



BITTER PAST

Actor Priyanka Chopra recalls being body shamed in the Hindi film industry because of her complexion

LEISURE P2



COUP ATTEMPT IN GERMANY

Germany detains 25 members of a far-right group who were planning a coup to overthrow the government

INTERNATIONAL P10



MIRABAI BAGS SILVER

Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu braves wrist pain to win a silver medal at the World Championships

SPORTS P12

AAP CAPTURES MCD

Despite campaigning by heavyweights including 17 Central Ministers, the saffron party failed to hold on to its 15-year-old bastion



AAP leaders including Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann at the victory ceremony Wednesday in New Delhi

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 7: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won Wednesday the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls with 134 seats, ending the 15-year rule of the BJP in the corporation. In the fight between the BJP and the AAP, the Congress was reduced to a mere spectator winning just nine wards in the process.

In his first address after the victory, an elated Arvind Kejriwal

	2022	2017	GAIN/LOSS
AAP	134	48	+86
BJP	104	181	-77
Cong	9	30	-21
Others	3	9	-6

vowed to improve civic amenities in the national capital, and sought the 'blessings' of the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve those goals.

The BJP put up a spirited fight,

winning 104 municipal wards, while the Congress managed to win just nine, down from 31 in the previous civic poll. Three independents also emerged victorious.

Kejriwal in his address to party workers at the AAP office, said the civic body will be rid of 'corruption and bribery'. His deputy Manish Sisodia also thanked the voters of Delhi and said it was their mandate that helped the AAP defeat the 'world's biggest and most negative party'.

The counting of votes began at 8.00am at 42 centres across Delhi amid tight security, and initial trends were in favour of the BJP. At one point, the BJP was leading in 107 seats and the AAP in 95. But as the counting progressed, the AAP went past the BJP and slowly consolidated the lead, finally winning 134 out of the 250 wards. The BJP bagged 104 seats, thus not losing as badly as was predicted by the exit polls.

Continued on P4

Woes for consumers as RBI hikes repo rate

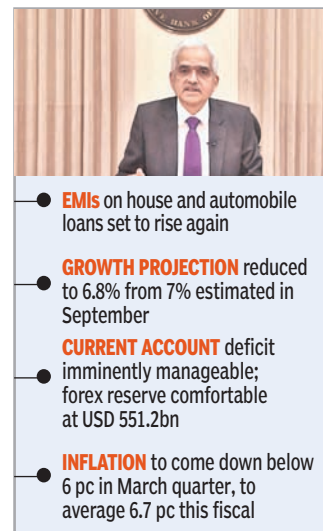
THIS IS THE 5TH HIKE SINCE MAY WITH THE LAST FOUR INCREASES TOTALLING 190 BPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 7: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expectedly slowed Wednesday the pace of increase in borrowing costs in signs that rates may be nearing the peak, even as it reiterated its resolve to fight inflation that has stayed above the comfort zone for 10 straight months. The RBI hiked the key repo rate by 35 basis points (bps), the fifth straight increase since May, raising prospects of EMIs for home, auto and other loans rising further. The previous four increases totalled 190 bps, with the last three hikes being 50 bps each.

The monetary policy committee (MPC), comprising three members from the RBI and three external members, raised the key lending rate or the repo rate to 6.25 per cent by a 5:1 majority decision. Four of the six members voted in favour of the withdrawal of accommodation, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. The economic growth in India remains resilient, and inflation is expected to moderate', Das said. "But the battle against inflation is not over," he added.

The RBI retained its 6.7 per cent inflation forecast for the current fiscal year ending March but low-



- **EMIs** on house and automobile loans set to rise again
- **GROWTH PROJECTION** reduced to 6.8% from 7% estimated in September
- **CURRENT ACCOUNT** deficit imminently manageable; forex reserve comfortable at USD 551.2bn
- **INFLATION** to come down below 6 pc in March quarter, to average 6.7 pc this fiscal

ered economic growth expectation to 6.8 per cent from the 7 per cent forecast previously. Retail inflation, which has stayed above the 2-6 per cent target zone for 10 straight months, eased to a three-month low of 6.77 per cent in October, helped by a slower rise in food prices and a higher base effect.

Das said the inflation is moderating. "The worst of inflation is behind us," Das said. "However, there is no room for complacency," he added. **Continued on P4**

Cattle smugglers fire at STF team; 2 containers seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Dec 7: Cattle smugglers in a bid to escape from the clutches of law opened fire at a Special Task Force (STF) team on NH-49 under Turumunga police limits in Keonjhar district Wednesday. The smugglers did so when the STF personnel intercepted the five containers carrying the bovines.

Eventually, the STF team managed to detain two of the trucks while the remaining three fled the spot.

According to sources, the animals had been captured in Kanjipani, Keonjhar, Turumunga and other areas of the district and were being smuggled to Kolkata.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the STF intercepted the vehicles and the smugglers near Kireitangiri toll plaza in this district.

All of a sudden, the smugglers opened fire at the STF team. In retaliation, the STF personnel also fired two rounds.

Amid the shootout, three trucks loaded with cattle managed to flee the spot. However, two were stopped and the drivers detained. The drivers have been taken to the Turumunga police station for interrogation. Police are trying to find out, the involvement of others in the cattle smuggling. Efforts are on to locate the containers that fled.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Stop preparing for oath-taking ceremonies! Exit polls got it wrong in Delhi

Three-tier security for counting in Padampur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: All arrangements are ready for smooth and transparent counting of votes cast in the December 5 Padampur bypoll in Odisha, state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) SK Lohani said here Wednesday.

Tight security is in place for the counting at the RMC yard near the Padampur sub-collector's office and trained officials have been engaged for the work, informed Lohani.

Lohani said that a three-tier security arrangement is in place and central paramilitary forces will man the innermost layer. The state armed police will be in place in the second layer and the local police in the outermost one. Three companies of the central forces will be engaged for security, Lohani informed.

The counting of postal votes will start at 8.00am and that in 319 polling booths of the constituency from 8.30am. The entire process is likely to be completed by evening with the results declared, Lohani added.

Counting will be conducted on 14 tables in 23 rounds considering that over 81 per cent votes have been cast in the bypoll. Lohani informed that the returning officer has so far received 296 postal votes. He will receive them till 7.59am before commencement of counting.

The ECI has deputed an observer to oversee the process and there will be one counting supervisor and one assistant at each table. In addition, one micro-observer of the central government will be deputed who will report to the observer.

The CEO also said that proper arrange-



Chief Electoral Officer SK Lohani

ments have been made for the dissemination of round-wise results. The counting agents nominated by candidates will also be present to observe the counting. Candidates or their election agents can also be present inside the counting hall, Lohani said.

The result of the high-stake Padampur bypoll is anxiously awaited as a neck-to-neck fight is expected between ruling BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha, the daughter of late Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha and BJP nominee Pradip Purohit, who is also its Krushak Morcha president. Bijay Ranjan's death in October necessitated the bypoll in Padampur.

Congress nominee and three-time MLA Satya Busan Sahu and seven other candidates are in the fray.

Meanwhile, Congress legislator of Jatni constituency Suresh Routray said that the party's candidate might lose the poll due to excessive expenditure by the BJD and BJP.

Both BJD and BJP are confident of winning the bypoll, the result of which is likely to have an impact on state politics as it is considered to be the last before the 2024 general election and polls to the Odisha Assembly.

MORE P3

Catching crocs bare-handed to inspire women

AGENCIES

Florida, Dec 7: She is an environmental scientist, a part-time model and her passion is to catch crocodiles and alligators. She can easily be described as a stunning scientist who tackles crocodiles with her bare hands and earns thousands with a racy modelling side hustle. However, Rosie Moore has a goal while she does all these exciting stuff. She wants more and more women venture into the fields of biological sciences and wildlife.

"As a scientist when I was giving interviews for jobs, I was probably the only female in the room. There would be six-seven middle-aged men other than me vying for the post. I want more and more women to come into the field of wildlife, biological sciences," Moore has been



quoted as saying by the Business Insider.

"As a kid I was fascinated by sharks and that is one of the reasons why I moved to Florida. So I could play with the sharks. My present job entails me to catch crocodiles and snakes for tagging them, for observing them. I do it because I like it," Moore added.

Adventurers you see on TV are almost always men, like Steve Irwin, Indiana Jones or Bear Grylls. I want to break that tradition

ROSIE MOORE

It was her underwater shooting with sharks that enabled her to enter the world of modelling. "I got to know a few photographers who pushed me into modelling. Frankly when I have time, I do model. It helps me to earn the extra buck that I use for my adventure trips," Moore points out.

Moore works in the public sector for the city of Delray on Florida's southeast coast doing water resource management, and her day to day includes getting hands-on with fearsome beasts. **Continued on P4**

A LEGEND WHO LIVES ON

SURESH CHANDRA AGARWAL

1948 : 2020

"In Memory of a life so beautifully lived... a heart so deeply loved"

The business tycoon and legend of outdoor advertising industry. Throughout your life you have touched everyone with your warmth and benevolence. Your vision and expertise will inspire us forever. With reverence and an unswerving love in our hearts, today on your

2nd Death Anniversary

We pledge to tread the path shown by you

DEEPLY MOURNED BY,
FAMILY, FRIENDS AND EMPLOYEES

leisure

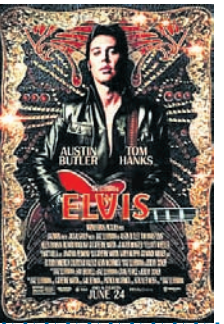


JENNA ORTEGA DRAWS FLAK FOR VIOLATING COVID GUIDELINES

Actress Jenna Ortega is facing backlash after she confessed that she filmed the dance scene on the hit Netflix series *Wednesday* while testing positive for Covid. The 20-yr-old actress made the confession during an interview with *NME*.

LUHRMANN'S ELVIS NAMED BEST FILM AT AUSTRALIAN FILM AWARDS

Elvis, which earlier this week dominated the craft prizes at AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) awards, added four more prizes to kitty, including 'Best Film' and 'Best Director' for Baz Luhrmann.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
If you are involved in monetary matters, today you will find yourself weighing the benefits. A loan that you have applied for may be sanctioned. Look at a range of choices, says Ganesh, and you will end up feeling very happy about it.

TAURUS
This day you will have an urge to take a trip, be it a small one. Ganesh sees you enthusiastically making detailed plans and arrangements, arranging for funds and getting in touch with all those you desire to take along. It is possible that you may ultimately scrap your plans and choose to stay at home.

GEMINI
Today may not be very meaningful and productive for you, though you will get to spend plenty of quality time with yourself in the afternoon, which may not necessarily be to your liking. By evening, you may feel a little extra sensitive. A lonely day, or as an optimist would put it, you've got the whole day to yourself; it could have been worse (For instance, a day alone with your nagging mother-in-law!).

CANCER
You are likely to be at your inventive best today, feels Ganesh. You are likely to taste success, much to the delight of your colleagues at work and loved ones back home. However, experience counts, and if you are a beginner at something, you may face problems in your new venture.

LEO
A challenging day awaits you. You will face some tensions and problems, however this doesn't mean you will not be able to complete all your work successfully. Your personal life will proceed as usual, however expectations from you at the work-front will increase. You need to maintain a balance between your home and work-place, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom. Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesh advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy yourself, regardless of what happens in the day.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is a fortunate day for starting new work. You will win the hearts of everyone with your amazing charm. Your house and its arty interior decoration will impress people.

SCORPIO
Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what Indian mythology has taught us since time immemorial. Now, it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture. However, don't lose hope as the fruits of patience are sweet.

SAGITTARIUS
Good Samaritans around you may give unsolicited, but valuable advice. Take it as a hint, and consider it for your betterment. Take your decision after following the advice, and this may definitely yield benefits, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Though less, you will get money from your investments and other resources. Don't ignore pending projects; complete them at the earliest so that you will have clear picture about your requirements and responsibilities, advises Ganesh. Once you are done with them, you will enjoy happy times with your friends and family in the evening.

AQUARIUS
There are no short-cuts to success. You know this very well and work you socks off to get what you want. Colleagues, friends and family - all of them will acknowledge and appreciate your efforts and achievements. Though you will be apprehensive about it, you will have to take some risks to bring the desired change in your life, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Interactions with those of the opposite sex will mark your day. It is also a good day to strike up friendship with those of the opposite sex. For those in love, today is a good day to spend time with your partner.

When PeeCee was called a black cat

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra, aka PeeCee, who has acted in more than 60 Hindi films, recently recalled being body shamed in the industry because of her complexion. The actress also revealed that she was called 'black cat' and 'dusky'.

In an interview with a news portal, the *Andaaz* actress said that she faced body shaming when she started out in the Hindi film industry. The actress added that she was called 'black cat' and 'dusky' in a country where literally everyone was brown. According to her, she had to work harder than her counterparts even though she believed that she was more talented than them and all this because she was not fair skinned.

Elaborating further,

Priyanka added all that probably had to do with India's colonial past. According to her, it has not even been 100 years since India shed the British Raj so people here are still holding on to it. Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka will next be seen in an upcoming web series, *Ciadel*. Apart from this, she is also a part of upcoming Hindi film, *See Le Zaraa*. To be directed by Farhan Akhtar, the film will bring together PeeCee, Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif for the first time.



AGENCIES

State level drama fest concludes

Bhubaneswar: Members of Panchadhvani Natya Parishad, a well-known theatre troupe of the city presented Odia play *Swapna Purusha* here at Bhanjakala Mandap, Wednesday.

Written by Purushottam Bhuyan and directed by Diptiranjana Das, the play revolved around the dream of protagonist Kalicharanna Das, a lecturer.

One day he sees in his dream that he is getting felicitated by a publishing house which agrees to publish his novel. It sends a guest to convey the message to him. So, Das, in his dream, starts organising his home with the help of his family to welcome the guest. But soon after, he wakes up from his dream. However, miraculously his dream comes true and the guest from the publishing house arrives in time with the good news.

Every one dreams in his life and expectedly, it ends at one



A scene from the play *Swapna Purusha*

OP PHOTO

point. But he never stops chasing his dream even as he wakes up from his sleep, conveyed the director.

The play marked the end of 3-day state level theatre festival organised by Panchadhvani Natya Parishad.

The guests who were present on the occasion included

dramatists Lala Biren Roy, Prasanna Mishra, Mukund Satpathy, Satya Narayan Jena and actor and poet Tofan Jena. Natyashree troupe from Berhampur staged *Iti Mun Tamara* on the first day of the event while the host organisation presented *Suami Bhumikare* on the second day.

PNN

Sushmita makes it to the Top Most Searched Personality list

Mumbai: Sushmita Sen is one of the most talented and loved actors in the industry. The actress recently became the only Hindi film actress to make it to the Top Most Searched Personality list.

According to reports, the *Aarya* actress features on the fifth position on the list.

Sushmita and Lalit Modi were all over the news after the latter made their relationship official by sharing their mushy pictures together on Instagram.

While Sushmita maintained a stoic silence on this for some time, she broke her silence when she was accused of being a gold digger. In a post, she wrote that she was 'perfectly centred' in her being and that she digs "deeper than Gold". "I've always (famously) preferred Diamonds! And yes I still buy them myself," she had written in a post. In another post, the *Sirf Tum* actress had also categorically denied that she was married.

Sushmita Sen was earlier dating model Rohman Shahl. However, the actress parted ways with him in 2021 for reasons best known to her.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sushmita will next be seen in *Taali* where she will be essaying the role of a transgender and activist Gauri Sawant. Apart from this, the actress also has Ram Madhvan's *Aarya 3* in her kitty.



AGENCIES

Shraddha's sweet gesture towards fans wins hearts

Mumbai: Celebrities always literally get thronged by their fans for selfies or autographs whenever they make a public appearance. While most of them always oblige their admirers, there are few who get irritated.

Shraddha Kapoor has made it clear that she belongs to the former category. During a recent visit to the Udaipur airport, the actress happily took on requests from the staff of getting a picture clicked with her.

However, one female fan urged her for a picture even as she was leaving. But

Shraddha not only readily agreed for the picture but also complimented the fan for her red outfit. Needless to say, the fan's joy knew no bounds. The netizens showered praises for her sweet gesture towards the fans.

On the work front, Shraddha hasn't been seen in any movie following *Baaghi 3* in 2020. Unfortunately for the makers, that film couldn't complete its full run at the box office because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

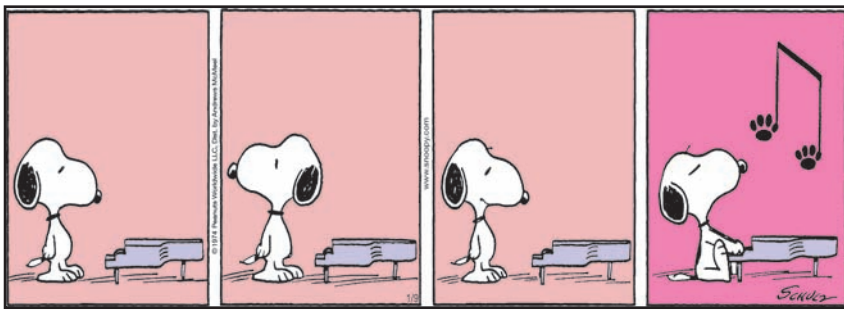
The actress was recently seen in her *Stree* avatar in the song *Thumkeshwari* along with Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon from the film *Bhediya*.



AGENCIES

FUN post

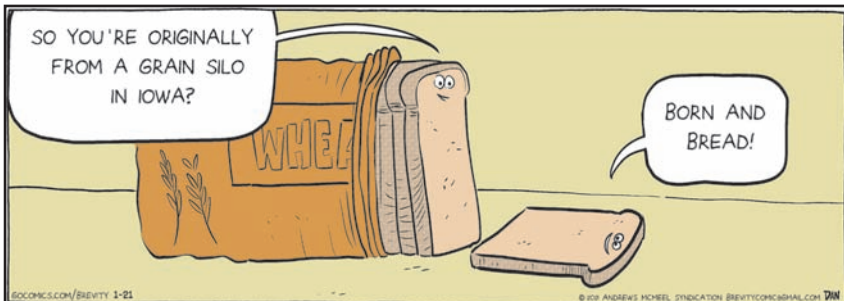
PEANUTS



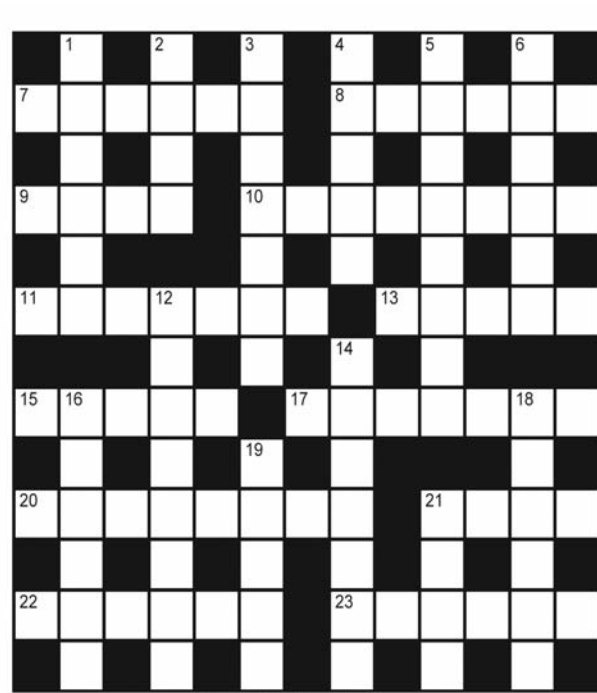
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD

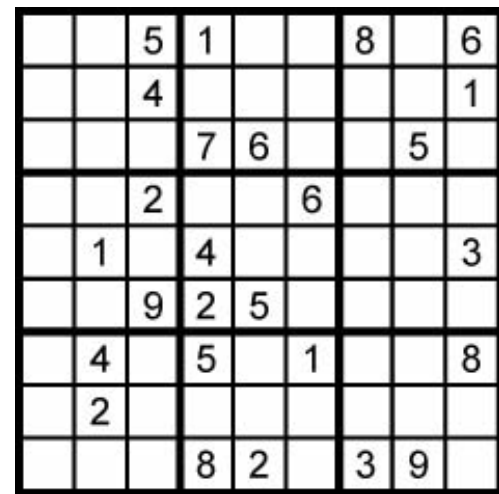


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- Across**
- 7 Whacked
 - 8 Houstop labourer
 - 9 Iridescent gem
 - 10 Summer quencher
 - 11 Ice cream flavour
 - 13 Pool action
 - 15 Apia locale
 - 17 Sun hats for ladies
 - 20 Volcanic glass
 - 21 *La Dolce Vita* setting
 - 22 A place to view relics
 - 23 Leon Uris title
 - Down**
 - 1 Perfect world
 - 2 Face-off, of sorts
 - 3 Island strings
 - 4 Leftover
 - 5 Everest, e.g.
 - 6 Interfere
 - 12 Puts on a pedestal
 - 14 Sporting dog
 - 16 Framework for plants
 - 18 Adipose tissue
 - 19 Motion pictures
 - 21 Tooth part

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

PADAMPUR BYPOLL Naveen takes feedback from leaders

CM taking feedback from party leaders a day before counting is the first-of-its-kind exercise in BJD which has been in power in the state since 2000

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday took feedback from BJD leaders who managed the electioneering in Padampur bypoll, the results of which will be out Thursday.

Patnaik taking feedback from party leaders a day before vote counting is the first-of-its-kind exercise in the BJD which has been in power in the state since 2000.

Party insiders said Patnaik was anxious about the outcome of the high-stakes by-election, which took place December 5, especially after the BJP trounced the ruling party in the state in the Dhamnagar Assembly bypoll in November.

The BJD leaders, who met Patnaik, were assigned different tasks in Padampur. The constituency was divided into different zones, and leaders were assigned the responsibility of booths, gram panchayats, blocks and



Padampur Notified Area Council (NAC).

"They narrated how they managed the mood over issues such as drought, demand for a separate district and party candidate Barsha Singh Bariha's marriage in a non-tribal family," a party leader said. They also told Patnaik how they dealt with different obstacles and bolstered the party's prospects in Padampur.

"The BJD changed its strategy after Dhamnagar result and engaged both old and young leaders in campaigning," he said.

The BJD leaders exuded confidence in the victory of the party candidate. "We apprised the CM about



BRAINSTORMING SESSION

CDA chairperson Anil Kumar Samal convened a meeting of the development authority in Cuttack, Wednesday

our fieldwork in Padampur, how the ground situation changed within 22 days after our arrival," Dhenkanal MLA Sudhir Samal, one of the bypoll managers, said. Samal said they also informed Patnaik, the party president, about possible leading margins in various segments of the constituency. He said the BJD's vote percentage has increased after Patnaik's three public meetings in Padampur. Senior BJD leader and former MP Pradeep Majhi said they narrated their Padampur experience to Patnaik.

"The CM asked us to remain dedicated to the service to the people," Majhi said.

Another senior party leader, Sharada Nayak, said the CM asked them to submit reports about specific programmes required for different areas of the state ahead of the 2024 general elections. Both the BJD and the BJP hadn't left any stone unturned for Padampur bypoll.

After their defeat in Dhamnagar, the BJD had engaged ministers, lawmakers and senior leaders in the by-election.

Patnaik had addressed three public meetings in support of the BJD candidate.

On the other hand, Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Kumar Vaishnav, Narendra Singh Tomar and Bishweswar Tudu campaigned for the BJP candidate.

BJP candidate Pradip Purohit exuded confidence in winning the by-election with a comfortable margin.

BJD nominee Barsha Singh Bariha also said she was confident of a positive outcome.

Congress candidate Satya Bhusan Sahu, however, said that the Congress will retain its vote share of the 2019 elections.

"The situation changed after the CM's visit and inflow of money into Padampur. It is going to be victory of 'Dhan Tantra' (money power) and not 'Gana Tantra' (democracy)," he said.



TAKING TO THE STREETS: Members of Odisha High School Contract Teachers' Association stage a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, demanding job regularisation

Promote sports at school level: OSEPA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: In a bid to popularise sports, especially hockey, Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) Wednesday wrote to all district education officers (DEOs) for preparation of plans for organising annual sports activities at school level.

The sports activities would be taken up at school/block/district level in all the districts with the theme 'Hockey World Cup: Promoting hockey sports among schoolchildren'.

This decision was taken by the state government ahead of FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup-2023 to be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in January. The annual sports activity (ASA) with Hockey World Cup theme should be promoted among school-children and general public, said the letter.

In the letter, state project director of OSEPA Anupam Saha said, "The FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup will be held at Bhubaneswar & Rourkela from January 13 to 29, 2023. To popularise hockey and commemorate the

FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup-2023, Annual Sports Activities to be taken up at school/block/district level in all the districts."

The SOP regarding organisation of annual sports activities is to be followed for timely completion of sports events.

In this regard, it is also intimated that hoarding/banner standees and posters reflecting FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup shall be installed at the school/block/district level sports venue/ground.

"In view of the above, you are requested to prepare the annual

sports plan of schools immediately and send it to the email id 'osepate2022@gmail.com' positively," he added.

The districts which are popular for hockey should give priority to hockey in their ASA. Hence, districts like Khurda and Sundargarh shall give priority to organising hockey matches among students as far as possible.

The director of secondary education had already released Rs 1.69 crore December 2, 2022 in favour of all blocks at Rs 54,000 per block towards organisation of sports competition at block level.



Earlier, the Smart City became the first such city in the country to receive ISO 9001:2015 certification for effective Faecal Sludge and Septage

Management (FSSM) services. The vision for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management in Bhubaneswar is: The City becomes totally sanitised,

healthy and liveable along with ensuring sustenance of good sanitation habits with improved Onsite Sanitation Services together with faecal sludge and septage management.

The ISC-FICCI awards showcase a wide range of talent and work in the sector that has made an impact on the development horizon of the country. They recognise both the key actors and sector practitioners besides the programme stakeholders and the companies/institutions that are innovating and adapting at a time of unprecedented

Waive GST on kendu leaf: BJD

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 7: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Achyuta Samanta Wednesday urged the Ministry of Finance to withdraw Goods and Services Tax (GST) on kendu leaf.

Speaking during the Zero Hour of Lok Sabha, the Kandhamal MP said that kendu leaf, a minor forest produce, is the financial backbone of around 8 lakh people, mostly belonging to tribal community.

"Imposition of 18 per cent GST on kendu leaf is adversely affecting the trade and subsequently the livelihoods of leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal workers. Hence, the tax

needs to be withdrawn in the greater interest of the people, especially those belonging to the tribal community of Odisha," said Samanta.

BJD MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu, meanwhile, urged the Centre to increase assistance under 'area expansion' programme.

Highlighting that area expansion for fruit crop and floriculture has been a major component of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Sahu said that increasing assistance under 'area expansion' programme would help more farmers get the benefits of the mission which would ultimately help double their income.

"In my state, the maximum cost

115km of Khurda-Bolangir rly line commissioned: Vaishnav

A total of 174 km of the 289-km long Khurda-Bolangir railway project is yet to be commissioned, said Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav while replying to a question of Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta in Lok Sabha. Vaishnav said only 115.66 km of the much awaited railway project has been commissioned till now.

The project is of 289 km length and divided into two parts. While first part (km 0 to km 112) is

of cultivation per hectare for high density mango is Rs 42,000. It is Rs 60,000 for papaya, Rs 10,263 for banana, Rs 1,00,000 for cut flower and for spices crop it's somewhere between Rs 30,000 and Rs 50,000. Out of the same, about 40-50 per cent subsidy is being provided to farmers to take up the programme. How will the small farmers of Odisha get the benefits of the programme with high cultivation cost?" Sahu said.

Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab requested the Centre to introduce changes in the operational guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

As per Section 21.5 of the Revamped Operational Guideline of PMFBY, perils like hailstorm, inundation, landslide, cloudburst, natural fire due to lightning have

fully funded by Railways, second part (from km 112 to km 289) is on cost sharing in which the land is to be provided free of cost by Odisha government along with sharing 50 per cent cost of construction, he said.

The anticipated cost of the mega railway project is Rs 3,792 crore. So far, an expenditure of Rs 2,105 crore has been incurred on the project, Vaishnav said.

Rs 371.85 crore has been spent on this project during the financial year 2021-22. An outlay of Rs 891.12 crore (Rs 655 crore budgetary support and deposit Rs 236.12 crore) has been provided in the financial year 2022-23.

been included under risk scenario of localised calamity. At Section 21.5.10, however, loss to crops like paddy, sugarcane, jute due to inundation are not included as they are considered hydrophilic crops, Mahtab said.

Due to such exclusion, paddy farmers, who account for more than 95 per cent of the insured farmers, were being deprived of the benefits of PMFBY, the Cuttack MP pointed out.

Sangeeta for crop insurance claims

BJP MP Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo Wednesday requested the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to impress upon Odisha government to release the instalment under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to facilitate disbursement of crop insurance claims to the farmers of Western Odisha. Raising the issue under Rule 377 in Lok Sabha, she said as Odisha is a disaster-prone state, the PMFBY is a major risk mitigation program for the farmers. The Bolangir MP further said the Odisha government is holding up instalment of PMFBY even though the Centre has already released the funds. Besides, BJD MP Mahesh Sahoo demanded establishment of medical college in Dhenkanal district.

BJD assures cooperation for smooth RS session

The BJD Wednesday assured full cooperation in smooth running of the house to new Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on the opening day of the Winter Session. Welcoming Dhankhar, BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sasmitha Patra said that his party has never crossed the 'Lakshman Rekha' in the past and always respected the sanctity of the house. He assured Dhankhar that his party will cooperate in the smooth running of the house. The BJD MP also suggested that MPs of regional parties should be given adequate time to speak during Zero Hour and raise special mentions to highlight state-specific issues.

Research scholar Bhaskar Mishra to be felicitated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Noted researcher and scholar Bhaskar Mishra will be felicitated with the prestigious 'Sri Jagannath Chetana Gabesak Samman' by 'Sri Jagannath Chetana Gabesana Pratisthan' during an event in Puri December 10, an official said Wednesday.

Governor Ganeshi Lal will felicitate Mishra in presence of Puri Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb and many eminent dignitaries, it was learnt.

Mishra has won laurels from several quarters for his research and articles on Jagannath culture.

Of the 68 books authored by him, at least 55 are on Jagannath culture.

Mishra is also a regular contributor of write-ups on Lord Jagannath to many publications, including Utkal Prasanga, in Odisha.

About the December 10 ceremony, Mishra said that the award will definitely go a long way to encourage researchers and scholars to delve more into charisma of Lord Jagannath.

HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION

SALE

Attractive Handicrafts and Handloom Items from different Places
Direct Sale by Artisans

VENUE : EKAMRA HAAT, EXHIBITION GROUND, BHUBANESWAR

From 5th December to 14th December-2022

Daily from 11 A.M to 9 P.M

Sponsored by:
Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Organised by - SUNLINE, Cuttack-10

GANDHI SHILP BAZAR

SALE

Attractive Handicrafts and Handloom items from different States
Direct sale by Artisans

VENUE : Konark Urban Haat At/PO.-Konark, Dist.-Puri

From 1st December to 10th December-2022

Daily from 11A.M. to 9P.M.

Sponsored by:
Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Organized by - Orissa Khadi & Village Industries Association

SC seeks status report on Polavaram in two months



dynamics of the project? We don't know how much area to be submerged after completion. They have not provided us the details," the counsel for Odisha submitted.

Chhattisgarh counsel Sumer Sodhi submitted that the state has given technical points to Centre but no response was received from the Centre.

Earlier, the Supreme Court September 6 asked the Union government to play a "pioneering role" in resolving the dispute related to Polavaram project among Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh with talks.

The apex court had directed the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to convene a meeting of higher officials from Odisha, Chhattisgarh Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to resolve the environmental concerns arising out of the Polavaram project, being constructed by Andhra Pradesh on the Godavari river.

Significantly, three suits, each by Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Telangana, have been filed against the Polavaram project in the Supreme Court raising environmental concerns. Odisha, in 2018 also filed an interim application against the Union government for keeping the "stop work order" dated February 2011 in abeyance year-on-year and seeking directions that the project be stopped until a fresh environment impact assessment is carried out, including public hearing as mandated by various EIA notifications.

The additional solicitor general submitted in the apex court that the CWC has given a report to the Union Jal Shakti ministry which shows some divergence

pearing for the state of Odisha submitted that the state has not received any communication from the Union government after the submission of technical points. The counsel also submitted that the Union government has also scheduled any meeting of chief ministers as of now.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh counsel argued in the apex court that Odisha hasn't conducted public hearings for years now.

Countering AP's argument, Odisha counsel submitted that entire project dynamics were changed without prior notice. The counsel submitted that the project has caused huge flooding in Odisha.

"What public hearing we will conduct when we don't know the



UP IN ARMS: Members of the Odisha unit of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation staged a protest seeking fulfillment of their various demands in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Bullets shower in Cuttack village

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Residents of Nuasasan village in Cuttack district were in a state of shock after bullets fired from unknown location landed in different parts of the village. It is yet to be ascertained as to who fired the bullets and from where.

The villagers alleged that the bullets were coming from the eastern side of the village.

While a few bullets hit the roofs of a few houses, some people also sustained minor injuries in the firing, they alleged.

Incidentally, similar incidents have been happening for the last three to four years, which came to limelight after a woman sustained serious injuries on her arm in the firing.

"One day, when I was collecting water from a tube-well, a bullet hit me on my hand. At that time, I

thought it to be electric shock as a live wire was nearby. But later during treatment, we came to know that it was a bullet injury," said Subhasini Jena, a resident of Nuasasan village.

Jena said she underwent treatment for more than two months for the bullet injury. The villagers said that the bullets were probably being fired from the Naraj police firing range located nearby.

Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani said he will ask the SP (Rural) to investigate the matter and take necessary action.

Anil Mishra, Additional DCP, Cuttack, said, "A bullet's maximum range is up to 1,000 gauge and there is no habitation within that area from the range. Besides, there is also a hill. So there is no possibility that the bullets were fired from the Naraj firing range."

Continued from P1

Woes for consumers...

Announcing the monetary policy committee's (MPC) decisions, Das said the main risk is that inflation could remain sticky and elevated. "The MPC was of the view that further calibrated monetary policy action was warranted to keep inflation expectations anchored, break core-inflation persistence and contain second-round effects," Das said. Das said the Indian economy remains resilient, drawing strength from its macroeconomic fundamentals. The outlook for the economy is supported by good progress of rabi sowing, sustained urban demand, improving rural demand, a pick-up in manufacturing, a rebound in services and robust credit expansion.

AAP captures...

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said the barely 10-year-old party has 'defeated' the largest party of the country (BJP) in their stronghold. "The results have once again proved the AAP is a hardcore honest party," Singh said.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta played down the defeat. "Despite 15 years of anti-incumbency, our performance is good. We worked for the people of Delhi at the municipal corporations but may be some people were not happy. There was no anger against the BJP though," Gupta stated.

The mood at the AAP's office on Rouse Avenue was celebratory since morning with patriotic songs blaring through loudspeakers and the entire premises decked up with colourful balloons.

Kejriwal also harped on the importance of 'positive politics'. "We all have to improve the condition of Delhi and I need cooperation of all, including the BJP and Congress," Kejriwal stated.

The BJP had trounced both the AAP and the Congress by winning 181 of 272 wards of the three municipal corporations in the 2017 elections. However, this time the saffron party failed to do an en core.

CARE Hospitals bags 2 awards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: CARE Hospitals, Bhubaneswar recently bagged two prestigious awards i.e. The Economic Times Healthcare Awards 2022 and Indian Chambers of Commerce Healthcare Excellence Awards.

The coveted awards are aimed to recognize, acknowledge, and cement the ground-breaking contributions of the organization in the healthcare sector. The hospital was declared the winner in the category of Best Multi-Specialty Hospital (East) - Economic Times Healthcare Awards and Best Multi Specialty Hospital (East) - ICC Healthcare Excellence Awards.

Commenting on this momentous occasion, Kishan Anand, HCOO, CARE Hospitals, said, "Every accomplishment is a reminder of our commitment to our patients, and providing them with the best clinical excellence, which defines our ability to make a difference. I would like to thank The Economic Times and ICC for acknowledging our expertise. This would not have been possible without our doctors and medical team. I congratulate and thank all the doctors, and their team for their unparalleled com-



mitment to patient care. Lokanath Dash, AVP, CARE Hospitals said, "This prestigious recognition will go a long way in inspiring us to deliver the finest quality care through integrated clinical practice and contribute significantly to the healthcare landscape of India."

CARE Hospitals is dedicated to providing affordable healthcare services with its presence across non-metro cities in India. With a highly talented team of more than 1400+ doctors across the network and over 6600+ employees, the CARE Hospitals Group treats millions of patients every year.

Biofortified rice varieties to alleviate malnutrition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Rice is the staple food for more than 70 per cent population of India. During the process of milling and polishing majority of the essential micronutrients viz. iron (Fe) and zinc (Zn) and important vitamins of rice grain are lost.

Rice is also relatively low in protein content (7-8 per cent) as compared to other cereals such as wheat, barley and other millets. Protein-energy malnutrition is prevalent among children dependent on rice. Biofortification in rice could be a game changer for those people who have very limited choices of dietary resources and can also address the malnutrition issue.

The ICAR-National Rice Research Institute (NRII), Cuttack released four new biofortified variety of rice. They are CR Dhan 310, CR Dhan 315, CR Dhan 311 and CR Dhan 411. CR Dhan 310 as the first high protein (10.3 per cent) rice variety of India.

ICAR-NRII signed nine MoUs with private companies and Farmers' producer companies (FPCs) for large scale seed production and marketing of the bio-fortified rice varieties.

Pressure of board exam is a challenge, feel Loyola students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: The life of a student is filled with many challenges such as stress, worry, and competitiveness. So, when we talk about exams, a whole mental process keeps running through our heads. Each and every student worries about preparation, including whether or not they are ready, whether they should revise right before the exam, and whether they will remember their answers.

As the schedule of board exams for ICSE and CISCE students is out, OrissaPOST talked to some students at Loyola Bhubaneswar about stress management and how they are completing their syllabus among other things. Class X and XII students who are going to sit for the board exam for the first time are managing to wake up late at night to complete their vast syllabus. According to them, the pressure under which they are managing is equally distributed between the board and pre-board exams. The biggest challenge being faced by them after pandemic is preparing for the competitive examination along with



the board pressure. On completing the syllabus in time, the students say the first thing one should do is maintaining the routine and following it every day. One should start competing with themselves before competing with others. This will help in self-development. There are various steps to relax pressure, like meditation, listening to music, playing, and doing regular physical activity. The Covid-19 pandemic has hampered and restricted students from improving their academics. According to students, the era of old school teaching is always beneficial for a school, which would never be replaced by online education.

Catching crocs...

"My whole life I thought sharks were the coolest thing, so I thought of going to Florida and find a way to work with sharks. My work involves dealing with water resources and that is how I come in contact with crocodiles and other reptiles," the 26-year-old informed. Moore says that wildlife has taught her to expect the unexpected. I've seen a lot of really amazing things working with wildlife for so many years. One of the coolest things was watching wild crocodilian babies hatch, actually coming out of their shells. You never know what you're going to see. You can go out thinking it's a normal day but then you find the most elusive snake that you've never seen before in your life," she added.

SAI Int'l School hosts SAITED 2022



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: SAI International School hosted the 6th edition of one of India's biggest K-12 Science and Technology fest SAITED 2022, Wednesday, with the theme "Transcending every dimension". This was a day-long, student driven event managed by the students of class XI from the science stream with handholding support from mentors.

The event was graced by the chief guest Appavuraj Ramachandran, Chairman, Centre for Personnel Talent Management

(CEPTAM), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Addressing the students, Ramachandran said, "There is a lot to emulate from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: His determination, high moral values, simplicity, his vision, and above all his love for the nation. If children adopt these values, then they can achieve any goal they set."

This year's event hosted over 631 students from 15+ schools from across the state showcasing more than 120 projects at the Science exhibition. Schools from Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan were

also a part of this mega event with their project on 'Global Neural Network for the Treatment of Breast Cancer' and 'Technological Innovation for Eco System and Health of Iconic OAV'.

Children from Pratibha Ashram a childcare home for the homeless presented a mesmerizing opening dance for the audience at the event.

Addressing the students at SAITED 202, Silpi Sahoo, Chairperson, SAI International Education Group said, "Every child is a leader and is innovative. We as facilitators give wings to their critical thinking abilities, creative minds, and scientific temperament by holding events like SAITED".

A Crime Forensic Workshop was conducted by DCP Bhubaneswar Pratik Singh (IPS) for the SAI International students. He congratulated the students for the SAITED 2022 event which had a gamut of activities and workshop related to science and technology.

Brown's English Learning Centre opens at Jaydev Vihar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 7: Sindhu Brown's Learning Centre, English language training, opened its first centre at Centurion University Corporate Office at Jaydev Vihar here. The centre 'C4E' will offer multi-level courses in English languages. The Centre has its own method of teaching English language. This is an Institute exclusively for English courses designed for toddlers, teens, youth, adults, professionals as well as seniors. Last year it published 21 books for kids on various themes based on "Trace and learn" concept.

The centre will offer different batches each for the morning, afternoon and evening sessions and its curriculum is designed especially and specifically for housewives, people looking for jobs, stu-



dents and for working professionals/business people who are at different levels of learning English, from basic alphabets and phonic sounds to professional course like IELTS.

The set of 21 books which was published last year will be a part of the course curriculum. These books are of - English alphabets, English phonics, silent words, sight words, songs, positive affirmations, wild animals, domestic animals, transport, birds, flowers, food, fruits, & vegetables to mention a few.

Sindhu Brown's Learning Centre has a world-class educational method at its crux. Its language experts emphasise over the strongest scholastic learning practices and cherry-picked, time-tested action plan to teach English. Sindhu Brown's Learning Centre offers courses personalised according to your native language, constructed on grammar and vocabulary you already know. The outcome is a compelling curriculum available at your fingertips - wherever you are and whenever you want to learn.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 78736660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-977682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

BeMC TOUGHENS STAND AGAINST VIOLATORS

Owners of illegal buildings to face the music in Silk City



ACCORDING TO BeMC COMMISSIONER, A FEW DAYS AGO THERE WAS A REVIEW MEETING ON THE REVENUE LOSS OF THE CIVIC BODY. IT REVEALED THAT THE NUMBER OF APPROVED BUILDINGS WAS DECREASING WHILE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS IN THE AREA IS ON AN INCREASE

OWNERS OF MANY BUILDINGS HAVE NOT TAKEN OCCUPATION CERTIFICATES FROM THE BeMC, WHICH STANDS IN VIOLATION OF ODISHA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT, IT WAS STATED

and senior officials took round of the city and identified scores of buildings made without administrative approval.

Owners of many buildings have not taken occupation certificates from the BeMC, which stands in violation of Odisha Development Authority Act, said the BeMC Commissioner.

These building owners have been asked to reply on what basis they made their buildings. "If the building owners fail to reply in 15 days, legal action will be taken against them," said the BeMC Commissioner.

He said that Berhampur sub-collector, tehsildar and the SP have been apprised of the development.

pared a list of such illegal buildings and structures under its jurisdiction. This has left the owners of such buildings worried.

Over 150 building owners have been served with notices from the BeMC. They were told to send their replies within 15 days, said BeMC Commissioner J Sonal.

The BeMC Commissioner said that a few days ago there was a review meeting on the revenue loss of the BeMC. It revealed that the number of approved buildings was decreasing while number of buildings in the area is on an increase.

Later, the BeMC Commissioner



CULTURAL FEST: Students participated in a drawing competition organised ahead of the state level Parab Festival-2022 at Town Hall in Jeypore, Wednesday OP PHOTO

Kalahandi varsity students to wear uniforms made of Habaspuri fabric

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawaniapatna, Dec 7: In a bid to encourage the young generation to use local handloom fabrics, the authorities of Kalahandi University have decided that the uniform of the students would be made of Habaspuri clothes.

Habaspuri, a handloom fabric from Chiccheguda of Kalahandi, is now struggling for existence for inadequate patronage and market support.



Vice-Chancellor of Kalahandi University, Sanjaya Satpathy, said, "This is a small attempt which

may boost the traditional Habaspuri handloom weavers." He said that the government-

run university has tied up with fashion designer Sujit Meher who will provide the uniforms of students designed by him from Habaspuri handloom fabric.

Habaspuri handloom has got a geographical indication tag in 2012-2013.

Due to inadequate patronage, a number of the people of the weaving community in the district are leaving the profession and opting for other work which can fetch remunerative income, Satpathy said.

Woman steps on live wires laid for poaching; critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Dec 7: A woman sustained critical burn injuries after coming in contact with live wires laid for poaching wild animals at Tainsar village under Sadar police limits of Deogarh district, Wednesday.

The injured woman was identified as Sanjukta Pradhan, 48, wife of Lakshman Pradhan.

The mishap occurred when she was accompanying her husband in a bullock cart to bring hay stacks from their farmland. She was walking ahead of the bullock cart when she stumbled upon a live wire that had been laid to poach wild animals. She screamed for help.

Locals rescued her and rushed her to the district headquarters hospital from where doctors referred her to VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Burla after examining her health condition. On being informed, Forest officials reached the spot, seized the wires and launched an investigation.



Warning systems in coastal pockets to alert people 45 minutes before tsunamis

TWSS INSTALLED BY THE CENTRE WILL RING SIRENS WHICH WILL BE HEARD UP TO A DISTANCE OF 2 KM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Dec 7: Tsunami warning systems (TWSS) have been installed at various places under this block in Kendrapara district to help people living near the coastlines in timely evacuation.

The villages under this block are always at the receiving end of natural calamities due to their close proximity to the coastlines. The warning systems on towers will alert people living near the shorelines 45 minutes

before the advent of tsunamis. A TWS is used to detect tsunamis in advance and issue the warnings to prevent loss of life and damage to property.

The warning systems installed by the Centre will ring sirens which will be heard up to a distance of 2 km. As a result, this will help people living near the shorelines or in the low-lying areas to move to safer and higher places so that they can prevent loss of life and damage to properties.

According to reports, 10 high-powered towers were constructed in 2017-

18 for installation at various places of the block. After their completion, these towers have been installed at Sasan Peta, Ratapanka, Narsinghpur, Kandrapatia, Uttar Jambu, Jambu lock (fishing jetty), Kajalpatia, Dakhina Khola, Bada Tubi under Batighar panchayat and on the premises of Mahakalapara block office.

Tsunami is caused when an area inside the deep sea is shaken by intense earthquakes. One should be on alert that shorelines located within a certain radius of the earthquake's epicentre may be hit by a tsunami.

Another more immediate and ominous sign of an approaching tsunami is a rapid and unexpected recession of water level well below the expected low tide. As a result, tidal waves move towards the shorelines at a speed of 500 km per hour and destroy the lives of people and properties living near the shorelines.

Block officials said that though the TWSSs have been installed here but the control room of the towers will be at Hyderabad.

A senior resident Subhash Chandra Swain said that these towers will be of great help to the villagers living near the coastlines to save their lives and properties during an impending tsunami.

A villager Hrushikesh Giri of Kandrapatia village said that their longstanding demands have been fulfilled after the installation of towers.

EVMs of 11 booths changed, alleges BJP

Bargarh: Hours before the counting of votes for the Padampur bypoll in Bargarh district, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has alleged that EVMs of 11 booths have been changed before being shifted to the strong room, Wednesday. The saffron party alleged that EVMs of 11 booths where the BJP has a sway on the electorate have been changed. A delegation of the party workers met Collector Monisha Banerjee and gave her a complaint. The matter is being investigated, she said. The candidates were provided with a list of EVMs with specific numbers in 17-C forms before the voting. However, the BJP alleged that those EVM numbers have been changed in the list provided to their agents after the polling.

EAST COAST RAILWAY 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS

The following tender have been uploaded on website: www.ireps.gov.in
Tender Notice No. Ref: SDMM/KUREP/2022-23/ E-procurement Tender Notice/13, Date: 05.12.2022
SL. NO. 01: TENDER NO. 81225836A, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: WEAR PLATES FOR BCM TRACK MACHINE (700 & ABOVE NEW SERIES), QUANTITY: 4SETS.
SL. NO. 02: TENDER NO. 81225625A, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: WEAR PLATES FOR BCM OLD SERIES TRACK MACHINE, QUANTITY: 8SETS.
SL. NO. 03: TENDER NO. 81225545B, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: M.S FLAT 40X6 MM CONFIRMING TO IS:2062, QUANTITY: 30MT.
Tender closing time and date: at 1500 hrs. of 09.01.2023 (For Sl. No 1 & 2) & at 1500 hrs. of 03.01.2023 (For Sl. No 3).
Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Khurda Road PR-783122/23

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Regional Office- Maurya Lok Complex, Block-A, 2nd Floor, Dakbungalow Road, Patna-800001
Phone No.-0612-2225949 E-mail-rmpat@cewacor.nic.in
NO. CWC/RO PAT/ENGG/PN/2022-23
PRESS NOTICE
(E NIT RO-PAT/ENGG/22-23/10)
CWC invites on-line tenders from the contractors for the following work:

SL	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Last date of on-line submission
1	Re-construction of Office Block alongwith 1 repairing of potholes in internal road at CW, Balijitpada (Odisha).	35.76	21.12.2022

Detailed Tender Notice along with Conditions of Contract and Notice Inviting E-Tender may be seen and downloaded from the CWC's website www.cewacor.nic.in or e-tender website www.cwceprocure.com or CPP Portal http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app.
Further Corrigendum/Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on above websites only. Press advertisement in Newspapers shall not be issued for the same. **Executive Engineer**

GOVT. OF ODISHA No.MM-330
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
ANGUL DIVISION, ANGUL
ANGUL FOREST DIVISION
e-mail ID- dfoangul@gmail.com

1. Number of Works	: 5 (Five) number of Building works
2. Approximate estimated cost	: Varies from Rs.5.60 lakhs to 20.00 lakhs
3. Period of completion	: 03 (Three) Calendar months
4. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the published	: Dt.07.12.2022 at 10.00 A.M.
5. Last date/Time for receipt of bid in the published	: Dt.20.12.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.
6. Date of opening of Bid	: Dt.21.12.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
7. Name and address of the Office inviting Bid	: Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Division, Angul
8. The bidders have to participate in offline bidding only.	

Further details can be seen from the website in www.angul.nic.in, www.odishaforest.in
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Division, Angul
OIPR-0802711/0010/2223

World Cup fete begins in 'hockey cradle'

CELEBRATIONS HAVE BEEN KICKED OFF IN SAUNAMARA VILLAGE IN BALISANKARA BLOCK, WHICH HAS MADE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN HOCKEY



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Dec 7: With a little over a month to go for the FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup tournament in January 2023, Sundargarh district, which is co-hosting the biggest hockey carnival in the world, has plunged into a celebratory mood.

The celebrations were kicked off from Saunamara village in Balisankara block, which has made invaluable contributions to Indian hockey, with the inauguration of a district-level sports and cultural competition in a 'Kick Off' ceremony Tuesday.

Following the inaugural function, hockey and football tournaments were flagged off in 279 Gram Panchayats across the 17 blocks of the district. Over 800 hockey and more than 1,100 football teams have registered for the district-level competitions.

Sundargarh District Collector Dr Parag Harshad Gavali presided over the inaugural function which was held at the Saunamara High School ground. Sundargarh Member of Parliament Jual Oram inaugurated the event as the chief guest.

Hockey India President and son of the

soil, Padma Shri Dr Dilip Tirkey, and daughter of the soil, Subhadra Pradhan who capped the Indian Women's Hockey Team, were felicitated on the occasion.

"Our Sundargarh district is going to host the World Cup Hockey for the first time for which the largest hockey stadium in the country is being built at Rourkela. This will help Sundargarh get a new global recognition. Moreover, the laying of synthetic turf grounds in various blocks will help groom and promote talents from rural areas," Oram said.

"I owe all the recognition and fame I have achieved in my life to my village Saunamara where I was born. The village ground nurtured me for getting a berth in the national team. Many players from villages across the district, along with Saunamara, have brought laurels to Sundargarh," said Tirkey while speaking after the felicitation.

"Various programmes are being organised all over the district to accord a grand welcome to the Hockey World Cup. A number of programmes are slated to be held in schools and colleges along with hockey and football tournaments in rural as well as urban areas. The administration is leaving no stone unturned to make the grand event attractive and unforgettable," said Collector Dr Parag Harshad Gavali while appealing all citizens to join the celebrations.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES MORTGAGED/HYPOTHECATED TO THE BANK UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of State Bank of India has taken over possession of the following property/ies u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-auction (under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property/ies in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS AND AS IS WHAT IS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on the terms & conditions specified here under.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 27.12.2022 from 11.00 AM to 03.00 PM

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) / A/c No.	Property Details & Name of Owner of the property	Outstanding Dues for which property/ies is/are being Sold/ Demand Notice Date	Reserve Price EMD BID Increment Amount
1.	Borrower: M/s. Nabin Rice Mill Pvt. Ltd., At: Kandomunda, P.O.: Ichhapur, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha-767023. Represented through its Managing Director: Sri Nabin Kumar Sahoo, S/o: Sri Narayan Sahoo, At/P.O.: Ichhapur, P.S.: Durguripali, Dist: Subarnapur, Odisha-767023. Directors/Guarantors: (1) Sri Narayan Sahoo, S/o- Lokanath Sahoo, At/P.O.: Ichhapur, P.S.: Durguripali, Dist: Subarnapur, Odisha-767023. 2) Sri Narahari Sahoo, S/o- Late Bhagaban Sahoo, At: Katkiapada, P.O.: Tiltlagarh, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha-767033. 3) Sri Umakanta Sahoo, S/o: Late Gouranga Sahoo, At: Katkiapada, P.O.: Tiltlagarh, Dist.: Bolangir, Odisha-767033. 4) Sri Benudhar Bhuie, S/o- Late Budhu Bhuie, At/P.O.: Phatamunda, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha-767016. 5) Sri Sukadev Sahoo, S/o: Late Gouranga Sahoo, At: Katkiapada, P.O.: Tiltlagarh, Dist.: Bolangir-767033 / A/c No.: 32155051280, 32591953950	Land & Building located bearing Khata No.: 201/64, Plot No.: 37 & 9/852, Area: Ac.3.372 dec. at Mouza: Kandomunda, P.S.: Durguripali, Tahasil: Rampur, Dist: Subarnapur, standing in the name of Nabin Kumar Sahoo.	₹2,40,39,472/- as on 31.08.2015 with Further interest & Incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 01.09.2015	₹ 42,84,000/- ₹ 4,28,400/- ₹ 50,000/-
2.	Borrower : M/s. Pratik Bharat Gas, Prop.: Prafulla Badhei, Vill: Pada, PO.: Bijepur, Dist: Bargarh, Odisha-768032 / Guarantor: Sri Bhagat Panda, S/o.: Balabhadra Panda, Vill: In Front of Jagannath Temple, Bijepur, P.O.: Bijepur, Dist: Bargarh, Odisha-768032 / A/c No.: 36730095292	All the part and parcel of Land & Building situated Mouza: Pada, Tahasil: Bijepur, Dist: Bargarh, Khata No.: 236/321, Plot No.: 1783/2901, Area: Ac.0.20dec., standing in the name of Prafulla Badhei.	₹20,19,729.56 as on 05.09.2019 with Further interest & Incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 06.09.2019	₹ 14,00,000/- ₹ 1,40,000/- ₹ 50,000/-

Date & Time of inspection of the property : 23.12.2022, Between 11.00 AM to 04.00PM

Interested bidder may deposit Pre-bid EMD with MSTC before the close of e-auction. Credit of Pre-bid EMD Shall be given to the bidder only after receipts of payment in MSTC's Bank account and updating of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per Banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the Pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.

For details terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor website: www.sbi.co.in, <https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news/auCTION-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>, <https://ibapi.in>
For property related query please Contact: 9078136199, 8917388408

Place: Sambalpur, Date : 07.12.2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Sambalpur**

“ All desires and egoism will have to be banished from the being.

SRI AUROBINDO



Conservative Tightrope

The massive public protests that have raged across Iran since 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died in the custody of the morality police in September arrived at the World Cup. Ahead of its 6-2 loss to England last month, the Iranian team refused to sing the Islamic Republic's national anthem, with some activists in attendance waving protest signs and booing the team for not quitting the tournament altogether in a show of solidarity toward the hundreds of young Iranians killed during the past ten weeks.

Football is by far Iran's favourite sport. So, for Iranians to turn against their national team, especially one that had topped the Asian qualifiers, speaks to the deep wound that the protests have etched on the country's psyche. As the movement has grown and protests spread from Tehran to the provinces, protesters have broadened their demands. Their call for an end to harassment by the morality police soon hardened into chants of "death to the dictator," referring to 83-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

To be sure, this crisis does not appear to threaten the regime's survival. The protesters lack the means to overthrow the government, and the leadership is unlikely to splinter. Fortunately for the regime, its external enemies are helping it keep its different factions united. Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Israel's former and likely future prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, both supporters of the protests, are probably the two most reviled figures in Iran. And the United States has a poor record of fostering regime change in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria, leaving behind failed or deeply destabilized states.

But the Islamic Republic's harsh crackdown on protesters has severed the government's ties to several generations of Iranians, not only young people. Their parents' generation had been largely loyal to the revolution; in their own youth, middle-aged Iranians sought to reform the system from within rather than overthrow it. They elected politicians who promised not just material benefits but also greater tolerance toward different lifestyles.

Over the past two decades, Iranian reformists have tried with limited success to make the Islamic Republic more tolerant. Former President Mohammad Khatami, elected in 1997, pushed for "dialogue among civilizations" until he stepped down in 2005. President Hassan Rouhani, who served from 2013 until 2021, promised more moderate social policies, as well as repairing relations with the West and bringing an end to economic sanctions. Even former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, elected as a hardliner in 2005, later turned against his conservative benefactors and adopted his own style of reformism. Since leaving office in 2013, he has campaigned for greater individual liberties and abolition of the morality police (a step the regime has now taken).

In 2021, frustrated hardliners engineered the election of a deeply conservative cleric, current President Ebrahim Raisi, whose task would be to demonstrate to the public what true Islamic revolutionaries could deliver. A uniformly traditionalist government, the hardliners hoped, would deliver economic prosperity at home and cement Iran's position as a regional power, turning Iranians away from reform and rapprochement with the West.

When prosperity failed to materialise, the hardliners blamed Iran's poor economic performance on Western sanctions, neoliberal policies introduced by previous governments, and over-reliance on globalised markets. Some even blamed the ineffectual 2015 nuclear deal for the country's economic ills. Raisi, who won the presidency with only 18 million votes (out of an electorate of 59 million), lacks the mandate and the experience to deliver on his promises to reach a deal with the West, tame inflation, and stop the depreciation of the currency.

It follows, then, that Iranian conservatives were unprepared when the protests erupted. Tensions between young women and the authorities over forced hijab wearing have been bubbling for years, but conservatives paid little attention. In fact, hardliners had been pushing for increased surveillance of women in public spaces since 2019, before Raisi's election. Many thought it was time to reverse the lax enforcement of the 1983 hijab law that criminalised female attire deemed "un-Islamic." That doing so was inconsistent with the changing times, and that the dress code had already sparked protracted anti-hijab protests in Iran's more affluent urban neighbourhoods, did not seem to trigger alarm bells. What the regime missed is that Iranian society has changed since 1983, when most women observed the hijab law willingly. Many women lived very different lives back then; they experienced 6-8 pregnancies on average, did not seek work outside the home, and were not as highly educated. The pro-poor policies of the early Islamic revolutionaries provided electricity, clean water, and health services to rural and poor urban areas, transforming many women's lives. Today, however, women in Iran marry in their mid-to-late twenties and have two children on average. Thirty-eight per cent of Iranian women in their twenties have at least some higher education, compared to 33% of men in their age cohort. To them, the mere thought that they could be arrested and dragged to a re-education camp by the morality police is intolerable.

To his credit, Raisi, who promised to create a million jobs and a million new homes every year during his four-year term, has mainly focused on realising his ambitious economic goals. But during his first year in office, the economy added only 374,000 jobs. We do not have data on how many new homes were built during this time, but it seems safe to assume that it was far fewer than a million. A decade of economic failures has stoked even more anger among Iran's youth. Young Iranians graduating from college wait more than 2.5 years on average before landing their first job. In 2021, almost half of college-educated women in their twenties and a quarter of their male peers were unemployed. Most Iranians in their late twenties still live with their parents, financially unable to start a family of their own.

In trying to quell popular unrest, the authorities will likely find it was much easier to abolish the hated morality police than it will be to bring about robust economic growth. Given Iran's support for Russia's war in Ukraine, reviving the nuclear deal seems all but impossible, as does the prospect of Iran rejoining the global economy anytime soon.

The writer is Professor of Economics at Virginia Tech.

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Djavad Salehi-Isfahani

What the regime missed is that Iranian society has changed since 1983, when most women observed the hijab law willingly



Kaushik Basu

POLITICAL TRENDS IN RECENT YEARS INDICATE THAT VOTERS' IDEOLOGICAL PREFERENCES ARE NOT NECESSARILY EXOGENOUS, BUT RATHER CREATED AND FOSTERED OVER TIME

The state of global politics has economists, political scientists, and political philosophers floundering. We are witnessing a level of polarisation rarely seen. From Turkey, Brazil, and the Philippines to Sri Lanka, India, and the United States, the center has not held, because people have either veered left or clustered around figures on the far right.

In authoritarian countries, such as North Korea and China, one usually cannot see authentic public expression of political demands. Yet the politics are still there, and they can become apparent during periods of severe strain, as is happening with the widespread backlash in China against the government's zero-COVID policy. Such moments suggest that the opposition is much larger than it may have seemed.

In any case, political polarisation tends to nurture authoritarianism and empower self-aggrandising demagogues who are skilled at rallying their followers behind hyper-nationalist causes. We have seen this dynamic play out to tragic effect with Russian President Vladimir Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine, and with the crackdown on minorities in Myanmar by the military junta.

All this poses a challenge to global stability, and calls for corrective policy interventions that straddle law, economics, and politics. However, it is not clear what those interventions should look like. We first must step back to consider what is underpinning the polarisation in the first place.

One interesting hint comes from the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Mainstream economics tells us that people's goals and ambitions are "exogenously" given, meaning they are hardwired into us. We want more and better food, clothes, cars, electronic gadgets, and so on. And since getting them requires money, people naturally strive to earn more and build up greater wealth. Yet what is not recog-

FOCUS IDEOLOGY

VOTERS & FANS



Today's deepening political polarisation calls into question longstanding assumptions about how electoral politics works. Far from exhibiting hardwired preferences and ambitions, many voters seem to be more like ardent World Cup spectators, viewing victory over the other side as an end in itself

nised – even though prominent past thinkers from Thorstein Veblen to Tibor Scitovsky were acutely aware of it – is that many of our ambitions are endogenously created. Rather than being born with them, we acquire and cultivate them along the way.

Sports offer a perfect example of this. Though professional footballers get monetary rewards when they succeed, they would still try to win as many matches as possible even without that incentive. Scoring a goal is the ultimate aim. Even if one believes that the prospect of more money does drive some athletes to push themselves to the limit, what about the fans who travel great distances and commit inordinate amounts of time and money to the game? The desire to see "their team" win is an end in itself – a created target.

The lengths to which fans will go was evident recently in India, when a fight broke out between supporters of Brazil and Argentina. These were ordinary Indians with no connection to either country. Yet there they were, ready to scrap and risk their safety

for an acquired cause. If nothing else, a soccer brawl is another exhibition of polarisation.

Today's political polarization calls into question longstanding assumptions about how electoral politics works. Consider the American mathematician Harold Hotelling's seminal 1929 paper, which deeply influenced our understanding of electoral democracy and led to the influential "median voter theorem" (absorbed into political science by Duncan Black and Anthony Downs). According to Hotelling and the theorists he inspired, if you assume that people have exogenously given political preferences – spanning from extreme left to extreme right – it is easy to see how two political parties might maneuver to get the most votes. The right-wing party will move leftward on some issues, knowing that right-wing voters will still support it; and the left-wing party will do the same from the other direction.

In theory, then, the equilibrium will feature a clustering around the middle, where one finds half the voters from the left and half

of those from the right – the very definition of the median. Hence, electoral democracy supposedly leads political parties to appease the median voter, a tendency that affords the country a great deal of political stability, even if it also makes politics dull.

But political trends in recent years indicate that voters' ideological preferences are not necessarily exogenous, but rather created and fostered over time. After a voter decides to support Democrats or Republicans, that voter's partisan commitment will gradually acquire the character of sports fandom. Republican voters want Republicans to win, and Democrats want Democrats to win, not because they are expecting some fundamental change in their lives, but because they want to beat the other side. Scoring goals is an end in itself.

Acknowledging this endogeneity of preferences could open up new avenues for analysing politics and polarisation. Among other things, it implies that political parties do not just try to garner the support of voters with pre-existing preferences. Rather, they strategise to create those preferences. As we have seen, this can lead to vile forms of political competition, especially in an age of social-media filter bubbles that segregate news consumers and are designed to exploit their biases.

Escaping this trap will probably require novel forms of regulation. But since the most promising solutions are not yet evident, we had better start thinking creatively about what it will take to protect democratic institutions and the social fabric in an age when preferences have never been easier to manipulate.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

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SPECTRUM RECRUITMENTS

It's time to abolish outsourcing system

Recently, the Odisha government abolished the prevailing contractual system in government recruitment. As a result, the jobs of 57,000 people working in various departments on contractual basis for years became regularised. In the neo-liberal era, this is certainly an important policy decision in the interest of the general public and its impact is bound to be felt across the country. That is why soon after this announcement, the governments of Rajasthan and Punjab also declared similar steps to abolish contractual system in government services.

Bhalachandra Shadangi

OUTSOURCING SYSTEM IS THE MOST EXPLOITATIVE SYSTEM OF EMPLOYMENT

There is no doubt the Odisha government has taken a historic decision. But it will be improper to give the sole credit to the government. Because the severe dissatisfaction prevailing among the contractual employees for years together and their growing demand to regularise their jobs played a major role behind such a decision. Though the government is claiming that the contractual system has now become history in the state, in reality it is still continuing. Only a section of it is abolished. Nearly two lakh contractual employees (outsourced from different agencies) working in various departments of the state are still not regularised. Though they are serving for years with very little salary and without any social security, the gov-

ernment has not shown any favour to them. The government has not even announced any measures to improve their present service condition. Many of them particularly the class IV employees are not even getting minimum wage declared by the government.

Although the government has introduced the outsourcing and contractual system from 2002, there was no legal sanction for it till 2013. The Contractual Services Rules 2013 was framed to legalise it. This rule divided the contractual employees working in government services into two categories. While under Category I contractual employees are recruited directly by the government, under Category II contractual engagements are made through manpower provider agencies. Though officially the government considers both categories as contract employees, it has regularised only the first category. This decision is discriminatory.

Outsourcing system is the most exploitative system of employment. It is worse than the contractual system where there is every possibility of regularisation in future. But in outsourcing, forget regularisation, the government is not even considering them as its employees. They are working under the government for years together without any job security or regular salary hike. Since they

are employed by various private manpower agencies the continuity of their job is subject to the renewable of the contract between the government and the agency. Since the service contract is for one or two years and at best it can be renewed for another one year, the fear of losing job remains from the very beginning itself. The government gets its work done at the lowest possible cost by engaging these employees but it has no responsibility for their well-being. It is extracting maximum output by giving only a meagre salary. The government saves its money by engaging at least 4-6 outsourced employees for the salary of one regular employee.

While the regular employees have their dearness allowances, the outsourced employees' salaries are generally not increased for years. Unlike government employees, they are not given weekly paid leave on Sundays and other festivals including national holidays. The policy of 'no work, no pay' is practiced. The most shameful thing is that while the government provides maternity leave benefits to its women employees, it is denying the same to the outsourced female employees. As a result, many outsourced female employees lose their jobs during maternity.

The service provider agencies often do not pay the salary of these

employees for months together. Many times they do not deposit their share of contribution for the EPF and the ESI. The government deducts 18% from their monthly salary as GST. This is nothing but direct robbery of employees. Despite repeated demands, the government is neither exempting them from GST nor providing them with additional amount towards payment of GST.

In spite of their tireless services for years, the government shows no intention to end their miserable conditions. Because of their low salary and rising prices of goods and commodities, most of them are forced to engage themselves in alternative works. Many times they are seen leaving their jobs in the midst. They are accountable to both the service provider agency and the government authorities and have to work under constant fear of losing their jobs. Such conditions affect their efficiency and the quality of service they provide.

Like the contractual system, the government must abolish this inhuman outsourcing system of recruitment. Outsourced employees working under the government should be declared as regular employees and should be provided with all facilities.

The writer is an Odisha-based columnist who writes on contemporary issues.

WISDOM CORNER

- “ Action is the foundational key to all success. ” PABLO PICASSO
- “ Let come what comes, let go what goes. See what remains. ” RAMANA MAHARSHI
- “ It always seems impossible until it's done. ” NELSON MANDELA

WORDSWORTH

Deray

It may not at once come to mind, but this archaic word is a close cousin of array. The ending in both cases is a Germanic root that means to prepare or get ready. To array originally meant to place in readiness or to prepare – troops arrayed for battle were ready with all their equipment; to deray was almost its opposite, meaning to provoke disorder, disturbance, tumult or confusion. You won't know the verb, as it vanished from the language in the fourteenth century. The noun lasted a little longer but likewise disappeared, only to be dragged back into use in the early nineteenth century as what the Oxford English Dictionary describes paradoxically as "a modern archaism". The fixed phrase dancing and deray outlasted other appearances of the word, though it is now defunct as well; it meant disorderly mirth and revelry at a dance or some similar festivity.

Extended neighbours

Sir, A day-long NSA-level summit was held between India and Central Asian countries Tuesday. Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Turkmenistan, Tadjhikistan, and Uzbekistan were part of the summit. Terrorism, the situation in Afghanistan, and the importance of connectivity projects were the central topics discussed at the summit. All the parties agreed to work collectively on terror funding, cross-border terrorism, and abuse of cyberspace. They also made a common consensus on Afghanistan and decided to restrain Afghanistan from turning into a hub of terrorism. Everyone promised to work in a collaborative and collective manner for the peace of the region. This meeting is the result of the first India-Central Asia summit held in January this year. India since the recent past has been trying to maintain good ties with five Central Asian countries. These nations possess enormous relevance for India in terms of security and business interests. India needs these extended neighbours in maintaining peace and restarting India's projects in Afghanistan and strategic help in global trade.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Mass extinction

Sir, About 443 million years ago, there was the first mass extinction. All of the Earth's water began to freeze into ice in this period. In the sea and beyond, creatures began perishing. About 86 species become extinct during this time. The people that survived had to change their lifestyles to fit into the new environment. The planet has experienced five mass extinction events, the last one occurring 65.5 million years ago which wiped out the dinosaurs from existence. Experts now believe we're in the midst of a sixth mass extinction. What are the six extinctions of Earth? i) Ordovician-Silurian Extinction - during this extinction, the life of small aquatic organisms ended; ii) Devonian Extinction - it marks the extinction of tropical marine life forms; iii) Permian-Triassic Extinction; iv) Triassic-Jurassic Extinction; v) Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction. The sixth mass extinction is also called the Anthropocene extinction, which means that the activities of humans are the reason for the mass extinction of a large number of living species. This mass extinction event is due to human intervention. Scientists say at present, we humans are moving towards the sixth mass extinction, which will be caused by climate change, global warming and pollution which are manmade. If this is not checked in time, humans have no future.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national



“You have seen that if the opposition raises its voice, because of the majority, the ruling party passes bills forcefully without even voting. They don't accept reports of standing committees or select committees. We are afraid whether our parliamentary democracy will persevere and its prestige and respect which has been preserved till now will be protected”

MAMATA BANERJEE | BENGAL CM

AIMING HIGH

India has put in place appropriate measures to manage the increasing space debris in low earth orbit comprising defunct satellites, discarded rocket stages and other orbital trash, Union minister Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha Wednesday



of the day uote

The BJP is stoking the border dispute with Karnataka as part of a conspiracy to divide Maharashtra

NANA PATOLE | MAHA CONGRESS CHIEF

I'm not upset about Muslim name being added to my name and being called Siddaramulla Khan. We have the heritage of Shishunala Sharif, a disciple of Govinda Bhat, poet Kabir, a disciple of Saint Ramananda. So, they (BJP) have rewarded my belief in secularism by attaching Muslim name to my name

SIDDARAMAIAH | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

Exactly when we (TRS) came (to power in Telangana), Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in the country. Has even one good thing happened? If it has, then in which sector? Is it in irrigation? electricity? drinking water? He is good at making dialogues. Make in India. What is Make in India? Have industries come? Diwali firecrackers burst by children come from China? Is this Make in India?

K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM

ASSEMBLY POLL RESULTS TODAY

BJP eyeing new records, Cong, AAP keep fingers crossed

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad/Shimla, Dec 7: The BJP is eyeing a record seventh straight term in Gujarat and also hoping to buck the anti-incumbency trend in Himachal Pradesh witnessed for nearly four decades as the stage is set for counting of votes Thursday for the Assembly elections in the two states.

Simultaneously, votes polled in by-elections in six assembly constituencies in five states and the high-profile Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh, where the opposition Samajwadi Party is locked in a battle for prestige with the BJP, will be also counted.

Exit polls have predicted a big majority for the Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) in Gujarat and if these projections are any indication the saffron party is all set to retain power in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for the seventh consecutive term and equal Left Front's feat in West Bengal. The CPI(M)-led Front ruled the eastern

EC reviews preparations

New Delhi: The counting of votes will commence at 8 am Thursday with prohibitory orders in place around counting halls to ensure peace and tranquility. Postal ballots received before 8 am on counting day are taken up for counting, the poll panel reminded. After a gap of 30 minutes from the commencement of counting of postal ballot papers, counting of votes for electronic voting machines (EVMs) will commence at 8.30 am. The EVM counting will continue irrespective of the stage of postal ballot counting, it said.

stake and Thursday's results will show if the party's 'silent campaign' has cut ice with people. Congress holds power only in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, both of which will go to polls in 2023, and party insiders say that any hopes for the party's revival has to start state for 34 years from 1977 to 2011.

The poll outcome will determine if the Aam Aadmi Party(AAP) gets a chance to establish itself as a pan-national party and a challenger to the BJP at the national level also

The BJP, which won 99 seats in the 2017 polls, is projected to win in the range of 117-151 seats in a House of 182 and the Congress between 16 and 51 seats. It is also upbeat about the possibility of the AAP eating into Congress votes, which could be additionally beneficial for the saffron party.

The best showing for the BJP in Gujarat came in 2002 when the party had won 127 seats in the 182-member state assembly.

The poll outcome will determine if the Aam Aadmi Party(AAP) gets a chance to establish itself as a pan-national party and a challenger to the BJP at the national level also. The AAP, which is in power in Delhi and Punjab and had launched an aggressive campaign to make it a three-cornered contest for the first time in Gujarat, was projected to bag anything between 2 and 13 seats. The majority mark is 92.

For the Congress, its role as the main challenger to the BJP is at

While Modi led the BJP poll campaign holding several rallies and mega road shows in Gujarat, Home Minister Shah was in the state for almost two months, micro-managing the campaign and the election strategy.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took time off his Bharat Jodo Yatra to address two rallies in Gujarat where Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot led the party's campaign. The new party chief Mallikarjun Kharge also addressed poll rallies.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal steered an aggressive campaign for the AAP, holding several rallies and road shows in the last five months.

In Himachal Pradesh, it could be the Congress' turn to form the next government if one went by the state's "riwaaq(tradition) and long history of voting out the incumbent government."



ON CLOUD NINE: Students in jubilant mood during the 9th convocation of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Bihta near Patna, Bihar

No proposal to alter existing reservation scheme, says govt

In a landmark verdict November 7, the top court upheld the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections in admissions and government jobs that excluded the poor among the SC/ST/OBC categories



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 7: There is no proposal to alter the existing reservation scheme, the government said Wednesday, a month after the Supreme Court upheld 10 per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections in admissions and government jobs.

Justice and Empowerment Pratima Bhoumik said this in Lok Sabha while responding to a question about the Centre's plans on relaxing the 50 per cent ceiling limit for reservations following the SC verdict and increasing reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) beyond 27 per cent. "There is no proposal to alter the existing reservation scheme,"

FCRA licence of 6,677 NGOs cancelled in 5 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: The FCRA registration of 6,677 NGOs were cancelled by the government between 2017 and 2021, the Rajya Sabha was informed Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the registration of these NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, were cancelled for violation of various provisions of the law.

He said these NGOs will not be eligible for registration or grant of prior permission for a period of three years from the date of cancellation of registration. The FCRA registration of 755 NGOs were cancelled in Tamil Nadu, followed by 734 in Maharashtra, 635 in Uttar Pradesh, 622 in Andhra Pradesh and 611 in West Bengal, he said replying to a written question.



The minister said FCRA license of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) was cancelled under section 14, and violation of provisions under 11 and section 12(4)(a)(vi) of the FCRA. The FCRA license was cancelled under section 14 (not being engaged in any reasonable activity in its chosen field for the benefit of the society for two consecutive years or has become defunct), for violation of provisions under section 11 (no person having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme shall accept foreign contribution unless such person obtains a certificate of registration from the central government) and section 12(4)(a)(vi) (not to use foreign contribution for personal gains and divert it for undesirable purposes).

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SHORT TAKES

Charas, drug pills found inside jail

Mumbai: Charas and drug pills have been recovered from the high security Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai, following which police have registered a case, an official said. A polythene bag stuffed with 134 grams of charas and half-a-dozen drug pills was found November 30 near barrack no. 11 where undertrials arrested in sensitive cases are lodged, the police official said. The drugs were spotted by a jail constable.

Girl paraded with garland of shoes

Betul: A Class 5 girl student was allegedly paraded with a garland of shoes by the superintendent of a hostel on the suspicion of stealing money, prompting the Betul district administration in Madhya Pradesh to order a probe into it, an official said. The incident took place last week at a government tribal girls' hostel in Damjipura village. The girl's family members went to the office of district Collector Amanveer Singh Bains Tuesday to complain about it. After hearing the complaint of the girl's father, Bains said he has ordered an inquiry based on which action will be initiated.

U'Khand HC imposes ₹50,000 fine on FB

Nainital (U'Khand): The Uttarakhand High Court Wednesday imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Facebook for not replying to its notice in connection with the alleged misuse of the platform by some people for extortion. A division bench of the court comprising Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice R C Khulbe imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the social networking site and set it a fresh deadline of February 16 to file its reply. The court was hearing a PIL alleging that fake IDs were being created on Facebook and friend requests sent through them.

Man carries wife's body on shoulder

Chamarajanagar: A heart-wrenching incident of a man carrying the body of his wife in a gunny bag on shoulder, as he was unable to afford transportation, has come to light in Karnataka's Chamarajanagar district Wednesday. The deceased was identified as 26-year-old Kalamma.



J&K: Amid sub-zero temp, new design of 'Pheran' is a hit

PHERAN IS USED NOT ONLY BY THE RESIDENTS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, BUT ALSO BY THE TOURISTS VISITING J&K FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS ABROAD

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Dec 7: Jammu and Kashmir is famous all over the world for its precious beauty as well as unique clothes. As soon as winter sets in, the people of Kashmir start wearing their special traditional dress, 'Pheran'.

'Pheran' is not only an important culture of Kashmir, but also a necessity during winters.

Even in this modern era of fashion design, this traditional Kashmiri dress has been successful in maintaining its unique identity. Pheran is used not only by the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, but also by the tourists visiting J&K from other parts of the country as well as abroad.

Leading historian Zarif Ahmad Zarif, referring to 'Pheran' as

'Super' during winters, said the special clothing was known as 'Pirahan' or 'Paraban' in Persian.

"Now Pheran has become an important part of Kashmir's culture. Winters in the Valley are inescapable, especially without Pheran and Kangri," he said.

It is worth mentioning that many times a ban was imposed on the use of Kashmiri Pheran in government offices, but the same was lifted every time.

In the modern era, with new requirements of the time, Pheran has also undergone many changes. Now, along with Pheran made of cotton, Pheran made of Chinese cloth is also being introduced which is known as 'Raglan'.

And the trend of this new style of Pheran is catching up with



the people with each passing day. There is a rush of buyers in the markets for the new variant.

A businessman in Srinagar, who deals in furs, said that on an average, five to 10 furs are sold from his shop every day. He said now the buyers are preferring Pherans made of Chinese cloth instead of the Pheran made of 'pattu'.

A buyer said that the new Pheran available in the market is very attractive, which he can wear comfortably even during office hours.

"It is very difficult to survive the winters without Pheran in the Valley. Even the tourists who come to the Valley wear Pheran," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, cold wave conditions in Kashmir intensified

Wednesday as the mercury continued its southward journey at most places, officials said.

At minus 5.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in the Union Territory, they said.

Srinagar, which had recorded the coldest night of the season at minus 3.4 degrees Celsius Sunday, witnessed a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius Tuesday, slightly down from minus 2.2 degrees Celsius Monday, an official of the Met department here said in a statement.

The night temperature was lower at the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, which recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius, a slight drop from minus 3.5 degrees Celsius recorded Tuesday.

Tiger carcass found hanging from tree

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panna/Bhopal, Dec 7: The carcass of a tiger ensnared using a clutch cable was found hanging from a tree near the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, a forest official said Wednesday.

The clutch wire (used in vehicles) is generally used by poachers to trap animals, the official said, adding they suspect a trap was laid for some other animal and the tiger got trapped in it.

Forest officials Tuesday night got information that a tiger carcass was found hanging from a tree in Tilgwa beat's compartment no. 460 in the north forest division near the Panna Tiger Reserve following which a team of forest personnel reached the spot, he said.

It is a mystery how the heavy tiger, about two-year-old, got trapped in the wire and hung from a tree, the official said. A dog squad was also pressed into service, the official said. Forest officials appealed to locals to share any information they have related to the tiger's death.

Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh BJP president and Khajuraho Lok Sabha member Vishnu Dutt Sharma, under whose constituency Panna district falls, spoke to officials of the forest department, the collector and the superintendent of police and ordered strict action against the guilty.



3 yrs after SC order, work yet to start on Ayodhya's mosque

A pothole-riddled road breaking off from the highway leads to Dhannipur village, where narrow roads lined with houses give way to the large vacant plot of land for the mosque demarcated by barbed wire fence



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya (UP), Dec 7: Barbed-wire fencing and a board put up by the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation are the only indicators that a large mosque complex is set to come up at this spot in Dhannipur village near Ayodhya. The board bears an illustration of the proposed mosque for which the Supreme Court had ordered allocation of a five-acre plot.

But three years after the apex court settled the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute, there are no signs of any building activity on the proposed mosque site.

The Ayodhya Development Authority is yet to approve the trust's proposal. But the trust expects that this will now happen soon.

"We have submitted a detailed map of the proposed complex to Ayodhya Development Authority. Its clearance was earlier delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have now informed us that all the hurdles in the clearance of the map are being ironed out," Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation Secretary Athar Hussain told PTI.

The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation is a trust tasked by the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board with the mosque's construction.

The Supreme Court's 2019 verdict paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the site where the 16th century Babri Masjid -- demolished by 'kar sevaks' December 6, 1992 -- stood. It also ordered the allocation of a five-acre plot to the Muslim community for a new mosque.

A pothole-riddled road breaking off from the Lucknow-Faizabad highway leads to Dhannipur village, 16 km from the district headquarters. Narrow roads lined with houses, a veterinary hospital and a new farmers' centre give way to the large vacant plot of land, demarcated for the mosque.

Until recently, the land was used for farming. It now has a 10-foot-high barbed wire fence running along the perimeter.

Construction will progress as soon as the map is cleared. Till we get the clearance, it will be too early to tell anything about the timeline, Hussain said.

The trust was expecting clearance from the development authority by November-end to begin

'Delhi's verdict a message for nation'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 7: After the Aam Aadmi Party Wednesday clinched a clear majority in the Municipal Corporation election, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the verdict was a message for the whole country to do positive politics.

While addressing the party members at AAP headquarters here, Kejriwal said the people were fed up with the negative politics and will not tolerate that anymore.

"We don't believe in negative politics and don't do the politics of abusing one another. We had asked the vote in the name of good governance, better education system and healthcare and for the honest government, and the people have blessed us with their support," Kejriwal said.

"We have bettered the Delhi government and now people have given mandate to improve the MCD also. We congratulate the people of Delhi for showing trust in us," he said.

Kejriwal also sought the blessings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Centre to make Delhi clean and garbage free. He said, "Now the politics should end here and we all have to work collectively to make Delhi clean and garbage free and for this we would need support from the Centre also."

"I want the cooperation of the BJP and the Congress to work for Delhi now. I appeal to the Centre and ask for the PM's blessings to make Delhi better. We have to make MCD corruption-free. Today, the people of Delhi have given a message to the entire nation."

The existing system of 'corruption and bribery' in the MCD will have to end now, said the Delhi CM, adding, "We would need



A child dressed as AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal and participated in the celebration of AAP's victory at the party office in New Delhi, Wednesday

I want the cooperation of the BJP and the Congress to work for Delhi now. I appeal to the Centre and ask for the PM's blessings to make Delhi better. We have to make MCD corruption-free. Today, the people of Delhi have given a message to the entire nation

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | CHIEF MINISTER, DELHI

support from all of you irrespective of parties."

"I want to congratulate all those councillors who have won the MCD election irrespective of parties as we all have to work together for Delhi. Those who couldn't get victory should not be

worried as we would take their support to make Delhi a clean city," Kejriwal said.

"Delhi had given us the responsibility to improve the schools, for the betterment of hospitals, to provide electricity for 24 hours, and we worked hard day and night to

fulfil their expectations. Now through this mandate, people have given us the responsibility to make Delhi clean and corruption free, we thank the public of Delhi for entrusting such faith in us," Kejriwal said, while addressing his party workers.

Mayor's election an open race: BJP

The AAP may have won the majority in the MCD polls but the BJP suggested Wednesday that the mayor's election is still an open game and noted that Chandigarh, where the its rival was the largest party, has a mayor from BJP ranks. "Now over to electing a mayor for Delhi. It will all depend on who can hold the numbers in a close contest, which way the nominated councillors vote etc. Chandigarh has a BJP mayor, for instance," BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said in a tweet. Delhi BJP spokesperson Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga also claimed that the city will again have a mayor from his party. The BJP, which exit polls predicted would suffer a massive defeat, put up a spirited fight, winning 104 wards.

MCD GETS 1ST TRANSGENDER COUNCILLOR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Sultanpuri's Bobi, who Wednesday shattered the proverbial glass ceiling to become the MCD's first councillor from the transgender community, believes her victory was a celebration of the change in society towards transpersons.

Bobi defeated the Congress' Varuna Dhaka by 6,714 votes to win from Sultanpuri-A ward.

"Aaj meri khushi ka thikana hai nahin... (My happiness knows no bounds today). This is a celebration of the victory of change and people are becoming more accepting of people like me," she told PTI.

"The mentality is changing. I would say the mentality of 70 per cent of people has changed, I will change during my tenure as councillor," Bobi said.



Bobi was only 15 when her family handed her over to a 'gurujii' from the transgender community under societal pressure.

Having had to drop out of school when she was in Class 9 because of bullying and harassment, she will now be the first transgender member of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Bobi wants to beautify her constituency and improve the lives of her neighbours.



CHILL-OUT: A sloth bear rests at an Agra Bear Rescue Facility, started by Wildlife SOS in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, in Agra, Wednesday

UP is a model for the whole world, says Melinda Gates

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Dec 7: Melinda Gates, Co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), said Wednesday that Uttar Pradesh is not just a model for India, but for the entire world.

Melinda Gates met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the latter's official residence Wednesday and discussed enhancing technical cooperation in the fields of health, nutrition and agriculture.

After the meeting, Adityanath

tweeted, "Had a wonderful meeting with co-chair and trustee of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at my official residence in Lucknow today. We had a fruitful discussion regarding better technical cooperation in the fields of health, nutrition, social security and agriculture in UP."

During the meeting, Gates lauded the work done by Uttar Pradesh government in recent years, underlining the Covid management and encephalitis control despite a dense population.

Amid the challenges of Covid, the way the state leadership tackled



the issue of dense population and various social challenges is highly commendable, she said.

Uttar Pradesh is a model not only for India, but for the whole world, she said.

Gates also congratulated women's self-help groups (SHGs) for the suc-

cess of the nutrition mission and praised the efforts being made to increase the income of farmers by promoting the formation of FPOs in the largest agricultural state of the country.

The Chief Minister said that he has closely seen the works of the BMGF, which has made a commendable contribution to the field of health and nutrition.

Uttar Pradesh received logistics and technical support from the Foundation amid the challenges of Covid. The Chief Minister said, Uttar Pradesh has achieved satis-

factory success in health and nutrition in recent years. About 95 per cent of the deaths of innocent children caused by a disease like encephalitis have been controlled. Besides, the Foundation has cooperated with us for effective control of communicable diseases like Chikungunya and Kala-azar. We have received good cooperation from global organisations such as UNICEF, WHO, BMGF and PATH in the field of public health, including in controlling various waterborne diseases such as encephalitis, as well as Covid management.

Youth makes 6-seater e-bicycle, impresses Mahindra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Azamgarh (UP), Dec 7: A 22-year-old youth, Asad Abdullah, has developed a six-seater electric cycle that has gone viral on social media after Anand Mahindra, chairman of Mahindra Group, tweeted a small video of the cycle.

The video posted by him December 1 has crossed 1 million views. Mahindra tagged the chief design officer, auto sector of his company asking if this device could find global application.

In a tweet, Anand Mahindra said, "With just small design inputs, (cylindrical sections for the chassis) this device could find global application. "As a tour 'bus' in crowded European tourist centres," Mahindra further wrote "I'm always impressed by rural transport innovations, where necessity



With just small design inputs, this device could find global application. I'm always impressed by rural transport innovations, where necessity is the mother of invention

ANAND MAHINDRA | CHAIRMAN, MAHINDRA GROUP

is the mother of invention." Asad Abdullah said that with petrol, prices going up, it came to

his mind to develop an electric cycle in which six people can be accommodated.

"I used scrap material and the motor of an old battery-operated, two-wheeler. It took me almost a

month, incurring a cost of around Rs 10,000-12,000. I want to make it commercial and sell it to others at an affordable price," he said.

Asad Abdullah has done ITI training in electrical. He said, "I have used a lithium battery. Once fully charged, it can run 150 km at a speed of 40 km per hour. You can charge the battery in five hours by spending Rs 8 to 10. This electric cycle has become the centre of attraction for locals and is increasingly catching eyeballs. Curious onlookers take pictures and videos and post them on social media."

Asad said he will try to get its patent now. He further said, "With little R&D, further improvisation can be done and can be introduced in village areas as a cheap mode of transportation for five people with a driver. I am glad that people are liking it on social media and circulating it widely"

Racist: Delhi HC rejects PIL for deportation of Africans

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 7: Terming it "racist", the Delhi High Court Wednesday rejected a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking police verification of passports of all people from Africa as well as Bangladeshis residing in the city after accusing them of being drug peddlers.

A division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad said that all these people are human beings and have valid passports.

"There is no research done by you. What is the basis of this? These comments can be termed racist. Sorry, there is nothing in this," it said.

The PIL filed by advocate Sushil Kumar Jain alleged that most

Africans in the city are into the drug peddling business and it is affecting the youth and their future. He claimed that such foreign nationals are directly spoiling the social and economic structure of the country.

He also stated in the plea that these foreigners take a student or medical visa and commit illegal acts like smuggling drugs, human trafficking, and cyber fraud.

"Many of the foreigners taking student visas and medical visas involve in illegal acts, crime like drug smuggling, human trafficking, and cyber fraud. Due to prostitution prevailing has been supporting (sic) in the spread of AIDS and many other sexually transmitted diseases in Delhi," the plea said.

national

of the day quote

14 persons belonging to minorities including three Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since January, 2022 till November 30, 2022

NITYANAND RAI | MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

We have already travelled in Hyderabad, Karnataka, central Karnataka, some coastal district and Belagavi regions, we are getting a huge response. Looking at public support, it is beyond our expectations. We are confident that this Jana Sankalpa Yatra will convert into Vijaya Sankalpa in the days to come

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | K'TAKA CHIEF MINISTER

Kerala aspires to become a 100 per cent renewable energy based state by 2040 and a net carbon neutral by 2050. We have taken several path breaking initiatives to pave the way for an inclusive and sustainable development strategy that is sensitive to climate change

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

SHORT TAKES

ATS recovers mephedrone

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has recovered 24.28 kg of mephedrone or MD drug worth ₹121.40 crore from the residence of a chemist in Vadodara city, officials said Wednesday. The recovery Tuesday came days after the seizure of mephedrone and its raw material worth ₹478 crore from a manufacturing unit on the outskirts of Vadodara city. The latest stock of the stimulant drug was seized by the ATS from the residence of one Shailesh Kataria, who was among five persons held during a raid on the night of November 29 at a factory in Sindhrot village of Vadodara district.

Encounter breaks out at J&K's Shopian

Srinagar: An encounter started between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district Wednesday, officials said. "Encounter has started at Watho area of Shopian. Police and security forces are on the job," police said. The firefight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area. After security forces cordoned off the area, terrorists hiding there started firing, drawing retaliation by the security forces.

Cyclonic storm likely, TN braces for rain

Chennai: The depression over Bay of Bengal intensified into a deep depression and lay about 750 kilometres off Chennai Wednesday, and it would develop into a cyclonic storm influencing moderate to heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The well-marked low pressure area over southeast Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression December 6 evening over the same region and further intensified into a deep depression, and lay about 750 km east-southeast of Chennai, the IMD said.

Three killed as car rams into truck

Jaipur: Three people were killed and two others were injured in a collision between a truck and a car in Rajasthan's Tonk district, police said Wednesday. The car travelling from Deoli. The injured have been referred to Jaipur for treatment.



The Congress has people with different views and there is no environment of fear
JAIRAM RAMESH | RS MEMBER

SC MOBILE APP 2.0 LAUNCHED

The Supreme Court Wednesday launched android version 2.0 of its mobile application, which will give access to law officers and nodal officers of various union ministries to watch court proceedings real time



Delhi High Court recognises woman's choice to give birth

The HC allowed an eight-month pregnant woman to undergo medical termination of pregnancy



court holds that the ultimate decision in such cases ought to recognise the choice of the mother as also the possibility of a dignified life of the unborn child...This court holds that medical termination of pregnancy ought to be permitted in the present case," the court ruled.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: The Delhi High Court Tuesday said the "ultimate decision" in matters of abortion ought to recognise a woman's choice to give birth and the possibility of dignified life of the unborn child while allowing a 26-year-old married woman to undergo medical termination of her 33-week pregnancy. Justice Prathiba M Singh observed that while the right of a pregnant woman to terminate her pregnancy has been the subject matter of debate across the world, India recognises the choice of a woman in its law. In the present case,

the petitioner sought to terminate her pregnancy after she found out that the foetus was suffering from certain cerebral abnormalities.

The judge, while permitting the woman to immediately undergo medical termination of pregnancy, noted that the medical board unfortunately did not give a "categorical opinion" on the degree of handicap or the quality of the life of the foetus after birth and thus opined that "such unpredictability ought to weigh in favour of the woman seeking termination of pregnancy". "In conclusion, the

"The right of a pregnant woman to terminate her pregnancy or abort her foetus has been the subject matter of debate across the world. This right gives the woman the ultimate choice as to whether she wants to give birth to the child she has conceived. India is among the countries which recognises this choice of a woman in its law," the court said. The court said that in the present case, it was able to gauge the mental trauma affecting the parents as well as their economic and social condition, and the petitioner was taking an informed decision to terminate her pregnancy after weighing all factors.



TOUCHING THE SKY: Indian Air Force's aerobatic team 'Sarang' performs during the full dress rehearsal ahead of the 11th Reunion and 262nd Corps Day of ASC, at ASC centre & college in Bangalore, Karnataka

SC asks for records on note ban

THE APEX COURT WEDNESDAY DIRECTED THE CENTRE AND THE RBI TO SUBMIT RELEVANT RECORDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S 2016 DEMONETISATION DECISION FOR ITS PERUSAL

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 7: The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to put on record relevant records relating to the government's 2016 decision to demonetise currency notes of ₹1000 and ₹500 denomination for its perusal.

Reserving its verdict on a batch of pleas challenging the Centre's 2016 decision, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer heard the submissions from Attorney General R Venkataramani, RBI's counsel, and the petitioners' lawyers, including senior advocates P Chidambaram and Shyam Divan. The top court directed the parties to file written submissions by December 10.

"Heard. Judgement reserved. Learned counsels of the Union of India and Reserve Bank of India are directed to produce the relevant records" the bench, also compris-



■ THE AG SUBMITTED BEFORE THE BENCH THAT HE WILL SUBMIT RELEVANT RECORDS IN A SEALED COVER. THE TOP COURT WAS HEARING A BATCH OF 58 PETITIONS CHALLENGING THE DEMONETISATION ANNOUNCED BY THE CENTRE NOVEMBER 8, 2016

■ THE CENTRE HAD TOLD THE TOP COURT THAT THE DECISION WAS ONE OF THE CRITICAL STEPS IN THE SERIES OF TRANSFORMATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY STEPS AND THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE RBI AND ADVANCE PREPARATIONS

ing Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna, said.

The AG submitted before the bench that he will submit relevant records in a sealed cover. The top court was hearing a batch of 58 pe-

titions challenging the demonetisation announced by the Centre November 8, 2016.

The apex court had Tuesday said that limited scope of a judicial review in economic policy matters does not mean that the court

BORDER ROW K'taka suspends bus services to Maha



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belagavi (K'taka), Dec 7: The North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) Wednesday suspended its services to Maharashtra after reports emerged of some buses being defaced and damaged in the regions bordering Belagavi district.

Both states have voiced out concerns regarding Belagavi with Maharashtra staking claim that the region should be merged with it while Karnataka has reiterated its jurisdiction over the area.

"We are operating our buses only up to Nipani (in Belagavi district) due to tension, which has been there since morning," an officer in the North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation told PTI. According to him, a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation bus that was coming from Maharashtra to Ranabennur was also damaged.

"The glasses of the bus were damaged. Other than this incident, some buses were defaced," the officer added.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike again held agi-

tations in the border regions following the defacement of buses. The activists said that they will also retaliate with similar vigour if the buses were targeted. In view of the tension resurfacing in the border region, the police on both sides tightened security. Buses were provided extra security to protect the vehicles and the passengers.

The row over the region started after two Maharashtra ministers Chandrakant Patil and Shambhuraj Desai, who have been appointed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to coordinate with the legal team dealing with the border dispute, announced their visit to Belagavi December 6.

Following vehement protests by the pro-Kannada organisations in Maharashtra, the duo postponed their trip. In reaction, there were protests in the western state as well. Maharashtra has been demanding the merger of Belagavi on the ground that there is a substantial Marathi-speaking population in the border district. However, the Karnataka government rejected their claim. The neighbouring state has approached the Supreme Court as well.

3 more held in Coimbatore car blast case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Dec 7: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday arrested three more persons in connection with the car bomb blast in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore October 23 in which a 29-year-old man, Jameesha Mubin was charred to death.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Ummer Farooq (39), Mohammed Thoufiq (24), and Feroze Khan (28). The NIA has

been conducting searches and arrests ever since the suspected lone wolf attack October 23.

The NIA has arrested six persons in connection with the blast earlier and they were charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and remanded to judicial custody.

The arrested six include Mohammed Talka, nephew of S.A. Basha, Al Umma founder, a terrorist jailed in the Coimbatore blast case of February 14, 1998 in

which 56 people were killed and over 200 injured. NIA has conducted raids in many parts of Coimbatore, Tiruchy and Madurai districts and questioned several people in connection with the case.

It may be recalled that the accused in the Mangaluru autorickshaw blast case, Mohammed Shareeq had stayed at some areas of Coimbatore, Madurai and Kanniyakumari districts and the police and NIA have questioned many people with regard to this.

'Severe heatwaves may break human survivability limit'

INDIA IS THE WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST CARBON POLLUTER, THOUGH ITS PER-CAPITA EMISSIONS ARE MUCH LOWER THAN MANY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 7: Severe heatwaves, responsible for thousands of deaths across India over the last few decades, are increasing with alarming frequency and soon the country could become one of the first places in the world to experience heatwaves that break the human survivability limit, according to a new report.

The World Bank report titled "Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector" said the country is experiencing higher temperatures that arrive earlier and stay far longer. "In April 2022, India was plunged into the grip of a punishing early spring heat wave that brought the country to a standstill, with temperatures in the capital, New Delhi, topping 46 degrees Celsius (114 degrees Fahrenheit). The month of March, which witnessed extraordinary spikes in temperatures, was the hottest ever recorded", it said. The report will be released during the



two-day "India Climate and Development Partners' Meet" being

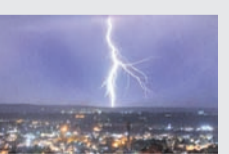
organised by World Bank in partnership with the Kerala government here. Predicting that heat waves situation in India could break the human survivability limit, it said the recent heat wave supports what many climate scientists have long cautioned about with reference to rising temperatures across South Asia.

"In August 2021, the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that the Indian subcontinent would suffer more frequent and intense heat waves over the coming decade.

"The G20 Climate Risk Atlas also warned in 2021 that heatwaves across India were likely to last 25 times longer by 2036-65 if carbon emissions remain high, as in the IPCC's worst-case emission scenario," the report said. It also warned that rising heat across India can jeopardise economic productivity. "Up to 75 per cent of India's workforce, or 380 million people, depend on heat-exposed

907 deaths due to lightning this yr

New Delhi: India saw a big jump in extreme weather events such as heatwaves and lightning strikes this year and related deaths rose to their highest in three years, government data showed on Wednesday, with scientists blaming climate change for the heavy toll. There were nearly eight times as many heatwaves, 27 in all, and lightning strikes rose more than 111 times, killing 907 people, the Ministry of Earth Sciences said in a report to parliament. Thunderstorms increased more than five times to 240. This year's 2,183 deaths due to such events until last month were the highest since 2019's 3,017. Lightning and floods and heavy rains accounted for 78% of the deaths this year, the data showed.



labor, at times working in potentially life-threatening temperatures. By 2030, India may account for 34 million of the projected 80 million global job losses from heat stress associated productivity decline", the report said. It further said India showed the largest heat exposure impacts on heavy labor among South Asian countries, with more than 101 billion hours lost a year.

Analysis by global management consulting firm, McKinsey &

Company shows that lost labor from rising heat and humidity could put up to 4.5 per cent of India's GDP - approximately \$50-250 billion - at risk by the end of this decade. It said India's long-term food security will depend on a reliable cold chain network. Transporting food and pharmaceutical goods across India requires a system of cold chain refrigeration that works every step of the way.

international



Nature is under threat; in fact, it's under attack. The job we're doing as a world is just not good enough
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

UK KING UNVEILS NEW GURDWARA

In a nod to Britain's diversity, King Charles inaugurated and paid obeisance at a newly-built Gurdwara at Luton, a town just outside London, and mingled with the devotees. Children from across faiths were present to welcome him, holding the Union Jack and the Sikh flag of 'Nishan Sahib'



of the day quote

The opportunity for India to buy Russian oil at a cheap price comes from the fact that Ukrainians are suffering from the Russian aggression and die every day
DMYTRO KULEBA | FOREIGN MINISTER, UKRAINE

Our annual report on international religious freedom outlines some of the concerns we've taken note of when it comes to India. We continue to carefully monitor the religious freedom situation in all countries and that includes India
NED PRICE | STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON, US

It's (Xi visiting Saudi) the largest and highest-level diplomatic event between China and the Arab world since the founding of the People's Republic of China and will become an epoch-making milestone in the history of China-Arab relations
MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

BRUTALITY AND AUTHORITARIAN RULE

I oppose my brother's actions: Khamenei's sister

Iran has been gripped by unrest since the death of 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman Mahsa Amini in police custody Sept 16 for allegedly violating the country's strict female dress code. The demonstrations have posed one of the strongest challenges to the Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution

REUTERS

Dubai, Dec 7: A sister of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has condemned his crackdown on nationwide protests and called on the widely-feared Revolutionary Guards to lay down their weapons, according to a letter published by her France-based son. Badri Hosseini Khamenei, who lives in Iran and is the sister of Ayatollah Khamenei, criticised the clerical establishment starting from the time of the Islamic Republic's late founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to her brother's rule, the letter, dated "December 2022", said. "I think it is appropriate now to declare that I oppose my brother's actions and I express my sympathy with all mothers mourning the crimes of the Islamic Republic, from the time

of Khomeini to the current era of the despotic caliphate of Ali Khamenei," she wrote in the letter which was shared Wednesday on the Twitter account of her son, Mahmoud Moradkhani. "Ali Khamenei's Revolutionary Guards and mercenaries should lay down their weapons as soon as possible and join the people before it is too late," the letter said. "The Revolutionary Guards are Iran's elite force which has helped the country's establish proxies across the Middle East, and runs a vast business empire. On Tuesday, the elite force shared a statement calling on the judiciary to "not show mercy to rioters, thugs and terrorists", in a sign that the authorities have no intention of easing their fierce crackdown on dissent. In November, Khamenei's activist daughter Farideh Moradkhani was arrested by au-



KHAMENEI CALLS FOR CHANGE

Iran's Supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called for "revolutionary reconstruction of the country's cultural system", state media reported, as nationwide protests kept up pressure on the authorities. "It is necessary to revolutionise the country's cultural structure... the supreme council should observe the weaknesses of culture in different fields of the country," Khamenei said during his meeting with a state cultural council.

thorities after calling on foreign governments to cut all ties with Tehran. President Ebrahim Raisi meanwhile gave a speech at the University of Tehran to mark Student Day. Some students outside the main reception hall shouted "dishonourable" and "students will die but won't accept this government."

Germany foils coup attempt

Members of the Reichsbuerger (Citizens of the Reich) do not recognise modern-day Germany as a legitimate state. Some of them are devoted to the German empire under monarchy, while some are adherents of Nazi ideas and others believe Germany is still under military occupation

REUTERS

Berlin, Dec 7: Germany Wednesday detained 25 members and supporters of a far-right group that the prosecutor's office said was preparing a violent overthrow of the state to install as national leader a prince who had sought support from Russia. Prosecutors said the group was inspired by the deep state conspiracy theories of Germany's Reichsbuerger and QAnon, whose advocates were among those arrested after the storming of the US Capitol in January 2021. Members of the Reichsbuerger (Citizens of the Reich) do not recognise modern-day Germany as a legitimate state. Some of them are devoted to the German empire under monarchy, while some are adherents of Nazi ideas and others believe Germany is still under military occupation.



FAR-RIGHT EXTREMISTS

- Officials said 25 people were detained
- Over 3,000 officers conducted searches at 130 sites
- Military members among those being investigated
- Prosecutors: Some planned attack on parliament
- Kremlin says no question of involvement in any plot

The plot envisaged a former member of a German royal family, identified as Heinrich XIII P. R. under Germany's privacy law, as leader in a future state while another suspect, Ruediger v. P., was the head of the military arm, the prosecutors' office said. It said Heinrich, who uses the title prince and comes from the royal House of Reuss, which had ruled over parts of eastern Germany, had reached out to representatives of Russia, whom the group saw as its central contact for establishing its new order. It said there was no evidence the representatives had reacted positively to the request. The Kremlin said there could be no question of any Russian involvement in an alleged far-right plot to overthrow the German state, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying that it "appears to be a German internal problem". One active soldier and several reservists were also among those being investigated, a spokesperson for the military intelligence service told Reuters. The active soldier is a member of the Bundeswehr's KSK elite force, which has been overhauled in recent years due to a number of far-right incidents. Investigators suspect individual members of the group had concrete plans to storm the Bundestag

lower house of parliament in Berlin with a small armed group, the prosecutor's office said. The vice president of the Bundestag, Wolfgang Kubicki, told the Rheinische Post newspaper that the parliamentary building was equipped for attacks from the outside and aware of potential threat situations, so "the group's plans were already doomed to fail when they were forged". The revelations of the plot evoke memories of the storming of the steps of Germany's Reichstag parliament building by protesters in August 2020 during mass marches against coronavirus curbs, as well as the attack on the US Capitol. Germany's domestic intelligence agency attributes some 21,000 people to the Reichsbuerger (Citizens of the Reich) movement, with around 5% of them seen as far-right extremists.

HOUSE OF REUSS

The House of Reuss had previously distanced itself from Heinrich, calling him a confused man who pursued conspiracy theories, according to local media. Germany's monarchy was abolished a century ago. When the Weimar Constitution entered into force on Aug 14, 1919, the legal privileges and titles of German nobility were abolished. Officially, there are no princes and princesses in Germany. Prosecutors said the raids were conducted by more than 3,000 police officials and security forces across 11 German federal states. Suspects were also arrested in Austria and Italy, said the office. The suspects are accused of preparing, since the end of November 2021 at the latest, to carry out actions based on their ideology, according to the prosecutors' office. These actions include procuring equipment, recruiting new members and holding shooting lessons, it added. The focus of the recruitment efforts were primarily members of the military and police officers, the office said. The group was aware its plan would involve deaths, the office said, adding that its members considered this scenario to be a "necessary intermediate step" towards overarching system change.

SHORT TAKES

Warnock wins Georgia runoff

Atlanta: Democrat Raphael Warnock won re-election to the US Senate in a hard-fought Georgia runoff Tuesday, strengthening his party's razor-thin majority as he fought off a challenge by Republican former football star Herschel Walker. With 99% of the estimated vote counted, he led Walker by 50.8% to 49.2%, according to Edison Research. "Let's celebrate for a little while on this mountain. Let's dance because we deserve it. But tomorrow we go back down into the valley to do the work," Warnock told a cheering crowd of supporters.

Train collision in Spain hurts 155

Barcelona: Two passenger trains taking commuters to the city of Barcelona collided early Wednesday, injuring more than 150 people, though none seriously, Spanish officials said. Emergency services said medics tended to 155 people on site, with 39 later taken to medical centres for further treatment. The reported injuries were limited to knocks and bruises. The collision occurred near Montcada i Reixac, a town 30 minutes north of Barcelona. Many people make the daily commute from the town and others nearby to Spain's second largest city to work each day.

Argentine VP gets six years for graft

Buenos Aires: Argentina's Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has been sentenced to six years in jail for corruption and a lifetime ban from holding public office. An Argentine court convicted the 69-year-old of "fraudulent administration" over irregular public works contracts awarded during her two-term presidency between 2007 and 2015. The Vice President will not face immediate imprisonment and is also expected to appeal against the sentence. It is the first time that a sitting Vice President has been convicted of a crime in the country.

300 shops gutted after blaze in Pak

Islamabad: A massive fire broke out Wednesday at a popular Sunday Bazaar in Pakistan's capital Islamabad, burning nearly 300 shops and stalls. The blaze started near Gate No 7 of the Bazaar where second-hand clothes and carpets are sold, according to media reports. Officials said that 10 fire brigade vehicles fought for several hours to extinguish the fire. They were helped by two fire tenders of the Pakistan Air Force. However, no casualties have been reported following the incident.

The government will respond with the full force of the law. The investigations provide a glimpse into the abyss of a terrorist threat from the Reichsbuerger milieu. Germany will defend itself against the enemies of democracy
NANCY FAESSER | INTERIOR MINISTER, GERMANY

China relaxes Covid-19 curbs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Dec 7: After widespread protests, China Wednesday rolled back major Covid-19 restrictions, moving a step closer to scrapping its dreaded zero-Covid policy, which drastically slowed down the economy and the movement of people across the country. The new measures limit the lockdown to individual apartment floors and buildings, rather than entire districts and neighbourhoods. The new rules permit people who test covid positive to isolate at home rather than in overcrowded and unsanitary field hospitals, and schools. Other major measures include reducing the frequency of nucleic acid testing, scrapping negative nucleic acid results and health code requirements for entering public places except for designated locations such as nursing homes, medical institutions and schools, as well as



lifting Covid testing and health code requirements for domestic cross-regional travellers, it said. The measures detail that infected individuals with mild or no symptoms who meet requirements will be allowed to quarantine at home or choose collective quarantine, which has nation-wide resentment as people were dumped in makeshift hospitals with poor conditions. The sudden relaxation of the rules also sparked concerns that the daily virus cases which were averaging around 30,000 a day could increase rapidly as more people are expected to step out. China is currently in the thick of its winter season with temperatures dropping to below zero.

WAR-TIME HERO

Zelensky TIME's Person of the year

The magazine said Zelensky's vision of victory now extends beyond the liberation of territory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Dec 7: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and "the spirit of Ukraine" have been declared as TIME's "Person of the Year" 2022 Wednesday. "Zelensky has been called a hero by many in Ukraine and abroad, and over the last year, established himself as a symbol of defiance and democracy while he continues to lead the nation through Russia's unprovoked attacks on his country," a tweet on the Today Show said as the winner of the annual honour was announced on the network.



"Volodymyr Zelensky and the Spirit of Ukraine are @TIME's 2022 Person of the Year," it tweeted. TIME said 44-year-old Zelensky's success as a wartime leader has relied on the fact that "courage is contagious. It spread through Ukraine's political leadership in the first days of the invasion, as everyone realised the President had stuck around. If that seems like a natural thing for a leader to do in a crisis, consider historical precedent." "Only six months earlier, the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani — a far more experienced leader than Zelensky — fled his capital as Taliban forces approached. In 2014, one of Zelensky's predecessors, Viktor Yanukovich, ran away from Kyiv as protesters closed in on his residence; he still lives in Russia today." Early in the Second World War, the leaders of Albania, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Poland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Yugoslavia, among others, fled the advance of the German Wehrmacht and lived out the war in exile, it underlined. TIME said now it was Zelensky's generation's turn to face the blows of a foreign invader. Instead of Stalin and Hitler, it was Russian President Vladimir Putin

"trying to break their will by depriving them of heat and light, destroying their ability to harvest food, or to think about much besides survival through this winter. Already the next generation of Ukrainians, like Zelensky's own son, were learning about the tools of war instead of planning for prosperity. That is the pattern the President aims to disrupt, and his plan relies on more than weapons". It added that there wasn't much in Zelensky's biography to predict his willingness to stand and fight. "He had never served in the military or shown much interest in its affairs. He had only been President since April 2019. His professional instincts derived from a lifetime as an actor on the stage, a specialist in improv comedy, and a producer in the movie business." Among the shortlisted candidates for this year's Time Person of the Year - the people who had the most influence on the world this year - were China's president Xi Jinping, the US Supreme Court, Twitter's new owner billionaire Elon Musk, who was Person of the Year last year, philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, protestors in Iran, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and gun safety advocates.

EXAMS WITHOUT EDUCATION

Taliban allow high school graduation exams for girls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, Dec 7: Afghan girls will be allowed to take their high school graduation exams this week, an official and documents from the Taliban government indicated Tuesday — even though they have been banned from classrooms since the former insurgents took over the country last year. According to two documents from the Taliban ministry of education, obtained by The Associated Press, the decision applies to 31 out of Afghanistan's 34 provinces where the winter school break



starts in late December. One of the documents, from the Kabul education department, said the exams would last from 10 am to 1 pm. A second document, signed

by Habibullah Agha, the education minister who took office in September, said the tests would be held in 31 Afghan provinces. "This is ridiculous," said 18-year-old Najela from Kabul, giving only her first name for fear of reprisals. She would now be in twelfth grade and eligible for the exam. "We spent a whole year under tension and stress and haven't read a single page of our textbooks." "How can we possibly take an exam after a year and a half that the Taliban have kept school doors closed," she added. The Taliban overran Afghanistan in August 2021 as US and NATO

forces were in the final weeks of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war. They have banned girls from middle school and high school, restricted women from most employment, and ordered them to wear head-to-toe clothing in public. Women are also banned from parks, gyms, and funfairs. Women have not been denied access to universities under the Taliban and the implication of the latest development is that Afghan girls who obtain a high school diploma after Wednesday's exam would be able to apply to universities.

business



As on 30th November 2022, 84,102 entities have been recognised as startups by DPIIT
SOM PARKASH | MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PAY MORE FOR POLLUTION

The European Union reached a deal in the early hours of Wednesday on a law to increase the price that airlines have to pay when they emit planet-heating carbon dioxide emissions, adding pressure to the sector to shift away from fossil fuels



of the day quote

Russian buyers are enquiring about a wide range of products from India. Indian exporters are evaluating the proposal as they have to be careful with the sanctions, with their diversified exports basket covering the US and the European Union
AJAY SAHAI | DIRECTOR GENERAL, FIEO

India currently accounts for around 45 per cent of the global GCCs in operations and this share is expected to grow further
SACHIN ALUG | CEO, NIB SERVICES

The GAIL green hydrogen production project based on our PEM electrolyzer technology is a first of its kind and will pave the way for many such projects in the future
ASHWATH RAM | MD, CUMMINS INDIA

RBI cuts growth forecast to 6.8%

THIS IS THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE RATE HIKE AFTER A 40 BASIS POINTS INCREASE IN MAY AND 50 BASIS POINTS HIKE EACH IN JUNE, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. IN ALL, THE RBI HAS RAISED THE BENCHMARK RATE BY 2.25% SINCE MAY THIS YEAR

Mumbai, Dec 7: The Reserve Bank Wednesday lowered the country's GDP growth forecast to 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal from 7 per cent earlier, on account of continued geo-political tensions and tightening of global financial conditions.

India, however, remains a bright spot in the otherwise gloomy world and will be among the fastest growing major economies, said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das while announcing the latest bi-monthly monetary policy.

"The biggest risks to the outlook continue to be the headwinds emanating from protracted geopolitical tensions, global slowdown and tightening of global financial conditions," he said.

Taking all these factors into consideration, the RBI projected the real GDP growth for 2022-23 at 6.8 per cent, with the third quarter at 4.4 per cent and the fourth at 4.2 per cent. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected at 7.1 per cent for April-June period of 2023-24 and at 5.9 per cent for the following quarter.

"Even after this revision in our growth projection for 2022-23, India will still be among the fastest growing major economies in the world," the Governor said.

It is to be noted that it is for the third time this fiscal that the central bank has pared the growth projections for 2022-23.

In April, the central bank had cut



► RBI raises key lending rate or the repo rate by 35 basis points to 6.25%
► It predicted growth for third quarter at 4.4% and the fourth at 4.2%
► Reserve Bank projects inflation to fall below 6% by March 2023

the GDP growth estimate from 7.8 per cent to 7.2 per cent, and further lowered it to 7 per cent in September.

As per the official government data, the GDP growth in the second quarter of the fiscal slowed to 6.3 per cent from 13.5 per cent in the preceding three months.

For the Indian economy, Das said the outlook is supported by good progress of rabi sowing, sustained urban demand, improving rural demand, a pick-up in manufacturing, rebound in services and

"While headline inflation may ease through the rest of the year and Q1:2023-24, it is expected to rule above the target," he said.

The medium-term inflation outlook is exposed to heightened uncertainties from geopolitical tensions, financial market volatility and the rising incidence of weather-related disruptions.

Meanwhile the Bank projected inflation to come down below the upper threshold level of 6 per cent by March quarter of the current fiscal saying the worst of inflation is behind us, but there is no room for complacency in the fight against price-rise.

It, however, retained its 6.7 per cent average retail inflation forecast for the current fiscal. The retail or consumer price index (CPI) based inflation has remained above the RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent for 10 months till October.

In its monetary policy statement RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank will keep 'Arjuna's eye' (keen focus) on the evolving inflation dynamics and projected inflation to remain above 4 per cent for the next 12 months.

"Over the next 12 months, inflation is expected to remain higher than the 4 per cent target... While being watchful of the impact of our earlier monetary policy actions, we will keep Arjuna's eye on the evolving inflation dynamics and be ready to act as may be necessary," Das said.

robust credit expansion. Consumer price inflation moderated to 6.8 per cent (y-o-y) in October as expected, but it still remains above the upper tolerance band of the target. Core inflation is exhibiting stickiness.

The worst of inflation is behind us, but there is no room for complacency in the fight against price-rise
SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

SHORT TAKES

Audi, Renault to increase prices

New Delhi: Luxury carmaker Audi Wednesday said it will increase prices of its model range by up to 1.7 per cent, with effect from January 1, 2023. The company said it is hiking the prices due to an increase in input and operational costs. Also, carmaker Renault India said it will increase the prices of its vehicles across models from the next month to partially offset rising input costs.

Sula Vineyards IPO from Dec 12

New Delhi: Leading wine producer Sula Vineyards Wednesday said it has fixed a price band of Rs 340-357 a share for its Rs 960-crore initial public offering (IPO), which will open for subscription December 12. The three-day initial share-sale will conclude on December 14 and the bidding for anchor investors will open December 9, the company said in a statement. The public issue will be entirely an offer for sale (OFS) aggregating to 26,900,532 equity shares by the promoter, investors and other shareholders.

Morgan Stanley lays off 1,600

San Francisco: Global investment advisory firm Morgan Stanley has cut about 2 per cent of its global workforce, or about 1,600 employees, amid the global economic meltdown, the media reported. The layoffs, first reported by CNBC citing sources, came after Morgan Stanley CEO James Gordon recently warned that "some people are going to be let go". The company has about 81,567 employees and the layoffs will touch "nearly every corner of the global investment bank".

ONGC's new chief

New Delhi: Arun Kumar Singh, former chairman of oil refining and marketing company BPCL, was Wednesday appointed chairman and managing director of ONGC - the first instance of a retired person being appointed the head of a Maharatna PSU. "The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for appointment of Arun Kumar Singh, ex-CMD, BPCL as Chairman, ONGC for a three-year tenure with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post," an official order said.

India urges global firms to help build fert storage

India's fertiliser subsidy is expected to touch a record \$27 billion in the financial year to March 31, 2023

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 7: India, a leading importer of fertilisers, is seeking investment from global companies as the nation works to build storage for the crop nutrients, fertiliser minister Mansukh Mandaviya said Wednesday.

India, which imports up to 40% of the 50 million tonne of fertiliser it needs annually, has been hit hard by a spurt in prices this year after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, a major fertiliser producer, disrupted supplies.

"This is an opportunity for the global companies to invest in India and work with us for long-term strategies. I encourage global companies to store in India for distribution," Mandaviya told an event organised by Fertiliser Association of India.

India has signed long-term deals for fertiliser imports to ensure stable supplies and protect against market volatility.

The federal government provides financial support for domestic fertiliser sales at rates below the market to insulate farmers from high prices and try to contain inflation.

India's fertiliser subsidy is expected to touch a record \$27 billion in the financial year to March 31, 2023, the minister added.



Mandaviya, who is also India's health minister, said now was "an opportune time" for global suppliers to understand the dynamics of the Indian market.

Without naming them, he criticised companies he said had formed a cartel that pushed up global prices, saying India had supplied medicines to over 100 countries since the Covid-19 pandemic and had "neither raised prices nor compromised the quality".

He said international companies selling fertilisers and their feedstock "need to have a reasonable and transparent mechanisms and take long-term views in dealing with issues of fertilisers in the larger interest of global food security".

RUSSIAN OIL PRICE CAP

Worried about stability, affordability, says India

INDIA, THE WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST CRUDE IMPORTER AFTER CHINA AND THE US, HAS BEEN SNAPPING UP RUSSIAN OIL THAT WAS AVAILABLE AT A DISCOUNT AFTER SOME IN THE WEST SHUNNED IT AS A MEANS OF PUNISHING MOSCOW FOR ITS INVASION OF UKRAINE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: Days after the EU agreed on a price cap on Russian seaborne oil, India Wednesday said the impact of the move was unclear and it was concerned about the stability and affordability of the energy markets.

Indian refiners will continue to look for the best deals in the interest of the country, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha.



"We do not ask our companies to buy Russian oil. We ask our companies to buy oil (based on) what is the best option that they can get. Now it depends on what the market throws up," he said while replying to clarifications sought by MPs on his suo moto statement on foreign oil.

The companies will go after sources that are more competitive, Jaishankar added.

"Please do understand it's not just we buy oil from one country. We buy oil from multiple sources, but it is a sensible policy to go where we get the best deal in the interests of the Indian people and that is exactly what we are trying to do," he said.

From a market share of just 0.2 per cent in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's imports rose to 4.24 million tonne, or nearly 1 million barrels per day,

in October, taking a 21 per cent share comparable to that of Iraq and higher than Saudi Arabia's share of around 15 per cent.

On price caps, Jaishankar said the impact of the move was not very clear to India yet.

"Our concern is really what would it do to the stability and the affordability of the energy markets, that is a concern," he said.

The executive body of the European Union has asked its 27 member countries to cap the price of Russian oil at \$60 a barrel as part of the West's attempt to squeeze Moscow's oil revenues and limit its ability to wage war in Ukraine while keeping global prices and supplies steady.

From December 5, western shipping and insurance companies are prohibited from handling Russian oil sold above the price cap. However, ships loaded with Russian oil before December 5 and unloaded at their destination before January 19, will not be subject to the price cap.

Last week, a top government official said India can continue to buy Russian oil if it can send ships, cover insurance and devise a mode of payment. On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Jaishankar said India has publicly stated that this is not an era of war. "We have consistently urged dialogue and diplomacy," he said.

COVID WOES

China's trade suffers worst dip in 2-1/2 yrs

REUTERS

Beijing, Dec 7: China's exports and imports shrank at their steepest pace in at least 2-1/2 years in November, as feeble global and domestic demand, Covid-led production disruptions and a property slump at home piled pressure on the world's second-biggest economy.

The downturn was much worse than markets had forecast, and economists are predicting a further period of declining exports, underlining a sharp retreat in world trade as consumers and businesses slash spending in response to central banks' aggressive moves to tame inflation.



Exports contracted 8.7% in November from a year earlier, a sharper fall from a 0.3% loss in October and marked the worst performance since February 2020, official data showed Wednesday. They were well below analysts' expectations for a 3.5% decline.

Beijing is moving to ease some of its stringent pandemic-era restrictions, but outbound shipments have been losing steam since August as surging inflation, sweeping interest rate increases across many countries and the Ukraine crisis have pushed the global economy to the brink of recession.

Export benefits under tax refund scheme extended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 7: The government Wednesday extended export benefits under the tax refund scheme - RoDTEP - to chemicals, pharmaceuticals and products of iron and steel for a specified period with a view to boost shipments of these goods, amidst exports growth recording a contraction of 16.65 per cent in October.

Benefits under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme will be given to exports made during December 15 this year till September 30 next year. These sectors were left out in the earlier exercise which was conducted in August 2021.

"Taking a major step to boost exports, the Centre today further expanded the scope of the RoDTEP scheme by including the exports made from the chemical sector, pharmaceuticals sector and exports of articles of iron and steel," the commerce ministry said.

It said that this was a long standing demand of the industry, which has been accepted.

According to the notification of the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), "Additional export sectors/items... Are being added under RoDTEP for exports made from December 15 this year and shall be applicable till September 30, 2023."

6 Indians make it to Forbes' World's 100 Most Powerful Women

THE LIST INCLUDES 39 CEOS; 10 HEADS OF STATE; AND 11 BILLIONAIRES WORTH A COMBINED \$115 BILLION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Dec 7: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar are among six Indians who have made it to the Forbes' annual list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

Ranked at number 36, Sitharaman has made it to the list for the fourth time in a row. In 2021, the 63-year-old minister was ranked at number 37 in the list, while she was in the 41st spot in 2020 and 34th in 2019.

The other Indians to feature on the list are HCLTech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra (rank: 53), Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch (rank: 54), and Steel Authority Of India Chairperson Soma Mondal (rank: 67).

Malhotra, Mazumdar-Shaw and Nayar made it to the prestigious list last year also at 52nd, 72nd and 88th spots respectively. This year Mazumdar-Shaw is ranked 72, while Nayar is at 89th spot, according to the list released by Forbes Tuesday.

Highlighting Nayar's profile, the Forbes list noted that the 59-year-old businessperson "worked as an investment banker for two decades, leading IPOs and helping other entrepreneurs achieve their dreams. In 2012, she decided to work for herself, investing \$2 million of her own savings to launch the beauty and retail company Nykaa. She took it public in 2021 and became India's richest self-made woman".



According to the Forbes website, 41-year-old Malhotra is responsible for all strategic decisions for the \$12 billion technology company. "Founded by her father, Shiv Nadar, in 1976, HCL became a central player in India's rise as an IT hub," it noted.

to record financial growth since taking over. The company's profits surged threefold to 120 billion rupees in her first year at the helm, according to the Forbes website.

It described 69-year-old Mazumdar-Shaw as one of India's richest self-made women. She founded India's largest listed biopharmaceutical firm by revenue, in 1978. The firm has successfully forayed into the lucrative US market. The company has Asia's largest insulin factory in Malaysia's Johor region, it noted.

"The list was determined by four main metrics: money, media, impact and spheres of influence. For political leaders, we weighed gross domestic products and populations; for corporate leaders, revenues and employee counts; and media mentions and reach of all. The result is a collection of women who are fighting the status quo," according to the website. For her leadership during the

Ukraine war, as well as her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen sits atop the 19th annual Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

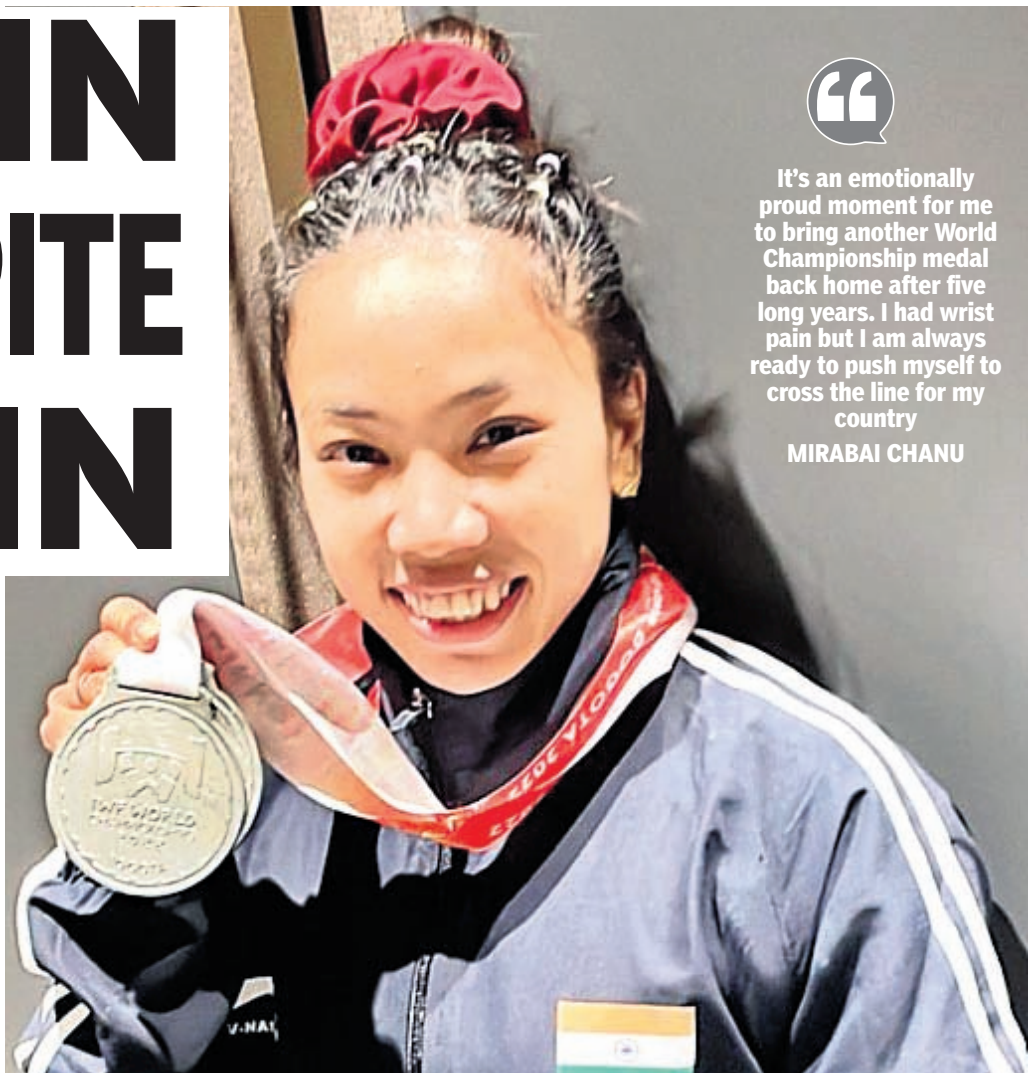
"Her influence is unique - no one else on the list formulates policy on behalf of 450 million people - but her commitment to a free and democratic society is not. Von der Leyen is just one face of the biggest storyline of 2022: women acting as stalwarts for democracy," the website underlined.

While European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde is placed at 2nd position, US Vice President Kamala Harris ranked 3rd in the list.

At rank 100, Iran's Jina "Mahsa" Amini has posthumously made it to the influential list. Her death in September sparked an unprecedented women-led revolution for their rights in the Islamic nation.

WEIGHTLIFTER MIRABAI CLINCHES SILVER AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GAIN DESPITE PAIN



“It's an emotionally proud moment for me to bring another World Championship medal back home after five long years. I had wrist pain but I am always ready to push myself to cross the line for my country”
MIRABAI CHANU

Bogota (Colombia), Dec 7: Star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu endured wrist pain to grab a silver medal at the World Championships and in the process beat Tokyo Olympics champion Hou Zhihua, here.

The Tokyo Olympic silver medalist, competing in the 49kg category managed to lift 87kg in snatch and in 113kg in 'clean and jerk' for an overall effort of 200kg here Tuesday night.

The Indian finished behind China's Jiang Huihua, who won the gold with a total effort of 206kg (93kg+113kg) while her compatriot Zhihua took home the bronze medal with a total lift of 196kg (89kg+107kg). It is Manipuri lifter's second medal at the World Championships, having won a gold in 2017.

Chanu, who hurt her wrist during a training session in September, had competed in the National Games with the injury in October. “We couldn't do much (about the injury) because we didn't want to skip the World Championships. Now, we will focus on her wrist because we have a lot of time before the next event,” India's head coach Vijay Sharma told PTI.

“We were not taking any pressure for this event. This is the weight Mira lifts regularly. From now we will start increasing the weights and improving. Seeing Mira I believe we are on the right track and she is definitely going to only work harder to bring out her A-game in the upcoming Asian Games and the Olympics.”

While the 11-lifter field was highly competitive, most lifters refrained from stretching themselves. Zhihua even skipped her final clean and jerk attempt to settle for bronze.

Competing in her first international tournament since winning a gold at the Commonwealth Games, Chanu had an underwhelming snatch session. She started with an 84kg lift but her second attempt of 87kg was deemed a no lift.

Expectedly, Chanu didn't go for the much-awaited 90kg lift. In her final attempt, the 28-year-old, who had her wrist bandaged, wobbled a little but was able to hoist the 87kg barbell, which is a kilogram less than her personal best in the section.

Fifth after the snatch section, Chanu set the highest clean and jerk entry weight but her first attempt of 111kg was deemed a no lift as her left elbow wobbled a little. The Indian camp challenged the decision but the judges upheld it.

However, Chanu, the world record holder in the category, succeeded in her final two attempts of 111kg and 113 kg to collect the overall and clean and jerk silver. He also took silver in snatch category. Medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift in continental and World Championships. But, just one medal for total lift is awarded in the Olympics.



India has four more lifters in the fray. S Bindirani Devi (59kg), Chanambam Rishikanta Singh (61kg), Achinta Sheuli (73kg) and Gurdeep Singh (+109kg) will compete in their respective categories.

The 2022 World Championship is the first qualifying event for the 2024 Paris Olympics, where weightlifting events will be cut from 14 at Tokyo Games to 10. However, it is an additional event and not a compulsory one. Under the 2024 Olympic qualification rule, a lifter has to compulsorily compete in the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 World Cup.

Apart from the above, the lifter also has to participate in three of the following events – the 2022 World Championships, the 2023 Continental Championships, the 2023 Grand Prix 1, the 2023 Grand Prix II and the 2024 Continental Championships.

RAMOS hat-trick sinks Swiss

Ronaldo-less Portugal rout Switzerland to reach quarters



strated the kind of clinical finishing Ronaldo was once known for.

Ramos scored the opening goal in the 17th minute and added others in the 51st and 67th — by which time chants of “RONALDO! RONALDO!” were swirling around the 89,000-seat Lusail Stadium.

The 37-year-old Ronaldo entered as a substitute in the 72nd minute to loud cheers, though Portugal had the game wrapped up by then with defenders Pepe and Raphael Guerreiro also scoring. Rafael Leao added another goal in stoppage time.

Manuel Akanji scored for Switzerland. Portugal advanced to the quarterfinals for the third time, after 1966 and 2006, and will play Morocco Saturday.

Portugal coach Fernando Santos now has to decide whether to stick with Ramos or restore Ronaldo, the top scorer in men's international football and one of the game's greatest ever players.

Ronaldo had a couple of chances after coming on, and even thought he had scored when he ran through and drove a low shot past Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

The goal was disallowed for offside, much to the irritation of the fans — Portuguese or from other countries — who had come to see him.

After the final whistle, as Portugal players stayed on the field to applaud the team's fans at one end of the stadium, Ronaldo walked off on his own — perhaps wondering where his career goes from here. He is currently without a club after leaving Manchester United midway through the World Cup.

Ronaldo was dropped a day after Santos expressed his unhappiness at the striker's attitude after he was substituted against South Korea in the team's final group game. Ramos was a surprise replacement — he had previously only made three substitute appearances for Portugal — and took his chance.

Ramos, who was only 2 years old when Ronaldo made his Portugal debut in 2003, produced the first hat-trick at this year's World Cup. He also did something Ronaldo has never achieved — score a knockout goal at football's biggest tournament.

Ramos drove a rising shot with his left foot inside Sommer's near post for the first goal, flicked deftly through Sommer's legs from close range for the second, and then ran through to chip the goalkeeper for his third.

Ronaldo was seen smiling while he was warming up on the side of the field after Ramos' second goal. Ramos even had an assist, playing the ball through for Guerreiro to score the fourth goal.

“NOT EVEN IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID I THINK ABOUT BEING PART OF THE STARTING TEAM FOR THE KNOCKOUT STAGE”
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Prannoy loses to Naraoka at WTF group tie

Bangkok, Dec 7: India's HS Prannoy fought hard before going down in three games to rising Japanese shuttler Kodai Naraoka in the opening men's singles group A match at the BWF World Tour Finals (WTF) here Wednesday.

The World No.12 Indian showed superb recovery after the opening game reversal and kept fighting in the decider before three unforced errors at the back end saw him lose 11-21, 21-9, 17-21 to Naraoka in an hour long contest. It was his second defeat to the Japanese, having suffered a loss in their only meeting in Singapore Open in July.

Prannoy will next face China's Lu Guang Zu, an opponent he had lost to in his only meeting at French Open this year.

Bangladesh seal series with thrilling 5-run victory

Mirpur, Dec 7: India's shoddy batting display and the inability to land the killer blow contributed to their second successive series loss in Bangladesh after the diminutive Mehidy Hasan Miraz led the hosts to a five-run win in the second ODI with a memorable hundred here Wednesday.

Miraz (100 n o, 83x4, 4x6) tormented the Indian bowlers on way to his maiden century as Bangladesh staged a remarkable recovery to reach 271/7.

India's challenge looked all over at 207/7 but skipper Rohit Sharma's (51 n o, 28b, 3x4, 5x6) valiant effort went in-vain as he nearly took his team home while batting with a split left webbing.

India needed a six off the final ball of the game but Mustafizur did well to perfect the yorker under pressure after bowling a slew of slow leg-breaks in the 48th over forcing Mohammed Siraj to play out a maiden.

Rohit Sharma is likely miss the third ODI after splitting the webbing between his left thumb and index finger during the 2nd ODI. Standing at second slip, Rohit was left with a bloodied hand when he dropped Anamul Haque off Mohammed Siraj

He was rushed to a Dhaka hospital for scan and the affected area required multiple stitches during the initial treatment. It is believed some further scans will be required to ascertain if there is a fracture

Bangladesh had also won their last ODI series against at home back in 2015 when Mashrafe Mortaza's men got the better of MS Dhoni and Co. The series loss also forces India to go back to the drawing board with the World Cup less than 12 months away.

At 65/4, India were in dire straits in the run chase before a spirited 101-ball 107-run partnership between Shreyas Iyer (82, 102b, 6x4, 3x6) and Axar Patel (56, 56b, 2x4, 3x6) brought them back into the contest.



Mehidy Hasan Miraz (L) walks off the field with a teammate after their innings

Captain Rohit did not come out to open after hurting his elbow while fielding in Bangladesh's innings. It was only after the fall of seventh wicket, he decided to walk into the middle but clearly looked in discomfort. It was a courageous call to come

out with a heavily taped left thumb and Rohit did provide a ray of hope by collecting couple of sixes and four from Ebadot Hussain in the 46th over. Then two sixes off Mahmudullah in the 49th over brought the equation down to 20 from the final six

balls. The wily Mustafizur was able to defend that after conceding two fours and a six.

India's top-order struggled again with Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli, who came out to open in Rohit's absence, falling cheaply. Both Washington Sundar (11) and KL Rahul (14) fell to poor shot selection.

Earlier, India had Bangladesh on the mat at 69/6 before last match's hero Miraz stitched an epic 148-run partnership off 165 balls with Mahmudullah (77, 96b, 7x4) to help the home team put up a fighting total. It was the highest ever seventh-wicket stand against India. For India, Sundar (3/37), Umran Malik (2/58) and Siraj (2/73) shared all the seven wickets among them.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 271/7 (Mehidy Hasan Miraz 100 n o, Mahmudullah 77; Washington Sundar 3/37) beat India 266/9 (Shreyas Iyer 82, Axar Patel 56, Rohit Sharma 51 n o; Ebadot Hossain 3/45) by 5 runs.

Smith back as captain after Pat ruled out

Adelaide, Dec 7: Steve Smith Wednesday returned as Australia captain after Pat Cummins failed to recover from an injury and was ruled out of the second Test against the West Indies beginning here Thursday.

The Aussie pace spearhead had suffered a quadricep strain and was out of action on the final day of the first Test that the hosts won by 164 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Scott Boland, 33, was named as Cummins' replacement by Cricket Australia, while Smith has now been elevated to captaincy for the day-night Test.



“Team medical staff commenced Cummins' recovery in Adelaide but selectors deemed there was not sufficient time for the fast bowler to be fully fit for the match, which starts tomorrow (Thursday),” a Cricket Australia said in a statement. “Cummins is expected to return for the opening Test match against South Africa in Brisbane.”

The first Test against South Africa is scheduled to begin December 17 at the Gabba. The 29-year-old Cummins had also missed last year's Adelaide Test against England as a close COVID-19 contact and Smith took over the reins to lead Australia to a resounding 275-run win.

Boland, who averaged 9.55 after his three Ashes Tests last year, is expected to form the pace attack with Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Cameron Green.

CR7 loses Portugal spot to sully FIFA World Cup journey

Doha, Dec 7: So, the dream is still alive for Cristiano Ronaldo. Football's most prolific modern-day scorer might yet, at the age of 37 and probably playing in his last World Cup, claim the one major title to elude him in a career like no other.

It didn't quite feel that way, though, as he walked off the field alone at Lusail Stadium, leaving the rest of the Portugal team to celebrate getting through to the quarterfinals after a 6-1 rout of Switzerland Tuesday.

In fact, it was a rather sad sight. A veteran in decline departing the scene as his teammates — some barely half his age — continued to party. This has been a turbulent and bruising few weeks for Ronaldo.

First came the explosive interview with Piers Morgan that shaped the start of his fifth World Cup campaign. Then the fallout, which included the termination of his contract at Manchester United.

When the tournament started, he broke a record — becoming the first male player to score at five different World Cups — and then he underwhelmed, failing to score in back-to-back games and responding to a substitution against South Korea by showing his displeasure and angering his coach.

Then came Tuesday night and the moment that might be looked back on as the start of the end of his glittering, record-breaking international career. Not only was he dropped by his national team, but the 21-year-old player who replaced him — Goncalo Ramos — scored a remarkable hat-trick.

Just imagine the thoughts going through Ronaldo's head as he trudged off the field after playing around 20 minutes as a substitute?

This was one of Portugal's greatest wins — indeed, it was the country's largest margin of victory in a World Cup knockout game — and it felt like Ronaldo could hardly



FEELING DEVASTATED: A sad-looking Cristiano Ronaldo watches Portugal's match against Switzerland from the dugout before being subbed in later on, Tuesday

get off the field quick enough. So where does this leave Ronaldo? Already without a club, he is now likely to be second choice for Portugal to Ramos, who only made his Portugal debut three weeks ago.

Portugal coach Fernando Santos threw Ronaldo a lifeline, saying he'd continue to select players according to the strengths and weaknesses of the team's opponent. But it's unthinkable that Ramos will lose his place now for the quarterfinal match against Morocco.

Tellingly, Santos praised his team for playing with “a lot of fluidity” and “as a collective”. That style is harder to forge when Ronaldo, whose mobility is just not what it was, is the sole striker.

His goal that was ruled out for offside against Switzerland was an example of a player trying to steal a few meters to compensate for his lack of pace, and it's not the first time that has happened at this World Cup.

While some of the top clubs might be beckoning for Ramos, Ronaldo looks to be heading for the obscurity of the Saudi Arabian league, even if that does come with an exorbitant salary.

For a man who spent last summer pushing for a move from United because he wanted to play in the Champions League, it is quite the fall.

Will he go there as a World Cup winner? Maybe, because Portugal produced a dynamic performance against Switzerland that was every bit as impressive as Brazil's the previous night against South Korea.

And there remains that tantalising prospect of a title match between Argentina and Portugal. One that will invariably be labeled a head-to-head between Ronaldo and his long-time rival, Lionel Messi.

But what might be eating away at the Portugal superstar, what he might have been thinking as he left the field at Lusail Stadium, is that while Messi is leading Argentina to that final frontier with goals and brilliant performances, Ronaldo is no longer the player carrying his national team.

Ronaldo might even be a burden, given the way Portugal performed without him against Switzerland.