



COME, JOIN THE JUGGERNAUT

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CARA THINKS MEN LACK 'RIGHT TOOLS' TO SATISFY WOMEN SEXUALLY

Supermodel-actress Cara Delevingne said in her new documentary 'Planet Sex', which sees her travel the globe to explore gender, sexuality and bedroom fantasies that men lack the "right tools" to satisfy women sexually.

ANOTHER JURY CHIEF, ANOTHER DISPUTE: **OLIVER SLAMS US RIGHTS RECORD**

red lips".

a short revert, nothing

stimulating or exciting

as being made out to

As Red Sea Film Festival jury President, Oliver Stone is taking his role seriously. He sees the festival as an opportunity to explore the cinema. "You see the changes that are coming here, the reforms. I think people who judge too harshly should come and visit this place and see for themselves."



stick on your lips; who

do vou think vou are.

Amitabh shared that

"When I told them

FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181 ARIES

You are in high spirits today. This is a good time to do all those things that you have been procrastinating for a long time. You may do all the things you dislike doing, like arranging your wardrobe. If you are planning to introduce a new strategy, Ganesha says go ahead.

This day, Ganesha sees you acting crabby and irritable. You'll be itching to pick up fights and guarrels, getting into arguments and confronta tions. Act resolutely and firmly and keep your wild moods and snappiness in check. Later in the day, you will again become cheerful and carefree.

GEMINI

You will be able to run through all your tasks today. The fruits that you reap today will be in much higher proportion to the efforts that you put in. and this will make you happy. You need to pay more attention to your societal ties, savs Ganesha.

CANCER

You will decide to expose certain unreasonable conventions and traditions, and you will be able to do so successfully, pre dicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may incur the displeasure of your bosses. In

LEO You will be bound closer to your near and dear ones. They will be able to understand your feelings and expressions. Your

the evening, you will be able to draw pleasure from whatever you do.

day will be spent in pleasurable company If you have been desirous of something for guite some time, you will attain it now

VIRGO

You obviously provide all the basic necessities of life to your family, but today you will remain preoccupied with the thoughts of how to provide them some luxurious things too. At work, try to adopt a new line of thought

IBRA Ganesha sure hopes that

you packed your kit right and are ready to take on anything, as today promises to be an action-packed day. Most of this action might concentrate around your family

Kiara roped in as brand Big B got screamed at on 'Anand' set ambassador for Kimirica

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani has been been announced as the face of the brand Kimirica, the luxurious personal care brand that curates its products with the finest detail and care.

"A few months ago, I was traveling to Mumbai from Hyderabad after a shoot and I came across this beautifullooking store at the airport that had amazing products," says Kiara Advani. "The store was so inviting and I ended up picking up a gift for my mum as she loves bath products and beautifully scented candles. The best part was that everything was 100% vegan & cruelty-free. Soon after the brand reached out to me and having used the products, I was sure this

is a brand to watch out for'

"I particularly adore the Love Story Collection. It smells amazing," Kiara shared, Founder Kimi Jain, said, "We are pleased to announce our partnership with Kiara Advani. I couldn't think of a better face to promote our brand. The story of Kimirica, in a true sense, is a Love

Story, and I am elated to see that Kiara loves the brand as much as we d0. AGENCIES



Rational about my emotions: Rashmika

TAMIL NADU:Actress Rashmika Mandanna seems to be one to reach on top and still handle the stardom wisely. The actress, who's a well-known face down south, says, "Well, I have a lot of patience," she reasons when asked how she deals with shuttling between south and Hindi film industry. The actress also says that she doesn't get triggered that easily. "During a shoot there are so many things to be coordinated. Glitches do happen, but hardly ever get annoved. My

mom

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irri

tated with this attitude of mine. She says it is high time I start talking," she says. She adds. "If sometime somewhere goes wrong during the shoot I hardly point it out and complain, but my team members tell me that I should start bringing this to notice. They say okay you have patience, but we don't have (laughs) So, then I ask them to go and complain (laughs). I hardly ever lose my cool.' The actress concluded saying, "I believe that everyone is working hard. It is

not an easy job. So, how can I go against them? As it is not directly their fault. I am very rational and logical when it comes to showing my emotions IANS

Mumbai: Megastar be by some friends .. or Amitabh Bachchan was intriguing .. just a laugh .. a dear lady comcomplimented by a lady over his lips on the sets of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. He shared an anecdote from his this out." film 'Anand', where he said that the director

and DOP screamed at him for his "unusually Big B took to his blog and shared a still from 'Anand', which was released in 1971. He wrote: "On the picture above

wipe it off ..!!! ". mented on my lips on he told the director he KBC and liked them .. ahhheemmm .. so I put wasn't wearing any lipstick. "It's a picture form there was no lipstick.

ANAND .. and I retorted to say .. my lips it was my natural not now but then as colour, they did not seen in the picture had believe me .. screamed a story .. which was at me again and asked that my lips were unthe Make Up to wipe usually red, and often my lips.. The make up when I went in front of person came and tried the camera , the , and told them what I Director and the DOP had been saying all , would scream at me: "why have you put lipalong that there is no lipstick on it .."

Loved delivering punchlines: Bhumi

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar, who plays Vicky Kaushal's bombshell wife in the upcoming streaming movie 'Govinda Naam Mera', shares that her character has the most hilarious dialogues

in the film and

that the makers

have sub-

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The actress

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love the most about my dialoguebaazi (punchy dialogues) in 'Govinda Naam Mera' is that they are from the heroine's side and that's refreshing for a romantic comedy in the Hindi film industry because traditionally only heroes used to get all the great dialogues in a genre like this and make people laugh. Gauri Waghmare is literally one of my most favourite characters that I have played on screen.

larious punchlines by Shashank

(Khaitan, the director). What I

AGENCIES

members. Towards the afternoon, you may begin to feel weighed down by household responsibilities. But on the upshot, look forward to a new relationship that might develop in the evening, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Your stars are shining bright today. Relationships prove lucky for you as you are blessed to have great family and friends. Sort out differences if any and vote for harmony. In short, you are on a winning spree today and shall glorify the path you take up.

SAGITTARIUS

You shall push your limits to make sure your authority goes unquestioned. Colleagues and seniors will give you a round of applause for your commitment. Expect your bank accounts to soar as unexpected monetary gains is on the

CAPRICORN

cards, says Ganesha

You like being a part of the social circuit. Today, as new people are added in your team and family, you will be expanding your social circle as well, predicts Ganesha. During the second half of the day, you will spend time reading books and widening your knowledge. At night, you may visit temple and meet some spiritual gurus to find peace in life.

AOUARIUS

When you are least expecting, you may find the one from your dreams. You will be love struck today and barely concentrate on work or studies. You will be unable to identify your emotions and probably spend most of the day gazing in the sky, smiles Ganesha.

PISCES

The day will start on a great note and some news of success or profit will bid a smile on your face early during the day. If you are working or conducting a business then be willing to take risks.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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SOLUTIONS HERMITCRABS

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9



RATIONAL RASHMIKA

Actor Rashmika says that she's pretty rational about her emotions while shuttling between Hindi and south film industries



PRICE CAP IS 'DANGEROUS'

Russia 'will not accept' a price cap on its oil and is analysing how to respond, the Kremlin says INTERNATIONAL P8

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 | 2022

LAKSHYA IN TROUBLE

An FIR has been filed against Lakshya Sen, his family and former national coach Vimal Kumar for cheating and age fraud SPORTS



ROYAL BENGAL TIGER SIGHTED IN DEBRIGARH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Dec 3: A Royal Bengal Tiger was sighted at the entry point of Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh after a gap of four years, a senior wildlife official said Saturday.

The big cat was seen entering the sanctuary at around 5 pm December 1 by forest officials, safari vehicles and tourists, DFO of Hirakud wildlife division (Debrigarh sanctuary) Anshu Pragyan Das said.



The tourists and the forest workers had watched it walk majestically on the forest road for some time without fear in the absence of disturbance. The onlookers even took pictures of the tiger for around five to ten minutes, a forest official said.

Das said, "After 2018 no tiger was recorded inside Debrigarh. This particular one appears to be a male sub-adult in dispersal stage. It might stay in Debrigarh or may look for its own territory in the nearby landscape.'

The DFO said a round-the-clock patrolling has been launched in the periphery of the sanctuary and surrounding villages following the sighting of the tiger. Intelligence network has been strengthened and any illegal entry into Debrigarh will be immediately arrested. "It's a huge task now to protect and monitor the big cat inside our domain. We are on the job," she said.





POMP & GAIETY: Artistes perform during the Make in Odisha Conclave 2022, at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday (More P3)

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK in the town. Mio fetches ₹10.5L-cr CAMPAIGN ENDS-

Bhubaneswar/Bargarh, Dec 3: Campaigning in poll-bound Padampur ended on a bitter note Saturday with senior BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan urging the voters not to trust the ruling BJD, a statement which was strongly objected to by the regional party.

Reacting over Pradhan's remarks

that Patnaik tells 'lies', that he was

tired, unable to think and "repeated

the words of his gumastas" (agents,

Pradhan, Patra said, "It seems you are disturbed and scared after seeing the massive response to the Chief Minister's rallies yesterday (Friday) in Padampur. You have already seen the writing on the wall that the BJP is headed for a massive defeat (in the Padampur bypoll). Please accept this fact.'

Earlier in the day, Pradhan bringing the campaigning for the December 5 bypoll to a close hit out at Patnaik for pledging to accord district status to Padampur sub-division by 2023.

"The BJD president simply ut

ters lies though he claims that he

works more and speaks less. He

had assured a delegation to make

Padampur a district in 2019. Now

he is saying that he will do it by 2023.

portant in that it is likely to be the

last poll before the Lok Sabha and

state elections in 2024 and impact

The Padampur byelection is im-

Therefore, do not trust him.'

"WE WILL WALK THE TALK. IT WILL BE A WIN-WIN SITUATION," CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK TELLS INVESTORS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The state government has received 741 investment intents worth ₹10.50 lakh crore during the Make in Odisha (MiO) Conclave 2022.

Addressing at the valedictory session of the MiO Conclave Saturday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the conclave has generated investment intents of ₹10.50 lakh crore with potential for 10.50 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities. "It's heartening to see the huge



MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE 2022

- ₹5.49 lakh crore -- minerals, metals & metal downstream sector
- ₹2.38 lakh crore -- power, renewable & green energy sector
- ₹1.19 lakh crore -- logistics & infrastructure sector
- ₹76.080 crore -- chemicals, fertilizers & plastic sector
- ₹21,634 crore -- manufacturing sector ■ ₹8,235 crore -- tourism sector

ON BITTER NOTE PNN & AGENCIES

incident, angry locals beat a stray dog to death after it bit 22 persons in Balasore town, Saturday. The rabid dog bit whosever came

POST NEWS NETWORK

on its way as it went on a rampage in Pul Bazaar, Khuajabag, Kasab Mohalla, Balu Bazaar, Rezaullah Lane, Munipada areas under the ward no-4 of Balasore municipality.

Locals beat dog

to death after it

bites 22 people

Balasore, Dec 3: In a shocking

P1

Among the injured were Sheikh Akbar, 72, Gopal Chandra Sethi, 62, Sheikh Anadulla, 11, Sheikh Abdulla, 25, Sheikh Qadir, 73, Tumrun Biwi, 40, Sheikh Piauddin, 35, Sheikh Idris, 60, Srustidhar Dey, 75. The dog triggered panic in the area as people ran helter-skelter to save themselves from its attack.

All the 22 injured persons were admitted to the district headquarters hospital, while irate locals beat the animal to death.

Injured Sheikh Qadir held the local administration responsible for the incident. He blamed the municipal authorities for the stray dog menace which has increased

Sir, I'm here for that 50-vear-old case vou called for hearing

WEAT	IER		
	BHUB	СТК	
d Max	29.8°C	28.6°(
[₽] MIN	18.1℃	16.8°	
Humidity	69%	71%	
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clear sky

response we have got especially in the post Covid-19 scenario," the Chief Minister said.

Patnaik urged the officials to work hard to implement these investment proposals on the ground and take Odisha to a new era of growth.

He assured all the investors that his government will walk the extra mile for them. "We will walk the talk. It will be a win-win situation," the CM told the investors. The CM thanked the FICCI team,

the country partners — Japan, Norway, and Germany — for their support to make the conclave a grand success. "I hope that we further

strengthen our relationships and create more opportunities for mutual trade, commerce, and peopleto-people relationships," Patnaik said, adding, "Let the juggernaut move on.

Briefing media persons, Industries Secretary Hemant structure, ₹76,080 crore from chemicals, fertilizers and plastic sector, ₹21,634 crore from manufacturing sector and ₹8,235 crore from the tourism sector

Similarly, investment proposals worth ₹7,740 crore have been received from the IT & Electronics System Design & Manufacturing sector, ₹7,249 crore from agriculture and food processing, ₹5,306 crore from paper, wood and for-

'Women empowerment a non-negotiable code'

Bhubaneswar: No society can be great if its women are not empowered and the state government through its Mission Shakti programme has empowered more than 70 lakh women, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Make In Odisha Conclave, Saturday. The CM said, "Women empowerment is not just a slogan, it's a non-negotiable code for the state government." Six lakh SHGs are working in the state and the government is doing everything possible to help them. Five MoUs were signed by Mission Shakti in the presence of the Chief Minister at the conclave, Saturday.

est-based industries, ₹5,012 crore from cement, ₹3,935 crore from health sector, ₹2,640 crore from textile and ₹2,055 crore from aerospace and defence sector, the **MORE P3** Secretary said.

officers), BJD MP and spokesperson Sasmit Patra asked him to maintain "dignity and respect" of the Chief Minister.

"Patnaik is the tallest leader in Odisha. Please maintain dignity and respect at least when you (Pradhan) are speaking about the Chief Minister," he said adding the people of the state will not like any attack on Patnaik.

Continuing his criticism of the politics of the state.



EC flags urban voters' apathy

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Election Commission Saturday said the voting percentage increased in many constituencies in Gujarat in the first-phase polling but the overall turnout was diminished by the urban apathy to voting in key districts such as Surat, Rajkot and Jamnagar.

In urban constituencies in Himachal Pradesh too many voters shied away from polling stations in the assembly elections held last month. The urban Assembly seat of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh recorded the lowest turnout in the state at 62.53 per cent, 13 percentage points less than the state average of 75.6 per cent.

Cities in Gujarat have also shown the trend of urban apathy to voting, pulling down the overall turnout in the first phase, the EC said.

Voter turnout in Surat, Rajkot and Jamnagar was lower than the overall 63.3 per cent in the first phase of Gujarat Assembly elections, the poll panel said.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar appealed to the voters of Gujarat to come out in large numbers during the second-phase polling December 5 to make up for the low voting in the first phase.

The Gandhidham seat in Kachchh district, which has industrial establishments, recorded the lowest polling percentage of 47.8 per cent, a sharp decline of 6.34 percentage points from the 2017 turnout. The latest turnout was a new low, the EC said.

Major cities and urban areas of Gujarat have not only recorded decline in voting percentage as compared to the 2017 elections, they have also voted much less than the state average of 63.3 per cent, the poll panel said.

Learn to play an instrument, keep blues at bay

APART FROM IMPROVEMENTS IN COGNITIVE ABILITIES, PLAYING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT ALSO REDUCES DEPRESSION, ANXIETY & STRESS

AGENCIES

Conclave.

London, Dec 3: A new study demonstrated the positive impact learning to play a musical instrument has on the brain's ability to process sights and sounds, and showed how it could also help to lift a blue mood.

ment intents worth ₹10,48,807 crore

have been received during the MiO

Out of the total amount, highest

₹5.49 lakh crore investment pro-

posals have been received from

minerals, metals and metal down-

stream sector, followed by ₹2.38

lakh crore from power, renewable

and green energy sector, ₹1.19 lakh

crore from logistics and infra-

The team at the University of Bath behind the study showed how beginners who undertook piano lessons for just one hour a week over 11 weeks reported significant improvements in recognising audiovisual changes in the environment and reported less depression, stress and anxiety.

The findings have been published in the journal Nature Scientific Reports. The researchers found that

lessons, people's ability to process multisensory information - sight and sound - was enhanced. Improved 'multisensory process' has benefits for almost every activity we participate in - from driving a car and crossing a road, to finding someone in a crowd or watching TV.

These multisensory improvements extended beyond musical abilities. With musical training, people's audio-visual processing became more accurate across other tasks. Those who received piano lessons showed greater accuracy in tests where participants were asked to determine whether sound and vision 'events' occurred at the same time

In addition, the findings went



beyond improvements in cognitive ing compared to before it. abilities, showing that participants The authors suggest that music also had reduced depression, anxtraining could be beneficial for iety and stress scores after the trainpeople with mental health difficulties, and further research is currently underway to test this.

'We know that playing and listening to music often brings joy to our lives, but with this study we were interested in learning more about the direct effects a short period of music learning can have on our cognitive abilities," explained Dr Karin Petrini, cognitive psychologist and music specialist, University of Bath.

"Learning to play an instrument like the piano is a complex task: it requires a musician to read a score, generate movements and monitor the auditory and tactile feedback to adjust their further actions. In scientific terms, the process couples visual with auditory cues and results in a multisensory training -(for individuals," said Petrini.



within just a few weeks of starting

downtown/state

Car rams into tree; 4 killed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Dec 3: At least four people were killed and another person was seriously injured when the car they were travelling in rammed into a roadside tree in Nabarangpur district, police said Saturday.

The accident took place in Soraguda in Dabugaon area when the five occupants of the car were returning to their homes in Nabarangapur town after attending a function in Umerkote in the district early Saturday, a police officer said. Two of them died on the spot, while one succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment in Koraput hospital and another person died while being taken to Visakhapatnam in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh for better treatment, he said.

One more person is seriously injured and is being treated in a hos pital, the officer said

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Sadam, Ansar Khan, Rabin Hial and Saban Hial, all res idents of Nabarangapur town. Police suspect that the accident

might have been caused either due to fog or over-speeding.

KIIT Int'l School Literary Fest kicks off

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The 8th National Children's Literary Festival 2022 of KIIT International School kicked off here Saturday in the presence of actor and direc tor Nandita Das, well-known author and storyteller Jeeva Raghunath and author Ravinder Singh.

Award-winning novelist Ruskin Bond, who has conceptualized the literary festival, would join the event virtually during the course of the event. President of KIIT and KISS Saswati Bal was present on the occasion



Raghunath made a colourful and vibrant beginning to the festival by sharing a story artfully and imitating different sounds, which was well appreciated by students who joined her during her brief storytelling session.

Kolkata-born author Ravinder Singh, who was raised in Odisha and joined as a software engineer at a firm in Bhubaneswar before moving on, shared his ecstasy at coming back to his home town and

participating in the festival. Nandita wished the festival the best. The festival will conclude Sunday. KIIT International School Chairperson, Monalisa Bal said the festival was conceived by Ruskin Bond.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has found gross irregularities like non-utilisation of funds and missing children in child care institutions (CCIs) in the state.

The percentage of utilisation of available funds decreased from 70.47 per cent in 2016-17 to 31.60 per cent in 2020-21, the CAG said in its latest

report tabled before the Assembly during Winter Session. The Women and Child Development (W&CD) department was not regularly identifying districts for conducting baseline surveys in the state. Between 2016-17 and 2018-19, none of the districts had been identified for this purpose, it said. No other campaigns to disseminate information and raise public awareness

FRAUD IN MO POKHARI YOJANA

Govt employees, public

representatives depose

regarding child rights and child protection issues at periodic intervals through print and electronic media was undertaken by Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPS) during 2016-17 to 2020-21. As per norms, an adequate num-

CAG: Funds underutilised

for childcare institutions

ber of security personnel shall be engaged in every CCI keeping in mind the category of children housed, age group of children, purpose of the institutionalisation and the risk factors applicable to the CCI. However, the CAG noticed that 234 children in the age group of 6 to 18 years were missing from 93 CCIs during the period 2016-17 to 2020-21. Of these, 130 were rescued during the above period but the whereabouts of the remaining 104 children were unknown as of date of audit (October 2021). The concerned CCIs had filed FIRs in the respective police stations.

In the case of the 104 missing children in the eight test checked districts, the OSCPS has informed the CAG that 50 children were traced/ had returned voluntarily as of January 2022. The total missing children across the state was 135 as of January 2022.

The audit said that no innovative projects were undertaken despite availability of budget provisions of ₹1.20 crore during 2016-21 while newly constructed CCI at Bhawanipatna at a cost of ₹3.85 crore remained unused.

OAB observes Int'l Day of PwD

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Association for the Blind (OAB), in collaboration with VIEWS NGO and Deutsches Katholisches Blindenwerk (DKBW), Germany, observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at OAB conference hall in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, The theme. this year, was "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world". The 2022 celebration focused on the need for innovative solutions to help create an inclusive developmental model to aid people with disabilities Pritiranjan Gharai, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development (Independent Charge) of Odisha, was the chief guest for the programme. Visually impaired persons, government officials and civil society leaders from across the



FOUNDATION DAY: Ramadevi Women's University vice chancellor Aparajita Chowdhury lighting the lamp to inaugurate the institution's 8th Foundation Day celebrations in Bhubaneswar, Saturday OP PHOTO

ARCHANA CASE Hotelier again appears before ED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Hotelier Siba Prasad Das Saturday again appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in connection with the high profile sextortion case involving lady blackmailer Archana Nag, her husband, Jagabandhu Chand and their close aide Khageswar Patra. He was earlier grilled by the ED sleuths at its office in Nayapalli December 1.

I don't recognize Archana's aide Shradhanajali Behera and Khageswar: I know Archana and her husband Jagabandhu. I have no links with the duo. Neither anyone deposited money in my account and nor have I given money to any-

time despite summons twice.

Nayak, the financial head of Empreo Prestige Pvt. Ltd owned by noted businessman Gangadhar Samal, Saturday appeared before the ED and submitted the financial details of the firm for the last three years.

our bank account from the blackmailer couple which we have returned as they had some urgency The couple emailed us about canceling the booking citing income tax problems," told the financial head of Empreo Prestige Pvt. Ltd.

Archana and Jagabandhu will be produced before the court December 5 in the honey trap case. The ED may seek the court's permission to take the duo on remand for further enquiry.

Two arrested for embezzling ₹56L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khunta, Dec 3: Two employees of Ashirvad Microfinance company based in Khunta area of Mayurbhanj district have been arrested on charges of embezzling around ₹56 lakh.

The two employees were identified as branch head Diptiranjan Mohapatra and additional branch head Ramakrishna Barik.

According to reports, senior officials of the company came to know about large-scale financial



POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Dec 3: As many as 70 government employees and public representatives deposed before the state Lokayukta Friday over alleged irregularities in Mo Pokhari Yojana committed in 31 panchayats under Hatadihi block and the

block headquarters in Keonjhar district Among them, five government employees per-

sonally appeared before the state Lokayukta and filed their written submission while the rest of them were rep-

resented by their advocate PK Satapathy in the case. The issue assumes significance as the state Lokavukta had suo

cropped up after a person withdrew bill without doing necessary works under the state sponsored project Mo Pokhari Yojana. The state Lokayukta suo motto filed a case following publication of reports in various media.

The district administration also conducted a probe and suspended a junior engineer Sudhakar Panda in the case. The block

authorities also collected ₹30,000 as penalty from the concerned beneficiary

Later, directed by the Lokayukta an audit was taken up on the funds spent on various

developmental projects taken up for implementation from 2015-16 and from 2020-2021. The audit report recommended for recovery of ₹30 lakh from the wrongdoers.

state attended the programme. one. I will appear before ED when-Meanwhile, Santosh Kumar Senior School Parents' Nite 2022 celebrated at Loyola

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: The Loyola School students gifted their parents an evening to remember by showcasing their talents through a variety of performances on the occasion of Senior School Parents' Nite function Saturday. It was a visual treat for the parents who through the kaleidoscope of cul tures got an in-depth look at some of the beautiful folk and classical dances of Indian and Western cultures and also their fusion presented by the students of class VII, IX and X spreading the message of 'Aikyam' or harmony. The students of class XI presented a dance performance on the theme "rhythm of seasons" which showcased nature's influence on human lives while the students of class VI presented



ever the central agency summons me," Das told media persons. On the other hand, Shradhanajali failed to appear before the ED for the third

CONQUERS

"We had received `35.11 lakh in

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AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, I. Anusava Mishra, aged about 58 years, W/o. Debiprasad Mishra, D/o. Nrusingha Rath residing at VI A-3/1 Unit - 1, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha do hereby solemnly affirm and state that in my Passport No. H7 356243 issued by the Passport Authority, Bhubaneswar my Name and my Father's name have been mis-spelt as Anusuya Mishra and Nrusing Charan Rath respectively. Henceforth, I declare that Anusava Mishra and Anusuya Mishra is one and same person who is myself and Nrusingha Rath and Nrusing Charan Rath is one and same person who is my father for all purposes.

motto filed a case LY 603/2020 and started it trial by taking cognizance of a report filed by the **Orissa POST**. The report highlighted the irregularities committed in the scheme in 31 panchayats of the block and the block headquarters. It is however, alleged that some persons with vested interests are trying to gain ad-

vantage in the case. Reports said that the issue

On the basis of this report, the Lokavukta had issued notice to the concerned government emplovees and public representatives asking them to depose before it and file and to testify under oath in the case.

The Lokayukta had also issued a notice (8416/9, dated-November 2022) to Kunjalata Khatua who was the sarpanch of Shada panchayat from 2012 to 2017 but has now died. a dance performance weaving a tapestry of human emotions with the message that one should empower oneself with positive emotions. The dance drama "Dashavatar" presented by the students of class VIII took the audience on an Indian mythological journey. The students of class XII presented a comical talk show introducing famous personalities of Hollywood,

Bollywood and Tollywood which enthralled one and all.

Dilip Kumar Tirkey, President Hockey India was the chief guest for the occasion. Principal, Father Victor Misquith, Sj congratulated the teachers and students for putting up a stupendous performance. The Christmas carols at the end ushered in a festive mood of Christmas in the minds of the audience.

wrongdoings in its Khunta branch. **Regional Manager Manoi Jena** lodged a complaint with the Khunta police station.

In the complaint, it was stated that branch head Diptiranjan Mohapatra and additional branch head Ramakrishna Barik took more than ₹23 lakh cash from the company's account and 860 gm of gold jewellery worth over ₹29 lakh.

Negotiations to bring an end to plastic pollution globally

ore than 2.000 experts wrapped up a week of negotiations on plastic pollution Friday, at one of the largest global gatherings ever to address what even industry leaders in plastics say is a crisis.

It was the first meeting of a United Nations committee set up to draft what is intended to be a landmark treaty to bring an end to plastic pollution globally.

"The world needs this treaty because we are producing plastics by the billions," said Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, executive secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for plastics in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Billions of tons of plastics are being produced every year and there is absolutely no way to ensure that this plastic doesn't end up in the environment.

United Nations The Environment Programme held the



Delegates from more than 150 countries, plastic industry representatives, environmentalists, scientists, waste pickers, tribal leaders and others affected by the pollution attended in person or virtually

meeting in a city known for its beaches, Punta del Este, Uruguay, from Monday through Friday. Delegates from more than 150 countries, plastic industry repre-

sentatives, environmentalists, scientists, waste pickers, tribal leaders and others affected by the pollution attended in person or virtually. Waste pickers are seek-

ing recognition of their work and a just transition to fairly remunerated, healthy and sustainable jobs

Even in this first meeting of five planned over the next two years, factions came into focus. Some countries pressed for topdown global mandates, some for national solutions and others for both. If an agreement is eventually adopted, it would be the first legally binding global treaty to combat plastic pollution.

Leading the industry point of view was the American Chemistry Council, a trade association for chemical companies. Joshua Baca, vice president of the plastics division, said companies want to work with governments on the issue because they also are frustrated by the problem. But he said they won't support production restrictions, as some countries want. "The challenge is very simple.

It is working to ensure that used plastics never enter the environment." Baca said. "A top-down approach that puts a cap or a ban on production does nothing to address the challenges that we face from a waste management perspective.'

The United States, a top plastic-producing country, agrees national plans allow governments to prioritize the most important sources and types of plastic pollution.

Most plastic is made from fossil fuels. Other plastic-producing and oil and gas countries also called for putting the responsibility on individual nations. China's delegate said it would be hard to effectively control global plastic pollution with one or even several universal approaches.

Saudi Arabia's delegate also said each country should determine its own action plan, with no standardization or harmonization among them. Plastic plays a vital role in sustainable development, the delegate said, so the treaty should recognize the importance of continuing plastic production while tackling the root cause of the pollution, which he identified as poor waste management. Some referred to these countries as the "low ambition" group. Andrés Del Castillo, senior attorney at the Center for International Environmental Law said that while national plans are important, they should not be the treaty's backbone because that's the system — or lack of one – that the world already has.

The secretary general of the United Nations Antonio Guterres chimed in with a tweet: "Plastics are fossil fuels in another form & amp; pose a serious threat to human rights, the climate & amp; biodiversity," it read.

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The many facets of MiO Conclave 3.0



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra and others during a plenary session on 'Building Economic Independence for Women Empowerment' at Make in Odisha Conclave-2022 in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



rissapos¹

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 4 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

Elated Mission Shakti woman SHG members at the conclave



Mission Shakti commissioner-cum-secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan addressed the event







Models walked the ramp during a fashion show at MiO Conclave



Transformation in school edu a reality now: Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 3: Transformation in education is not a dream anymore, it's a reality now in Odisha, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while addressing a session on Transformation of School Education at MiO Conclave here, Saturday.

Boost to OAV infra CM Naveen Patnaik Saturday

inaugurated six academic buildings of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas and 32 girls' hostels of these schools. He also dedicated 30 district resource centres for children with special needs at the session organised by School and Mass Education department on the penultimate day of MiO Conclave 2022.

Patnaik said the transformation initiative of Odisha in the school education sector has de-

Tourism policy 2022 unveiled

Tourism Minister Aswini Kumar Patra unveiled the new 'Odisha Tourism Policy 2022' during a session on 'Tourism Industry' at the MiO Conclave 2022 here, Saturday.

Patra said that the state has received investment intents of over ₹7.800 crore from 85 investors in the sector.

The Tourism Minister highlighted the focus areas on which the new policy is drafted.



livered stellar results. Today, the government schools in Odisha are highly sought-after ones, competing with their counterparts across the nation. he added.

The Science and Technology de-

L partment Saturday signed an

MoU with Association of

Biotechnology Led Enterprise

(ABLE) to bring biotechnology

industries to Odisha and to prepare

a conducive Biotech Policy for

Entrepreneurs and Professionals

for Odisha (GNEPO) has also signed

an MoU to facilitate Global-Odisha

entrepreneurial exchanges, to pro-

vide a platform for bio-entrepre-

Network

the state.

Global

"Our school transformation initiative, driven by 5T principles, unlocked new aspirations and opened the door of new horizons for the high school students of Odisha," the CM said. He said his government's Mo School and Odisha munity members.

₹1,250cr for biotech sector

Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan initiatives have ushered in a visible transformation in the school education sector, and made history in the national platform.

Under Mo School initiative, one of the largest alumni connect programmes of the world, over 50,000 government schools of Odisha have been revamped with the help of more than 30 lakh alumni and com-

neurship development in Odisha

with global outreach, identify and

submit a mix of 10 potential con-

tacts every year from across the

globe those who have commitment

and desire to help bio-startups

Altogether, ₹1,250 crore invest-

ment including Huwel Lifesciences'

₹50 crore and CropGini's ₹500 crore

has come during the conclave for

biotechnology sector. The invest-

ment will generate employment

opportunities for over 8,000 people.

from Odisha.

UK firm to invest ₹2L cr for semiconductor unit

U & MRAM Group vice-chairman Gurujee Kumaran Swami Saturday announced that the group will invest ₹2 lakh crore in Odisha to set up semiconductor unit in the state. The announcement was made at the MiO

State gets ₹58K crore real estate investment intents

The fourth day of the third edition of state's flag L ship investors' summit—Make in Odisha (MiO) Conclave 2022 here Saturday saw the launch of 'Odisha Housing for All Policy for Urban Areas 2022' and real estate giants signing pacts for investing ₹58,502.55 crore in the sector.

During a session on 'Real Estate and Urban Infrastructure', the Housing and

Urban Development (H&UD) department launched the 'Odisha Housing for All Policy for Urban launches Areas 2022'.

According to the H&UD department, the policy brings 60 per cent government land for commercial development and a volley of benefits for creating affordable houses upto 60 Policy for sqm in PPP mode.

Urban On the occasion, 22 real estate firms Areas signed memorandums of under-2022 standing with the state government for investing ₹58,502.55 crore in the sector.

The session also witnessed the launch of a white paper 'Emerging hotspots of Odisha towards inclusive growth', highlighting the pro industry features envisaged in various policies and reformative initiatives of the state government to enable investment in the real estate sector in urban Odisha and to foster inclusive growth.

H&UD Minister Usha Devi said state's real estate sector has been witnessing radical changes due to the progressive and proactive policy reforms like Uniform Building and Planning Standards Rules, Housing for All Policy and CAF Rule introduced by the department.

Conclave, 2022 here. Swami and the company's Odisha in-charge Debadutta Singh Deo said the group will invest

₹30,000 crore in the first phase. Earlier, they met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and briefed him on the proposed proj-

H&UD

Odisha

Housing

for All

dept

ect. They also discussed in details about the project with Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra, Industries secretary Hemant Sharma and other officials.

Meanwhile, a direct investment commitment of ₹8,200 crore has been received which is likely to create over 40,000 jobs in the state. The big names which made investment commitments or signed MoUs include Intel, Oracle, Global Foundries, Jupiter Solar, Deloitte, IBM, Happiest Minds, Adani Group, EY, and Aaron Capital.



power post

FOCUS CONSERVATION

Each victory gained over oneself means new strength to gain more victories.



Travesty of Truth

Ve are in the middle of yet another election cycle (do these things never end?) and the matter of Nehru versus Patel has returned. A few weeks ago, a speech by the Home Minister was published with the headline: 'Had Sardar Patel been India's 1st PM, many problems would not have occurred: Shah'. This continues the ruling party's effort at producing a generation that thinks of Patel and Bose as different from the Congress, and even haters of the party. But let us return to the question: What if Patel had been Prime Minister instead of Jawaharlal Nehru?

This counterfactual never seems to vanish, especially in Gujarat, which considers this an injustice done to Patel — seen as more competent, more nationalist, more capitalist — than Nehru.

There are three assumptions in the Patel-not-Nehru view. First, that Vallabhbhai resented this arrangement. Second, that by "insisting" that Nehru be made the PM, Gandhi let down his fellow Gujarati. Third, that had Patel indeed led independent India in its initial phase, things would have been different. But different how? That is unclear.

There is a belief that he would have "sorted out" Pakistan and we would never have had the Kashmir problem. The assumption, a false one, here being that the Kashmir problem is located in Islamabad and not Srinagar. The fact

is that we could arrive at any favourable understanding with Pakistan — and indeed we did in Shimla in 1972 — and the problem in Srinagar would still remain. At a basic level, of course the Patel question is total infructuous. The key fact to consider in the Nehru vs Patel debate and the question of "what would have happened had Sardar Patel been Prime Minister" is this: Patel passed away in December 1950, before India's first general election. Even if he had been the PM he would have not been around long enough to influence the nation in any meaningful manner. He was at that time 75, and Nehru was the younger man by 15 years. Patel was part of the earlier generation, and, along with Jinnah and Gandhi, passed on shortly after Independence; Gandhi going first in January 1948, then Jinnah in September of the same year, after a long illness. We have examples in our history of people (PV Narasimha Rao) who are thought to have had more life infused in them because of high office, and Henry Kissinger also said something about the energising effects of power. But Patel didn't die suddenly and his health had been worsening for a while before his death. In March 1948, seven months after Independence and two months after Gandhi's murder, Patel had suffered a heart attack and his health had been on decline since that time

Patel's great achievement was bringing the princely states into the Union. It is why the colossus facing the Narmada Dam is named the Statue of 'Unity'. Most of that actually happened before Independence, and in the months leading up to August, 1947. Only a few states remained outside — Junagadh, Hyderabad and Jammu & Kashmir especially — the Union after the British had gone. The fact is that Patel's best work was mostly, if not entirely, before Independence. (We should pause here to reflect on the fact that we betrayed Patel's solemn word to the princes on the matter of their privy purses with the 26th Amendment.) And so it is not meaningful to hypothetically place him in any influential position after that date.

So then what explains this continued insistence that he would have made a difference had he not been undone by Gandhi and Nehru? I think the "what-if-it-had-been-Patel" sentiment represents a yearning for more of what we are already seeing around us in India today. More Hindutva, more anti-Muslim nationalism. Some people are transposing on Patel the views they hold about the sort of nation we are and ought to be.

The fact is that they are misreading Patel. In his book Sardar Patel and Indian Muslims, Rafiq Zakaria showed the facets of Patel's secularism. His message to Hindus in the Constituent Assembly was: "It is for us who happen to be in a majority to think about what the minorities feel and imagine how we would feel if we were treated in the manner in which

ECOLOGICAL URGENCY

an the annual \$220 billion trade in wild animals and plants be ecologically sustainable without depleting the natural resources of this blue planet? The 19th Conference of Parties (COP19) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) precisely aimed at regulating the trade in wildlife and their derivatives as well as conserving endangered species. While the Climate Conference at Egypt took all the limelight last week, COP19 termed as the World Wildlife Conference (November 14-27), due its significance, concluded in Panama that brought an increasing number of wild animals and plants under the international trade regime.

Will the CITES be able to maintain the delicate balance between trade in animals and plants, arresting the loss of biodiversity and human development? Philosophically, that would be another frame of discussion, the dominant approaches such as anthropocentrism or ecocentrism would either support or reject the trade in threatened wildlife. However, the 184-member CITES

met on the backdrop of massive and rapid depletion of wildlife under water and above land as supported by a number of significant scientific reports. In fact, the United Nations Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report concluded that one million species face extinction due to human causes in the Anthropocene (the age of humankind), many within mere decades.

Let's zoom in to Odisha. As many as 26 leopard skins, 15 elephant tusks, seven deer skins have been seized and 12 live pangolins and 46 parrots have been rescued by forest and police officials in Odisha from March 2021 till April 2022! Down South, the Chennai airport

The latest Lancet Countdown



The illegal wildlife trade is the third-largest contraband trade, after drugs and weapons, with a value of \$10 billion a year!

as one of the major hubs of illegal wildlife trade, live or dead, practices accounted for 36.1 per cent of all wildlife seizure incidents in Indian airports between 2011 and 2020. fi Don't be surprised as it is only 10 per cent that is apprehended in the smuggling world. Astonishingly, p the illegal wildlife trade is the third-largest contraband trade, after drugs and weapons, with a

value of \$10 billion a year! In its first report released during COP19 - World Wildlife Trade Report - the CITES estimated export value of trade in CITES-listed species of \$11.1 billion per year. The annual revenue generated by the global legal trade in wildlife has been estimated at between \$2.9 trillion and \$4.4 trillion from 1997 to 2016. The value of the illegal wildlife trade has been estimated at \$7-23 billion per year during the same period. Timber alone accounted for \$244 billion from 1997 to 2016.

Therefore, there is an ecological urgency to halt, and reverse, loss of biodiversity, if humankind would want to be sustained and prosper. Don't forget the rise of zoonotic diseases in our lifetime.

Overexploitation of natural resources is one of the colossal threats to wild plants and animals besides habitat loss, poaching, illegal trafficking and climate change.

Consequently, the COP19 adopted a total of 46 proposals of the 52 proposals put forward by the parties to the Convention which are now under international trade regulation: sharks, reptiles, hippos, songbirds, rhinos, 200 tree species, orchids, elephants, turtles and so on. India's proposal to protect a species of freshwater reptile called the red-crowned roofed turtle in Appendix 1 was successfully adopted. The freshwater turtle, native to India and Bangladesh, is at a high risk of extinction. The COP also reached a record number of 365 decisions. Although some sections in India were speculating of a compromise if the down listing of Asian elephant would occur in relation to the Cheetah Project, it never cropped up during the plenary. The COP is the ultimate decision-making body of CITES, which takes place every three years.

Since its formation in 1973, approaching its 50th year, the CITES has received both serious criti-

cism and praise. The CITES regulates the world's trade in animals and plants by ensuring international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. 183 countries and the European Union (184) are parties to the Convention. There is now an increasing number of species of flora and fauna, nearly 40,000 species, under the international trade regime.

The CITES regulates international trade by enlisting species into Appendices I, II and III. While enlisting in Appendix I allows a limited trade in exceptional circumstances such as scientific research, Appendix II includes controlled trade in order to avoid over-exploitation. Appendix III allows trade among range states, even the species protected in one country.

There is a dominant view that strongly advocates that sustainable and legal trade in wildlife can be a crucial contributor to the conservation of wild species and their habitats, to the lives and livelihood of adjacent communities as well as to national economies. On the other hand, the opposite view point campaigns against even the limited permits for the trade of a species that is endangered, critical, threatened. The poaching and illegal trafficking of such species are increasing manifold. With shrinking of or fragmented wildlife habitats, increasing poaching of wild animals, additionally such perpetual dichotomy between conservation and sustainable exploitation of wildlife, the CITES must ensure that the international trade in wild animals and plants is ecologically sustainable rather than economically viable.

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

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Avilash Roul

PUTS AN

INCREASING

NUMBER OF

SPECIES OF

FLORA AND

FAUNA UNDER

THE REGULATED

INTERNATIONAL

TRADE REGIME

COP19 OF CITES

Climate crisis is also a health crisis

report, which monitors the health consequences of climate change, highlights the need to prepare for future calamities. Even as COVID-19 continues to spread, a recent study suggests that the likelihood of another pandemic increases by two per cent each year. In the coming decades, the interplay between the climate crisis and public health could create a perfect storm of global devastation and disruption. The good news is that if we take immediate steps to transform our health systems, we can avert another COVID-style catastrophe. As with the current pandemic, the obstacles to mitigating climate change are not just scientific or technological, but also rooted in geopolitics and market forces. Self-interest can undermine public health, particularly when it comes to equitable access to resources. Even so, the international community came together to introduce innovative mechanisms like the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility (COVAX), which was designed to remove the financial barriers that prevented lower-income countries from obtaining vaccines. We must launch similar mechanisms for addressing the global public-health impact of climate change. While we already know many of the likely solutions, their effectiveness requires that we put them in place before disaster strikes. This is not just a moral imperative; it is also a smart economic

choice that would likely reduce the overall cost of outbreaks and other climate-related catastrophes.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt this past November underscored the fact that sustainability is not just about decarbonisation, electric vehicles, or climate-adap-

nism funded by donors and accelerated by the European Investment Bank, enabled people in the world's 92 poorest countries to obtain free vaccines. These lower-income countries, representing roughly half of the world's population, would have struggled to secure access otherwise. So far, more than 1.6 billion COVAX doses have been delivered to developing countries, helping to ensure that 52 per cent of their citizens are fully vaccinated, compared to a global average of 64 per cent. This is a remarkable achievement, particularly in the context of intense vaccine hoarding by developed countries, the export restrictions that some countries placed on vaccines and the components needed to produce them, and the actions of some manufacturers that have seemingly priori-

anisms. COVAX was possible only because it united the financial firepower and knowhow of more than_ 190 governments, along with privatesector partners, civil-society groups, and international agencies, around a common cause that benefited everyone. But if COVAX had already existed before the pandemic. equipped with at-risk contingency financing and surge capacity, it could have mounted its response the world's largest and most complex global deployment of vaccines ever - even faster, ultimately saving more lives. Following COP27, donor governments and multilateral lenders must examine how existing financial mechanisms could be adapted to the fight against climate change to guarantee that funds are made available as soon as a threat emerges. Minimising the overall financial costs of climaterelated health risks involves not just prevention but also early action. These safety-net mechanisms should also be designed to protect the world's most vulnerable people, wherever they live. But what matters most is that these steps are taken now. As The Lancet report warns, the countdown to the next global health crisis has already begun.



Aakar Patel

It is true, of course, that Patel looked on Muslim motives with suspicion after Partition. But he was able to put himself above his emotions

they are treated."

Patel was instrumental, according to Zakaria, in giving minorities the right to propagate. Patel was instrumental also in giving minorities the right to run their own institutions. This is not the sort of work we imagine when we think of the no-nonsense Vallabhbhai. It is true, of course, that Patel looked on Muslim motives with suspicion after Partition. But he was able to put himself above his emotions. In fact, against the wishes of BR Ambedkar, he gave Muslim leaders in the Constituent Assembly the opportunity to themselves take back their demand for separate electorates in India. This is something the Sikhs had demanded assuming, wrongly as Patel knew, that Muslims would also want it. This great gesture from Patel absolved Muslims from the charge of continued separatism.

Gandhi said this of Patel: "I know the Sardar... His method and manner of approach to the Hindu-Muslim question, as also to several other questions, is different from mine and Pandit Nehru's. But it is a travesty of truth to describe it as anti-Muslim. The Sardar's heart is expansive enough to accommodate all."

This is true and must be repeated in the face of propaganda.

WISDOM CORNER

66	I'd rather be hated for who I am, that	n loved for who I am not.
		KURT COBA

- In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.
- When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time. MAYA ANGELOU

WORDS**WORTH**

Defenestrate

he root of the word is the Latin fenestra, a window. Architects speak of a building's fenestration, by which they mean the style and placement of its window openings. To defenestrate, then, might be to remove or block up a window, as happened during the period of the window tax in England. But it's never been used that way. In its earliest appearances, it referred to throwing somebody out of a window. There have been many cases of people being so thrown as a means of execution, at least as far back as the fate of Oueen Jezebel, who the Second Book of Kings says was defenestrated by Jehu. The most famous came during a confrontation in Prague Castle in May 1618 between a group of Bohemian Protestants complaining about infringements of religious freedom and regents of the Catholic Emperor Ferdinand II. The altercation led to two of the regents and the council secretary being thrown out of the window of the council room. An account by one of the regents, Jaroslav Martinic, says that they fell thirty cubits (13 metres or 45 feet) into the dry moat but survived. Catholic writers claimed that the three were saved by the intercession of the Virgin Mary while Protestant ones argued that they fortuitously landed on a heap of manure. The first mention in English of its being called a defenestration is in an account by an anonymous engineer serving in the French Army at the siege of Prague in 1743. It wasn't until the 1850s that the events of 1618 came to be known in English history books as the defenestration of Prague.



Seth Berkley & Werner Hoyer

IN COMING DECADES, THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND PUBLIC HEALTH COULD CREATE A PERFECT STORM OF GLOBAL DEVASTATION AND DISRUPTION

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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send in their valuable comments, opinior

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are tation measures such as flood defenses. It is also about pandemic preparedness. More broadly, climate change is expected to shift the habitat range of deadly pathogens, causing infectious, mosquito-borne diseases like malaria, yellow fever, and dengue fever to spread as far as northern Europe and Canada. At the same time, the climate crisis threatens to increase the prevalence of malaria, cholera, and schistosomiasis across the developing world.

The world's poorest countries remain the most vulnerable to climate change, despite contributing the least to creating the problem. That is why the international community must take immediate steps to ensure that impoverished, marginalised communities have access to vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics. Given the devastating impact that a single virus has had on billions of lives, livelihoods, and the global economy over the past three years, it is abundantly clear that we must urgently take steps to counter climate related health threats.

The global effort to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines provides a useful model. The Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment, a financial mecha-

tised profit over fairness The COVAX model's success shows that there is scope for similar innovative financing solutions to climate-related health risks. For example, several private-sector actors are currently exploring a Climate Advance Market Commitment to stimulate innovation and investment in climate solutions. Similarly, there is great potential for mechanisms based on the model of the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, which uses dedicated "vaccine bonds" to frontload long-term donor commitments so that funds can be made available immediately.

Multilateralism is essential to establishing these safety-net mech-

Seth Berkley is CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Werner Hoyer is President of the European Investment Bank. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Bano moves SC

${\bf Sir}\!\!\!\!$ The 2002 Gujarat riots gangrape survivor, Bilkis Bano, moving the Supreme Court (SC) challenging the remission granted to the eleven convicts who also murdered her family members was on expected lines. Bano has also sought a review of the Supreme Court's May order that permitted the Gujarat government to apply the remission rules (1992) to release the eleven convicts. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said he would examine whether they can hear both pleas together and if the same bench can hear them. Several public interest litigations are already in the SC against the release

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE

Golden days back

Sir, First, Kalyan Choubey at the All India Football Federation. Then, ace hockey star Dilip Tirkey at Hockey India. And now, the iconic 'Payoli Express' PT Usha at the helm of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). It seems golden days are back in the Indian sports arena. Usha is the first female to lead the IOA. The apex sports body's executive committee also comprises sportspersons such as Gagan Narang, Mary Kom, Sharat Kamal, Yogeswar Dutt. They know where the shoe pinches the most. Not only the players but the country's sports lovers' expectations are sky-high. With the 2024 Paris Olympics barely one-and-ahalf years away, Usha and her team have to tread cautiously. Best wishes to Team Usha

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

High stress levels

Sir, A recent study in Bangalore has found that those living in paying guest (PG) accommodation, spread over 45 such stays in the city, were suffering from depression and anxiety. The study analysed the age group of 18-29 that included under graduate and post graduate students apart from those working for a living. Most men and women who relocate to a new place for career and study are hit by home sickness, peer pressure, long working hours and inability to confide in persons close to them. Responsibility to take care of their elderly parents, who may not be economically well-to-do adds to the stress. By the same token, parents would have done everything possible to educate their children. A weak score here or a job setback there would severely strain them knowing well that the parents, as a natural reaction, would not be happy. Unfortunately, most youngsters areunaware of common psychological disorders.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA





national

11.2



It is not appropriate for the ministers of Maharashtra to visit Belagavi, the bordering district of the state amid the tension between the two states BASAVARAJ BOMMAI KARNATAKA CM

RTI REVELATION

A whopping ₹43 lakh were spent on Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his team's London visit in October, an RTI reply has revealed. The RTI queries were answered by the Indian High Commission's London office

No reservation for those who convert to another religion: Madras HC



uote

Farmers are not getting fertilizer and are being harassed for not repaying loans of ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh, while big loans of industrialists are waived by

the banks by rolling out red carpets RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

As per an interim report submitted, an aggregate of 7,504 bighas (1,898 hectares) of land belonging to 303 Satras (Vaishnavite monasteries)

are under encroachment in various parts of the state HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

The Charilam violence was a glaring example that a fascist-style rule is going on in Tripura where Constitution doesn't work. People have no right to raise their voice MANIK SARKAR FORMER TRIPURA CM

SHORT TAKES

Court extends NIA custody of Bishnoi

New Delhi: A Delhi court Saturday extended by four days the NIA custody of alleged gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, accused in Siddhu Moosewala murder case, in a matter related to conspiracy hatched by terror groups. The NIA has alleged that the conspiracy was hatched by members of a criminal syndicate based in India and abroad to raise funds and recruit youths to carry out terrorist acts in Delhi and other parts of the country.

Four tiger cubs found dead

Chandrapur: Four tiger cubs were found dead in the buffer zone of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district on Saturday, a forest official said. Injuries were found on

3 killed, several hurt in blast near **TMC rally venue**



2 of Arjunnagar in

Bhupatinagar area, 1.5 km from Contai town where TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee addressed a public

meeting on Saturday, a police

A forensic team later reached the spot and collected

samples and a huge police team

hurled at Contai. Bombs are WB's

most successful Cottage Industry

products & are widely produced

in TMC leaders' homes across

Bengal," the senior BJP leader also

BJP national vice president Dilip

Ghosh held the TMC "responsible"

for the incident and said that "only

bomb-making industry is flour-

ishing in the state". The TMC lead-

ership expressed their "shock" over

the incident and alleged that it

was a plot by the BJP to kill the

tweet, senior TMC leader and state

Finance minister Chandrima

Bhattacharya alleged that

Adhikari's certainty about TMC's

involvement is an admission to the plot to assassinate Banerjee.

open assassination plot that the

BJP has admitted to. LoP

@SuvenduWB's certainty about

the usage of the bombs at Contai

where our National Gen Sec @ab-

hishekaitc is to hold a rally is a

"SHOCKING! This is clearly an

Taking a cue from Adhikari's

party's Diamond Harbour MP.

was deployed there

officer said

tweeted.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Contai (WB), Dec 3: At least three people were killed and several others injured in a blast near the venue of senior Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee's rally in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in Block 2 of Arjunnagar in Bhupatinagar area, 1.5 km from Contai town where TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee addressed a public meeting on Saturday, a police officer said.

"The blast was reported in a house around 11.15 pm on Friday and three bodies were recovered on Saturday morning. A few others are injured. The cause of the blast is yet to be ascertained and further investigation is underway.

"The impact was so powerful that the mud house with a thatched roof was blown off in the incident," the senior officer of Bhupatinagar Police Station said. The three deceased were identified as Raikumar Manna. who is reportedly a TMC worker, Debkumar Manna and Biswajit Gayen, he said

A forensic team later reached the spot and collected samples and a huge police team was deployed there. Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari alleged involvement of the deceased TMC member in the blast and demanded an NIA investigation into the incident.

"3 Dead & 2 others grievously PROOF of their plan," Bhattacharya injured as TMC Leader's house tweeted. Party colleague and West blows up in (an) explosion at Bengal Industry minister Shashi Bhupatinagar, Bhagabanpur II Pania also reiterated Bhattacharva's Block, Purba Medinipur District. TMC leader Rajkumar Manna was making bombs at his home when this high intensity explosion happened. I demand @NIA_India Învestigation," Adhikari tweeted. "TMC Booth President Rajkumar & 2 others died last evening while urgently making the bombs, as these bombs were intended to be

claim reservation based on caste after getting converted to another recognise the caste system, the perreligion. son ceases to belong to that caste The Madras HC bench headed by in which he was born. The peti-Justice G.R. Swaminathan gave tioner maintained that he conthe order dismissing the petition verted to Islam in May 2008. He apby a Hindu man from the most peared for the Tamil Nadu backward community, who had Combined Civil Services exam

Monitoring movements of Chinese ships: Navy chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Dec 3: In a major deci-

sion, the Madras high court (HC)

Saturday said that a person cannot

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Indian Navy is looking at having a second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) and is set to procure a raft of other platforms including Predator drones from the US to bolster its overall military capability, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Saturday in the backdrop of evolving regional security matrix and China's growing naval prowess.

Addressing a press conference a day ahead of Navy Day he said a timeline of 2047 has been set for making the force 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant). Admiral Kumar also said that an exercise is underway in the force to shed the colonial past as "we strongly support the view that we have to get away from this "Ghulami ki mansikta" (slave mentality).

The Navy Chief also said that the Indian Navy is set to open all its branches for women from next year. On possible challenges from China, he asserted that the Navy keeps a strong vigil over movements of various Chinese military research and fishing vessels in the Indian Ocean Region.

Gujarat polls: Campaigning ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Dec 3: The highvoltage campaigning for the second and final phase of the Gujarat Assembly elections ended at 5 pm Saturday.

As many as 833 candidates are in the fray across 93 constituencies which will go to polls on December 5. Votes will be counted on December 8. Prominent candidates in the second phase include Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel from Ghatlodia, Patidar leader Hardik Patel from Viramgam and OBC leader Alpesh Thakor from Gandhinagar South. Both Hardik Patel and Thakor are contesting on BJP ticket. The first phase of voting for 89 seats in Saurashtra, Kutch and south

Gujarat was held on December 1 with average turnout of 63.31 per cent, lower than the last time.

The main contenders in the elections are the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The 93 constituencies where polling will be held on Monday are spread across 14 districts of north and central Gujarat including Ahmedabad. Vadodara

converted to Islam. The petitioner subsequently sought caste-based quota in state government jobs. The bench observed that once

a Hindu man converts into another religion which does not

he Navy celebrates December 4

as Navy Day to commemorate

harbour and its decisive victory in

The Navy chief said that the Indian Navy is set to open

its daring attack on Karachi

all its branches for women

a repeat order for the IAC I.

asked about the IAC II. India's first

indigenously-built aircraft carrier

INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commis-

sioned in September. The aircraft

carrier, with a displacement of

40,000 tonnes, was built at a cost of

around ₹23,000 crore.

the 1971 Indo-Pak war

from next year

specifications.

in 2018. He failed to qualify it and upon inquiry he came to know that he was treated as a General category candidate.

He maintained that he should have been treated as backward class Muslim category. He further said that he exercised his fundamental right by getting converted to Islam. The Tamil Nadu government considers some Muslim categories as most backward class community.

Professor arrested for misbehaving with foreign student

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Dec 3: A University of Hyderabad (UoH) professor was taken into custody for allegedly trving to misbehave with a foreign student, police said Saturday.

The 62-year-old man was booked for allegedly attempting to outrage the woman's modesty and for sexual harassment and the case was registered under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) on a complaint by a university official. The professor has been placed

The Navy has been making a strong push for having the IAC-II under suspension by the varsity. The having a displacement of 65,000 professor, who works in Hindi detonnes which was estimated to cost partment, allegedly took the woman. close to ₹50,000 with the envisaged who hails from Thailand, to his residence Friday evening saying he 'We are still working on what size would take Hindi classes and tried it should be and what its capabilto misbehave with her. He was ities should be. Right now we have alone at home when the incident put a hold on it because we have just happened. The woman, a post gradcommissioned INS Vikrant. We uate student, could not communiare quite happy with the ship. The cate in English or Hindi and her way the ship performed in the statement was recorded by taking trial," Admiral Kumar said when

the help of a translator, a police official said. According to her, the professor mixed liquor in a drink without her knowledge, he said.

The activists of ABVP gathered at the university and held a protest demanding stringent action against the accused





Listing initiatives to bolster the

Navy's operational prowess, he

said a draft cabinet note is being pre-

pared for the proposed indigenous

twin-engine deck-based aircraft,

adding the plan is to have a proto-

type of the jet by 2026 while its

The Navy celebrates December

4 as Navy Day to commemorate

its daring attack on Karachi har-

bour and its decisive victory in

the 1971 Indo-Pak war. Admiral

Kumar said the Navy is contem-

plating whether to go for indigenous

aircraft carrier (IAC) II or prefer

production would start by 2032.

the cubs, which indicate that they were killed by a tiger, he said. "The carcasses of two male and two female cubs, aged three to four months, were found at Shivni forest range in the buffer zone this morning," the reserve's chief conservator of forest Dr Jitendra Ramgaonkar said.

allegations and said, "LoP SuvenduWB, trapped in his own words! Sure of the bombs to be hurled at Contai, did he already know who it was intended toward? Was it a shameless attempt to sabotage the meeting of our National General Secretary Shri @abhishekaitc at Contai, hurt him and the people?"

and Gandhinagar.

There are 2.54 crore registered voters in these constituencies. Polling will be held at 26,409 booths and nearly 36,000 Electronic Voting Machines will be used. The Election Commission will deploy 29,000 presiding officers and over 84,000 polling officers in 14 districts, said an official release.

Samajwadi Party candidate Dimple Yadav campaigns in Mainpuri district PTI PHOTO

Delhi set for high-stakes MCD polls



This will be the first civic election after the fresh delimitation exercise, and the poll will be held days after the first phase of the Gujarat Assembly elections and a day ahead of its second phase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The stage is set for the high-stakes civic polls in Delhi on Sunday, with poll authorities and security forces all geared up for the elections, largely being seen as a three-way contest among the AAP, the BJP and the Congress.

Over 1.45 crore electors are eligible to exercise their franchise in the elections to the 250 wards of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in which 1,349 candidates are in the fray. Polling will be held from 8 am to 5:30 pm and the votes will be counted on December 7.

According to data shared by the State Election Commission officials, the total number of voters in Delhi is 1,45,05,358 -- 78,93,418 males, 66,10,879 females and 1,061 transgender persons. There are 250 wards in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

This will be the first civic election after the fresh delimitation exercise, and the poll will be held days after the first phase of the Gujarat assembly elections, and a day ahead of its second phase. Authorities have set up 13,638 polling stations across Delhi for the exercise.

There were 272 wards in Delhi and three corporations -- NDMC, SDMC and EDMC -- in Delhi from 2012-2022, before being reunified into an MCD that had formally come into existence on May 22. The erstwhile MCD. established in 1958, was trifurcated in 2012 during Sheila Dikshit's tenure as the chief minister.

With the announcement of the MCD polling date on November 4 by State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev, the Model Code of Conduct came into immediate effect in the national capital from that day itself. Both the AAP and the BJP have exuded confidence that they will emerge victorious in the polls while the Congress is seeking to regain lost turf. The high-decibel campaigning for the

December 4 polls, which saw roadshows of AAP and BJP heavyweights crisscross through the national capital amid a political slugfest, concluded on Friday. Giving campaigns of their parties one final push on Friday, BJP leaders held over 200 public meetings and roadshows, while Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia held a town hall with 400 traders to discuss issues faced by them while dealing with the civic body.

The SEC officials said poll authorities and its teams were all set for the big day on Sunday and adequate arrangements for deployment of forces has been done. The Commission on Friday said it has made elaborate arrangements for safe, secure and pleasant voting experience of people. These measures are required to keep the electoral field free and to ensure that a level playing field is afforded to all political parties and candidates.





BJP uses 'Khela hobe' slogan against Mamata's party

THE TMC HAD COINED THE SLOGAN "KHELA **HOBE**" BEFORE THE 2021 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND IT BECAME IMMENSELY POPULAR. SEVERAL OTHER PARTIES OUTSIDE BENGAL **ALSO USED IT LATER**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 3: Seeking to use the Trinamool Congress' popular slogan 'khela hobe' (there will be a game) back at the ruling party of West Bengal, the BJP has said that games will be played by both in the coming elections.

Asserting that the BJP believes in non-violence, the party's West

Bengal president Sukanta Majumdar said that this does not mean that it will not react if push comes to shove.

"The game will be played ('khela hobe') by both the parties and it will be a dangerous one," the BJP leader said at a public rally at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district Friday.

"I assure you that the Trinamool



Hinting at early elections in the Congress government, which is selling out assets of the state, will state, the BJP leader claimed that be ousted in a few years,' he will not be surprised if the assembly polls in West Bengal are held along with the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Mamata Banerjeeled Trinamool Congress government came to power in the state for the third consecutive term in 2021. Claiming that around 300 TMC

activists are behind bars in cases relating to post-poll violence of 2021, which are being investigated by the CBI, Majumdar asserted that more are likely to be brought to book. Anyone indulging in illegalities, in whatever big post they are holding, will not go scot-free as long as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is there, Majumdar said. He claimed that a bill will be brought in the Lok Sabha to ensure the neutrality of the police force.

For many, armed security guards are status mascots in J&K



OVER THE YEARS, **MOVING AROUND** WITH AN ARMED **SECURITY GUARD PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME A STATUS**

SYMBOL IN J&K

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Dec 3: In Jammu and Kashmir having an armed security guard has become more of a status symbol than an actual necessity to protect someone.

Top officials responsible for identifying threats to individuals and also those detailed to provide the armed security guards are coming under increased pressure as the demands for providing security guards often go beyond the threat perceptions analysed by the authorities. "There is a list of categorised persons whose threat appraisals are reviewed from time to time. Providing security based on threat perception is an essential aspect of the security system."

"But, we often get demands from persons not otherwise categorised for providing armed security guards," said a senior officer connected with providing security to protected persons.

Not many of the protected persons are provided with bullet proof vehicles and in any case. moving around with armed guards in non-bullet proof vehicles and carrying armed guards along while shopping inside malls or attending social functions is fraught with inherent risks.

"Such behaviour by protected persons not only endangers their personal safety but also exposes our boys to avoidable risks.

"Moving around in vehicles not meant for security purposes entails inherent risk to the occupants. You are a moving target for anyone to take a potshot," said another officer connected with security.

It is very strange that in order to show off their so-called protected status, the newfound crop of protected persons do all sorts of pranks to attract public attention.

They keep the guards outside shops, at entrances of other public places or at the receptions of social functions and move around with swagger that does not show even an iota of concern for personal safety or that of the guards they carry along.

There are detailed SoPs about what a protected person should do or not do. In the name of belonging to this or that political party or just because of their social standing backed by wealth, most people moving around with security in J&K might not need any armed protection at all.

Bengal to get country's 2nd submarine museum



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Dec 3: The country's second submarine museum is slated to come up at Digha in West Bengal Indian Navy officials announced in Kolkata Friday, ahead of Navy Day Celebrations across the country December 4.

Navy Day is celebrated to commemorate Operation Trident on the intervening night of December 3-4 in 1971 when Indian Navy missile boats attacked Karachi harbour, destroying warships and onshore installations that crippled Pakistan Navy's efforts to participate in the decisive war that followed, resulting in the liberation of Bangladesh.

"We have already set up an air craft museum at New Town-Rajarhat in Kolkata in association with the Government of West Bengal. We have installed a Tupolev TU-142M long range maritime surveillance and attack aircraft there for residents of Kolkata to get a better understanding of how the Indian Navy functions. Now, we will be setting up a submarine museum at Digha in the East Midnapore district of West Bengal. Digha is a major tourist attraction and the museum there will add value to the seaside township," a sen-

ior Navy official said on Friday. Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh has the only submarine museum in the country. The INS Kursura, a decommissioned dieselelectric submarine of the Indian Navy, is placed at a strategic location close to the R.K. Beach and draws huge crowds. Most of those who travel to Visakhapatnam as tourists are from West Bengal and the submarine museum is a must-

see for them. On Friday, Commodore Rituraj Sahu, Naval Officer-in-Charge, West Bengal, briefed the media in Kolkata on the Indian Navy's activities in the region.

He highlighted how West Bengal has two Fast Interceptor Crafts (FICs) now that operate from Kolkata to the Sagar Island anchorage to provide protection to shipping interests. Two more FICs will arrive soon to bolster the Navy's muscle at INS Netaji Subhas --Kolkata's naval office. INS Netaji Subhas, that played a key role in 1971, when the missile boats that struck Karachi harbour arrived at the Kolkata port, is also getting

upgraded.

Srinagar makes it to the list of top places to visit in 2023

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Majumdar said.

New Delhi, Dec 3: India's Srinagar makes it to the top places of 2023 to visit in Conde Nast Traveler's latest article, 'The 23 Best Places to Go in 2023.' The article describes Srinagar as, "an alluring and once hard-to-visit destination in the Kashmir Valley" ... which, "is opening up for travellers in a big way in 2023, with new roadways making it easier than ever to get in and around."

Saumya Ancheri, Features Editor at the travel magazine, details the improvements being made to the city's transportation, stays, and connectivity to create hassle-free travel experiences for both citizens and tourists. The Valley is also about to get a boost in accessibility, with a spate of highways and tunnels planned to open in 2023 that will, among other connections, make it easier to drive from Kashmir-across breathtaking landscapes-to neighbouring Ladakh, even in winter. Here is a list of places to visit in the Valley to make your stay memorable in the new year.

Dal Lake Known as The Jewel of Srinagar, the Dal Lake is the most exquisite of sights to behold. It is surrounded by 26 square kilometers and in addition to the famous Shikara rides, living on a houseboat is also an experience of a lifetime. You

at its best, there is no better place than Srinagar

can shop at the floating markets and take a leisurely cruise Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden

With the largest Tulip garden in Asia, 74 acres in size, your best bet is to visit in March, April, and May. You can visit Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden anytime between 7.00 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. on all weekdays at just Rs 50 for adults and Rs 25 for kids. Who needs Holland! **Aru Valley**

If you enjoy activities and adventure, the Venice of the East has something for you. The greatest time to visit Aru Valley is from July to September when you can go hiking, fishing, and horseback rid ing without worrying about the weather: Aru Valley is located in the Anantnag District of Srinagar,



Jammu, and Kashmir. Pari Mahal

Surrounded by lush green mountains Pari Mahal in Srinagar was built in the mid-17th century by Dara Shikoh, son of Shah Jahan, it used to be the emperor's summer retreat.

Dachigam National Park

Dachigam National Park in Jammu and Kashmir is home to a diverse array of flora and animals. While strolling through the park, you may come across the critically endangered Kashmir stag (hangul), a red deer found in India, as well as musk deer, Himalayan black bears, and a variety of unusual Himalayan birds such as golden eagles, bearded vultures, red Togo pans, and koklass pheasants.

When it comes to enjoying nature

stays in off beat options like houseboats, glamping and waterfront villas



Student perform during a rally to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Kolkata, West Bengal PTI PHOTO

WBSSC scam: Maximum illegal recruitments made for English

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Dec 3: Maximum number of illegal recruitments of teachers in the state-run schools were made for English, as per the records of West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC)

Following the instruction of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay of Calcutta High Court Thursday afternoon, the WBSSC has published on its website the names of the 183 candidates deemed by the commission to have illegally procured teachers' jobs.

According to the list, the maximum number of illegal recruitments was made for the subject of English at 57, followed by geography -- 30, life science -- 22, Bengali -- 21, MMathematics and Physical



-- 18 each and finally history -- 17. They all got appointments in 2016. Besides asking the WBSSC to publish these names on the website of the commission, Justice Gangopadhyay has also sought explanation on steps taken for termination of services of these illegally-appointed teachers.

Meanwhile, the commission has pegged the number of illegal recruitments for the 9th and 10th standards at just 183, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is

conducting a probe in the teachers' recruitment scam, has submitted a separate list to court on this count where the figure has been pegged at 952. On Thursday, Justice Gangopadhyay asked the counsels of three parties -- CBI, WBSSC and the petitioners -- in the case to sit together December 3, discuss the documents like optical marks recognition (OMR) sheets and hard discs seized or recovered in the matter and settle out the matter related to difference in the two figures. He has also directed the CBI to submit a report to his bench on the result of the joint findings.

While issuing the directions, Justice Gangopadhyay asked WBSSC and CBI not to be scared as "bigger rats will emerge" during the course of investigation.

'BJY to reach J&K by January end'

Srinagar: The Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) will reach Jammu and Kashmir towards the end of January and will culminate with a public meeting, a Congress leader here said Saturday. He said all the arrangements for the yatra were going on in full swing. "The Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi will reach J-K by January end. The yatra will take place between Lakhanpur to Kashmir. A concluding public meeting will take place here," J-K Pradesh Congress Committee chief Vigar Rasool Wani told reporters here. Wani also welcomed the secular parties who have shown interest to become a part of the yatra and to fight hatred, unemployment and the price rise. Asked about his recent statement that the Padma Shri award, bestowed on former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, was a small award, the JKPCC chief said the BJP was giving awards on political considerations.

How smart must smart city planners of Srinagar be? Kolkata to shut all hookah bars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 3: All hookah bars in Kolkata will be shut down after allegations were received that some of these places were being used for dealing in drugs, mayor Firhad Hakim said.

Licence of any bar will also be cancelled if they are found secretly selling hookah, he said. "There are allegations of illegal drug use at the hookah bars. The young generation is getting addicted to drugs. And, this is why hookah bars have been ordered to close," he said.

Welcoming the decision of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, doctors said having hookah for an hour was equivalent to consuming 100 cigarettes in terms of nicotine deposits. "At the hookah bars, which are located inside restau-



Doctors said having hookah for an hour was equivalent to consuming 100 cigarettes in terms of nicotine deposits

rants, a lot of passive smoking also

happens. It is harmful to health as

one hour of hookah is equivalent to

consuming 100 cigarettes" said doc-

tor Bikash Majumder, senior con-

sultant interventional cardiologist

at Apollo Multispeciality Hospitals.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar; Dec 3: How smart would Srinagar become as a smart city? The question brooks an answer in light of the historical realities of this city. In the mid 1960s, a Jammu and Kashmir government headed by GM Sadiq as the Chief Minister

took an embarrassingly misconceived decision. The serpentine canal called 'Nallah Mar' that went round the old Srinagar city and finally

drained into the Jhelum River, was filled up. This canal had won Srinagar the enviable title of Venice of Asia'

The canal was filled and a road replaced it. There is no defence for this environmentally disastrous and administratively un-

wise decision although supporters of GM Sadiq would say in private that the decision was taken to change the population dynamics of old city Srinagar which was dominated by the followers of the Mirwaiz family.

The canal was lost, while the followers of the Mirwaiz family flourished around the two sides of the road without moving to other parts of the city. The filling of the canal was advertised as a step towards making Srinagar a modern city and the result is there for everybody to lament.

"Since the ambitious smart city mission was started in Srinagar, the roads here appear as if these have been bombed," said a retired chief engineer. "Roads and drains are being dug up obviously to re-



fic.'

alise the dream of a smart city. The result will have to wait to be judged in future and yet what is difficult and baffling to understand is the fact that Srinagar is the only city

The fact is that smart cities cannot just be made of better

face while people can hardly climb on them to avoid moving on the road?

"And what we are hearing is that to decongest the city and to decrease its pollution by fuel emission, cycles would be the only mode of transport in the smart city interiors." "That is a great decision, but our past experiences have been bitter," the retired engineer added.

The cynicism of the common man and the experts in Srinagar 🗦 towards modernisation of the city is based in their past experiences.

Roads cannot be decongested by increasing the breadth of the dividers and raising pedestrian malls to heights unclimbable for the pedestrians.









"Why are pedestrian malls

in the country where the road di-

viders are so broad that they choke the passage of the vehicular traf-

raised 3 to 4 ft from the road sur-



national



Every form of 'elite understanding' of the democratic process that educated people are better decision-makers must be rejected D Y CHANDRACHUD CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

TN HEADMISTRESS HELD

A primary school headmistress was arrested Saturday for allegedly making six Scheduled Caste students clean the school toilets in Erode district of Tamil Nadu





The Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi has established a 'standard of corruption' that is higher in 'leaps and

bounds' than that during the earlier Congress regime, and it is thriving on politics of 'chaos and freebies' HARDEEP SINGH PURI UNION MINISTER

Stopping free yoga classes for people is a sin and it should not happen while the rest of the politics can go

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CM



raised. Those who indulge in such acts cannot digest the good work being done by the Shide-Fadnavis government and hence they are indulging in such acts EKNATH SHINDE MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

Two crushed to death

Amaravati: Two devotees were killed in a road accident in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district on Saturday, police said. A car knocked down the devotees when they were walking from Srikakulam district to Vijayawada to offer prayers at Kanaka Durga temple. Two devotees -Eshwara Rao and Santosh -died on the spot. Police have registered a case and arrested the driver. A police officer said that further investigations are on.

..... Drug peddler held

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested a 40-year-old drug peddler from Ambedkar Nagar area, an official said Saturday. They also recovered 255 grams of fine quality heroin valued at ₹one crore from the possession of the accused identified as Parminder, a resident of Rohini. According

Congress slams Centre over 'Chinese shelters in Depsang'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: Citing media reports that China has built shelters in the Depsang area in Ladakh, the Congress on Saturday questioned the government's "silence" over the issue and asked what steps were being taken by it to ensure status quo ante of April 2020.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his handshake with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in Indonesia last month. There was no immediate reaction from the government to the Congress' allegations.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also slammed the government over the issue. In a tweet, he said, "Narendra Modi ji gave CLEAN CHIT to China after 20 Indian bravehearts sacrificed their lives in Galwan. Another CLEAN CHIT is being drafted for brazen Chinese incursions & construction in Depsang plains, Pangong Tso Lake area & Gogra Hot Springs? Nation deserves answers PM ji."

While the Congress has been attacking the government over its handling of the border issues with China, officials have maintained that India has significantly



enhanced its border infrastructure in recent years with the Centre giving a major boost to such efforts following the eastern Ladakh

standoff. "On November 15, Modi had met Xi Jinping, the Chinese head of state. He was not showing angry red eyes, he was in fact adorning a red shirt and I wonder what he talked about as he met Xi Jinping after the supreme sacrifice of 20 of our bravehearts," Shrinate said at a press conference at the AICC head-

quarters here. Citing media reports, she said that in the area of Depsang, China has built temperature-regulated "shelters" that help any army personnel to be stationed permanently."Two hundred such shelters have been built by China in our territory 1518 km inside the LAC (Line of Actual Control)," she alleged.

Why has there not been a single statement from Prime Minister Modi, his government or the Ministry of External Affairs, Shrinate asked."Remember, Depsang and Demchok are extremely strategic places for us. Also, remember China continues to occupy large parts of territory in the Depsang area," she said.

Shrinate also showed photographs of what she said were satellite images showing that China is doing "huge fortification" both on land and at sea. "In fact, around the Pangong Tso lake area, China has built a PLA division headquarter, a garrison, artillery and anti-aircraft gun shelter." she claimed.

CLASS 10 GIRL GANGRAPED, **MURDERED**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Dec 3: A class 10 girl was allegedly gang-raped and murdered in Tirumalagiri village in Telangana's Mahabubnagar district, post which villagers staged a violent protest on Saturday.

The 16-year-old girl, who was alone in her house on Friday night, was found hanging on Saturday morning. Her relatives alleged that three youth barged into the house, sexually assaulted and murdered her and after killing her, hanged the body to make it look like a suicide.

The villagers staged the protest demanding justice for the victim. They attacked the house of one of the youth suspected to be involved in the crime and set afire the car and a bike. The police shifted the body of the victim to a government-run hospital for autopsy. A police officer said they registered a case and were investigating from all angles

The victim's parents had gone out for some work and she was alone when the incident occurred. According to her relatives, she spoke to her father over phone late Friday night but when they returned home in the morning, she was found dead.

A family member of the victim said that she had complained about harassment by one of the suspects in the past.



Umar discharged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: A court discharged former JNU student Umar Khalid and United Against Hate founder Khalid Saifi in a case related to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots.

The FIR in the case was registered on the basis of the statement of Constable Sangram Singh who said a riotous mob had pelted stones on Main Karawal Nagar Road, besides setting ablaze several vehicles in a nearby parking lot on February 24, 2020.

Special Public Prosecutor Madhukar Pandey confirmed that Umar Khalid and Khalid Saifi were discharged in the matter by the court of Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala. A detailed order in the matter is awaited.

Umar Khalid is accused in several other cases and facing charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection

Umar Khalid is accused in several other cases and facing charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the larger conspiracy behind the riots

with the larger conspiracy behind the riots and these matters are pending in court.

The Karawal Nagar police station had registered an FIR against both accused along with others under various provisions of the IPC, including rioting and criminal conspiracy along with the sections of the Arms Act and the Prevention of Damage to Property Act. The investigation of the case was later transferred to the Crime Branch.

BSF seizes 27 kg heroin

Chandigarh: The Border Security Force (BSF) Saturday recovered 27 kg heroin and a pistol dropped by a Pakistani drone in Puniab's Fazilka sector. The BSF said jawans deployed at border heard a buzzing sound of a suspected flving object or drone entering from Pakistan into Indian territory in the area falling near Churiwala Chusti village in Fazilka district. The troops tried to intercept the suspected flying object by firing. The whole area was cordoned and the police and other security agencies were informed. The BSF troops chased the sound of the drone and reached in an agricultural field where they again fired in the direction of the drone. They observed the movement of three-four suspected persons in the nearby area. In a prompt action. troops challenged them and fired towards the direction of suspected movement of miscreants. However,



to Usha Rangnani, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest), in view of forthcoming MCD elections the team of Narcotics Squad of North West district prepared a list of various suspicious persons who are involved in drug peddling crime to find out their pattern of crime.

Five injured

Rajkot (Gujarat): Five workers suffered burn injuries after a fire broke out in room they were staying in here on Saturday. Primarily, it seems that the fire broke out due to gas leak from a domestic LPG cylinder. The workers, hailing from Uttar Pradesh, were employees of Macpower Company situated in Metoda GIDC estate and resided in a rented room near Diamond park society.

Minor molested

Raichur (Karnataka): A minor girl was allegedly forced to drink alcohol and sexually harassed by her friend and his accomplice in Raichur district of Karnataka, police said Saturday. The incident took place near Hospet town and came to light after the victim's mother lodged a police complaint. According to police, the victim girl, a resident of Sindhanur studying in ninth standard, had gone to her mother's place on November 25. While she was returning from Hospet to Sindhanur on November 27, her friend Sachin called up and asked her to return. When she reached Hospet, Sachin, along with a friend, forcibly took her on a tour. They took her to Anjanadri hill, Gangavathi and forced her to have liquor in the moving car, touched her inappropriately and harassed her sexually.

FITNESS TEST: Aspirants undergo a physical test during an Agniveer army recruitment rally at Danapur near Patna

Gangster shot dead in front of house

Sikar (Rajasthan), Dec 3: A gangster was shot dead by five men at the gate of his house in Rajasthan's Sikar district on Saturday, police said.

Another man who had gone to meet his daughter studying in a coaching institute there was also hit by bullets and died. Raju Theth, who had several criminal cases against him and was on bail, was the rival of dreaded criminal Anandpal Singh, who was killed in a police encounter in June 2017.

Five assailants opened fire at Theth at the main gate of his house on Piprali road under Udyog Nagar police station, Superintendent of Police Kunwar Rasthradeep said. Another official said that a man identified as Tarachand who was present there was also hit by bullets and died.

Tarachand's daughter studies

in a coaching institute on Piprali road and he had reached there to meet her but the accused also fired at him thinking that he was an aide of Theth. Director General of Police (DGP) Umesh Mishra said four of the five suspects involved in the murder case have been identified. The situation in Sikar is peaceful and is being monitored, he added.

One CCTV footage surfaced in which the accused are seen present with Theth at the gate of his house.

Another man who had gone to meet his daughter studying in a coaching institute there was also hit by bullets and died

PTI PHOTO

named Rohit Godara, who intro duced himself as a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, claimed responsibility on Facebook, saying it was to avenge the killing of Anandpal Singh and Balbir Banuda.

Banuda, a gangster who was a member of the Anandpal gang, was killed in a gang war in Bikaner jail in July 2014 and it was alleged that Theth was behind the murder. The Facebook post was later deleted.

The murder in broad daylight created outrage in Sikar where the supporters of Theth forced the market to shut.

His family members, relatives and locals assembled outside the mortuary and refused to accept the body and demanded immediate arrest of the accused.

The Teja Sena, an organisation of Jat community people, gave a call of Sikar bandh on Sunday over the killing.

MP teacher suspended for joining Rahul's yatra PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barwani (MP), Dec 3: A government school teacher has been suspended for attending the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district, an official said Saturday.

Rajesh Kannoje, a teacher with a primary school under the state's Tribal Affairs Department in Kanasya, was suspended on November 25, a day after he took part in the yatra.

The issue came to light after his suspension order surfaced on social media.

"Kannoje was suspended for violation of service conduct rules and attending a political rally. He had sought leave citing important work, but he posted photographs on social media after at-

Singh Chouhan government has allowed employees to take part in the shakhas of Rashtriva Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), but suspends a tribal, Rajesh Kannoje, for gifting 'tir-kaman' (bow and arrow) to Rahul Gandhi during a non-political march. The yatra, which arrived in Madhya Pradesh on November 23, will enter Rajasthan on Sunday.

tending a political event,"

Assistant Commissioner NS

Raghuvanshi of the Tribal Affairs

As per the order, Kannoje vi-

olated service conduct rules by

attending Bharat Jodo Yatra

being taken out by a political

party on November 24.

Meanwhile, state Congress media

department chairperson K K

Mishra in a tweet said the Shivraj

Department said.

tractor trolley also reached in front of the house and it was stranded when the assailants opened fire at Theth. It is suspected that the tractor driver was also involved in the crime. In another footage, the accused were seen fleeing after killing Theth. Police said efforts were being made to trace the suspects.

More open jails needed to reform prisons: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 3: High walls, barbed wire fences and armed guards to keep prisoners in check, are being frowned upon by experts who feel open prisons may be a cheaper and better way to reform prisoners.

Minimum restraint is more likely to "promote discipline and gives a sense of self-worth" to prisoners, said researcher Smita Chakraburtty, who had been working to transform prison culture in India for more than a decade.

In 2017, the Supreme Court had taken note of Chakraburtty's report on Jaipur's Sanganer open prison,

and its advantages over the closed ones, and subsequently asked all states and union territories to examine the feasibility of setting up such jails in every district.

Chakraburtty, who has since set up an organisation Prison Aid + Action Research (PAAR) for the cause, has actively worked with many state governments and facilitated the establishment of open prisons in several parts of the country. "Jails are places for rehabili-

tating people caught on the wrong side of the law. When the report came out, the country had 63 open prisons. 29 of which were in Rajasthan alone. Today, there are 150



open jails in India," she underlined. Chakraburrty, who had earlier published a report on the condition

of Bihar prisons, said that she was flummoxed to see that inmates in some of the packed jails of the

state barely had space to sit.

Harvana and Jhunjhunu borders

Soon after the murder, a person

have been sealed, police said.

"After visiting all 58 prisons in Bihar in 2014, and talking to each of the prisoners there, I realised that only a handful of people in regular jails are habitual offenders. There are many who have committed a crime by accident. Some were stuck there for years for not being able to afford legal help expenses. Many of them were denied humane treatment, a chance for rehabilitation," she said.

The Supreme Court, paying attention to her report on Bihar jails. had ordered that similar inspections be carried out in other states, too. "I got calls from many states, in-

cluding Rajasthan, where the organised open prison system of Sanganer left me baffled."In Sanganer jail, established back in 1954. at least 450 convicts currently live peacefully with their families. There are no tall walls or iron bars to restrict their movement. The inmates are given huts to stay, but they have to go out to seek a living. A prison committee takes the call on who all should be lodged in the open prison," she explained.

Authorities there have noted that the number of inmates escaping regular jails was much – higher than in open prisons, the researcher stated.





they managed to flee away







international



First of all, let us be clear: no panic! It is legitimate for the government to prepare for the extreme cases which would mean cutting off electricity for a few hours per day if we did not have enough power EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRENCH

RAISI HAILS 'FREEDOMS'

President Ebrahim Raisi Saturday hailed Iran's Islamic Republic as a guarantor of rights and freedoms, defending the the ruling system amid a crackdown on anti-government protests that the United Nations says has cost more than 300 lives



uote

In France, Spain and Italy you have many jobs in sectors of employment where Africans can work MOHAMED BAZOUM

PRESIDENT, NIGER

This is a job killing tax hike, which, if implemented with Hungary's approval, would wipe out tens of thousands of jobs

VIKTOR ORBÁN PM, HUNGARY



current programme, it will also make its payments in time and as per schedule. We will not default

ISHAQ DAR PAKISTAN, MINISTER OF FINANCE

SHORT TAKES

Quake jolts main **Indonesia island**

Jakarta: A strong earthquake shook parts of Indonesia's main island of Java on Saturday, causing panic but only minor damage just two weeks after an equally powerful quake killed hundreds. The US Geological Survey said the magnitude 5.7 quake was centred about 18 kilometers (11 miles) southeast of Banjar, a city between West Java and Central Java provinces, at a depth of 112 kilometers (70 miles). One resident was injured in Selaawi village of West Java's Garut district, and at least four houses and a school were damaged, said Suharyanto, the National **Disaster Management Agency** head who goes by a single name.

Patrols resume in north Syria

Qamishli (Syria): US troops Saturday resumed joint patrols with Kurdish-led forces in northeast Syria days after they were stopped amid lurkish threats of a nev ground incursion into the war-torn country. A patrol consisting of four American armoured vehicles and one for the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces was seen leaving a US Base near the northeastern town of Rmeilan in Hassakeh province. The patrol was driving northeast toward another US Base near the border with Iraq.

Price cap is 'dangerous': Russia

AMID WAR, THE G7 GROUP OF NATIONS AND ITS ALLIES HAVE OFFICIALLY APPROVED À \$60 PER BARREL PRICE CAP ON RUSSIAN OIL PRICES, SAYING IT WOULD COME INTO FORCE DECEMBER 5 OR "VERY SOON THEREAFTER"

AGENCIES

Kyiv, Dec 3: Russia "will not accept" a price cap on its oil and is analysing how to respond, the Kremlin said in comments reported Saturday, in response to a deal by Western powers aimed at limiting a key source of funding for its war in Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry

Peskov said Moscow had made preparations for Friday's price cap announcement by the Group of Seven nations, the European Union and Australia, the Russian state news agency TASS reported. 'We will not accept this cap,"

RIA news agency quoted him as saying. He added that Russia would conduct a rapid analysis of the agreement and respond after that, RIA reported.

Russia has repeatedly said it will not supply oil to countries that implement the cap - a stance reaffirmed by Mikhail Ulyanov, Moscow's ambassador to international organisations in Vienna, in posts on social media Saturday. "Starting from this year Europe

Ukraine urges tougher Western squeeze on Russian oil prices

he office of Zelenskyy called Saturday for a lower price cap on Russian oil than the one agreed to by Ukraine's Western supporters, while Russian authorities called the \$60-per-barrel cap harmful to free, stable markets. Andriy Yermak, the head of Zelenskyy's office, wrote on social media that the price ceiling set by the European Union, Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan, and the United States on Friday didn't go far enough. The cap is set to take effect Monday, along with an EU embargo on Russian oil shipped by sea. "It would be necessary to lower it to \$30 in order to destroy the enemy's economy faster," Yermak wrote on Telegram, staking out a position also favored by Poland – a leading critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

porting seaborne Russian crude

oil, but it will prohibit shipping, in-

surance and re-insurance compa-

will live without Russian oil," he said. The G7 price cap will allow non-EU countries to continue imnies from handling cargoes of Russian crude around the globe, unless it is sold for less than \$60. That could complicate the shipment of Russian crude priced above the cap, even to countries which are not part of the agreement.

Russian Urals crude traded at around \$67 a barrel Friday. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the cap will particularly benefit low- and medium-income countries that have borne the brunt of high energy and food prices.

"With Russia's economy already contracting and its budget increasingly stretched thin, the price cap will immediately cut into (President Vladimir) Putin's most important source of revenue,' Yellen said in a statement.

In comments published on Telegram, Russia's embassy in the United States criticised what it called the "dangerous" Western move and said Moscow would continue to find buyers for its oil. "Steps like these will inevitably result in increasing uncertainty and imposing higher costs for raw materials' consumers," it said.

Biden not planning to speak to Putin for now

S President Joe Biden does not intend to speak to his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, about ending the Ukraine war as conditions for such discussions currently do not exist, the White House said Friday. "We're just not at a point now where talks seem to be a fruitful avenue to approach right now," national security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters. His comment underscored the chasm between Ukraine and its main backer and Russia on negotiations more than nine months into the war ignited by Putin's invasion that has killed tens of thousands, uprooted millions and destroyed cities and towns. As part of a multi-pronged international campaign to curb Russia's ability to wage war, the Group of Seven (G7) nations and Australia Friday said they had agreed a \$60 per barrel price cap

"Regardless of the current flirtations with the dangerous and illegitimate instrument, we are confident that Russian oil will continue to be in demand," it added.

on Russian seaborne crude oil.

on new nuclear plant

Iran starts construction



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Dec 3: Iran Saturday began construction on a new nuclear power plant in the country's southwest, Iranian state TV announced, amid tensions with the US over sweeping sanctions imposed after Washington pulled out of the Islamic Republic's nuclear deal with world powers.

The announcement also comes as Iran has been rocked by nationwide anti-government protests that began after the death of a young woman in police custody and have challenged the country's theocratic government.

The new 300-megawatt plant, known as Karoon, will take eight years to build and cost around \$2 billion, the country's state television and radio agency reported. The plant will be located in Iran's oilrich Khuzestan province, near its western border with Iraq, it said. The construction site's inauguration ceremony was attended by Mohammed Eslami, head of Iran's civilian Atomic Energy Organisation, who first unveiled construction plans for Karoon in April

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATION US designates Iran, China as countries of particular concern

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said around the world, governments and non-state actors harass, threaten, jail, and even kill individuals on account of their beliefs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Dec 3: The United States has designated 12 coun-

stand by in the face of these abuses. "Today, I am announcing des-

ignations against Burma (Myanmar), the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, the DPRK, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom," he said.

Simultaneously, Blinken also placed Algeria, the Central African Republic, Comoros and Vietnam on



Pak summons **Afghan diplomat**

Islamabad: Pakistan has summoned Afghanistan's Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad and conveyed to him its deep concern over the attack on the country's Head of Mission in Kabul, it emerged Saturday. Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani survived an attack on Pakistan's embassy in Kabul Friday, drawing immediate condemnation and a demand for a probe from Islamabad.

tries, including China, Pakistan and Myanmar, as "countries of particular concern" for the current status of religious freedom in these nations.

In some instances, they stifle individuals' freedom of religion or belief to exploit opportunities for political gain. These actions sow division, undermine economic security, and threaten political stability and peace. The US will not

the Special Watch List for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom.

The US also designated al-Shabab, Boko Haram, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS-Greater Sahara, ISIS-West Africa, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, the Taliban, and the Wagner Group based on its actions in the Central African Republic as "Entities of Particular Concern".



A diver wearing a Santa Claus costume swims with fishes in a large tank during an underwater performance in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, Japan REUTERS

Beijing, Shenzhen loosen more curbs

Freedom **Of Religion** A Human Right

REUTERS

COVID

SCARE

Shanghai, Dec 3: Beijing residents Saturday cheered the removal of Covid-19 testing booths while Shenzhen said it would no longer require commuters to present test results to travel, as an easing of China's virus curbs gathered pace.

Although daily cases are near alltime highs, some cities are taking steps to loosen Covid testing requirements and quarantine rules as China looks to make its zero-Covid policy more targeted amid a sharp economic slowdown and

public frustration that has boiled over into unrest.

The southern city of Shenzhen announced it would no longer re-

ings and engravings. The goal of

repro-photography is complete

transparency, which entails rep-

resenting the image as if nothing

well, with the proper equipment,

forms of reproduction photogra-

phy are accessible even to ama-

Social media alternate universe

IMF extends support to India's G20 agenda

PRESS TRUST OF IMDIA

Washington, Dec 3: The IMF "fully supports" the G20 agenda of India, which is planning to use the ongoing global crises as an opportunity to seek consensus on issues that require urgent attention, a senior official from the international financial body has said.

'They (India) are putting together a collective agenda for a much more prosperous future,' Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, Director of the Strategy and Policy Review department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), told a group of reporters ahead of her trip to China and India next week.

'They (India) plan to use the ongoing (global) crises as an opportunity to seek consensus on issues that really require urgent attention," she said Thursday.

Pazarbasioglu was apparently referring to the food and energy crises due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The IMF "fully supports" the G20 agenda of India, she said. The theme of India's G20 presidency is "One Earth, One Family, One Future."



existed between it and the viewer. They are told through the in-It is therefore crucial for the teraction of the characters via copy to be completely faithful and fake social media accounts on not betray signs of its origin. In platforms like Twitter, in posts order to achieve this, the capture often rendered and shared as process must be strictly controlled. screenshots While this may be difficult to do

This format elicits feelings of proximity with the characters, drawing on the allure of the parasocial relations that proliferate in social media.

quire people to show a negative

Covid test result to use public

transport or enter parks, fol-

lowing similar moves by Chengdu

and Tianjin. Many testing booths

in Beijing have been shut, as the

capital stops demanding nega-

tive test results as a condition

to enter places such as super-

markets and prepares to do so

for subways from Monday. Many

other venues, including offices,

Beijing removing a testing booth

by crane onto a truck went viral

on Chinese social media Friday.

Smaus are fictional narratives

created by fan communities in the

spirit of old epistolary novels.

A video showing workers in

still require testing.

nate universe, or smau.

The fact that the dialogues are presented in the same online spaces that the audience regularly inhabits makes them feel more immersed in the story, as if they were eavesdropping on personal con-

versations.



The Conversation





Creenshots are as banal as they are ubiquitous. Nowadays, virtually all computer and digital mobile devices can generate a screenshot with a quick pair of key presses.

Maybe that's why they have remained largely underappreciated as a creative practice.

Yet, a closer look at the screenshot tells us interesting stories about not only how media transforms over time, but also how even the humblest technical operation may give rise to sophisticated cultural forms.

What began as a simple way to document electronic images has evolved into a form of expression of its own.

Portable form of annotation

Because screenshots are so sim-

ple to make, they're a convenient form of annotation. Over the years, computer media have become increasingly dynamic and abundant to the point of being overwhelming. Screenshots provide a way for users to deal with this issue by isolating certain elements from the huge volume of data they encounter every day and preserving these elements as self-contained pictures.

'Print screen'

In older, text-based operating systems, the command print screen literally sent the screen contents to a connected printer.

Print screen is a tacit reminder that, though it may feel native to digital technologies, the screenshot has a history that precedes them. The need for documenting screen



media and representing it in other formats has existed long before personal computers were a thing. Decades ago, what if a museum needed to document the video art pieces being shown at an exhibition? Or a magazine wanted to demonstrate a new software interface to its readers? Screens had to actually be photographed.

screens resembles reproduction photography (repro-photography). a professional technique for duplicating unique images like paint-

Video game magazines

The method of photographing

teurs. Popular video game magazines from the 1990s invited readers to submit pictures of their screens as evidence of their high scores.









business



Banks are here to stay, but banking is mutating fast. It's a misconception to view Fintech entities as a possible replacement to banks T RABI SANKAR | DY GOVERNOR, RBI

PICHAI RECEIVES PADMA BHUSHAN

Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai was awarded the Padma Bhushan -India's third-highest civilian award - for 2022 in the Trade and Industry category in San Francisco. India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu handed over the award to Pichai





In line with our outsourcing guidelines, the board and senior management must ensure that at no point of time, the core activities of banks are

outsourced AJAY KUMAR CHOUDHARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RBI

There is higher demand for affordable housing in small cities now and we believe this sector has immense growth potential

JASPAL BINDRA EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, CENTRUM GROUP

Twitter is now serving almost 90 billion tweet impressions per day! Just how incredibly alive the system actually is will become obvious as we show view count on all tweets **ELON MUSK** CEO & DIRECTOR, TWITTER

SHORT TAKES

India ranks 48th in aviation safety

New Delhi: India has jumped to the 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), according to DGCA officials. Four years ago, the country was ranked at the 102nd position. In the ranking, Singapore is at the top, followed by the UAE and South Korea at the second and third positions, respectively, the officials said. China is at the 49th place, they added. Under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) **Continuous Monitoring** Approach, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken from November 9 to 16. On Saturday, DGCA chief Arun Kumar told PTI that the regulator has worked tirelessly to upgrade India's safety ranking and the results are there. Hopefully, we continue to remain vigilant and improve further. The country's score in terms of

MINISTRY HAS BEEN HOLDING ROADSHOWS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO ATTRACT BIDDERS FOR THE 141 COAL BLOCKS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 3: Out of the 141 coal blocks which the Centre has put up for commercial auction, 62 mines are old which had gone unsold during previous attempts. Therefore to make them more attractive to the bidders, these reserves have been modified.

THE COAL

Coal Ministry sources informed that the areas around these mines have been altered by removing hindrances and obstacles to ensure proper connectivity and easy transportation of dry fuel.

Excessive vegetation has been removed and unapproachable terrain around these 62 coal mines has been made accessible to ensure smooth passage. After these modifications, the

62 old mines have been put up for commercial auction again, they added. The remaining 71 mines out of the 141 are new reserves.

Of the 141 blocks, the ones which



ATTRACTING INVESTORS

Areas around these Excessive vegetation has been removed and mines have been altered by removing hindrances and obstacles to ensure

of dry fuel

proper connectivity and

easy transportation

Unsold coal mines get

facelift to pull buyers

unapproachable terrain around these 62 coal mines has been made accessible to ensure smooth passage

for commercial auction again. The remaining 71 mines out of the 141 are new reserves

would be bid out will be termed as monetised assets under the Government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), sources informed further. Also, eight blocks among the 141

reserves are those which had received single bids in earlier rounds of auction, and have been put up for bidding again.

roadshows across the country to attract bidders for these 141 mines. It organised an investor conclave in Bangalore Saturday, where Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi and sen-

These 62 modified old mines have been put up

ior officials of both coal and mines ministries as well as Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai would be present. The Ministry had organised a similar conclave in Mumbai last week.

It plans to conduct a series of investors' conclaves at several locations across India to attract prospective bidders.

These mines are spread all across the country in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Rajasthan, among others.

OYO trims 600 employees, aims 250 fresh hires

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 3: Hospitality major and IPO-bound OYO Saturday said it is downsizing 10 per cent of its 3,700-strong workforce, laying off 600 employees while hiring 250 fresh members in the team.

OYO is merging its product and engineering teams for smoother functioning, according to the company. OYO is downsizing its product and engineering, corporate headquarters and the OYO vacation homes teams, while it adds people to the partner relationship management and the business development teams, the company said in a statement.

OYO will downsize 10 per cent of its 3700-employee base, which includes fresh hiring of 250 members and letting go of 600 employees, it added. According to the hospitality major, the downsizing in tech is also happening in teams which were developing pilots and proof of concepts such as in-app gaming, social content curation and patron-facilitated content.

Additionally, members of projects which have now been successfully developed and deployed such as 'Partner SaaS' are being either let go or are being redeployed in core product & tech areas such as AI-driven pricing, ordering and payments, it added.

IPO-bound hospitality tech player OYO has surprised the industry observers by posting a positive EBITDA of ₹10 crore in the first quarter of FY23 – against the backdrop of ₹472 crore EBITDA loss in FY22.

Scrutiny of telecom imports

to be tightened: Vaishnaw

Govt allows sale of electoral bonds from Dec 5 to 12

SBI has been authorised to issue and encash 24th tranche of electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The government Saturday approved issuance of the 24th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale December 5.

The sale of bonds coincides with the second phase of the Gujarat assembly elections scheduled December 5.

Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

State Bank of India (SBI), in the 24th phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches from December 5-12, the finance ministry said in a statement. The last phase of electoral

bonds (23rd tranche) was open for subscription between November 9-15, 2022. Usually, electoral bond tranches

are open for sale between 1-10 of a designated month. For instance, the 22nd tranche of bond sales took place from October 1-10, 2022 while 21st tranche was from July



1-10, 2022. Sale of the first batch of electoral bonds happened from March 1-10, 2018.

The authorised SBI branches include those in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar. Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai.

SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.

An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issuance. No payment would be made to any political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period, the statement said.

Electoral bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the country.

Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha or legislative assembly election are eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.

Guidelines issued for PLI scheme on drones industry

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 3: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued guidelines for the implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to support the indigenous drone industry.

These guidelines cover aspects like the definitions, qualification and eligibility application and online portal project management agency (PMA), empowered group of secretaries (EGoS) and competent authority.

New Delhi, Dec 3: Office rentals in Bangalore are expected to grow by 5-7 per cent -- highest in the

in the 3-5 per cent YoY in 2023. The consultant attributed the expected growth in office rentals to a comparatively strong economic out-

TASK FORCES SET UP **TO BOOST TELECOM** MANUFACTURING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: The government will come up with a methodology to check imports from neighbouring nations, which are non-compliant to trusted source rules of the telecom sector. Union minister for communications and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said Saturday. The minister had a meeting with over 40 CEOs of telecom gear makers that have qualified for production linked incentive scheme and decided to set up 4-5 task forces to provide market support to them as well as streamline their business for value addition in the economy. Telecom gear makers expressed concern around import of network gear from China, which is being routed through other neighbouring countries When asked about concerns around such imports, the minister said, "This issue was discussed. Representatives from customs department, finance ministry and other ministries... Work will be done on it to devise how to check it in a methodical manner.'



for support testing and certification, which is required for exporting products, for which another task force has been set up to optimise the use of test beds in IIT Madras. Telecom Engineering Centre

"From my interaction, industry is confident that they are in good traction and India should become a technology exporter in the coming years in a very sure and certain way," Vaishnaw said.

The minister said a task force has been created to aggregate demand

look, potentially increased out-

Coal Ministry has been holding

'Bangalore may see highest growth

in office rent in Asia-Pacific region'

key safety elements has improved to 85.49 per cent, the officials said.

Amazon media biz head retires again

San Francisco: Jeff Blackburn, head of Amazon's media and entertainment businesses, is retiring from the company for a second time, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy has announced. Blackburn joined Amazon in 1998 after helping guide the company through its IPO at Deutsche Bank. "He's done a lot of building over two-plus decades, including helping build our 3P marketplace, Advertising, Amazon Studios/Prime Video, and Music businesses, as well as leading our A9/Search and CorpDev & BusDev orgs," Jassy said in a message to Amazon employees. Blackburn returned to Amazon in May of last year to lead its media and entertainment businesses (Prime Video and Amazon Studios, Music, Podcasts/Wondery, Audible, Games and Twitch). With Blackburn's departure, there will be some shifts in Amazon's leadership.

Asia-Pacific region -- during the next year, according to Knight Frank India. In its latest report on

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

'Asia-Pacific Outlook 2023', property consultant Knight Frank said that rent growth in the APAC region is expected to moderate in 2023 as corporate occupiers are looking to optimise overheads and generate savings The steady performance of the

Indian office markets seen in 2022 is expected to sustain in 2023, it said. Bangalore's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 5-7 per cent YoY (year-on-year) in 2023, highest amongst the 24 APAC cities tracked in the report. Mumbai and New Delhi are the

other Indian cities tracked in the report. New Delhi's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 46 per cent YoY followed by Mumbai

sourcing from the west due to cost constraints and rupee depreciation.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank India, said, "While recessionary forces in the west weigh on the global economy, the APAC region and India are expected to remain beacons of growth in an otherwise uninspiring economic backdrop."

In housing segment, the report mentioned that Bangalore's residential price is expected to grow by up to 5 per cent YoY in the next calendar year. Consistent growth of startups and unicorns coupled with rising income levels makes the city a strong market in the APAC region, it added. Mumbai's residential price is expected to grow by up to 4 per cent YoY in 2023. The residential price in New

Delhi is expected to grow in the range of 2-3 per cent in 2023.



The minister said that the companies under telecom PLI are close to start export of their gears and India will become an exporting nation very soon.

"During the meeting, many new ideas came, for which we have set up 5-6 task forces. A task force has been set up for creating the component ecosystem. Another task force has been set up for developing 4-5 chips, then taking those chips from design to production. Third task force has been set up to develop highly skilled workers, designers in the telecom sector,' Vaishnaw said.

He said that the companies asked

under various government departments like railways, power and defence, and channelise it to players who are manufacturing under the PLI scheme.

He said that telecom operators in the country are also supporting local manufacturers.

There are demands in various departments. If those demands are oragnised and channelised and are given to units under the 'make in India' and PLI then it will be a significant boost for manufacturing, Vaishnaw said.

The Department of Telecom has selected $\overline{42}$ companies that have committed investment of ₹4,115 crore. The government estimates that the scheme is expected to generate additional sales of ₹2.45 lakh crore and create additional employment of more than 44,000 over the scheme period.

To make India a global hub for research and development, testing, manufacturing, and operation of drones under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021 were released to create a growth-oriented regulatory framework for drones.

To facilitate further growth, the government has approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Drones and Drone Components in India.

For the implementation of this scheme during 2022-23 to 2024-25, a corpus of ₹120 crore has also been allocated.



Indian startup Kheyti wins Prince William's Earthshot Prize

Earthshot Prize aims to

Carousell lays off 110 employees

New Delhi: Consumer-toconsumer (C2C) e-commerce platform Carousell has laid off about 110 employees, or 10 per cent of its total workforce, in an effort to reduce costs. Siu Rui Quek, co-founder and CEO of Carousell, said that he takes responsibility for the "decisions that have led us here". The Singaporeheadquartered company operates in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

discover and help scale innovative solutions that put the world firmly on a trajectory toward a stable climate by 2030

London, Dec 3: A Greenhouse-

in-a-Box sustainable solution for

small farmers devised by Telangana

startup Kheyti has won the 1 mil-

lion pounds Earthshot Prize,

founded by Britain's Prince William

at a gala green carpet awards cer-

emony in Boston Friday night,

won the prize in the Protect and

Restore Nature category from hun-

smallholder farmers is designed to

reduce costs, increase yields and

The pioneering solution for local

dreds of entries worldwide.

Khevti, one of the five winners

and dubbed the 'Eco Oscars'.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

protect livelihoods in a region on the frontlines of climate change.

"I believe that the Earthshot solutions you have seen this evening prove we can overcome our planet's greatest challenges, and by supporting and scaling them we can change our future," said William, the Prince of Wales

"Alongside tonight's winners and finalists, and those to be discovered over the years to come, it's my hope the Earthshot legacy will continue to grow, helping our communities and our planet to thrive," he said.

Kheyti Co-founder & CEO Kaushik Kappagantulu said he launched the concept to help some of India's nearly 100 million smallhold farmers, among the poorest people on the planet and the most impacted by climate change.

His Greenhouse-in-a-Box offers shelter from unpredictable elements and destructive pests and the startup also trains and supports farmers to ensure their greenhouse

hevti's Greenhouse-in-a-Box. a Npioneering solution for local smallholder farmers, is designed to reduce costs, increase vields and

is as effective as possible.

Kappagantulu said, "We are honoured to be recognised by The Earthshot Prize this year. The world depends on its small-hold farmers and yet their lives are

t offers shelter from unpredictable elements and ensure their greenhouse is as effective as possible

amongst the hardest on earth." 'Our Greenhouse-in-a-Box is empowering farmers in India today.

We are honoured to be recognised by The Earthshot

Prize this year. The world

depends on its small-hold farmers and yet their lives are amongst the hardest on earth

KAUSHIK KAPPAGANTULU CO-FOUNDER & CEO, KHEYTI

The results of the project have been described as "dramatic".

Plants in the greenhouse require 98 per cent less water than those outdoors and yields are seven-times higher.

Ninety per cent cheaper than a standard greenhouse, they are more than doubling farmers' incomes, helping them invest more in their farms and their children's education. Using less water and fewer pesticides, they are protecting the planet too.

Another Indian project, Founder and CEO Ankit Agarwal's Phool from Uttar Pradesh which converts flowers dispersed into the river Ganges into sustainable leather called Fleather, was among this year's 15 finalists worldwide projects. All 15 will receive tailored support from the Earthshot Prize Global Alliance – a network of world-leading philanthropies, NGOs, and private sector businesses around the world who will help scale their solutions.

Over 1,000 applications from around the world were considered, with 15 finalists from 10 countries chosen through a selection process supported by an ex- ২ pert advisory panel.

One of last year's winning projects was from Delhi-Vidyut Mohan led Takachar, which won the prize in the "Clean our Air" category for its cheap technology innova-tion to convert crop residues into sellable bio-products.

protect livelihoods in a region on the frontlines of climate change

The steps we have already taken at Kheyti are now building to change farmers' lives at scale.













DUTCH REACH QUARTERS FIR filed against Lakshya & co

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore.

since 2010.

than 10 years.

New Delhi, Dec 3: India's No.1 shuttler Lakshya Sen, his family and former national coach Vimal Kumar were charged with cheating and age fraud in an FIR filed in

The FIR, filed Thursday by M Goviappa Nagaraja, alleged that the 21-year-old reigning Commonwealth Games champion, along with his brother Chirag Sen, had fudged their age to get into playing age-group tournaments

The complaint, a copy of which is in possession of PTI, also names Sen's father Dhirendra, a coach with the Sports Authority of India, mother Nirmala and Kumar who has been coaching the duo for more

They have been charged with cheating (Section 420), forgery (468), using a forged document as genuine (471) and acts done by several persons of common intention (34) under the Indian Penal Code. The Sen brothers, who hail from Uttarakhand, train under Kumar at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bangalore, while the complainant runs another academy in the metropolis.

The complainant alleged that

Kumar colluded with Lakshya's

parents to forge a birth certificate

in 2010 and if the charges were

proven, the star Indian shuttler,

who was awarded the Arjuna re-

cently, will have to forego a lot of his

Categorically denying the

charges, Kumar told PTI: "It is

very annoying. It is cheap stuff.

Lakshya has done well and has

started training again after a break.

It is mentally very disturbing for

Currently No.6 in the world,

Lakshya was Wednesday honoured

with the Arjuna Award at the

Rashtrapati Bhavan. He won a

World Championship bronze after

going down to compatriot Kidambi

He was also a runner-up in the

All England Championships and

played a key role in India's his-

defensive display by Harmanpreet

and Co in a goalless first quarter.

towards the fag end of second quar-

ter with Jeremy Hayward (29th)

and Jake Whetton (30th) scoring in

space of 50 seconds. Tom Wickham

(34th) extended the Kookaburras

lead, before Hayward completed

Matt Dawson entered the score-

sheet in the 54th minute with a low

volley strike that went past Krishan

Pathak. Pathak, who came in place

of the seasoned Sreejesh, however

his brace (41st).

But India's defence crumbled

Srikanth in 2021.

records.

him.'



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Al Rayyan, Dec 3: Memphis Depay and Daley Blind scored in the first half and Denzel Dumfries added a late goal as the Netherlands eliminated the United States from the World Cup with a 3-1 victory Saturday that advanced the Dutch to the quarterfinals.

Second-half substitute Haji Wright cut the US deficit to 1-2 in the 76th minute when Christian Pulisic's cross hit his trailing foot and popped over goalkeeper Andries Noppert and into the net. But Dumfries, who assisted on the first two goals, scored on a vollev in the 81st

Runners-up in 1974, 1978 and 2010, the Oranje extended their unbeaten streak to 19 games and face Argentina or Australia Friday.

It was a disappointing end for a rebuilt US team hoping to advance past the round of 16 for the first time

Mirpur, Dec 3: India seamer

Deepak Chahar on Saturday

claimed that the Malayasian

Airlines misplaced his luggage

when he was travelling to Dhaka

from New Zealand and he was not

served food even as he was flying

business class. Chahar joined the

Indian squad in Bangladesh for

the three-match ODI series, start-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

since 2002. Using the secondyoungest squad in the tournament, the Americans achieved the bare minimum to consider the World Cup a success, beating Iran in their group-stage finale to reach the knockout round.

But just like in 2010 against Ghana and 2014 against Belgium, the United States was eliminated in the round of 16. The Americans are winless in 12 games against European opponents at the World Cup since 2002, losing six, and are 1-7 during the tournament's knockout rounds.

Pulisic, playing four days after getting hurt during his game-winning goal against Iran, had a chance to put the US ahead in the third minute but Noppert blocked his point-blank shot. With the Americans seeking an equalizing goal, Noppert dived to stop Tim Weah's 25-yard effort in the 42nd. While the US had the better play

at the start, the Dutch went ahead after breaking the American press. Dumfries one-timed a pass from the right flank as Depay streaked unmarked into the penalty area. His right-footed shot from 14 yards beat Matt Turner to the far post in the 10th minute for his 43rd international goal, moving him into sole possession of second place on the Dutch career scoring list behind

Robin van Persie's 50. The goal was the first allowed by the US from the run of play in the tournament. In 37 World Cup matches, the Americans have never won a game in which they trailed.

The Netherlands doubled the lead on virtually the final kick of the first half, in the first minute of stoppage time. After a quick series of exchanges following a throwin, Dumfries got a cross around Tvler Adams and found Blind wide open at the penalty spot. Blind

scored only his third international goal — his first in eight years. Gio Reyna fed an open Weston McKennie in the 54th, but he skied his shot over the crossbar.

Wright entered in the 67th and scored his second international goal, sparking US hopes. But Dumfries was left unmarked by Tim Ream and Antonee Robinson and used his left foot to volley Blind's cross.

YOUNG & RESTLESS

The starting lineup for the US was its youngest for a World Cup knockout match at 25 years, 86 days. The previous low was 27 years, 19 days for the 1930 semifinal loss to Argentina.

UP NEXT

The Netherlands will next play the winners of the match between Argentina and Australia Friday at Lusail Stadium.



toric Thomas Cup triumph earlier this year.

The chief coach of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, Kumar further said in a statement that the allegations were "baseless, frivolous and made with malicious intent".

"As all badminton lovers are aware, age verification is the sole prerogative and responsibility of the Badminton Association of India who is sole governing authority for administering the game in India," he said.

"All players no matter where they train always represent their respective affiliated state units or the country while participating in any domestic or international tournament.

that their family and the coach "My focus over the 30 years as a spoiled many upcoming talented coach has always been to groom our shuttlers in the region and deupcoming youngsters to the best of manded legal action against the five. Lakshya and his family are yet my ability to bring laurels for our country based on their merit. I to respond on the matter.

made some creditable saves to save India from more humiliation.

On a sultry afternoon, the hosts fired in all cylinders with Harvey creating some splendid raids from the midfield. But the World No.1 team struggled to breach a resolute Indian defence, which was

held firmly by Sreejesh during a goalless first quarter. It seemed India could level the series when Dilpreet struck a brilliant goal to hand them the lead against the run of play. From the top of striking circle. Dilpreet

Unnati creates history at Asia Junior C'ships

therefore deny all these false allegations against me. I would not

like to make any further comments

age is 24, while the date of birth

(August 16, 2001) registered with the

Badminton Association of India

makes him three years younger.

His elder brother Chirag, on the

other hand, is alleged to be 26, even

as his BAI ID makes him 24 (July

Lakshya deprived several children

from getting access to quality bad-

minton facilities and sponsorships

by participating in several tournaments in age group category.

The complainant further alleged

According to the complaint,

22, 1998).

As per the complaint, Lakshya's

in this regard," he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: Rising shuttler Unnati Hooda on Saturday became the first Indian to enter the U-17 women's singles final of the Badminton Asia Junior Championships in Nothaburi, Thailand after beating Japan's Mion Yokouchi in straight games.

Unnati won 21-8, 21-17 over her Japanese rival in the women's U-17 singles semifinals. She faces Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand in the gold medal match Sunday. U-15 singles player Anish Thoppani and U-17 men's doubles pair of Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Saraswat also posted brilliant victories to move into the finals





"Fast bowler Mohd. Shami sustained a shoulder injury during a training session in the lead up to the ODI series against Bangladesh. He is currently under the supervision of the BCCI Medical Team at the NCA. Bengaluru and will not be able to take part in the three-match series. The All-India Senior Selection

December 14.

Committee has named Umran



ing Sunday. 'Had a worse experience travelling with Malaysia airlines. First they changed our flight without telling us and no food in Business class. Now we have been waiting for our luggage from last 24hours. Imagine we have a game to play tomorrow." Chahar tweeted Saturday morning before team's training session.

Malaysian Airlines sent Chahar a complaint link on twitter but the cricketer said that it didn't open. "May be unavoidable due to operational, weather-related, and technical reasons. We apologise for the inconvenience caused," the airlines replied on twitter about the change in flight.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 3: Senior fast bowler Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of the ODI series against Bangladesh, starting Sunday, due to a right shoulder injury and replaced by Umran Malik in India's squad, the BCCI announced Saturday.

It has been learnt that Shami had suffered the injury during a training session after he returned from Australia, where the Indian team made a semifinal exit from the T20 World Cup. Shami could also miss the upcoming two-Test series, beginning in Chittagong from

Malik as Shami's replacement, BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a press release. The extent of

Shami's injury is not known yet. Umran Malik is one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket. He made his ODI debut recently in New Zealand where he played two games and claimed two wickets. Shami himself posted a picture of getting treatment on his bowling shoulder at a medical facility but later deleted his tweet

before re-posting it. Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar, Umran Malik and Kuldeep Sen will form the pace attack for the threematch ODI series against Bangladesh.

Dilpreet Singh (R) scored the lone goal for India against Australia, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Dec 3: India made a promising start by taking a first-half lead but its defence fell apart later as the team lost the fourth hockey Test 1-5 to Australia and conceded an unassailable 3-1 lead in the fivematch series, here Saturday,

The final match of the series will be played Sunday. India had won the third match after losing the first two contests. Comeback man Dilpreet Singh (25th) struck early to give India the lead after a resolute quickly pierced the defence and made a sharp turn before smashing it into the bottom corner. But India's lead lasted for about

less than five minutes with playerof-the-match Hayward bringing up the equaliser with a superbly placed drag-flick. He dragged the ball long before despatching it to the top right corner at a lightning fast speed as it went past Pathak before he could react.

From being 0-1 down, the World No.1 side went 2-1 up in the blink of an eye when Whetton struck off a Jack Welch assist, showing his poaching skill. Then it was a oneway traffic for the Aussies as they scored four goals one after the other to give the visitors a reality check.



Jorginho wary of Brazilians fitness Brazil reach last 16 despite loss to Cameroon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lusail (Qatar), Dec 3: Vincent Aboubakar scored two minutes into stoppage time as Cameroon handed Brazil its first group-stage loss at the World Cup in 24 years Friday — a result that still allowed the five-time champions to win the group and eliminated the Africans.

Aboubakar was sent off with a second yellow card for taking off his shirt during his celebration after sending his powerful header past Brazil goalkeeper Ederson. The Cameroon captain then threw his shirt to the ground near the corner flag and waited for his teammates as they rushed toward him.

Cameroon hadn't won any of its last nine World Cup matches, with eight losses and a draw — against Ireland in its opening game at the 2002 tournament. Brazil, who played with their reserves, had won 17 straight group games since a 1-2 loss to Norway in 1998 in France. They had lost only one of their last 29 group matches at the tournament.

The Selecao will face South Korea in the round of 16. It was the 11th



Vincent Aboubakar celebrates his goal against Brazil, Friday

straight time Brazil won their tered the match in the 86th. World Cup group. They finished **ALVES' RECORD** with six points, the same as With his start Friday, the 39-year-Switzerland. But the South

old Dani Alves became the oldest Brazilian to play at a World Cup, ahead of 38-year-old central defender Thiago Silva, Brazil's captain in Qatar. Alves' last game at a World Cup had been in the round of 16 of the 2014 tournament in Brazil. The right back was injured before the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Swiss through

Doha: Switzerland advanced to the last 16 for the third tournament in a row after a 3-2 win over Serbia Friday. Remo Freuler scored the winning goal just after halftime as the Swiss secured second place in Group G. They will next face Portugal on Tuesday at Lusail Stadium, Xherdan Shagiri put Switzerland ahead early in the first half before Aleksandar Mitrovic and Dusan Vlahovic responded for Serbia, Breel Embolo evened the score just before halftime. The team reached the round of 16 in 2014 and again four years later in Russia. The Swiss will be looking to reach the guarterfinals for the first time since hosting the competition in 1954. Switzerland needed a win to guarantee themselves a place in the knockout round.



CENT

CAIXA

JORGINHO

nd of World Cup group stage with record surprise. Surprise started with the defeat of Argentina, Germany. At the end we found Germany, Denmark, Belgium, and Uruguay out of the tournament in group league. It's the rise of Asian football. Japan finished top of the group.

South Korea qualified after winning 2-1 over Portugal. Australia is also in round 16 and now facing Argentina.

Brazil, which already had a guaranteed qualification for the round of 16, failed to reach the next round undefeated. They lost their last group match against Cameroon. From Africa its Morocco, Senegal and USMNT, host of next World

Cup also qualified. It's surprising, no hat-trick in the group stage, which is rare in knockout.

Without key players coach Tite experimented with a reserve bench but lost the match. The reserves of Brazil had greater possession of the ball, but failed to create great chances to score. In the previous World Cup, when Brazil won the title, they never lost any match in group league.

Before round 16, it will be a big challenge for Tite to overcome physical problems, including an outbreak of the virus. Injury of Neymar is a big blow to the Brazil camp. After losing Neymar, Danilo and Alex Sandro, Tite now found himself without full-back Alex Telles. Report from camp says Gabriel Jesus is also in the doubtful list. They all are complaining knee problems in the last match of the group stage.

Although we are hopeful to get back Neymar and Danilo. Coach experimented with reserve players and I am sure defeat against Cameroon should not affect Brazil's performance in the next round. Whoever the manager chooses

to play in the next round now, the

strategy is to be defensively strong. In the absence of Neymar, it's Casemiro, the defensive midfielder who is at the heart of this Brazil team trying to end our 20-year wait to win it again. He has a great responsibility in the team.

It worries me a lot, not only the lack of goals, but also the few chances created by Brazil. It contrasts the offensive performance of Brazil in this World Cup with the qualifying phase, where they scored 111 goals in 50 games, a joy that is not accompanying the forwards of Brazil.

Brazil has always been a cheerful, goal scoring, offensive team, but with Tite is a team that prioritizes the defensive order. The coach thinks that it is the way to conquer the sixth star as world champion. But without goals it is impossible.

If the Brazil camp overcomes injury and all other problems, I believe we have the right balance in the team. We have a good squad, quality players and a very good coach. My expectations are the best and we can be champions again.

CHIVACH SPORTS

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Americans had a better goal dif-

ference. The Swiss also advanced

Both teams created some good

scoring chances, but couldn't cap-

italize on them until Boubakar's

winner off a right-flank cross by

Jerome Ngom Mbekeli, who had en-

and will face Portugal.



