter, earlier in November and following Musk's takeover, laid off half its workforce, including from teams responsible for communications, content curation, human rights and machine learning ethics, as well as some product and engineering teams. In its filings to Arcom prior to Musk's acquisition, Twitter said it had 34 permanent employees in France, where it had generated 11.8 million euros in revenue in 2021.

## of the day quote

Indian handmade products are an ideal example of a self-reliant India and all artisans are trying their best to make India Atmanirbhar

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | COMMERCE MINISTER

We are looking to raise or invest about \$20 to 25 million over the next 1-2 years where this amount of capital would be used to invest and build an infrastructure facility for assembly, integration and testing of satellites up to 100 kg class

**ABHAY EGGOOR** | CO-FOUNDER AND CTO, DHRUVA SPACE

In today's highly dynamic Indian two-wheeler space, the key is to serve the ever-evolving needs and aspirations of enthusiasts who expect a lot more from their machines than just commuting

**YOGESH MAHANSARIA** | FOUNDER & MD, REISE MOTO

## SHORT TAKES

### Total dividend from CPSEs at ₹23,797cr

**New Delhi:** The government has received about Rs 5,001 crore as dividend tranche from ONGC, taking the total dividend receipt from all CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises) so far this fiscal to Rs 23,797 crore. "The government has received about Rs 5,001 crore from ONGC as dividend tranche," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted. The DIPAM, in 2020, advised CPSEs to follow a consistent dividend policy and strive to pay higher dividends taking into account factors like profitability, capex requirements, cash/reserve and net worth.

### Bank credit grows to 17.2% in Sept

**Mumbai:** Bank credit growth improved to 17.2 per cent in the September quarter 2022 from 7 per cent in the year-ago period, reflecting pick-up in economic activities. "Credit growth remained broad-based: all population groups and bank groups recorded double digit annual growth," the Reserve Bank said while releasing 'Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of SCBs: September 2022'. Bank credit growth improved further to 17.2 per cent (year-on-year) in September 2022 from 14.2 per cent a quarter ago and 7 per cent a year ago, it said.

### Urban Company gives shares gift

**New Delhi:** Online home services marketplace Urban Company Monday said it has awarded stocks worth Rs 5.2 crore to 497 service partners under the Partner Stock Option Plan (PSOP) programme. Of the total recipients, about 30 per cent were female service partners from the beauty and wellness vertical. Bangalore had the highest number of partner shareholders with 26 per cent, followed by Delhi-NCR with 22 per cent, the company said in a statement.

### Signature Global to float ₹1K-cr IPO

**New Delhi:** Realty firm Signature Global (India) Ltd has received a nod from capital markets regulator Sebi for its initial public offer (IPO) to raise up to Rs 1,000 crore to clear debt and land acquisition. In July, Signature Global, which focuses on affordable and mid-housing segments, had filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with Sebi to launch its maiden public issue.



India is on the rise as never before. The rise of India is unstoppable, and we are the most favoured destination globally for investments and opportunities

**JAGDEEP DHANKHAR** | VICE PRESIDENT

### INDIA'S FIRST LNG (GAS) CARGO

India will receive its first cargo from Indonesia's Tangguh liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant at the Dahej terminal today, according to a Refinitiv analyst and Refinitiv ship tracking data. The LNG cargo is being transported by the BW Helios tanker, said Olumide Ajayi, senior LNG analyst at Refinitiv



## BULL-RUN FOR FIFTH DAY

# Markets close at fresh highs

The renewed confidence from investors after a sell-off in June helped key stock gauges touch new peaks in one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. Asian markets such as India and Indonesia have emerged as safe havens for investors looking for higher returns as the Federal Reserve signals slower interest-rate hikes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 28:** Benchmark indices ended at fresh lifetime highs Monday amid foreign fund inflows, a decline in crude oil prices and buying in index major Reliance Industries.

Rallying for the fifth day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 211.16 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 62,504.80, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it jumped 407.76 points or 0.65 per cent to its lifetime intra-day peak of 62,701.40. The broader NSE Nifty gained 50 points or 0.27 per cent to end at 18,562.75, its record closing high.

"Sentiment and flows currently are acting as a strong catalyst for the markets which touched an all-time high. We are seeing domestic as also foreign investors being net buyers of equity aiding the momentum," said Lakshmi Iyer, CEO- Investment Advisory, Kotak Investment Advisors Limited.

Among the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries jumped the most by 3.48 per cent, followed by Nestle, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, Wipro, ICIICI Bank and IndusInd Bank. Tata Steel, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.77 per cent



**BSE SENSEX SETTLES AT 62,504.80, ITS FRESH RECORD CLOSING HIGH**  
**SENSEX HAS GAINED 7.3% SO FAR THIS YR; MAY HIT 68,500 BY 2023 END**  
**NSE NIFTY CLOSES AT 18,562.75, ITS ALL-TIME CLOSING HIGH**  
**GLOBAL FUNDS HAVE BOUGHT A NET \$3BN OF INDIA STOCKS SO FAR THIS MONTH**

and midcap jumped 0.72 per cent. Among sectoral indices, oil & gas climbed 1.49 per cent, energy (1.44 per cent), auto (0.64 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.59 per cent), industrials (0.46 per cent) and FMCG (0.29 per cent). Commodities, telecommunication, utilities, consumer durables, power and teck were the laggards.

Despite unfavourable global cues, the domestic market reversed its early losses to trade at record highs. Following the decline in oil prices, oil & gas stocks led the rally in anticipation of margin gains, as ongoing protests in China fuelled demand concerns

**VINOD NAIR** | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

The rupee strengthened by 3 paise to close at 81.68 against the US dollar. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened weak at 81.81 and touched an intra-day high of 81.61 and a low of 81.83 against the greenback. The local unit finally settled at 81.68, registering a rise of 3 paise over its previous close of 81.71. Foreign Institutional Investors were net sellers in the capital markets as they sold shares worth Rs 935.88 crore on a net basis.

### China unrest shakes global stocks, oil

Global stocks and commodities prices suffered a broad sell-off Monday as rare protests in major Chinese cities against the country's strict zero-Covid curbs hit growth expectations in the world's second-largest economy. Europe's benchmark STOXX index fell 0.9% in early trading after MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 1.2% on selling in Chinese markets. Oil prices, sensitive to the strictness of China's lockdown as a barometer for demand, also slid. Brent crude dropped 3.1% to trade at \$81.05 a barrel by 0950 GMT. "Markets do not like uncertainty and investors will look for some clarification to China's very harsh domestic lockdown protocols," George Boubouras, executive director of K2 Asset Management in Melbourne, said. Australia's benchmark stock index closed 0.42% lower while its risk-sensitive currency was off more than 0.8%. Japan's Nikkei stock index fell 0.4%. US markets looked set to follow the bearish mood Monday, with S&P 500 futures 0.8% lower.

### CLIPPED WINGS Jet Airways' future in limbo

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Nov 28:** Jet Airways' creditors and its new owners are deadlocked over a resolution plan to lift the Indian airline out of bankruptcy, putting its future in limbo, four sources said.

Creditors may approach India's aviation ministry to seek approval to liquidate Jet's assets if there is no resolution Tuesday in a critical court hearing, a senior banker said.

"There are concerns the resolution plan may fall apart so we are looking to see if we can at least get something out of this deal via the liquidation route," the banker, who has direct knowledge of the matter, told Reuters Monday.

Once India's biggest private airline, Jet ceased flying in April 2019 after it ran out of cash. It was taken to bankruptcy court by creditors owed Rs 180 billion (\$2 billion). A restructuring plan was approved by the National Company

Law Tribunal (NCLT) in June and Jet was set to resume operations by the first quarter of 2022 under its new owners.

"We are working closely with the erstwhile lenders of Jet to implement this plan, and remain fully committed to getting Jet Airways off the ground," a company spokesperson said.

However, disagreements between the new owners, a consortium including London-based Kalrock Capital and UAE-based businessman Murari Lal Jala, and its lenders risks derailing Jet's recovery.



### Adani closes in on takeover of NDTV

REUTERS

**Bangalore, Nov 28:** New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) said Monday an entity backed by its founders had issued shares to a unit of Adani Group, taking the billionaire Gautam Adani-led conglomerate a step closer to taking over the media firm.

The transfer of shares will give Adani control over a 29.18% stake in the news group. Adani is also conducting an open offer running between November 22 and December 5 for a 26% stake in NDTV.

The open offer drew bids for 5.3 million shares as of Monday's close, or around 32% the 16.8 million shares on offer.

The ports-to-energy conglomerate run by Asia's richest man unveiled plans late in August to acquire a majority stake in the popular news network, seen as a bastion of independent media.

More than a decade ago, NDTV founders Radhika and Prannoy Roy took a Rs 4 billion loan from a company that Adani acquired in August.

## DESPITE HIGHER INTEREST RATES

# 'Banks' loan growth to accelerate

REUTERS

Reserve Bank of India has raised interest rates by a total 190 basis points since May to fight inflation, which has only recently shown some signs of easing



**Bangalore, Nov 28:** Loan growth at Indian banks will accelerate to 13% in this fiscal year despite the RBI raising interest rates, as economic activity picks up after a pandemic lull, Fitch Ratings said Monday.

Lending growth for the previous fiscal year stood at 11.5%. India's annual retail inflation eased to a three-month low of 6.77% in October, helped by a slower rise in food prices and a higher base effect.

While full-year growth will show a modest slowdown from the 17% pace seen in the first half, credit demand is expected to stay robust into the next financial year if economic expansion continued, Fitch added.

Demand for credit has rebounded after a pandemic lull, with consumers and businesses stepping up spending as the economy roared back to life.

The country's economy likely returned to a more normal 6.2%

annual growth rate in July-September after a double-digit expansion in the previous quarter, a Reuters poll showed.

Strong loan growth will, however, put pressure on core equity tier 1 ratios if credit growth exceed expectations, limiting buffers to absorb potential future losses, the ratings agency said.

Deposit growth is seen at 11% this year and the next, slower than loan growth. Increased deposit rates may put some pressure on margins, but lower credit costs should offset pressure on profitability, Fitch said, adding that near-term asset quality risks appeared contained.

"Deposits' large role in banks' funding mix are likely to remain a credit strength for Indian banks, despite some normalisation in household savings after being boosted during the pandemic," the note said.

# Amazon shutters some India businesses amid global cuts

After plowing billions of dollars in everything from grocery delivery to payments in India during the past decade, the company has failed to achieve the sort of dominance it enjoys in markets such as the US

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 28:** Amazon will wind down parts of its Indian operations, showing that even the crucial growth market with 1.4 billion consumers isn't immune to Chief Executive Officer Andy Jassy's cost-reduction campaign. Amid an exercise to wind up certain verticals as part of global exercise to cut costs, Amazon Monday announced to shut down its wholesale distribution business in India. The e-commerce major is discontinuing Amazon Distribution, its

wholesale e-commerce website available in some parts of Bengaluru, Mysore and Hubli.

The company earlier shut down its food delivery and online learning platform called Academy in India.

In India, the pullback underscores Amazon's struggles in one of the world's fastest growing e-commerce markets, where it's facing regulatory heat and competition from homegrown conglomerates Reliance Industries Ltd and Tata Group as well as Walmart Inc's Flipkart. Amazon had launched its dis-

**BUBBLE BURST**

- Amazon shuts wholesale distribution, food delivery and Academy (online learning platform) businesses
- The firm is facing the heat from regulators and homegrown conglomerates like Reliance, Tata and Flipkart
- The company plans to sack a fraction of Amazon's India e-commerce workforce of over 10,000



tribution service to empower local kirana stores, pharmacies and department stores in the country.

Last week, Amazon said it is shutting down its food delivery business in India, a day after it

announced to shut down its edtech vertical in the country. Amazon started its food delivery service in India in May 2020.

"As part of our annual operating planning review process, we have made the decision to discontinue Amazon Food," said a company spokesperson.

In India job losses are likely to be in the low hundreds, sources said, or just a fraction of Amazon's India e-commerce workforce of over 10,000. Overall, Amazon employs more than 100,000 people full time in the country for its worldwide operations.

Amazon plans to cut about 10,000 jobs globally, its largest ever headcount reduction, people familiar with the matter have said. It has projected the smallest revenue increase ever for its holiday quar-

ter, and it had put in place a hiring freeze on some corporate roles and shut down several experimental and smaller programs.

"We are discontinuing these programs in a phased manner to take care of current customers and partners," the company said in an emailed statement. "We remain committed to India and will continue to invest across those areas where we can bring value to our customers."

During the past decade, Amazon has added millions of sellers on its platform in India and expanded in segments like groceries and digital payments, while selling fashion, beauty products and flight tickets. The company said groceries, consumer electronics, fashion and business-to-business offerings will be among its focus areas in India.

# GERMANY SALVAGE A DRAW

# Casemiro strike sends Brazil into knockouts



**SAVING THE DAY:** Germany players celebrate Niclas Fullkrug's (No.9) equaliser against Spain, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Al Khor (Qatar), Nov 28:** Only a win for Germany in the final group game will give the four-time World Cup champions a chance to avoid a second straight early elimination. At least they're improving. Substitute Niclas Fullkrug scored in the 83rd minute on Sunday to give Germany a 1-1 draw against Spain at Al Bayt Stadium in one of the most anticipated matches of this year's World Cup. A loss would not

have eliminated Germany, but it would have left the team in a much more difficult position. Germany's fate will be decided Thursday against Costa Rica, which defeated Japan 1-0 earlier Sunday. Even a win may not be enough for the Germans, who lost to Japan in their opener and are in last place in Group E. They need the other result to go their way. If both Germany and Spain win, both will advance. If there is a draw in the Japan-Spain match,

Germany will need to overcome a goal-difference deficit against the Japanese. If Japan is victorious, then the Germans will have to top Spain — which beat Costa Rica 7-0 — on goal difference to get through. "I hope this will give us a boost," Germany coach Hansi Flick said, adding that he was satisfied with the result and his team's attitude. "We know that this was the first step and we want to see against Costa Rica if we can craft the conditions

to go through to the round of 16." Spain coach Luis Enrique said the draw wasn't a bad result for Spain. "We are still leaders of the group of death," Luis Enrique said. "We still depend on ourselves and a draw will be enough against Japan, but we will try to go and win that match." Alvaro Morata put Spain in the lead in the 62nd minute with a nice one-touch from close range after a well-placed low cross from Jordi Alba. Germany only threatened spo-

radically with a few breakaways and set pieces, but the team improved gradually and Fullkrug finally found the equalizer with a shot from close range into the top of the net. Germany then squandered some last-gasp chances to get the win in the end. "They are Germany, a great team," Morata said. "They had an opportunity and they took advantage of it."

Fullkrug's goal kept Germany from enduring consecutive losses at the start of a World Cup for the first time. The Germans won the 2014 World Cup but since then have won only one of its five World Cup matches. At the 2018 tournament in Russia, the team lost two of its matches and went home early.

Spain hasn't lost to Germany in an official competition since the 1988 European Championship. The Germans lost to Spain 6-0 the last time they met, in the Nations League two years ago. Germany's last win against "La Roja" came in a friendly eight years ago.

It was the fifth meeting between the powerhouses at World Cups, with Spain winning the most recent one 1-0 in the semifinals of the 2010 tournament in South Africa. Spain won their lone World Cup in 2010 and was eliminated in the round of 16 in 2018.

### NEUER'S MARK

Germany captain Manuel Neuer made his 18th World Cup appearance, adding that he was satisfied with the result and his team's attitude. "We know that this was the first step and we want to see against Costa Rica if we can craft the conditions

### NO PROTEST

The Germany players did not cover their mouths to protest FIFA's clampdown on the "One Love" armbands on Sunday. They made the gesture before the team's opener against Japan.

### WHAT'S NEXT

Spain's next match is against Japan at Khalifa International Stadium, while Germany returns to Al Bayt Stadium to face Costa Rica. Both matches will be played Thursday at the same time.



**TIMELY STRIKE:** Casemiro and Vinicius Junior (No.20) celebrate the former's goal against Switzerland, Monday

AGENCIES

**Doha, Nov 28:** A late Casemiro goal guided Brazil into the round of 16 of FIFA World Cup as the resistance of a dogged Switzerland side finally cracked late on in the Group G second round game.

Brazil, who were without star forward Neymar due to an ankle injury, rarely troubled Switzerland's goal in a dull first half but showed more threat in the second period.

Brazil struggled to find a way through a typically disciplined Switzerland defence, Vinicius Junior having the best chance of the opening period when he drifted into space at the far post only to fail to connect properly with Raphinha's cross, allowing Yann Sommer to save.

Switzerland more than held their own and had glimmers of openings without ever really creating a gilt-edged opportunity with neither side finding it easy to unlock the opposing backline.

Brazil brought on Rodrygo at the break and he was soon linking up with his Real Madrid teammate Vinicius, who sent in a sumptuous cross with the outside of his right foot that Richarlison only narrowly failed to turn in.

Brazil were turning up the heat and just past the hour, they thought having broken through when

### Treatment at hotel

**DOHA:** Neymar stayed at the team hotel for physiotherapy treatment on his right ankle Monday as the Brazil squad played Switzerland at the World Cup. The Brazil striker was the only player who did not go to Stadium 974 for the team's second match. Danilo, who also missed the game because of an ankle injury, accompanied the rest of the squad. Neymar damaged ankle ligaments in Brazil's 2-0 win over Serbia Thursday.

Rodrygo played in Vinicius down the left to skip Nico Elvedi's challenge and roll the ball past Sommer. However, a lengthy VAR check found Richarlison to be offside earlier in the same phase of play and the effort was chalked off.

However, the game was far from over: It was new Manchester United signing Casemiro who proved to be the hero for the five-time World Champions. The former Real Madrid man popped up with a superb half-volley on 83 minutes to secure a narrow win and a place in the round of 16.

Monday's victory leaves Brazil in a solid position to finish as leaders in Group F with six points after two games — three ahead second-placed Switzerland.

# GAIKWAD HITS WR 7 SIXES IN 43-RUN OVER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, Nov 28:** In an unprecedented feat, Maharashtra captain Ruturaj Gaikwad (220 n o, 159b, 10x4, 16x6) smashed seven sixes in an over to set a List A world record (WR) in the Vijay Hazare Trophy here Monday.

The over, the 49th of the innings, fetched him 43 runs, matching the joint effort of Brett Hampton and Joe Carter off Willem Ludick for Northern Districts against Central Districts in a Ford Trophy game from 2018.

Gaikwad rewrote the record in the penultimate over of his team's Vijay Hazare Trophy quarterfinal match against Uttar Pradesh in Ahmedabad, with Shiva Singh being the bowler. It was a seven ball over because of a no ball.

The record for most sixes in an over (overall) is held by Lee Gernon of New Zealand, who clubbed eight maximums during a Shell Trophy match in Wellington.

Left-arm spinner Shiva Singh conceded a no ball in the fifth delivery of the over which was also hit over the boundary ropes at the Narendra Modi Stadium B Ground here. Gaikwad carried his bat through for a sensational knock of 220 runs in 159 balls. Thanks to Gaikwad's knock, Maharashtra posted 330/5 after batting first, with his colleagues aggregating only 96 runs.



The first ball was a low full-toss and Gaikwad smoked it over deep midwicket for the first six. The second one was hit straight down the ground, while he cleared deep square leg for his third maximum. The fourth delivery was tonked over long-off, the fifth, a no ball, was played almost in the same direction, and the batter took full advantage of the free hit by hammering it over long-on and reach his double century. The seventh and final ball was smashed over deep midwicket. The batter, thus, joined an illustrious list of cricketers who have smashed at least six consecutive sixes in an over, including Sir Garfield Sobers, Ravi Shastri, Herschelle Gibbs, Yuvraj Singh, Ross Whiteley, Hazratullah Zazai, Leo Carter, Kieron Pollard and Thisara Perera.

# Aboubakar saves Cameroon the blushes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Al Wakrah (Qatar), Nov 28:** Substitute Vincent Aboubakar scored one goal and created another as Cameroon rallied from 3-1 down to draw 3-3 with Serbia at the World Cup Monday.

He lobbed goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic in the 64th minute and then set up striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting two minutes later. The thrilling draw was the first game at the World Cup in Qatar in which both teams gave up a lead. But the result suited neither side.

They each have one point after two Group G matches and either Brazil or Switzerland can qualify with a win when they meet later Monday. Cameroon led through central defender Jean-Charles Castelletto's 29th minute tap-in but also conceded twice in quick succession.

Strahinja Pavlovic scored the equaliser on a header in the first minute of first-half stoppage time and, two minutes later, midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic struck from 20 meters. Striker Aleksandar Mitrovic made it 3-1 in the 53rd at Al Janoub Stadium.

Cameroon coach Rigobert Song dropped goalkeeper Andre Onana for the match. It was not immediately clear why Onana was left out amid reports it was for disciplinary reasons.

Onana, who has 34 international caps and plays for Inter Milan, re-



**CHEEKY FINISH:** Vincent Aboubakar chips over opposition goalie for Cameroon's second goal, while a Serbian defender, lying on the ground, watches the ball going into the nets haplessly

sponded by posting the lineup on Instagram. His absence overshadowed a fine comeback performance when all the talk should have been about Aboubakar.

Aboubakar, the top scorer at the African Cup of Nations, turned the game when he came off the bench in the 55th minute.

First, he calmly guided the ball over goalkeeper Milinkovic-Savic. The goal was given offside but awarded following a video review.

Then, a quick break sliced open the Serbian defense as Aboubakar sprinted down the right and squared

the ball to give Choupo-Moting an easy goal. Both sides lost their opening games, with Serbia beaten 2-0 by Brazil and Cameroon losing 1-0 to Switzerland.

Cameroon took the lead when Pierre Kunde's corner from the left was flicked on by Nicolas Nkoulou to the back post and found his fellow central defender Castelletto unmarked.

Castelletto dropped to his knees to kiss the grass then pointed to the sky, as the entire bench swarmed across the field to engulf him in celebration. The Serbian bench did the

same when central defender Pavlovic headed the equaliser from a free-kick by Dusan Tadic.

Serbia's second goal came after Napoli's highly-rated midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa got into a tangle trying to clear the ball. The ball found its way to Sergej Milinkovic-Savic on the edge of the penalty area, who shot into the bottom right corner.

Mitrovic then made no mistake as Serbia prised open Cameroon with three passes and he stroked the ball into an empty net for his seventh goal in six games for his nation and 51st overall. Then it was the turn of Serbia's defense to fall apart.

### KUDUS BRACE LIFTS GHANA

Mohammed Kudus scored twice, including the go-ahead goal after South Korea evened the match in the second half, and Ghana staved off elimination at the World Cup with a 3-2 victory.

Mohammed Salisu also scored for the Black Stars, who lost their opening match against Portugal and were in need of points for a chance to reach the knockout round in Qatar. Down 2-0, Cho Geu-sung scored both of South Korea's goals about three minutes apart early in the second half to even the game at 2-2.

But Kudus' low left-footed goal in the 68th minute sailed out of the reach of goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu to give the Black Stars back the lead.

# Canelo slams Messi over Mexico team's World Cup jersey

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Doha, Nov 28:** In one corner, Saúl 'Canelo' Alvarez. In the other, Lionel Messi. The Argentina star may have gotten into trouble with the wrong person after moving the Mexican national team jersey with his foot while celebrating his team's much-needed World Cup win against Mexico Saturday.

The Mexican boxer said on Twitter that Messi "was cleaning the floor" with the Mexican shirt. He said it was a disrespectful attitude by the Argentina star toward the Mexicans. "He better ask God not to run into me," Canelo tweeted.

Messi was taking his right shoe off when he — apparently without intention — moved the Mexico shirt which he had exchanged with a Mexican player after Argentina's 2-0 win. The shirt was on the floor as the Argentines celebrated in the locker room.



Former Argentina forward Sergio "Kun" Aguero came out on Messi's defense. "Mr. Canelo, don't go finding excuses or creating trouble, certainly you don't know football or what happens in a locker room," he said on Twitter. "The shirts are always on the floor after a match as they are sweaty."

Former Spain player Cesc Fabregas also defended Messi, saying it's normal for players to leave the shirts on the floor before they can be taken to be washed.

The 35-year-old Messi is trying to win his first World Cup title with Argentina. The win over Mexico kept the Argentines in position to advance to the knockout round.

# Sports Odisha, RSC secure victories

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 28:** Sports Odisha and Rising Student Club (RSC) began their campaigns at the Odisha Women's League (OWL) football tournament with contrasting wins here, Monday.

Sports Odisha thrashed OGP Club 3-0 at the Kalinga Stadium football ground, while RSC eked out a narrow 1-0 win over Odisha Police at the Capital Ground.

Skipper Manisha Naik led from the front for Sports Odisha as the forward scored twice — 40th and 90+1 minutes — after Subhasmita Subhadarsini Das broke the deadlock in the 38th minute.

Sports Odisha dominated the match causing troubles for the OGP Club backline time and again. However, it took 38 minutes to break the deadlock when Subhasmita found the back of the nets.



A Rising Student Club player (yellow-red) tries to keep possession of the ball during their match against Odisha Police

Before OGP Club could recover from conceding the first goal, Manisha doubled the advantage two minutes later as the players headed into the tunnel with Sports Odisha having a two-goal cushion.

OGP Club came out all guns blazing in the second half, but failed

to break the Sports Odisha defensive wall. Manisha struck in the added-on time to put the final nail in the coffin for OGP Club.

Elsewhere at the Capital Ground, Subhadra Sahoo's 18th minute goal was enough for RSC to edge past Odisha Police.

# SS Das in contention for selector post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 28:** Former opener Shiv Sundar Das, left-arm spinner Maninder Singh and wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia were the two prominent names to have applied for senior national selectors' posts with experience of playing more than 20 Tests for India.

It couldn't be confirmed whether former pacer Ajit Agarkar has applied or not. According to many, Agarkar has a sure-shot chance of becoming selection committee chairman with his international credentials, if he decides to apply.

Salil Ankola, current chairman of senior Mumbai team, former keeper Samir Dige and the flamboyant Vinod Kambli are said to have applied from Mumbai.

As the date of application for the new panel closed at 6 pm Monday, it is understood that more than 50



persons have applied but there aren't too many heavyweights in the fray.

Among the confirmed applicants, no one has played more Tests than Maninder (35 Tests) while Das (21 Tests) is second in that list.

Sources in the know confirmed that Das, who is currently senior Punjab team's batting coach, has

applied and with East Zone barely producing Test players of repute, he stands a very good chance to become a selector. But, it is not confirmed if Das' home state Odisha will back his candidature.

The other names from North zone are lightweight former cricketers. From North zone, apart from Maninder, Atul Wassan, Nikhil Chopra (Delhi), Ajay Ratra (Haryana) and Reetinder Singh Sodhi (Punjab) are former India players who have thrown their hat into the ring.

From East zone, save Das, other names are really lightweight. They include Prabhanjan Mallick, Rashmi Ranjan Parida from Odisha, Subhamoy Das, Saradindu Mukherjee and Sourasish Lahiri from Bengal. From central zone, Amay Khurasiya of Madhya Pradesh and Gyanendra Pandey of Uttar Pradesh are believed to have applied.