HERE.NOW

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BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 | 2023

Karni Sena chief shot dead at Jaipur home

Jaipur: Right-wing group Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena's president Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi was shot dead in the living room of his house here Tuesday by three armed men, one of whom was also killed in retaliatory firing, police said. One of Gogamedi's security guards sustained bullet injuries in the exchange of fire with the assailants, who had gone to his house in the Shyam Nagar area on the pretext of meeting him, they said.

15 picnickers hurt as van overturns

Titlagarh: At least 15 people, including four women and six children, sustained grievous injuries after a pickup van they were travelling in overturned near Katarkela railway level-crossing under this block in Bolangir district Tuesday. Locals along with police and a fire brigade team reached the spot and rushed the injured to Titlagarh DHH

IRREGULAR by MANJUL Looks like he has won the elections, and his

party is in power now



NATURE'S FURY: An innundated road following downpour under the impact of cyclonic storm Michaung, in Nandapur block of Koraput district, Tuesday

Michaung: South Odisha on alert

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Southern districts of Odisha were put on alert Tuesday night as the intensity of rains was likely to increase as an impact of severe cyclone Michaung that made landfall in neighbouring Andhra

Pradesh, officials said. The storm made landfall in the afternoon near Bapatla be-Nellore and tween Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh, with a maximum sustained wind speed of 90-100 kmph, gusting up to 110 kmph. Light rainfall has been recorded in Malkangiri, Koraput,

Rayagada, Ganjam, Gajapati and Kalahandi districts of Odisha till the evening, and the intensity is likely to increase overnight, officials said.

After landfall, the cyclone is likely to move northwards and weaken into a depression, they said

At least 12 people lost their lives in various rain-related incidents in and around Chennai even as personnel on fishing boats and farm tractors were engaged in rescuing stranded people in the city, Tuesday. The DMK has demanded an immediate Central assistance of ₹5,000 crore for the rain-ravaged state.

'Cash-for-kidney': **Investigation ordered**

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 5: The National Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO) under the Union Health Ministry has ordered an inquiry into allegations of cash-for-kidney scam against Indraprastha Apollo hospital, sources said Tuesday.

Director of NOTTO, Anil Kumar has written to Principal Secretary (Health) in the Delhi government to get the matter examined, take appropriate action according to provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act 1994 and furnish an action taken report within a week. The Indraprastha Medical Corporation Ltd asserted that it follows every legal and ethical requirement for transplants.

Green push

Waiver of MV Tax & penalty on old vehicles to facilitate scrapage among 10 proposals to receive Odisha Cabinet nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: In a move aimed at easing vehicular pollution, the state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Tuesday approved waiver of Motor Vehicle (MV) Tax and penalty pending against more than 50,000 vehicle owners as it would go a long way towards scrapage of their old and polluting vehicles.

Chief Secretary PK Jena said despite notice and special drives, the state government has been able to recover dues from only 4,668 vehicle owners in 2022. "Besides, in line with the country's effort to curb vehicular pollution by phasing out old polluting vehicles, the state government has decided to offer one-time waiver of pending MV Tax and penalty on vehicle owners who want to de-register/scrap their vehicles at Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF)," he said.

The proposal was among the 10 approved by the Odisha Cabinet, Jena said.

The Cabinet has also decided to amend the Odisha **Government Land Settlement** Rules, 1983, to resolve the longpending land issues in Puri Municipality, and wasteland lease for homestead purposes in Bhubaneswar and Jatni tehsils of Khurda district. It also approved a package for Welspun



Chief Secretary PK Jena addresses media in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Group's projects in Cuttack and Sambalpur districts, which includes incentives on land and electricity, he said.

The Cabinet decided to develop a utility corridor between Gopalpur Port and Tata Steel Industrial Park in Ganjam. A tender worth Rs 128.88 crore was approved for the project, which will be executed by the state Industrial Development Corporation, said Jena.

The Cabinet decided to amend the Odisha MSME Development Policy, 2022, and Odisha Food Processing Policy, 2022. With these amendments, a differential amount of financial benefit can be extended to industries that have availed similar incentives from the Centre, if the state offers higher incentives, he said.

The Cabinet also decided that the Secondary Board High School in Cuttack will be taken over by the state government with effect from January 1, 2024.

Berhampur, Dec 5: A 15-yearold boy allegedly killed the owner of an eatery where he was working with a stone slab after he was not paid his monthly wage of ₹1,500 for a long, and abused and assaulted whenever he asked for it, police said Tuesday. The decomposed body of the

12 PAGES |₹5.00

Non-payment

of wages: Boy

kills employer

AGENCIES

37-year-old man, who ran the fast food joint at Gopalpur in Odisha's Ganjam district, was found Sunday in his rented room, they said.

He hired the boy of Bhanjanagar area, promising a monthly wage of ₹1,500, to work as a helper at the eatery. The boy also used to live with him in that room, police said.

However, he did not pay the boy his wage, and whenever he asked for his dues, the man used to abuse and assault him. He also threatened the boy with a police case in case he tried to leave, Superintendent of Police (SP) Saravana Vivek M said.

In the early hours of November 29 when the man was sleeping, the boy brought a heavy stone slab and bludgeoned him with it. Then, he also hit him with an iron clamp, police said.

After ensuring the man's death, the boy left the house and bolted the doors. The body was recovered after a foul smell started coming from it, they said. The boy was nabbed Tuesday,

the SP said.

DSPL-442



New opportunities for our youth

421 New Appointments

Newly Appointed 2021 Batch **ODISHA CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS**

General Administration & Public Grievance Department

Chief Guest Shri Naveen Patnaik Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

6th December 2023 5PM

Convention Centre Lokaseva Bhavan, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-09014/13/0015/23



leisure



'I MAY HAVE A HANDFUL OF FILMS LEFT IN ME'

Hollywood actor Nicolas Cage recently shared the news that he could be retiring from Hollywood soon as he wants to 'say bye on a high note'. The actor added that he may have just a handful of films left in him.

CARMEN DIDN'T THINK OF HERSELF AS A SEX SYMBOL

Actress-model Carmen Electra never thought of herself as a sex symbol despite posing nude for Playboy magazine numerous times at the height of her career. She also said that it always came as a surprise to her whenever she was given a compliment about her body.



FORTUNE FORECAST



Your convincing powers are so great that you can even convince people to do what they don't want to do. Today these pow ers will bear remarkable results. You realise the need to improve your home and your personality. Ganesha says today you will take some concrete steps in this direction.

TAURUS

In all probability, the fair sex will have a wonderful time in kitchen and at the dining table, foresees Ganesha. You may have family friends and close relatives coming over to your place in the evening. Romance will free-flow with your soul mate later in the day, says a beaming Ganesha.

GEMINI

Today, you will look more presentable than ever, predicts Ganesha. At work, you will employ new business strategies to succeed. By evening, you will give a demo of your supreme sense for style, especially when it comes to dressing up. Your spouse will be enamoured by your new avtaar.



you can be too straight at times, leaving those around you embarrassed. Early in the day, small things may bother you in a big way. You may get involved in big financial transactions. You will get due appreciation for your efforts at work.



tainly pay close attention to your personal appearance, says Ganesha. After all, no one ever said looking good was a crime. At work, you shall find the resources to dig up a suc cessful business tactic. If you are a job aspirant, an interview in the evening shall go well

VIRGO

So carry if

A vital turning point is about to take place in your relationships and will dictate how they will progress. Today you will be preoccupied with the organisational details for a social gathering with friends and near and dear ones.

LIBRA Optimism and a positive mindset are second to your nature today, says Ganesha.

There're no rules in fashion: KHUSI

Mumbai: Upcoming actress Khushi Kapoor has emerged as an inspiration to the younger generation as she advocates a self-assured approach to personal style.

Speaking of her 'go to fashion' mantra, Khushi revealed: "I don't think there are rules in fashion. I think if you look good in something and like wearing it, you should completely own it. I also feel that confidence can elevate any outfit and do whatever makes you feel good.'

Known for consistently making style statements, Khushi unabashedly owns every outfit, creating a league of her own.

Her unmatched style reflects an individ uality that resonates with confidence and authenticity, setting her apart in the world of fashion.

In Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies*, she will be portraying the iconic character of Betty Cooper.

The flick also stars Agastya Nanda, Suhana Khan, Vedang Raina, Mihir Ahuja, Aditi Saigal and Yuvraj Menda.

The screenplay is by Reema Kagti. The heartfelt coming-of-age tale set in the idyllic backdrop of the 1960s, The Archies draws viewers into the lives of a beloved group of

teenagers. The film is a collaborative effort between Netflix India, Tiger Baby, Archie Comics and Graphic

India

IANS

PEANUTS

It will be re-

leased on Netflix December 7.

Mumbai: It's no secret that actor Sonu Sood not only entertains moviegoers with his captivating onscreen performances, he does a lot of social work offscreen too. Recently, he aided

A man named Pallav Singh, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district, took to X (formerly Twitter) and wrote about his father's surgery. He said: "My father will die, soon or very soon. Yes. I

know what I am saying. I am writing this while stand ing in a queue at AIIMS Delhi. Please read.'

Upon learning about Pallav's predicament, Sonu promptly took action, arranging for the financial assistance required for the crucial surgery by immediately sharing a post on his social media account: "We won't let your father die brother. Message me ur number directly on my personal twitter id inbox... kindly don't share on a tweet." On the work front, Sonu has wrapped up his maiden production *Fateh*, a collaboration between Zee Studios and his production Shakti Sagar Productions.

The film will be released in 2024, features great acting, mesmerising chemstry. thrilling Hollywood-styled stunts.

AKADEMI'S 5-DAY DRAMA FEST ON ODIA LEGENDS KICKS OFF



Artistes of Adrushya Natya Ashram of Sambalpur presented Odia play *Utkalamani*, on the life of Pandit Gopabandhu Das, at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. Written by Panchanan Dash the play was directed by Atish Kumar Satpathy. The play was the first enactment of the event being organised by Odia Language, Literature and Culture (OLL&C) Department in collaboration with Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi to create awareness on works of legends and social reformers of the state. This will also help in fostering harmony between people of various regions and the popularity of Odia theatre, claimed the officials. OLL&C Secretary Sujata R Kartikeyan, Director Dilip Routray, OSNA Vice-President Manmath Kumar Satpathy graced the occasion as guests, while OSNA Secretary Prabodh Rath coordinated the event.

When Katrina was in tears

Mumbai: Tiger 3, featuring Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi, released in theatres on November 12 and successfully went on to become one of the commercially viable films of the year. One of the many talked-about elements from the film was the Turkish hamam towel fight scene between Katrina Kaif and Hollywood star Michelle Lee. The actress recently said that she was in tears when her body double fell sick during the shoot and she ended up doing it herself.

Katrina Kaif recently attended the Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah. There, she spoke about 'Tiger 3' and mentioned that 'some of the action sequences in Figer 3 were definitely phenomenal". She also added, "I lost my body double in the 'hamam' sequence. She got sick. I went up to my director and producer and I was crying. Because I'd worked so hard and I was like 'no_ no', and he was like 'you are going to do it'." Talking about Katrina Kaif, she said, "Katrina was as graceful and professional as can be. She worked really hard on getting the movements precise and making sure all the movements flow. It was clear she had experience in choreography so it was super easy to work with her. We worked up a sweat.' IANS

Won't let your father die brother'

a youngman for his father's

may tend to be slightly overcautious at work, but that will only protect you. Today seems to be one of those days when you can't stop worrying about your career prospects. But everything shall happen in due course, reminds Ganesha.



unique locations, and an exciting plot co-starring Jacqueline Fernandez. IANS



CROSSWORD

SCORPIO

The itch of love will spread like a rash today. Passion will set you ablaze, says

Ganesha. At work, the course of things may shift to being better than before. However, in love relationships, cold logic will rule over intense emotions. But sweat not in the heat of love, and find the poignancy hidden within, advises Ganesha

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha suggests you get down to looking your dashing best. Preen that plumage and make heads turn. Your social standing, on the other hand. will add that extra jazz. Talking fast and smooth might just help you effect a robust consummation.

CAPRICORN

You will love to play God today, and may make use of every tactic of the power game to yield the desired results, says Ganesha. A clear thought process and nonjudgemental attitude will show you a new direction to life, but you will have to be

focused to meet success.

Today, you will blow hot and cold. Hence, no one will know what to expect from you. This will throw your rivals off balance. keeping you a step ahead of them. At work, you will finally win recognition and respect. Ganesha wants you to be satisfied for now, and wait for a better tomorrow.

PISCES

You have been under a lot of pressure of late, but today should see a marked change in your fortunes. A progressive day when it comes to business and professional matters. Fun and frolic too is on the agenda, with invitations to parties and other social get-togethers coming your way, says Ganesha.

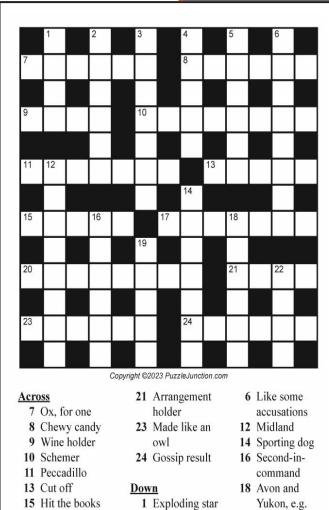


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





2 Ripped off

3 Educator

4 Mindless

5 Abrasive

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

19 Given to

22 Render

frivolity

speechless

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.

	8				4	5		6
		1					3	
	9	7						
		4						3
		2		5				
	5			1		8		7
							7	
3				8		6		
4		5	1		2			

SOLUTIONS COMB ACE MESH CROSSWOR 5 1 3 5 4 8 3 6 9 7 1 2 8 2 7 9 6 4 5 3 8 5 9 1 3 4 7 SUDOKU 3 2 8 7 4 5 9 6 4 9 7 6 2 5 8 3 1 3 5 9 2 7 8 1 6 4 9 4 6 2 8 1 3 7 5 4 6 7 2 8

17 Island economy,

usually

happening

20 Volcano





downtown

CURTAINS DOWN ON KONARK FEST

Artistes perform Odissi during the concluding day of 34th Konark Festival-2023 in Puri district, Tuesday



Cybercrimes against women highest in state



EPORTED 224 CASES OF RIOTS OVER POLITICAL RIVALRY, VHICH WAS ALSO THE SECOND HIGHEST AFTER KERALA'S 301 IN 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha witnessed 542 cases of cybercrime against women in 2022. which is the highest in India, according to the latest report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Of the 542 cases, 269 were recorded for publishing or transmitting sexually-explicit material and the remaining 273 were registered under other cybercrimes, including blackmailing, defamation, morphing and fake profiles, the report said.

Odisha also reported the second-highest cases of publishing or transmitting sexually-explicit material in the country, while Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 450 cyber pornography crimes against 455 women.

Similarly, Odisha reported the highest victims of cyber morphing in the country, followed by Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu.

The eastern state reported the

Odisha reported the highest victims of cyber morphing in the country, followed by Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu

6,140 died by suicide

Odisha has witnessed 8.65 per

cent rise in incidents of

suicides last year, as per the

latest data shared by NCRB.

According to NCRB statistics,

6,140 persons in Odisha ended

2021. an 8.65 per cent rise. As

their lives in 2022 against 5,651 in

many as 1,70,924 persons died by

suicide across the country last

year against 1,64,033 in 2021,

registering a 4.2 per cent rise.

Maharashtra topped the list with 22,746 suicides. 'Family

problems' and 'illness' were the

major causes of suicides which

accounted for 31.7 per cent and

18.4 per cent of such incidents

respectively during 2022. Odisha

saw 3,031 dying by suicide over

family problems.

tims in Odisha were below 18 The eastern state also reported the years and of them 140 were girls. maximum number of trafficked The state rescued 1,816 victims, people in the country in 2022 who were trafficked before and

With eight murders stemming from during 2022, the report said. political rivalry in 2022, Odisha was ranked second behind Jharkhand zens and children have increased (17) in the country in the state last year.

Altogether 8,240 cases of crime against children were reported in Odisha in 2022, up from 7,899

in 2021 and 6,330 in 2020. Similarly, offences against senior citizens saw an alarming increase to 551 cases in 2022, more than double from 210 in 2021.

ficked in Odisha last year, fol-

tims).

However, the state witnessed a decline in cases of crime against women in 2022. As many as 23,648 cases of

crime against women were reported in the state last year, down from 31,352 in 2021. With eight murders stemming

from political rivalry in 2022, Odisha was ranked second behind Jharkhand (17) in the country. Odisha reported 224 cases of

riots over political rivalry, which was also the second highest after Kerala's 301 in 2022. Moreover, the eastern state registered 85 cases relating to disproportionate assets against

corrupt public servants in 2022, which is also the highest in the country. maximum number of trafficked Karnataka and Bihar ranked

people in the country in 2022. second and third by registering As many as 1,120 people, in-56 and 48 such cases during the cluding 502 women, were trafyear, the report added.

DIABETIC PLANTS GUDUCHI AMLA lowed by Maharashtra (805 vic-At least 353 of the trafficked vic-Crimes against senior citi-

NATURE'S BOUNTY: Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat during the inaugural session of 16th State-level Kalinga Herbal Fair 2023 at Idco Exhibition Ground in Unit III area of Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. Among others, Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu is also seen

Man held for attack

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested a man on charges of attacking a person over non-payment of money. The accused was identified as Chitrasen Pradhan who runs a car remodelling shop in Khandagiri area here. According to Khandagiri police, Sunil Paikray got his car remodelled at Pradhan's shop. When Pradhan overcharged Paikray, the latter refused to pay. "Irked over the refusal, Pradhan attacked Paikray and also threatened to kill him," an official said, quoting Paikray's complaint. On the basis of a complaint lodged by Paikray. Pradhan was booked under Section 294. 324. 326, 307 and 506 of the IPC and arrested.

₹65cr for Tusura airstrip makeover

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday approved a proposal for modernisation of Tusura airstrip in Bolangir and sanctioned Rs 65 crore for the project.

It may be mentioned here that 5T and Naveen Odisha Chairman VK Pandian had visited Bolangir August 5 and 6 and received many proposals including development of Tusura airstrip. He had directed the Bolangir Collector for preparation of a detailed project report.

The airstrip in Tusura which is about 30 km away from Bolangir was inaugurated October 2, 1967 by the then Chief Minister Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singhdeo. Built on a sprawling 50-acre land, the airstrip has a 1,200metre long runway



The airstrip in Tusura which is about 30 km away from Bolangir was inaugurated October 2, 1967 by the then Chief Minister Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singhdeo

In 2016, former parlia-

mentarian Kalikesh Narayan

Singhdeo urged the Centre

to include Tusura airstrip in Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAAN) scheme. In 2021, the Centre had included 19 unserved and underserved airstrips and airports of Odisha including Tusura airstrip under UDAN scheme.

Accordingly, Air Odisha had also conducted surveys of Tusura and Utkela airstrips. The inspection team had opined that the development of infrastructure can boost the chances of commercial air connectivity in the region.

Workshop highlights declining child sex ratio in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Child sex ratio in Odisha has been declining since 1961. This was revealed during a State Level Consultative Workshop on Addressing Low Sex Ratio at Birth organised by Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) here, Tuesday.

The workshop was conducted in view of decline in sex ratio at birth (SRB) in the state to find out strategies to improve SRB. Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the low levels of SRB are preference for sons, sex selective abortions and female foeticide.

During the workshop, officials said the child sex ratio of Odisha

has been showing a declining trend since 1961. In 1961 census, Odisha's ratio was 1,035 which declined to 1,020 in 1971, 995 in 1981, 967 in 1991, 953 in 2001 and 941 in 2011. The National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-2021) had estimated Odisha's child sex ratio at 894, a sharp decline from 932 in NFHS-4 (2015-2016).

The statistical report estimated a fall of 23 points by Odisha in five years from 948 in 2014-16 to 925 in 2018-20.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mission Director, NHM Odisha in presence of Bijaya Kumar Panigrahi, Director, Family Welfare. Md Nadeedm Noor, Head of Office, UNFPA, Odisha, Director, I & PR department, Director, Social Welfare, W&CD department, Director, Health Services.

MARKET WATCH

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



2023's most-viewed articles on Wikipedia

CHATGPT MOST POPULAR; WC CRICKET, IPL AND PATHAAN AMONG THIS YEAR'S TOP 25 ARTICLES ON INTERNET'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Dec 5: Remember what you searched for in 2023? Well, Wikipedia has the receipts.

English Wikipedia raked in more than 84 billion views this year, according to numbers released Tuesday by the Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit behind the free, publicly edited online encyclopedia. And the most popular article was about ChatGPT (ves. the AI chatbot that's seemingly everywhere today).

Since its launch just over a year ago, OpenAI's ChatGPT has skyrocketed into the public's consciousness as the technology makes its way into schools, healthcare, law and even religious sermons. The chatbot has also contributed to growing debates about the promise and potential dangers of generative AI, much of which is documented on its

TOP 25 ARTICLE PAGEVIEWS ChatGPT: 49,490,406

- Deaths in 2023: 42,666,860 2023 Cricket World Cup:
- 38,171,653 Indian Premier League:
- 32.012.810
- Oppenheimer (film): 28,348,248
- Cricket World Cup: 25,961,417 J. Robert Oppenheimer: 25,672,469
- Jawan (film): 21,791,126
- 2023 Indian Premier League:
- 20,694,974 Pathaan (film): 19,932,509
- The Last of Us (TV series): 19,791,789
- Taylor Swift, **19,418,385**

Wikipedia page. The second most-read article on Wikipedia in 2023 was the annual

list of deaths, which sees high traf-

- Barbie (film): 18.051.077 Cristiano Ronaldo: 17,492,537
- Lionel Messi: 16,623,630
 - Premier League: 16,604,669
 - Matthew Perry: 16,454,666 United States: 16,240,461
 - Elon Musk: 14,370,395
- Avatar: The Way of Water:
- 14.303.116
 - India: 13,850,178
 - Lisa Marie Presley: 13,764,007 Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3:
 - 13,392,917 Russian invasion of Ukraine:
 - 12,798,866 Andrew Tate: 12,728,616

fic year after year — taking the #4 and #1 spots in 2022 and 2021. respectively. Individual entries for notable figures who passed away also garnered significant interest this year, including pages for Matthew Perry and Lisa Marie Preslev

Meanwhile, the highly anticipated 2023 Cricket World Cup took third place — alongside three other cricket-related entries in Wikipedia's top 25 articles this year, including the Indian Premier League at #4, marking the first time a cricket article has made the list since the Wikimedia Foundation started tracking in 2015.

"Barbenheimer," Taylor Swift and more also appeared to sway our 2023 internet-reading habits. Here are this year's top 25 articles on English Wikipedia.

According to the Wikimedia Foundation, this top 25 list was created using English Wikipedia data as of November 28. Numbers for the full year are set to be updated by the nonprofit January 3, 2024.

Introducing

Plan No.: 867

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UIN: 512L347V01

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- Guaranteed Additions
 Deferred Annuity
 Market Linked Payout
 - Partial Withdrawals









downtown

BJD bats for teachers' training institute in state

Biju Janata Dal MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu urges Union government to set up a Technical Teachers' Training Institute on the pattern of NITTTR

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 5: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu Tuesday requested the Union government to set up a **Technical Teachers Training** Institute (TTTI) on the pattern of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR) with practical training facilities to enable the state of Odisha to create a pool of trained teachers for the polytechnics.

The BJD MP from Berhampur raised the issue of lack of trained teachers in polytechnics in the state during zero hour in Lok Sabha. He said that there are 34 government and 124 private polytechnics including 22 new polytechnics in the state.

He also thanked the Union government for providing financial assistance for the implementation of the schemes relating to upgradation of 11 existing polytechnics and construction of women's hostels for 13 polytechnics.

"However, there has been a critical issue before the state and that is the shortage of trained

SSIFIED

I, Dr. Dibyalochan Naik, R/o-Rangadhipa, PS-Town, Dist. Sundargarh, Electric consumer No-812001110683, Mob-8895534111. When I was going to electric office for official work I have missing the original money receipt towards security deposit of WESCO (TPWODL), Sundargarh vide MR No. SDA0192012, Dated 05.02.2018. I searched the same but could not traced it out.

I, Sri Sushil Ch. Sarkar, FN Late Kartik Sarkar, At-Jhatinuagaon Colony, PO-Bhusandpur, Dist-Khordha, my registered sale deed No.1849, dt.14.09.1987 has lost anywhere. Its Khata No.131/291, Plot No. is 271/607, if any person get my R.S.D. please contact me in this No.9777963740.



faculty required for these polytechnics in Odisha. There is a government polytechnic in Bhubaneswar which has an extension centre, that is, the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Kolkata under the Ministry of HRD providing only short-term training without any practical skill training facility. The state does not have any Board of Practical Training due to which technicians and graduate apprenticeship programmes are hampered," Sahu said.

He requested the Union Minister of Education to consider setting up of a Technical Teachers Training Institute on the pattern of the NITTTR with prac-

Extend Vande Bharat to Hyderabad: Khan

New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Mujibulla Khan Tuesday urged the Union government to start Vande Bharat express train between Bhubaneswar and Hyderabad stating that the introduction will give a much-needed push to intra-state economic activities. While speaking during zero hour in Rajya Sabha, Khan highlighted the dearth of trains between two locations. He stressed upon the need for greater rail networks in Odisha to meet the growing demand. "The state has witnessed the inauguration of Vande Bharat train between Puri, in Odisha and Howrah, in West Bengal along with a recent addition of a train between Puri and Rourkela. Considering the state's massive export potential and trading networks, it is imperative for further Vande Bharat Express trains to be introduced in Odisha," he said.

tical training facilities to enable Odisha to create a pool of trained teachers for the polytechnics to maintain quality of teaching in government and private polytechnics in the state.

Govt restructures pay of **Nursing Service Cadre**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Owing to the increase in number of health facilities and patient load in government hospitals, the state government has decided to restructure the pay of Odisha Nursing Service Cadre.

In a notification, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said, "Out of sanctioned strength of 28,285 in the post of nursing officers in the scale of pay of Rs 29,200-92,3001-(Level-8 under ORSP Rules, 2017), 11,943 posts shall stand abolished in lieu of creation of 11,934 posts at different levels in the cadre hierarchy leaving 16,342 posts at base level and the employees holding the posts are eligible to be upgraded to Pay Level-9 automatically on completion of three years of service



to the Pay Level-12. In addition to this, 588 posts of DNS at the same pay level shall be created arriving at total 606 posts, which is the third promotional hierarchy.

The existing seven posts of nursing superintendents at Pay Level-12 shall be upgraded to Pay Level-13. In addition to this, 94 posts of nursing superintendent at the same pay level shall be created arriving at total 101 posts, which is the fourth promotional hierarchy.

The existing one post of Deputy Director, Nursing (Clinical) at Pay Level-13 shall be re-designated as Deputy Director. Nursing.



icy, special bio-park and startup ecosystem in Odisha encourage education, research and innovation, entrepreneurship, product development and manufacturing to enable the state in becoming one of the top biotech innovation and investment destinations in the country.

Principal Secretary, Science & Technology Department Chithra Arumugam said the state government promotes biotech startups through technology incubators.

She said Bharat Biotech will manufacture vaccines in coming days from the special biotech

Zero Fatality Week: Bike rally held in City

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha

Government is taking steps to in-

clude millets in the biotechnol-

ogy policy keeping in view the

productive role it plays in the

current developed economy, State

Science and Technology Minister

Speaking in the plenary session

on Global Bio India-2023 at New

Delhi. Panda said bio, water and

marine resources in Odisha add

substantial potential for growth

of biotechnology. The 3-day con-

clave was organised in joint col-

laboration with Department of

Biotechnology, Ministry of

Science and Technology,

Government of India and

Biotechnology Industry Research

He said that better interven-

tions, supportive industrial pol-

Assistance Council (BRIC).

Ashok Chandra Panda said.

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Amidst observance of Zero Fatality Week in state, a motorcycle rally was jointly organised by Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET) and Ziqitza Health Care Ltd (ZHL) here Tuesday, with an aim to spread awareness about road safety and promote responsible biking habits Additional director of DMET, Odisha UK Satpathy flagged off the rally that emphasised the importance of collective efforts in ensuring road safety. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from bikers, community leaders and road safety advocates.



park built by the state government at Andharua, near

Bhubaneswar. The state bio- technology policy, Chithra Arumugam said, will be revised in order to bring major developments in this field.

10 startups including Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) and Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) participated in the exhibition organised by the Science & Technology Department.

Kiran Mazumdar- Shaw, Executive Chairperson and founder of Biocon visited the exhibition and appreciated the startups from Odisha. The delegation from Odisha included Puja Mishra, Joint Secretary, Sashikant Dash, Deputy Director (Bio Technology), Senior Scientist LN Padhi, Mrutyunjay Suar, Chairman, BCKIC among others.

'Women in Agriculture Day' observed in Khurda

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: The ICAR-_ CIFA institute observed 'Women in Agriculture Day' at KVK-Khurda, Monday,

Speaking on the occasion, Harapriya Nayak, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK high-



FOR A BETTER FUTURE: Indian conservationist Padma Shri Sabarmatee watering a plant in presence of dignitaries OUAT VC Pravat Kumar Roul, Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee and Science & Technology Principal Secretary Chithra Arumugam during the World Soil Day celebration at Krushi Bhayan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

AFFIDAVIT

I, Laxmikant Mohapatra, aged about 50 yrs late Gokulananda Beura, At/PO/PS-Begunia, District Khordha, Odisha, Pin-752062, Aadhaar No.xxxx xxxx 1651 declare by this Affidavit No.3038, dated on 30.11.23 that now onwards I shall be known as Laxmikanta Mahapatra for all purposes.

I, Smt. Basanti Kumari Panda, W/o- Ex-NK Kalindi Chandra Panda, presently residing at Gundicha Vihar, PO-Puri-2, PS-Talabania, Dist-Puri (Odisha) have changed my name from Smt. Basanti Kumari Panda to Smt. Basanti Panda and Date of Birth from 15 July 1952 to 01 June 1952 vide Affidavit No.-62AA895505/ self declaration Dt.20.11.2023, Puri.

from the date of their initial ioining.

There shall be creation of 7,997 posts of senior nursing officer (SNO) at Pay Level-10, which is the first promotional hierarchy. The existing 381 posts of as-

sistant nursing superintendent (ANS) shall be upgraded to the Pav Level-11. In addition to this, 3,255 posts of ANS at the same pay level shall be created arriving at total 3,636 posts, which is the second promotional hierarchy.

The existing 18 posts of deputy nursing superintendent (DNS) which is the fifth promotional hierarchy. The existing one post of Joint Director, Nursing (Clinical) at the Pay Level-14 shall be re-designated as Joint Director, Nursing, which is the sixth pro-

motional hierarchy. The existing one post of Assistant Director, Nursing (Clinical) at Pay Level-10 shall stand abolished. The total cadre strength of the nursing officers will be 28,684 after restructuring. The nursing officers and senior

nursing officers perform the same job.

Participants embarked on a journey that took them through iconic locations, including DMET

Office-Na'tala, AG Square, Power House Chhak, Rupali Chhak, Ram Mandir and Nalco Chhak. The strategic selection of these points underscored the need for heightened awareness and adherence to safety regulations in high-traffic zones.

In a concerted effort to prioritise road safety and reduce preventable accidents, Odisha Zero Fatality Week is being observed with much enthusiasm.

On this occasion, Satpathy said, "Every year 40-45 per cent of road accident victims

succumb to injuries. The most affected are the youths. The main objective of this bike rally is to create awareness about road safety and safe driving practice. People should understand their responsibility while they are on the road. This rally will encourage others to follow road safety protocols seriously.

The initiative encourages individuals, communities and organisations to prioritise road safety and highlight the importance of safe driving practices.

On the possibility of meeting

the temperature targets of the

Paris Agreement, the research

team estimated a 50 per cent

chance global warming will ex-

ceed 1.5 degrees Celsius consis-

tently in about seven years, if

will overshoot the 1.5 degrees

Celsius target of the Paris

Agreement, and leaders meet-

ing at COP28 will have to agree

(on) rapid cuts in fossil fuel emis-

sions even to keep the 2 degrees

Celsius target alive," said Pierre

Friedlingstein from the

University of Exeter, who led

the study.

"It now looks inevitable we

current emissions persisted.

the researchers said.

lighted the role of women in agricultural development and eradication of malnutrition from the society. Sukanti Behera, Chief

Technical Officer, KVK explained about the significance of women in agriculture day celebration and appraised the role of KVK in transferring women-friendly agricultural technologies in the district.

OUAT College of Community Science Dean Trupti Mohanty informed the audience about the various government schemes and opportunities available for the benefit of the farmwomen in the state.

She also advised the farmwomen to go for millet cultivation in large scale and millet based value added products for livelihood as well as nutritional security. Joining the programme as chief guest ICAR-CIFA Director PK Sahoo encouraged the farmwomen to practice organic nutri-garden in their backyards and advised them to avoid the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides



Carbon emissions in India to increase by 8.2% in 2023

arbon emissions in India are projected to increase in India by 8.2 per cent in 2023 and by 4 per cent in China, according to an international research.

Global emissions from coal, oil and gas are all projected to increase by 1.1, 1.5 and 0.5 per cent, respectively, even as they are predicted to decline in the EU and the USA by 7.4 and 3 per cent, respectively, the research team that included the University of Exeter, UK, and 90 other institutions globally said in its report.

The Global Carbon Budget report, produced by more than 120 scientists, provides an annual,



peer-reviewed update, building on established methodologies, the researchers said The report projects total global

carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, arising out of both fossil fuels and land-use change, to be 40.9 billion tonnes in 2023. Of these, 36.8 billion tonnes would be from fossil fuels, up 1.1 per cent from 2022. Atmospheric CO2 levels are projected to average 419.3 parts per million in 2023, more than 50 per cent above pre-industrial levels, the researchers said in their report to be published in the journal Earth System Science Data.

Further, current levels of technology-based Carbon Dioxide Removal, which exclude naturebased means such as reforestation, amount to about 0.01 million tonnes CO2, more than a million times smaller than current fossil CO2 emissions, they said.

About half of all CO2 emitted continues to be absorbed by land and ocean "sinks," with the rest remaining in the atmosphere where it causes climate change,

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STAT

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- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-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-9777682449, 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.









PNN & AGENCIES

Chhatrapur, Dec 5: Farmers in the southern districts of

Odisha are in soup, as light to heavy rainfall continued in these

parts Tuesday in the wake of the

severe cyclonic storm 'Michaung'.

Farmers in many parts of the

southern districts including

Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada,

Ganiam and Gaiapati have been

busy cutting the paddy and other

crops and transporting thoses

to safe locations to protect it from

the rain. The IMD has said that

rains in these districts will con-

According to a farmer in

Ganjam district, the majority

of the paddy crops have suffered

damages this year due to low

rainfall and irrigation deficiency

The remaining produce is at

risk of being destroyed if there

Malkangiri, Koraput

Rayagada, Ganjam, and Gajapati

districts have experienced rain-

fall since Monday evening, as

reported by the weather agency.

Gajapati received 8.5mm of rain-

fall, followed by 8.3mm in

Koraput, 3.9mm in Ganjam.

2.5mm in Malkangiri and 1.5mm

in Rayagada between 5.30 pm

Monday and 8.30 am Tuesday,

IMD director general

Mrutvuniav Mohapatra had men-

tioned Monday that while there

will be no major impact on

Odisha due to the cyclone, heavy

rainfall is expected at some places

both Tuesday and Wednesday.

according to the IMD.

is heavy rainfall, he added.

tinue till December 6.

state

Farmers scurry to protect paddy Soil pollution, a worrying trend TFL project running MANY DISTRICTS, INCLUDING JAJPUR, KALAHANDI, KORAPUT AND

BOLANGIR HIT HARD BY CONTAMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOIL

WORLD SOIL DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Dec 5: Contamination and pollution of soil is assuming alarming proportions in the districts of Jajpur, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Koraput. This aspect, which has come to light on 'World Soil Day' has sent alarm bells ringing. This is because without proper soil conservation all forms of life will cease to exist and there will be serious ecological imbalance.

Many parts of Jajpur, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Koraput districts have been seriously affected by the presence of large quantities of aluminum. chromium and cadmium in the soil, as per a report prepared by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry belonging to the Odisha University of

Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), in Bhubaneswar. The report states that unless steps are taken to prevent soil contamination, there will be serious consequences

The report states that there is high concentration of chromite in five agricultural areas that lie close to the mines at Sukinda in Jajpur district. There is approximately 5,758 to 12,687 milligrams of chromite present per kilogram of soil. This can seriously affect agriculture production in the days to come, the report states.

Moreover, soil on 500 hectares of farmland has also been contaminated due to high concentration of nickel in the same areas. As per the report 0.7 to 0.98% of nickel is found in every kilogram of soil. This is quite dangerous and in the

long term can effect agriculture production which in turn may cause famines, the report states.

On the other hand, over 3,567 million tonne of iron ores lie deposited under 24,149 hectares of land in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Jajpur districts. This iron ore deposit is also causing soil contamination. Notably, Jajpur, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar districts have deposits of 183 million tonne of chromium under 9.197 hectares of land. As a result, cultivation is affected due to such high concentration of chromium on farmlands. The presence of 50 million tonne of manganese ore under 10,605 hectares of land in Bolangir, Keonihar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts is also another reason for soil contamination, the report points out.

Sources said farmers have stopped using organic manure and have become heavily dependent on chemical fertilizers for more output turning the soil acidic. This has led to a decline in sulphur, potash and oxygen content in the soil. Moreover, discharge of industrial wastes and polluted water by various industrial units in the districts men tioned above are the other reasons behind soil contamination. Scientists have harped on the importance of framing laws to prevent soil con-

behind schedule: Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The construction work for India's firstever coal gasification-based fertilizer plant in Talcher is running behind schedule and is likely to be

"The completed by major reason September for the delay in next year, the construction work of Parliament TFL project is the spread was inof Covid-19 and related formed restrictions" Tuesday. The delay BHAGWANTH KHUBA

strictions imposed during the outbreak of Covid-19. Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Bhagwanth Khuba said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. Accordingly, the board of Talcher Fertilizer Ltd

is due to the re-

the globe, including India. The entire country was put under prolonged lockdown, leading to delays in initial engineering work for the project. Due to the above restrictions, placement of orders for the project items were also delayed," the minister added.

"TFL was awarded the

Lump Sum Turnkey (LSTK)

contract for coal gasifica-

tion and ammonia urea pack-

ages in September 2019 and

a few months later. Covid-

19 started spreading across

According to Khuba, the project has received all major clearances, including the one required from the Environment Ministry. The Coal Ministry has also allocated a long-term coal linkage for the fertilizer plant, the minister added.

10th November, 2023



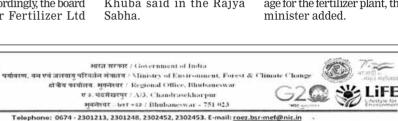
(TFL) has revised the likely date of completion of the project to September 2024, Khuba said. He added that the project has so far incurred an expenditure of ₹4,200 crore. 'The major reason for

the delay in construction

work of Talcher Fertilizer

Ltd (TFL) project is the

Khuba said in the Rajya Sabha. भारत सरकार / Government of India



The Addi. Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Deptt. Govt of Odisha Bhubaneswar.

Sub:- Permission under Section 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for grant of lease over 32.02 ha of forest land within the total mining lease area of 54.585 ha of Ghusuria Iron Ore, Soap Stone and Quartzite Mines under Rairangpur Forest Division of Mayurbhanj District, Odisha Sir.

I am directed to refer to the State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2023-10385/FE&CC dated 20.05.2023 and PCCF & Ho FF. Odisha letter No. 17199/9F(MG)-335/2023 dated 24.08.2023 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under Section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by Regional Empowered Committee constituted by the Central Govt, under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act. 2. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Govt. and on the basis of recommendation of the Regional Empowered Committee held on 07.09.2023 and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, approval the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 over 32.02 ha of forest land within the total mining lease area of 54.585 ha of Ghusuria Iron Ore, Soap Stone and Quartzite Mines under Rairangpur Forest Division of Mayurbhanj District, Odisha, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:- i) Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged. ii) The user agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of 32.02 ha forest land being considered for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as per the Orders of Hon' ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/ 1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No.5- 3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and 22.03.2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through on line portal in CAMPA account of the State concerned. iii) At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. iv) All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred on line to the Ad-hoc CAMPA in the Saving Bank Account pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/). v) This approval under Section 2 (iii) will automatically lapse within a period of two years from the date of in-principle approval by the Central Government, unless the user agency applies for approval under Section 2 (ii) of FC Act, 1980. vi) The approval under Section 2 (iii) does not, in any manner, exempt the user agency

from obtaining prior approval under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in

regard to such area of forest land which is to be used for non-forest purpose. vii) Grant of

Ganjam schools to remain closed today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Dec 5: Gajapati District Collector Smruti Ranjan Pradhan announced Tuesday that all the primary, upper primary and high schools and anganwadi centres will remain closed December 6. The decision has been taken anticipating heavy rainfall due to the cyclonic storm 'Michaung'. It should be stated here that all schools in the



district remained closed Tuesday on the occasion of 'Prathamashtami' The IMD has issued orange and yellow warnings for heavy to very heavy rainfall in most of the south-

ern Odisha districts. Met sources said squally windspeed reaching 35-45kmph gusting to 55kmph are likely to prevail in and off the Odisha coast till the evening of December 5 and subsequently it will decrease December 6 onwards.

It also said there will be some damage to the standing crops and vegetables due to temporary water-logging in the low-lying areas in some districts of southern Odisha.

Mason murdered, police detain 3

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharakote, Dec 5: A mason was brutally hacked to death allegedly over past enmity on the outskirts Mahuli village near Manikpur under Badagad police limits in Ganjam district. late Monday night. The deceased was identified as Manoj Behera, 26, of Ankuli area in Berhampur town. Police have detained three persons in this con-

nection and are questioning them. Police informed that the deceased was staving with six other masons in a house taken on rent at Manikpur Square. However, they often fought over



went to attend a feast Monday. While most of the other tenants returned home, Manoj stayed back. Locals spotted the body of Manoi lying under the Harbhangi canal bridge near Mahuli village and informed the police. Tuesdav morning.

Biswal rushed to the spot and launched an investigation.

After reports of Manoj's death surfaced, it has been alleged that two of his roommates tried to flee, but were detained and nabbed in the nick of time by the cops. After interrogating the two, the police detained another

youth Tuesday evening. A blood-stained sharp edged weapon, stones and bricks were also seized from the crime spot. Police registered a case over a complaint filed by the deceased's elder brother Muna Behera. Police believe that some more persons are involved in the gruesome

REQUIRED PRODUCT MANAGER DEVI CROPSCIENCE PVT. LTD. Corporate Office: 'De House', 281-4, Sivagang Main Road, Gomathipuran Madurai – 625 020 Tamilnad DEVIदेवी Agrochemical Manufacturing a A leading Agrocinemical Manufacturing an Exporting Company with its Flagship produ & Brand Leader BOOM FLOWER (Ne Generation Plant Growth Regulator & Ne CIB/Gott. Approved) and also dealing wi quality Biostimulants, Biological Pesticide Bio Fertilizers having branches all over Ind are recruiting the following position in the marketing avanasion program.

PRODUCT MANAGER Cuttack H.Q.

andidate should be minimum B.Sc (Ag wing around 10-12 years experience arketing & Product Development w puted Agricultural inputs marketing company. hould have handled sales promotion & arketing in entire Odisha State. Fluency in is preferred. Salary con

tamination as early as possible. То



MINISTER



trivial issues

have occurred when all the seven her Shergad counterpart Birendra

Aska SDPO Uma Shankar Singh, Police said that the murder may Badagad IIC Sandhyarani Singh and

'Little' millet changes Sarita's life big time

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Dec 5: In this district, 'Little' millet is known as 'kutki' or 'Suaan'. Among the varieties of millets, it is the least-cultivated. However. a remarkable story of agricultural innovation is being scripted by a woman in this district with cultivation of the 'Little' millet variety.

Sarita Sahu, a 24-yearold woman from Talsara village under Balishankara block, has become a trailblazer by giving prominence to the cultivation of 'Suaan', turning it into a major source of income for her family.

Hailing from a middleclass background, Sarita embodies resilience and determination. Living in a joint family with her husband, Tarun Kumar Sahu, and two sons, Ayush and

lenge of not owning any agricultural land. However. this did not deter Sarita's unwavering commitment towards agriculture. 'Little' millet stands out

as a nutritious and versatile cereal crop. Thriving in both arid and wet regions, this quick-growing grain matures within 65 to 75 davs. Scientifically called 'Panicum Sumatrense'.

'Little' millet is very similar to rice. It is used to make diverse dishes like upma, lemon rice, roti, dosa and many more items. It is also a key ingredient in biscuits, cakes, and

kheer. In addition, 'Little' millet provides various health benefits as it is rich in protein, carbohydrates, fats, calcium and iron.

Sarita's journey into millet farming took a significant turn when she had the opportunity to participate in

Piyush, she faced the chalthe 'Nutrition Food Festival and Skill Development Training Programme' organised by 'Sewak'. It is a partner NGO in Tangarpali and Balishankara blocks,

under the 'Millet Mission' programme run by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment in the state.

Sarita's newfound knowledge and passion for millet farming ignited her desire to adopt 'Suaan' cultivation as her mission. It did not matter that she did not have her own land.

Undeterred, Sarita approached fellow villagers and took permission to cultivate 'Suaan' on their unused land. Today, such has been her success that she cultivates the 'Little' varietv of millet on over 15 acres of land. It has become an attractive commodity with a market value ranging from ₹80 to ₹100 per kilogram. Today Sarita hopes of earning a minimum of ₹3 lakh annually.

Sarita is now an inspiration to others in her community and example for others to emulate. She generously credits her success to the 'Odisha Millet Mission' and 'Sewak'. Her story exemplifies resilience and determination and also highlights the transformative impact that individual initiatives can have on others

murder of Manoj. Police have formed se send your resume on the email three teams to nab the others who il:pune@devicropsc are allegedly involved in the murder.

Whatsapp: 9547209142

Registered Office: 301-306, 3rd Floor, ABHIJEET -V fincare Small Finance Bank Opp. Mayor's Bungalow, Law Garden Road, Mithakhali Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujarat, www.fincarebank.com LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS The below mentioned borrower/s have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd ("Bank"). Since the borrower/s has/have failed to repay his/thei dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on 12 December 2023 between 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM (Time) at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduc another auction without prior intimation

E-Auction Branch Details (E-auction will be conducted by using Weblink https://gold.samil.in)

BHADRAK - 23660000848393 23660000870841 | CUTTACK 23660001449327 | KUAKHIA - 23660000290622 | NARASINGHPUR 23660000215715 23660000250238 |

Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form which is made available before the commencement of auction Sd

> Manager Fincare Small Finance Bank



lotice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on th completed section of the under noted section of the East Coast Railway, Khurda Roa Division that the 25,000 Volts, 50 Hz, A.C. Over Head Traction wires will be energized on o after the date specified against the section, on and from the same date the Over Head Traction lines shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said over head lines.

DESCRIPTION	FROM LOC.	TO LOC.	TOTAL LENGTH IN TK
ELECTRIFICATION OF JSPL			
CABIN DEAD END TO	CH. 65.83	CH. 370.478	0.305
BALARAM SIDING DEAD END	F/C5B-JSPL	F/C8B-JSPL	

INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION "WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

Proforma 10.02 It is notified for information of the public that in connection with introduction of 25,000 volt AC electric traction over the noted section of EAST COAST RAILWAY, height gauges hav been erected at all the level crossings with clear maximum height of 4.78 meter above ro level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or danger proximity to live traction wire (contact wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5 meter bove the rail level crossings.

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loadin vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauge under any circumstances.

Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.
 iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors Date of Energization: 15.12.2023

PR-97/CG/23-24 Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer(GSU)/Angu

approval under Section 2 (iii) does not in any manner create any right or equity in favour of the user agency for grant of approval under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation), 1980 and decision on proposal under Section 2 (ii) will be taken purely on the merit of the case. viii) The State Govt. shall ensure that breaking up of land or mining operations within the lease area are not allowed without prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The user agency shall be responsible fo the protection of the forest land located in the mining lease. However, administrative and management control of such forest land will remain with the State Forest Department o other forest land owing agencies. ix) The State Govt. shall, within a period 30 days from the date of issue of his letter, realize from the user agency, NPV of the entire forest land falling in the mining 1 ase, in case NPV of such forest land has not already been realized. x) Jn case State Government fails to realize NPV from the user agency, PV of the entire forest land falling in a mining lease within a period of 30 days from the date of issue of this letter, this approval in respect of such mining lease, shall be kept abeyance, and shall be deemed to have been kept in abeyance, and all mining activities in such mining lease shall be stopped, till such time, the NPV of such forest land is realized by the State Govt. xi) The approval under Section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be valid for a period co-terminus with the period of mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. 1957, as amend d and the Rules framed thereunder. xii) The Forest Department will be free to manage the forest area as per nor al management practice and working plan prescription. xiii) State Govt. to confirm complete compliance of the provision of F, 2006 prior to executing/granting forest area on lease. xiv) Grant of this approval does not in any manner, exonerate the concerned authorities in the State Govt. or in any other authority, form the proceedings under Section 3A and 3B of the FC Act, liable to be initiated for violation, if any, of the FC Act committed by them by assigning such forest land on mining lease without obtaining prior approval of the Central Govt, under Section-2 of FC Act. xv) This permission does not confer any right to user agency for physical di rsion/mining or any other activity on the forest land. xvi) No staff/labourer shall be allowed to enter inside forest area without val d permission of competent local forest authority, xvii) Demarcation of mining lease will be done on the ground at project cost using four feet high concrete pillars with serial numbers, bearing, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates. xviii)The user agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of above conditions to the State Govt. and to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry regularly. xix) Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife, which shall be complied by the user agency, xx) Veri~cation .of dep?~its of NPV in St~te CAMPA~c~ount by Ad-hoc q AMPA must be obtained. This cond1t1on must be compiled before assign mg lease by State Govt. in favour of holder of Letter of Intent (Loi) for Mining Lease. xxi) The user agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project. xxii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project. xxiii) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para I.2 I of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.20 19. 3. The above approval under Section 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to verification of deposit of NPV in State CAMPA Account by the National Authority (CAMPA) and complete compliance of settlement of right, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013.

Yours faithfully (Padma Mahanti) Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

power post

FOCUS PMJAY

There is no greater courage than that of recognising one's own mistakes. THE MOTHER



Bungling Spies

t appears to be a season of Indian spies getting nabbed or identified for messing up with their espionage work in foreign countries. Spies, often masquerading as diplomats the world over, gather intelligence while working in different countries presumably to serve the interests of their own country. They also are mandated to foil attempts to destabilise or harm their countries. As such their work is recognised as legitimate and normal diplomatic activities and the host nations are usually aware of who all are into it and from which embassies. But, when protocols are breached or diplomats engaged in subversive activities bordering on criminality are caught, problems begin.

The issue has attracted global attention and Indian diplomats are at the centre of alleged shady operations. It all started with the charge levelled by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that an Indian spy working in the diplomatic services in Canada had a hand in the killing of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil. Before the hue and cry and allegations and counter-allegations by both sides subsided, a no less serious complaint was made by the US which accused an Indian spy working in the diplomatic services in America of plotting to kill a Sikh, supposedly a separatist, with the help of operatives. Now, it is the turn of the US itself to have egg on its face after a sensational revelation that one of its spies had, for the past four decades, been working as a double agent for Cuba.

US prosecutors termed it one of the most brazen and long-running betravals in the history of the US foreign service after Manuel Rocha was charged in Miami federal court that he had engaged in clandestine activity on Cuba's behalf since at least 1981. As he sat handcuffed and wept in the courtroom, prosecutors revealed he had been meeting Cuban intelligence operatives and providing false information to US government officials about his contacts.

The complaint is short on specifics of how Rocha may have assisted Cuba. But it provides a vivid case study of what American officials say are long-standing efforts by Cuba and its sophisticated intelligence services to target US government officials. This action exposes one of the highest-reaching and longest-lasting infiltrations of the United States government by a foreign agent, Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. The 73-year-old Rocha was arrested by the FBI at his Miami home late last week.

The American spy's case appears rather straightforward compared to the alleged activities of Indian spies and their agents. It is a commonplace occurrence the world over that spies of different countries act as double agents. This is done for their private gains which come when they betray the interests of their own countries. What is not so infrequent is spies killing or plotting to kill supposed enemies of their country on foreign soil where the latter have taken shelter as citizens of those countries. This is the reason why the 15-page indictment filed by the US Department of Justice against an Indian national, believed to be directed by an Indian government official for attempting an assassination plot against US-based Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, is so disturbing. The indictment is based on details of communications between the accused, an illicit drugs and arms dealer, Nikhil Gupta, with a serving senior and identified Indian government intelligence officer and two men in the US, who were allegedly engaged to kill Pannun.

As the incident came to light soon after Canada had accused India of engineering the killing of Nijjar, the credibility of India's foreign services has come under a cloud. What is even worse is the different responses of the Indian government to Canada and the USA. The foreign ministry dismissed outright the involvement of any of its diplomats in the killing of Nijjar and took retaliatory action against the Canadian diplomatic corps in India. But, when the US levelled similar charges, India pleaded ignorance and announced a probe. The irony is both the USA and Canada belong to the "Five Eyes" group of countries that share intelligence with one another and act in tandem in such situations. Canadian allegations will directly impact India's ties with all these intelligence partner countries.

India's credibility as a country that claims to take principled approach on international issues is under a question mark for what appears to be needless adventurism. The US needs India in dealing with China for its own strategic reasons. That seems to have injected into New Delhi a false sense of pride and importance in the international arena. It appears to believe it can get away with whatever it does. Some of the utterances and conduct of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar have of late created such an impression.

VIEW FROM FRONTLINES

ust over five years have now passed since the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), launched in 2018, came into being. During this period, it has issued over 27 crore insurance cards and has financed over 5.75 crore hospital admissions with an average payout of about ₹12,250 per admission, with almost 27,000 empanelled hospitals nationwide. This is an impressive track record and needs to be celebrated. However, any programme or scheme, no matter how welldesigned and executed, has both strengths and weaknesses. Five years is an excellent time to review some of them so that the scheme builds further on its strengths and works towards

filling any gaps that may exist. Of the 27,000 hospitals that are empanelled and about 20,000 that are active, 15,000 are in public sector. While this has not yet been formally evaluated, anecdotal evidence suggests that these public sector hospitals outperform those not part of the scheme. One of the challenges of the public sector, not just in India but globally, is its non-responsiveness. Starting in the 80s with the UK, governments worldwide, including Thailand, Turkey, and, most recently, Vietnam, have moved to finance the public sector based on outcomes. They have gradually moved away from automatic financing based on annual expenditure budgets. This change has allowed them to improve the performance of the public sector, and it is not surprising that something similar is being seen in India when PMJAY pays the government hospitals based on outcomes. Over time, the full power of this can be realised if all financing to the public sector moves in this direction, including at the primary care level.

Given its funding limitations, PMJAY has not yet moved towards total health system financing in any part of the country, but its move towards paying hospitals on a package basis and not on a procedure-by-procedure basis has shown beneficial impacts. For example, increasing the length of stay after a successful surgery in a hospital is often due to poor infection control at



Hospitals and entire health systems can respond to controlled pricing by innovating, bringing down costs, shedding unnecessary frills, and keeping quality high

per lakh population, it has is-

sued nearly as many cards as

Kerala's 21,500. However, it has

only about 1200 hospitalisations

per lakh population compared to

These large differentials are

a reflection of the lack of avail-

ability of hospitals in lower-in-

come states. This can also be

seen from the fact that in over

200 districts of India, all based

in the north and the northeast,

total C-section rates are well

below 10% - these low rates are

now the principal reason why

pregnant women and their new-

borns are dying in these dis-

tricts. In order to address this,

there is a need to build and staff

more public sector hospitals in

these districts and, where ap-

propriate, devise incentives for

the private sector to set up fa-

cilities in these remote regions.

The UDAN ("Ude Desh Ka Aam

Nagrik") scheme of the Ministry

of Civil Aviation, which has

done something similar with

private airlines, could provide

an excellent learning model.

Putting aside concerns relat-

ing to low rates, while the move

towards package rates within

PMJAY has been a helpful de-

velopment, it still falls within the

ambit of what is referred to as

a fee-for-service payment model.

The danger of insurance

schemes funded in this way, as

the US discovered with its own

version of PMJAY, Medicaid

and Medicare after it was too

late, is that it leads to massive

price inflation in the healthcare

sector. The only durable way to

address this is, with adequate

funding, to move towards total

health system financing based

Kerala's 16.000.

hospitals. A fixed package approach has persuaded hospitals to pay particular attention to this and control it so patients can be discharged quickly.

The low package rates offered by PMJAY have come in for much criticism. However, there is global evidence which suggests that merely because package rates are low it does not mean that quality needs to be low. Hospitals and entire health systems can respond to controlled pricing by innovating, bringing down costs, shedding unnecessary frills, and keeping quality high. When Japan moved to a fixed-price regime, Switzerland enacted its comprehensive health care legislation, and Germany instituted strict price controls, there was a fear that their health systems would be unable to cope. These proved unfounded. As a negotiating strategy, the approach adopted by PMJAY has been optimal-start at the lowest point and then revise prices upwards selectively based on actual experience (not lobbying).

While the scheme has many empanelled hospitals, over 25% are inactive, and the number varies significantly across the country - from over 500 active hospitals per crore population in Karnataka to only about 60 per crore in Bihar. As a result, hospitalisations under the scheme have been mainly concentrated in the southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala and range from almost 16,000 admissions per lakh population in Kerala to only about 600 in Bihar. The case of Uttar Pradesh is particularly noteworthy - at over 18,500 cards

with the private sector. Research suggests that in several states, including Delhi, Goa, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh, current government expenditures are already adequate to finance all necessary healthcare. If, in these states, the independent State Health Authorities could be given charge of the entire state health budget, they would have sufficient funding to implement district-level total health systems financing strategies and take responsibility for overall district and state-level health outcomes.

on population norms, as

Thailand has done with the pub-

lic sector and Israel has done

The durability of tax-financed purchasing schemes for health like PMJAY both at Central and state levels speaks to the continued political and mass appeal of such an approach towards financing healthcare. Over time, stable structures like the National and State Health Authorities which now run these schemes, have evolved, albeit with varying levels of capability. These schemes have also successfully built navigation capability, allowing them to purchase services from the private sector without getting embroiled in one or the other corruption scandals. This durability, stability, and ability to navigate is rare in the health care sector in India. It has set the stage for the next big move-the complete transfer of state health budgets to their State Health Authorities, which will pay the public sector and, where neces sary, the private sector, based on defined outcomes and do away entirely with automatic-budgetbased financing of public sector.

More than two decades of experience with tax-financed insurance schemes in India has indicated that the availability of insurance schemes is a necessary but insufficient condition for a robust supply response from the hospital sector.

Dr Nachiket Mor is Visiting Scientist at The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health, Chennai. Dr Shuchin Bajaj is founder of Ujala Cygnus. ©THE BILLION PRESS

IN JEST THIS

Nachiket Mor &

Shuchin Bajaj

ONE OF THE

THE PUBLIC

SECTOR, NOT

JUST IN INDIA

IS ITS

NON-

BUT GLOBALLY,

RESPONSIVENESS

CHALLENGES OF

Some record holders make me envious

India needs to watch out and not misstep.

WISDOM CORNER

- However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. STEPHEN HAWKING
- Selfishness must always be forgiven you know, because there is no hope of a cure.

JANE AUSTEN

When you choose your friends, don't be short-changed by choosing personality over character. W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1865: Georgia became the 27th U.S. state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slaveryand involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime.
- 1917: Finnish Declaration of Independence. The declaration ended 109 years of Finland being a Grand Duchy in the Russian Empire. The Northern European country came under the control of the Russian Empire in 1809. After the October Revolution in Russia, which created the Soviet Union, the Finnish Parliament declared independence on this day.
- **1921:** Irish Free State established. The British government and Irish leaders Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, and others signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty, establishing the Irish Free State as an independent member of the British Commonwealth this day in 1921.
- 1933: In what was considered a landmark ruling, a US federal judge held that James Joyce's Ulysses was not obscene, thus allowing for greater freedoms in literary works.
- 1992: The Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was destroyed by Hindu fundamentalists, leading to Hindu-Muslim riots throughout India and the other parts of the sub-continent.





Melvin Durai

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, **ABOUT ONE IN EVERY 25 PEOPLE HAS ONE OR MORE SUPERNUMERARY** TEETH

tery, although they're extremely lucky. I'm talking about the ones who've been blessed with too much of a good thing. For example, while many peo-

No, I'm not talking about

the ones who win the lot-

ple do not have enough teeth in their mouths, some people have too many teeth.

If you don't believe me, then you haven't heard about Kalpana Balan. The Indian woman has 38 teeth -- six more than the typical adult.

Balan, a 26-year-old mother of one, recently claimed a Guinness World Record for the most teeth in a person's mouth (female).

She has four extra mandibular (lower jaw) teeth and two extra maxillary (upper jaw) teeth. I'm thinking of writing a letter to her: "Dear Kalpana, I heard that you have six extra teeth. Would you mind donating a few

of them to me? Dental implants are very popular these days, but I would like

ome people are so lucky. to have a dental transplant. Why get fake teeth when you can have real teeth?

Of course, I could never afford Balan's teeth. Her teeth must be very valuable because they're part of a Guinness World Record

"I am so happy to get the Guinness World Records title," Balan told the Guinness website. "It's my lifetime achievement

Lifetime achievement? She's only 26. I think her lifetime achievement will be something more significant, such as becoming the first woman to successfully donate her extra teeth to a desperate man.

Balan's extra teeth are known as supernumerary teeth. They started growing during her teenage years. She initially wanted to remove them, but changed her mind later, since they weren't causing any pain. Having set a world record, she's quite happy about her decision. And she may be even happier in a few years, when she gets even more teeth.

Yes, according to Guinness, there are two more teeth in her jaw that haven't come out vet. These teeth are evidently waiting until someone else breaks the world record with 37 teeth, at which point they will pop out of her gums and say, "Ha ha! Kalpana still has the record!'

In case you're wondering, about one in every 25 people has one or more supernumerary teeth. While Balan has the record for females, the male record is held by a Canadian man named Evano Mellone, who has 41 teeth. He has nine extra teeth!

How lucky can some people get? I wish I could get a tooth transplant from these record holders, but if that's not possible, I'd settle for getting a hair transplant from Smita Srivastava of Uttar Pradesh.

The 46-year-old recently set a Guinness World Record for longest hair on a living person. Her hair measures 236.22 cm. If she were seven feet tall, nine

inches of her hair would still be touching the ground.

I'm envious of anyone with so much hair, partly because I've been losing hair for the last decade and have a prominent bald spot. I haven't tried any of the popular hair-growing lotions, but I'd be willing to get some help from Srivastava.

She's been growing her hair since she was 14. Three decades later, she gets a lot of attention when she's out in public and her hair is loose.

"People come to me, touch my hair, take pictures, take selfies with me, and they often enquire about the products I use, as my hair is beautiful," she told the Guinness website.

I met Srivastava, I'd ask her only one question: "Would you donate one strand of hair to me?'

Yes, all I'd need is one strand of 236-cm hair. I'd curl it many times over my bald spot. And then I'd try to claim my own Guinness World Record: longest hair on a balding male.

Opposition in disarray

Sir, This refers to "Opposition in peril," Orissa Post, Dec 5. The INDIA alliance, a group of 28 political parties, has been formed to stop the BJP's juggernaut in 2024. After its formation, the alliance moved quickly and held three back-to-back meetings. However, the momentum fizzled out as Congress pressed the wait-and-watch button, hoping wins in three states may solidify its top place and secure the leadership role in the alliance. With the Assembly poll result in three heartland states being a huge drubbing for the Congress, some rumblings have begun among the constituents of the INDIA opposition bloc, with many leaders alleging that the grand old party ignored others, but was unable to win elections on its own. As the results pushed the Congress further back, leaving it in power in only three states on its own, some opposition parties are questioning whether the grand old party is the weakest link within the alliance. The Congress may not win the parliamentary seats even in three states where it is in power as in the past, where voters have thrown different results for assembly and general elections. The ambitious regional satraps like Mamata Banerjee, Aravind Kejriwal and Nitish Kumar may upset the applecart of the Congress, leaving the Opposition in disarray. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Remarkable advancements

Sir, India's commendable double-digit year-on-year growth in the bioeconomy over the last 9 to 10 years underscores significant progress. Union Minister Jitendra Singh's emphasis on India's substantial strides in the bioeconomy signals a notable shift toward establishing the nation as a robust bio-manufacturing hub. The consistent growth and international acknowledgment underscore a deliberate emphasis on biotechnology, positioning India as a pivotal force in shaping the trajectory of bio-manufacturing. The initiation of the 'Zero Waste Life on Campus' initiative demonstrates a proactive approach to sustainability. With the \rightarrow Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council aligning with PM Modi's vision, India seems well-positioned to capitalise on its abundant bioresources and take a leading role in critical sectors such as healthcare, food, and energy. This not only emphasises economic progress but also underscores a steadfast commitment to innovation, markinga compelling phase in India's biotechnological landscape.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD







postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email,

10

to: edit@orissapost.com rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are



Is the party now over for Mayawati and BSP in UP? **UP steps up efforts to** check liquor smuggling

Smuggling of liquor from Delhi and Haryana into Uttar Pradesh is common due to price differences that depend on the quality of the brew



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Dec 5: Uttar Pradesh Excise Minister Nitin Agarwal has ordered that check-posts be put up in Agra, Mathura, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Baghpat, Saharanpur and Shamli regions to stop inter-state liquor smuggling.

He has also directed that PTZ, or pan, tilt, zoom cameras, be put up on liquor vends in the border areas to maintain an effective vigil.

The state government -- despite 10 per cent increase in excise revenue over the same period last year -- has expressed its concern over liquor smuggling from other states into Uttar Pradesh, especially those like Harvana where differences in pricing have often impacted revenues of vends here.

The minister said that he has ordered that show cause be issued to district excise officers of 10 such districts where revenue collections have been lowest Agarwal also ordered an assessment to find out if the revenue of liquor shops in Baghpat, that are located on the Harvana border was being impacted.

Smuggling of liquor from Delhi and Haryana into Uttar Pradesh is common due to price differences that depend on the quality of the brew.

"The differences have lessened but, at times, a bottle of country-made liquor perhaps still costs more in Uttar Pradesh as compared to Harvana. The difference in pricing goes up if

you were to factor in costly liquor, including scotch," a liquor seller from Baghpat said.

The minister said that if revenue was being impacted due to liquor vends located close to the UP-Haryana border, then the Haryana government be approached to shift them accordingly. The minister also ordered that a vigil be maintained on the Saharanpur border too and said PTZ cameras be installed for proper vigil on shops in border areas.

Agarwal, however, noted that till November, the state's excise revenue was Rs 27, 340.97 crore that was 10 per cent (Rs 2,382.47 crore) more than what was a achieved at the same time.

"Efforts should be made to realise revenue worth more than Rs 50,000 crore in 2023-24,' Agarwal has told excise officials. He also ordered that a report be presented before him within 15 days on why there was no any expected increase in excise revenue in Kanpur.

"Special vigil be maintained on the Agra, Mathura, Lucknow highway till Bundelkhand highway and till Mirzapur and Sonbhadra to effectively check liquor smuggling," Agarwal said and ordered that cooperation of GST and police department be sought by the excise department.

On complaints of overrating of liquor from Deoria, Kushinagar, Pilibhit, Bareilly and other regions, the minister ordered that strict action be taken in all such cases where such complaints were found true.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Dec 5: The Bahujan Samaj Party has miserably failed to arrest its downslide in politics.

The BSP failed to open its account in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana and bagged just two seats in Rajasthan, negating party President chief Mayawati's claim of emerging as a 'kingmaker.' The BSP's poor performance in the state Assembly elections will have a direct impact on its fortunes in Uttar Pradesh where its graph has been rapidly slid-

ing down since 2012. Moreover, the BSP now stands completely isolated and its stocks have further gone down after the results in four states. For Mayawati to join hands with the Congress could prove to be an uphill task since the Samajwadi Party will not accept the same and this could disturb the fragile alliance within the INDIA bloc.

As a senior party functionary put it, "The game is over for us at least for the time being. We have burnt too many bridges and lost our bargaining power. We are being seen as a stooge of the BJP. If we want to resurrect the BSP, the leadership will have to take a reality check, connect with grassroots workers, instill confidence in them and return to the ideology on which the BSP stands. All this seems a Herculean task and cannot be accomplished before the Lok Sabha

polls. The BSP has fared worse than it had done in 2018 in four states where polls were held. The party polled 2.09 per cent of the votes in Chhattisgarh, 1.82 per cent in Rajasthan, 3.32 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and 1.38 per cent in Telangana.

Sadulpur and Bari in Rajasthan were the only seats that the BSP won this time. The BSP had polled 4.03 per cent votes and bagged six Assembly



state

seats in Rajasthan in 2018. The party had secured 5.01 per cent votes and won two seats in Madhya Pradesh five years ago. In Chhattisgarh, it had polled 3.87 per cent votes and bagged two seats in 2018.

In Telangana, the BSP had fielded candidates on 106 Assembly seats but failed to open its account in 2018 whereas in the 2014 Assembly election, it had bagged two seats even as the BRS (then TRS) wave swept the

The BSP, which had announced to go solo this year, later formed an alliance with Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh after declaration of the poll schedule by the Election Commission.

Mayawati had steadfastly maintained equidistance from the two national political blocs and insisted that it would neither join the Congress-led Indian

National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

"The BSP will emerge as the third front in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana," the party's national coordinator and Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand, who led the campaign, had stated.

Mayawati had planned the Assembly election campaign in the four states as the launch pad for Akash in national politics as well as to send a message to the party cadre that he will be her political successor.

Ahead of the election, Mayawati had pompously announced that her party would take a call on joining the government after the Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana to emerge as a "balance of power".

NDA LEADERS DEMAND NITISH'S HEAITH B

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Dec 5: With Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar avoiding public appearance due to his illness, Union Minister Giriraj Singh has demanded that the state government release his health bulletin.

His demand came soon after former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and R.C.P. Singh also expressed concern over the health status of Nitish Kumar. "Nitish Kumar is not a Chief

Minister of an alliance but he is a Chief Minister of Bihar. The concern of former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi is absolutely true. The Bihar government should release the health bulletins of CM Nitish Kumar," Singh said. Nitish Kumar, in the last 10

days, has cancelled all his public and government events. He expressed concern. "It is exalso cancelled Janata Darbar on tremely unfortunate that the Monday due to his illness. been ill for the last 10 days and

In wake of this, Manjhi, in a social media post, said: "Nitish Kumar is suffering from illness for the last 10 days. Is he really sick or is a political conspiracy



Nitish Kumar NITISH KUMAR IS ON THE TARGET is on the target list of NDA lead-LIST OF NDA LEADERS EVER SINCE HE MADE ALLEGED "LOOSE" ers ever since he REMARKS ON WOMEN DURING made alleged THE WINTER SESSION OF "loose" remarks on BIHAR ASSEMBLY women during the winevervone knows

> ter session of Bihar Assembly. On the next day, he also humiliated Manjhi as well.

Following that leaders like **BJP** state President Samrat Choudhary, Vijay Sinha, Sushil Kumar Modi, Giriraj Singh, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, R.C.P. Singh, Chirag Paswan, Manjhi and others have questioned his physical and mental condition.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

IIM-L students study temples

Lucknow Dec 5: Students of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-L) went on a temple trail as part of their destination marketing course.

The 60 odd management students visited different temples and places of worship in the state capital Sunday as part of their project. Based on their experiences, the students will now pen down USP's for each religious site from historical and spiritual perspectives and come up with ideas to make these religious places more attractive as tourist destinations.

The students said, "It was a wonderful experience to visit various temples of different types and architecture. The tourists visiting each temple were very different and the atmosphere too varied.

The temple trail was an eye opener, taking the students through the deep and diverse history of each temple, unleashing the new side of Lucknow.

As students of destination marketing, it helped them recognise

Prof Devashish Das Gupta, who introduced the religious trip, said, "As part of the immersion exercise in the course, we used to take students to major monuments and parks. For the very first time, we thought of this re-

and appreciate the significance

of the places around and how

they can be woven meaningfully

into a curated pilgrimage circuit

Destination marketing faculty

for the target audience.

ligious immersion trip to add a new image about Lucknow, which is otherwise popular for Nawabs and kebabs." Students, he said, will earn a maximum of 15 marks for writing a good report.

The report will include a religious tourism itinerary and a market strategy, including digital and social media interventions. Students will prepare a need gap analysis benchmarking with the best practices across India.

"All the temples we visited were unique in their historical significance, structure and architecture. The walk helped us realise that Lucknow which is known as a city of nawabs also holds a key presence on the religious front," he stated.

ZILLA PARISHAD. RAYAGADA At- Rayagada, PO/Dist.- Rayagada-765001, E-mail ID- ori-drayagada@nic.in No. 6704/XV-54/23 Dated: 04.12.2023 CORRIGENDUM

446 schools de-registered in Bihar Demand for Ram temple models surges

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Dec 5: Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) has cancelled the registration of 446 private schools after they failed to comply with the required parameters, an officer said Tuesday.

BSEB Chairman Anand Kishore said that the decision was taken during a meeting Monday evening. Of the total, 439 are middle schools, while seven are middle and high schools (Class 6 to 10).

"We carried out inspections of the schools across the state and found that 446 BSEB-affiliated ones lacked proper infrastructure needed to run the schools. We have set parameters for every school and they were not fulfilling it," Kishore said.

"Some of the schools which did not cooperate with our inspection teams, were also deregistered," Kishore said.



According to sources, schools functioning in two-three rooms were higher in numbers.

"As per the policy, the affected students will be shifted to nearby schools. We have also made a pro-

vision for students who are appearing for the board examination. Admit cards, registration cards and other important documents will be issued in the name of previous schools," Kishore said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

against him?

His health bul-

letin should be

issued in the pub-

about him.

lic domain so that

Former Union Minister and

JD-U leader R.C.P. Singh also

Chief Minister of Bihar has

people have no knowledge about

it. He is not appearing in public

events. Hiding his health status

is not right," he said.

Lucknow, Dec 5: As the countdown begins for the opening of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the demand for memorabilia related to the temple is catching on.

A handicrafts unit in Prayagraj has received orders for one lakh miniature models of the Ram temple made of pinewood board through laser-cutting technique. The temple models will be used by people as decorative and gift items.

Anurag Asthana, who initiated the concept of making replicas of Ram temple, said, "There has been a sudden demand for the Ram temple models across the markets of the state. We dispatch around 500 models of different sizes to Ayodhya alone every week. The demand has particularly gone up since the Dev Deepawali event.³

Various handicraft units in Kashi, Prayagraj and Gorakhpur are designing and shaping Ram

temple models to cater to the spurt in the demand.

Asthana said the bulk of demand comes from corporates, banks and event management companies. "We have already delivered 5,000 models in the past four months and are making efforts to increase production," he said.

He said, "Initially, we had one machine to design and shape these models but after witnessing huge demand in markets, we had to install seven machines to catch up with the craze. We have also engaged designers and artisans to manufacture replicas," Asthana said.

"Apart from Ram temple models, there is also demand for Kashi Vishwanath temple models and Hanuman Chalisa miniatures among the devotees," he added. These temple models are also available online and are priced between Rs 1,000 to Rs 10,000, depending on the size.

of Govt., in PR & DW Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, it is hereby informed to all the concerned that the Advertisement No.5908 dated 01.11.2023 of Zilla Parishad, Rayagada communicated to the Deputy Director, Advertisement-cum-Deputy Secretary to Govt., I & P.R Departmen vide letter No.5910, dated 01.11.2023 for its wide publication in one Odia daily newspaper and one English daily Newspaper inviting applications from eligible persons for the Post of Ombudsman, MGNREGS, Rayagada is held in abeyance till receipt of further instructions from the Department. Sd./- Collector-cum-DRC, MGNREGS, Rayagada OIPR-19266/11/0003/2324

	SUPERINT BALASORE (ROAD AT/PO-PADHU Contact No.:0678226204 BID INVITATION NO. SE	SA 5,	CE OF THE NDING ENGINEER & BUILDINGS) DIVISION-I NPADA, BALASORE E-mail ID: ee_blsrb@yahoo.co.in R and B) BLS-Divn-I-69/2023-24 198, Date:02.12.2023	
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	invites percentage r	a	te bids to be received in ON-	
	LINE MODE only for Road and Building works.			
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3	Nature of Work	:	Electrical Work of Balasore	
			(R&B) Division-I	
4	Class of Contractor	:	"HT Electrical" Class Con-	
			tractor	
5	Approx. Value of	:	Rs.13.20 Lakh	
	Work			
6	Tender Cost	:	Rs.6,000/-	
7	Availability of Bid	:	From 10.00 Hours of	
	Documents in the		dt.07.12.2023 to 16.00 Hours	
	Website		of dt.16.12.2023	
8	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt.18.12.2023 at 11.00 Hours	
9	Other details can be seen in the bidding documents			
	from the website: htt	p	s://tendersorissa.gov.in.	
OII	PR-34157/11/0022/2324	S	d./- Superintending Engineer Balasore (R&B) Division-I	

Bihar's tradition of men being kidnapped for marriage back in news

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Dec 5: 'Forced marriage' or 'Pakadwa Vivah' is again in the news these days in Bihar after one such case was reported from Vaishali district in the state.

However, the practice of this kind of marriage in Bihar is quite old. After 'Pakadwa Vivah', many couples are living a contented married life while several marriages have broken down. In, 'Pakadwa Vivah', neither the consent of the boy nor the girl is taken for marriage. Boys are taken hostage by kidnapping or coaxing and then married to a girl as per customs and traditions. In this, the wishes of the boy and girl, who become bride and groom, have no importance.

Recently, a case of a newly appointed teacher of a government

school being forced to marry has come to light in the Patepur police station area of Vaishali district of Bihar. Before this incident. the Patna High Court had given a decision against forced marriage in November.

It is said that in the 1970s and 80s, this type of marriage was conducted very frequently. There were many districts of Bihar where this marriage was prevalent. Such areas include Begusarai, Lakhisarai, Munger,

Jehanabad, Nawada. If we look at the statistics, in previous years, 2,000-3,000 such cases were registered in the police records in a year. However, these also include many cases of love affairs.

According to senior citizens, the main reason for this was that people were unable to marry their



daughters to employed men due to their inability to pay dowry. However, they wanted to marry their daughters in a good family, and hence this type of marriage was started by them.

Earlier, 'Pakadwa marriages' were organised as a social initiative, but after criminal gangs got involved, people started getting their daughters married to boys after kidnapping them with the help of criminals. It is said that around 1990, this trend completely

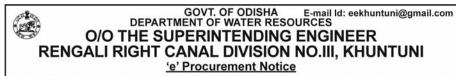
came into the clutches of criminals. Annu Kumari, a resident of Gopalganj and a sociology re-

searcher at BHU, told IANS that the biggest reason for forced marriage is the demand for dowry and illiteracy among girls. In such a situation, the parents are inclined towards such marriages despite their reluctance. She said that only a few cases come to light these days because nowadays girls are also educated and are taking their own decisions in life.

Kumari Shalini, professor of psychology at ITI Bihta, believes that this type of marriage is a result of feudal ideology. This trend is seen in Bihar. She says that it would also be considered a perversion where people think that by marrying off the girl they are relieved of their burden. However, she also said that now these practices are decreasing.

Police officials also consider it a crime. A police officer says that

whenever such cases come to light, action is taken. They believe that some cases come up during the wedding season



No.A-948:The Superintending Engineer, Rengali Right Canal Division No.III, Khuntuni, Dhenkanal on behalf of the Gov-ernor of Odisha invites online percentage rate bids in single cover system for construction of the works as detailed below. 1. Name of the Work: 2 Nos. as in DTCN. 2. Tender Cost: Rs.17.35 lakh for SI-1 & Rs.7.17 lakh For SI-2. 3. Bid document Cost: Rs.6000.00 (online) for SI-1 & Rs.4000.00 online for SI-2. 4. Bid Security: Rs.17,400.00 for SI-1 Rs.7,200.00 for SI-2. 5. Class of Contractor: The bidder should have registered as Sub-Soil explorator & Testing Laboratory license. 6. Period of Completion: 02 (Two) Calendar Months. 7. Other details are as follows:-

Procurement	Bid	Availability of	Date of Opening of	
Officer	Identification No.	bio		
		From	То	Bid
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sion No.III, Khuntuni, Dhenkanal	RCD-III-01/2023-24	10.00 AM	5.30 PM	10.00 AM
Further details can be seen from the e- gendum/ Cancellation to the above notic OIPR-32315/11/0001/2324	e will be published in th	e Govt. website v Sd./- Su		.gov.in. eer
UIPR-32315/11/0001/2324	Ren	gali Right Canal L	IVISION NO.III, KNUP	ituni. Dhenkana



Eminent Odissi dancer Dona Ganguly's troupe performs during the inauguration of the 29th Kolkata International Film Festival at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal



Captain Geetika Koul, from the Snow Leopard Brigade, with Indian Army personnel, in Siachen. Koul became the first woman medical officer of the Indian Army to be deployed at Siachen after successfully completing the induction training at Siachen Battle School



they are evacuated from a building foll wing an earthquake in Manila, Philippines People wear helmets as



Devotees walk on burning embers during Sri Veerbhadreshwara Swamy Kendotsava in Chikmagalur, Karnataka





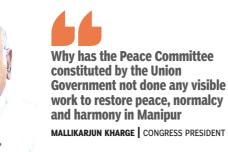
AAP MPs Ashok Mittal, Raghav Chadha and Sandeep Pathak stage a protest during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi

Activists protest against fossil fuels at the COP28 UN Climate Summit



People help an elderly woman shift to a safer place from a flooded area after heavy rainfall owing to cyclone Michaung in Chennai, Tamil Nadu





INDIA, KENYA INK 5 PACTS

India Tuesday announced a USD 250 million line of credit to Kenya for modernisation of its agricultural sector as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto agreed to shore up bilateral ties in areas of defence, trade, energy, digital public infrastructure and healthcare





Following the Prime Minister's guidance, the Haryana government has been organising the International Gita Mahotsav in

Kurukshetra since 2016, which has gained tremendous success and popularity over the past seven years MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR HARYANA CM

Prepare case studies of all the patients you see and actively encourage research in medical education YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

The government of India is committed to making Haj inclusive and accessible towards all segments of society, especially women and

specially abled persons SMRITI IRANI MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Oppn presses for early polls in J&K

New Delhi: Opposition members in the Lok Sabha sought a timeline from the government Tuesday for holding Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, with the Centre asserting that it is ready and it is up to the Election Commission (EC) to take a decision in the matter. While Home Minister Amit Shah will respond to the debate on the Jammu and Kashmir **Reorganisation (Amendment)** Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, taken up together, Wednesday, he intervened in the discussion and asserted that the Modi government has ensured that

the country has only one flag and one Constitution.

NIA raids in 7 districts in J&K

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Tuesday carried out raids at several locations across Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the terror conspiracy hatched and



Supporters of Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena's president Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi stage a protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur. Dec 5: Right-wing group Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena's president Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi was shot dead in the living room of his house here on Tuesday by three armed men, one of whom was also killed in retaliatory firing, police said. One of Gogamedi's security guards sustained bullet injuries in the exchange of fire with the assailants, who had gone to his

house in the Shyam Nagar area on the pretext of meeting him, they said. The incident was

caught on CCTV. Gogamedi formed Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena after he was expelled from Sri Rajput Karni Sena in 2015 over differences with its founder

Lokendra Singh Kalvi. Both these outfits had protested against Deepika Padukone starrer "Padmaavat" in 2018 over alleged distortion of

historical facts about the Rajput community. Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph told reporters, "Three men went to Gogamedi's house and told his security guards that they wanted to meet him. The guards took them inside and the men talked

Rashtriya Rajput Karni

Sena chief shot dead

to Gogamedi for 10 minutes before opening fire at him. While one of the assailants, who was identified as Naveen Singh Shekhawat, died in the exchange of fire, the remaining two managed to flee on a scooty they snatched from a person out side Gogamedi's house, he said. One of Gogamedi's security guards was injured in the firing and has been admitted to

the ICU of a hospital, he added. "The entire incident was captured on CCTV. We are trying to identify and trace the other two accused. Those involved in the planning of the murder will also be caught," Joseph said.

According to preliminary in-

BJP, CONG SPAR

he BJP and the Congress sparred over Gogamedi's killing, with both parties claiming that the law-and-order scenario deteriorates under the other's dispensation. Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat slammed the previous Congress regime in Rajasthan for the law-and-order situation, saying this is the adverse effect of the way "gang wars have flourished" in the desert state since the time of the Ashok Gehlot government. Senior Congress leader Pramod Tewari claimed that the courage of criminals in Rajasthan has gone up just after the information that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is coming to power in the state.

formation. Shekhawat used to run a shop, he said. Soon after the news of the attack on Gogamedi broke, his supporters and members of the Rajput community started reaching his house and the hospital where he was taken.

One of Gogamedi's relatives told reporters outside the hospital that he had been receiving threats for a long time and feared an attack. He claimed police had been informed about the threats. Gogamedi's supporters blocked the Shipra Path road outside the hospital where he was rushed after the attack and demanded that the accused be arrested immediately.

Top ourt seeks data on grant of citizenship to immigrants in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The Supreme Court Tuesday sought data on the beneficiaries of section 6A of the Citizenship Act in Assam, saying there was no material before it which could indicate that the effect of granting Indian citizenship to Bangladeshi immigrants between 1966 and 1971 was so great that it impacted the demographic and cultural identity of the border state.

While acknowledging the problem of cross-border infiltration in Assam, a five judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud referred to the humanitarian aspect of the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war for the liberation of Bangladesh which also led to the influx of immigrants.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant, M M Sundresh, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, commenced hearing 17 petitions to examine the constitutional validity of section 6A of the Citizenship Act relating to illegal immigrants in Assam

Section 6A was inserted in the Citizenship Act as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord.

It says those who came to Assam on or after January 1, 1966 but before March 25, 1971 from specified territories, including Bangladesh, in accordance with the Citizenship Act amended in 1985, and since then are residents of the northeastern state, must register themselves under section 18 for acquiring Indian citizenship.

Revanth Reddy to be next T'gana CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Telangana Congress chief A Revanth Reddy, who switched from the TDP in 2017 and spearheaded the successful electoral campaign against the BRS, was Tuesday named as the new Chief Minister of the state.

Announcing the decision at the party headquarters here Tuesday, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said the swearing-in of the 54-year-old leader will take place December 7 in Hyderabad.

Venugopal, however, did not say who all would join the government. "We will recognise all senior leaders. This is going to be a team, this is not going to be a one-man show. The Congress will go with the team," he told reporters while replying to queries on the issue.

Revanth Reddy was the frontrunner for the top post in the state after the party staged a stupendous victory in Assembly elections by winning 64 seats in Telangana, upstaging the BRS which has been in power for the last nine years.

"I wholeheartedly express my gratitude to honourable AICC president Shri Kharge ji, Mother of Telangana our beloved Soniamma, ever inspiring leader Rahul Gandhi ji, charismatic Priyanka Gandhi ji, AICC General Secretary (Org) K C Venugopalji, Deputy CM of Karnataka D K Shivakumar ji and Incharge General Secretary-Telangana Manikrao Thakare and last but not the least our



Congress soldiers who stood by us through thick and thin,' Reddy posted on X.

Venugopal said Revanth Reddy was working as the PCC president and is a dynamic leader who campaigned in this election extensively with other senior leaders.

Shivakumar and Thakre were present as Venugopal announced the party high command's decision on Telangana. The day saw hectic deliberations at the residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, where top Congress leadership including Rahul Gandhi discussed the issue of government formation in Telangana.

Revanth Reddy's name as chief minister in Telangana was cleared during this meeting after party observers handed over their report after speaking to the newly-elected MLAs in the southern state. Karnataka deputy chief minister Shivakumar also separately met former Telangana PCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy, who had staked his claim for the top post in the state.

SNIPPETS

MNF poll debacle: Zoramthanga quits

Aizawl: Mizoram's outgoing chief minister Zoramthanga Tuesday resigned as the Mizo National Front (MNF) president after a 33-year-long stint as its chief, following the party's defeat in the assembly polls. In his resignation letter sent to MNF senior vice president Tawnluia, Zoramthanga said he took moral responsibility as the president of the party for its poll debacle.

ED raids in Haryana, Rajasthan

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday raided 13 premises in Haryana and Rajasthan as part of a money laundering investigation against an alleged member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and some linked persons, official sources said. The central probe agency's action was concentrated on gangster and close ally of Bishnoi and Khalistani terror groups, Surender Singh Chiku, they said. The ED seized electronic devices, "incriminating" documents, ledgers, property papers and ₹5 lakh cash during the raids that were still continuing, according to the sources. About 60 bank accounts have been traced and the officials are scrutinising them, they said.

Cong to hold another round of parleys in late Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: A meeting of the top leaders of the INDIA opposition bloc has been deferred to the third week of December after some of them expressed their inability to attend it due to their preoccupations.

Another meeting convened by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence here Wednesday with the floor leaders of the INDIA constituents in Parliament will, however, go ahead according to its schedule to formulate the opposition strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The decision was taken as some leaders of the bloc, including Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, said they will not be able to attend Wednesday's meeting. Gurdeep Sappal, Congress Working Committee (CWC) mem-



during their meeting later in December, Chaturvedi added.

Rubbishing speculation that the recent Assembly poll results have created fissures within the INDIA bloc, Congress leader Naseer Hussain said the election outcome would have no bearing on the opposition unity and its alliance is intact. SP spokesperson Raiendra Chaudhary said Akhilesh Yadav has no plans to attend the meeting Wednesday.

Asked if the decision was

taken after the declaration of

Assembly poll results in five

states, he said there was no in-

formation about the meeting

earlier. In Delhi, SP leader

Ramgopal Yadav said his party

will attend the meeting, al-

though Akhilesh Yadav may

Talking to reporters,

not be present.

operationalised by offshoots of the banned Pakistan backed terrorist organisations, the investigating agency said. The searches led to the seizure of several digital devices containing large volumes of incriminating data and documents, it said.

7 labourers die as machine collapses

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Vijayapura (K'taka): Seven labourers from Bihar were killed after a gigantic processing machine collapsed, trapping them under a heap of about 100 tonnes of corn at a godown of a private food processing unit in Aliyabad industrial area here, police said Tuesday. The Karnataka government has announced a compensation of ₹7 lakh each to the families of those who died in the tragedy.

UCO Bank IMPS glitch: CBI files FIR

New Delhi: The CBI has registered an FIR in a case in which over 41,000 UCO Bank customers received surprise credits of varied amounts in their accounts, totalling ₹820 crore, during November 10-13 without any corresponding debits in accounts from where the transfers originated, officials said Tuesday. Under an operation, which continued till Tuesday, the agency has searched 13 locations in multiple cities, including Kolkata and Mangalore, in connection with the case, they said.

Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Rode dies

New Delhi: Khalistani separatist Lakhbir Singh alias Rode, among India's 'most wanted' terrorists, has died in Pakistan where he had fled after his uncle Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was killed in 1984, officials said Tuesday. The 72-year-old Rode, whose ancestral village was at Rode in Moga district, died at a hospital in Rawalpindi following a massive heart attack, the officials said. Some reports suggest that he died on Monday while others indicate that he breathed his last on Saturday. The self-styled chief of banned Khalistan Liberation Front was an accused in various cases and had a Red Corner notice issued by the Interpol at the request of India.

ber and coordinator of the Congress president's office, said on X: "A coordination meeting of parliamentary party leaders of INDIA alliance will be held at 6 pm on December 6 at the residence of Congress president Mallikariun Kharge.

Sources said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is unwell while his Tamil Nadu counterpart, M K Stalin, is unable to attend Wednesday's meet due to a cyclone that has hit the southern state. Banerjee, the

chief minister of West Bengal, is busy with a family wedding, the sources said.

Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi said the meeting has not been postponed as some chief ministers were unable to attend it. She said the meeting will take place December 6 and coordination and seat sharing will be discussed among the leaders.

Akhilesh Yadav said the recent Subsequently, the top lead-Assembly poll results will make ership of various opposition the INDIA bloc even stronger parties will endorse the same in the coming days.

Govt reviews social networks' progress on curbing deepfakes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar Tuesday met social media platforms to review progress made by them in tackling misinformation and deepfakes, and asserted that advisories will be issued in the next two days to ensure 100 per cent compliance by platforms. New, amended IT Rules to further ensure compliance of platforms, and the safety and trust of online users are actively under consideration, Chandrasekhar said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

2nd 'Held the #DigitalIndiaDialogues on Misinformation and #Deepfakes with intermediaries today, to review the progress made since the Nov 24 meeting."

"Many platforms are responding to the decisions taken last month and advisories on ensuring 100 per cent compliance will be issued in the next 2 days," Chandrasekhar, who is Minister of State for IT and Electronics, said in the post.

the government has talked tough with the digital platforms at Tuesday's meeting. Platforms have been reminded that 11 areas of "user harms" or "illegalities" flagged under IT Rules are also mapped to equivalent provisions in the IPC (Indian Penal Code) and hence criminal consequences can follow even under the current laws.

Meanwhile, sources said that

Court grants bail to former IAF official DMK MP's 'gaumutra' states remarks trigger row New Delhi: A Delhi court has granted bail to a former Indian Air Force official who allegedly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

der an apology.

being "honeytrapped" in 2015. The judge noted that the accused has already spent more than half the maximum sentence prescribed for the BJP as well as its ally Congress,

Fire breaks out in train

alleged offence.

shared secret information with Pakistan's ISI-backed

intelligence operatives after

Saharsa: A fire broke out inside a sleeper class coach of a train coming from Delhi on Tuesday evening, while it was on its way to the final stop at Saharsa in Bihar, though nobody was hurt in the incident, a senior official said. Prima facie the fire seems to have been caused by brake binding.

New Delhi, Dec 5: DMK Lok Sabha member DNV Senthil Kumar Tuesday triggered a row by describing Hindi heartland as "gaumutra states", drawing instant condemnation from the

whose leaders asked him to ten-

While participating in a dis-

cussion on J&K Reorganisation

(Amendment) Bill in the House,

he said the BJP can win elec-

tions only in the Hindi heart-

land states and not in south India.

Hindi heartland as "gaumutra"

states was expunged by the Lok

While his description of the

Sabha Speaker later, the remarks sparked a controversy with several members across party lines condemning the DMK leader and the video of his speech going viral on social media. Facing flak, he later apolo-

gised. "Commenting on the results of the five recent state assembly elections, I have used a word in a inappropriate way. Not using that term with any intent, I apologize for sending the wrong meaning across," he said

in a post on X. **BJP** leaders termed Senthil Kumar's remarks as "hate speech" and said the voters will "wipe out" the India bloc from southern India as well in the next

elections. Senthil Kumar's comments come in the backdrop of some referring to the recent assembly election results as reflective of the 'North-South divide' after the BJP trounced the

Congress in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and the Congress won in Telangana.

Senior BJP leader Sanjay had wrested Karnataka from Jaiswal said the BJP will even the BJP, while other southern form the government in Tamil states are ruled by non-BJP par-

DNV Senthilkumar, election victories in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh called as the saffron party can win elections in only those states and not in Lok Sabha South India

feating the DMK.

Earlier this year, Congress

ties including Tamil Nadu where Congress ally DMK is in power.

Speaking in Lok Sabha, Senthil Kumar said, "You (BJP) cannot come to South India. You see all the results of what happens in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka ... We are very strong over there."

In Tamil Nadu, state BJP chief K Annamalai condemned the "insensitive" remarks of the MP saving the level of the party's discourse is "sinking" like Chennai and the "arrogance" of DMK will be the prime reason for its downfall.

Former Karnataka minister C T Ravi asked if Congress leader Rahul Gandhi endorses such insulting remarks.



"People of this country should while taking a jibe at the BJP over its and Chhattisgarh, said Tuesday that

think that the power of the BJP is only winning elections in the heartland states of Hindi and what we generally gaumutra states," he said while speaking in





international



The world is in a state of turbulence and is undergoing a radical transformation. An underlying trend however is the fact that the previous unipolar system is being replaced with a fairer multipolar world order VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION

China has become the first country to confer diplomatic status to a Talibannominated official as Afghanistan's Ambassador to Beijing, thereby formally recognising the Taliban-run administration as a legitimate government in Kabul

MAAAA#

SEHWA MUSEUN



uote

The tourism fund, set to be launched in early 2024, would manage an initia fund at 2 trillion

rupiahs (\$129 million) to support the promotion of tourism events and improve the nation branding of Indonesia's tourism in the global market

SANDIAGA UNO MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY OF INDONESIA

The conditions required to deliver aid to the people of Gaza do not exist LYNN HASTINGS UN HUMANITARIAN

COORDINATOR FOR THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

Our mutua desire, both China and the United States, is to create a level playing field and ongoing, meaningful and mutually beneficial economic relations. That is our main focus JANET YELLEN US TREASURY SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

85 dead in Nigeria

Abuja: At least 85 people have been confirmed dead after a "mistaken" army drone attack on a religious gathering in northwest Nigeria, authorities said. The president Tuesday ordered a probe into the latest in a series of mistakes in Nigeria's conflict zones."Eighty-five dead bodies have so far been buried while (a) search is still ongoing," Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

said in a statement that listed children, women and the elderly among the victims. At least 66 people were injured, the agency added.

₹17.4 bn for polls

Islamabad: The Pakistan government said Tuesday that it has released Rs 17.4 billion to the election commission for the upcoming general elections, a day after the poll body raised concerns over the strapped Pakistan, which is facing both political and economic instability, is going to the polls on February 8. In a statement Tuesday, the Finance Division said it has released Rs 17.4 billion to the Election Commission of Pakistan in addition to Rs 10 billion released in July 2023 for the conduct of general elections in the country.

Israel's forces storm Khan Younis

REUTERS

Gaza, Dec 5: Israeli forces stormed the main city in the southern Gaza Strip Tuesday and hospitals struggled to cope with scores of Palestinian dead and wounded.

In what appeared to be the biggest ground assault since a truce collapsed last week, residents said Israeli tanks had entered the eastern parts of Khan Younis for the first time, crossing from the Israeli border fence and advancing west.

Some took up positions inside the town of Bani Suhaila on Khan Younis' eastern outskirts, while others continued further and were stationed on the edge of a Qatari-funded housing development called Hamad City, residents said.

After days of ordering residents to flee the area, Israeli forces dropped new leaflets Tuesday with instructions to stay inside shelters during the assault. "In the coming hours, the IDF (Israel Defence Forces) will

begin launching an intensive



AFTER DAYS OF ORDERING RESIDENTS TO FLEE THE AREA, ISRAELI FORCES DROPPED NEW

LEAFLETS TUESDAY WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO STAY INSIDE SHELTERS DURING THE ASSAULT ISRAELI BOMBARDMENTS HAVE DRIVEN 80% OF GAZA'S 2.3 **MILLION RESIDENTS FROM THEIR**

HOMES, MOST FLEEING SOUTH attack on your area of residence to destroy the terrorist organization Hamas," said the leaflets, addressed to residents of six districts amounting to around a

quarter of Khan Younis. "For your safety, stay in the shelters and the hospitals where you are. Don't get out. Going out is dangerous. You have been warned." The Israelis, who seized the northern half of Gaza last month before pausing for the week-long truce, say they are now extending their ground campaign to the rest of the enclave

as they try to annihilate its Hamas rulers 'We're moving ahead with the second stage now. A second stage that is going to be diffiIsrael is open to "constructive feedback" on reducing harm to civilians as long as the advice is consistent with its aim of destroving Hamas, he added.

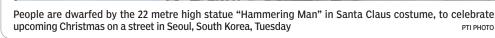
Israel started its campaign in retribution for an October 7 attack by Hamas fighters who rampaged through Israeli towns, killing 1,200 people and seizing 240 hostages, according to Israel's tally. According to Gaza health officials, more than 15,900 Palestinians are confirmed to have been killed in Israeli air strikes and other actions, with thousands more missing and feared buried under rubble.

At Khan Younis' main Nasser hospital, the wounded arrived by ambulance, car, flatbed truck and donkey cart after what survivors described as a strike on a school being used as a shelter for the displaced. Inside a ward, almost every inch of floor space was taken up by the wounded, medics hurrying from patient to patient while relatives wailed.

A doctor carried the small limp body of a dead boy in a track suit and placed him in a corner, arms splayed across the blood-smeared tile. On the floor next to him, surrounded by discarded bandages and rubber gloves, lay a wounded boy and girl, their limbs tangled with the stands holding the IV drips in their arms.

cult militarily," government spokesperson Eylon Levy said.

Israeli bombardments have driven 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million residents from their homes, most fleeing south. The enclave is more densely populated than London and crowded southern areas are now sheltering triple their usual population.



Prince Harry challenges UK govt's decision

REUTERS

London, Nov 5: Prince Harry has been subjected to "unlawful and unfair treatment" by the British government over the decision to take away his police protection when he is in Britain, his lawyer told London's High Court Tuesday.

Harry, along with other

Tougher visa rules unveiled

High levels of legal migration have dominated Britain's political landscape for more than a decade and were a key factor in the 2016 vote to leave the European Union



Indonesia volcano death toll rises to 22

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Batu Palano (Indonesia), Dec 5: Rescuers searching the hazardous slopes of Indonesia's Mount Marapi volcano found 11 more bodies of climbers who were caught by a surprise weekend eruption, raising the number of confirmed dead to 22, officials said Tuesday.

One person remained missing. More than 50 climbers were rescued after the initial eruption Sunday, and 11 others were



Bill approved

Paris: France's National Assembly unanimously approved a bill to ban singleuse, disposable electronic cigarettes, in an attempt to protect young people drawn to their flavours and mitigate the environmental impacts of the disposable products known as "puffs." Lawmakers adopted the bill in a late-night vote on Monday by 104 in favour, zero against.

.....

ior royals, had received full security protection provided by the state before he decided to step back from his royal duties and move to California with his American wife Meghan in 2020

But the Home Office — the ministry responsible for policing, immigration and security - decided in February that year that Harry would cease to automatically receive personal police security while in Britain even if he were to cover the cost himself. The younger son of King Charles was given permission last year to challenge that decision.

Shaheed Fatima, the lawyer for Harry – who was not in court, said he had been subjected to unlawful and unfair treatment. "This case is about the right to security and safety of a person," she said. "There cannot be a right of greater importance to any of us.



She said the Executive Committee for the Protection of Royalty and Public Figures, known as RAVEC, had not followed its own policy or treated Harry as it treated other figures. It had also failed to tell him why it had made its decision. Harry's "consistent position has been - and remains - that he should be given state security in light of the threats/risks he faces," she said in her written submission.

The government's lawyer James Eadie said Harry had been treated in a "bespoke' manner, and would "occasionally" be included within the cohort of individuals receiving protection. "RAVEC does consider (Harry's) position when he comes to GB," he said in a written submission.

London, Dec 5: Britain announced plans to slash the number of migrants arriving by legal routes on Monday, raising the minimum salary they must earn in a skilled job by a third, amid pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to tackle record net mi

gration figures. High levels of legal migration have dominated Britain's political landscape for more than a decade and were a key factor in the 2016 vote to leave the European Union. Sunak has promised to gain more control after lawmakers in his Conservative Party criticised his record ahead of an election expected next year, with the opposition Labour Plarty far ahead in opinion polls.

But businesses and trade unions both attacked the measures as counterproductive and challenging for the private sector and state-run health serv-



ice, both dogged by labour shortages

Figures last month showed annual net migration to the United Kingdom hit a record of 745.000 in 2022 and has staved at high levels since, with many migrants now coming from places like India, Nigeria and China instead of the EU.

Home Secretary (interior minister) James Cleverly said the new measures could reduce that number by 300,000. "Immigration is too high. Today we're taking radical action to bring it down, said Sunak, who is also trying to deport migrants who arrive illegally to Rwanda.

Cleverly said the government would raise the minimum salary threshold for foreign skilled workers to 38,700 pounds (\$48,900). from its current level of 26,200 pounds, though health and social

workers would be exempt.

Other measures included stopping foreign health workers bringing in family members on their visas, increasing a surcharge migrants have to pay to use the health service by 66%, and raising the minimum income for family visas.

The measures could spark new disputes with business owners who have struggled to hire workers in recent years given Britain's persistently tight labour market and the end of free movement from the EU since Britain's 2020 exit from the bloc.

In October, the government's independent migration adviser recommended abolishing the so-called shortage occupations list, one of the main routes for businesses to hire migrant workers in sectors where there are severe staff shortages.

initially confirmed dead. New eruptions on Monday and Tuesday spewed more hot ash as high as 800 metres (2,620 feet) into the air, reducing visibility and temporarily halting search and recovery operations, said Abdul Malik, chief of the Padang Search and Rescue Agency.

The bodies of two climbers were located on Monday and nine more on Tuesday, the National Search and Rescue Agency said. One climber remained missing and was presumed dead because of being very close to the eruption site, said Edi Mardianto, the deputy police chief in West Sumatra province.

The recovered bodies will be taken to a hospital for identification, he said. The rescuers contended with bad weather and difficult terrain, along with winds that brought heat from the eruptions. A video released by West Sumatra's Search and Rescue Agency showed rescuers carrying an injured climber on a stretcher off the mountain and into a waiting ambulance to be taken to a hospital.

Marapi has stayed at the third highest of four alert levels since 2011, indicating above-normal volcanic activity under which climbers and villagers must stay more than 3 kilometres (1.8 miles) from the peak, according to Indonesia's Centre for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation.



Mathematics, reading skills in unprecedented decline in teenagers: OECD **ON AVERAGE ACROSS THE OECD, ONE OUT OF FOUR 15-YEAR-OLDS TESTED AS A LOW PERFORMER IN MATHS, READING AND** SCIENCE. WHICH MEANS THEY COULD NOT USE BASIC ALGORITHMS OR INTERPRET SIMPLE TEXTS. THE STUDY FOUND

REUTERS

Paris, Dec 5: Teenagers' mathematics and reading skills are in an unprecedented decline across dozens of countries and COVID school closures are only partly to be blamed, the OECD said Tuesday in its latest survey of global learning standards.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said it had seen some of the steepest drops in performance since 2000 when it began its usually triennial tests of 15-year-olds reading, maths and science skills.

Nearly 700,000 youths took the two-hour test last year in the

OECD's 38 mostly developed country members and 44-non members for the latest study, closely watched by policymakers as the largest international comparison of education performance.

Compared to when the tests were last conducted in 2018, reading performance fell by 10 points on average in OECD countries, and by 15 points in mathematics, a loss equivalent to three-quarters of a year's worth of learning.

While more than half of the 81 countries surveyed saw declines, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland saw particularly sharp drops in mathematics scores, the OECD said.

On average across the OECD,



one out of four 15-year-olds tested as a low performer in maths, reading and science, which means

they could not use basic algorithms or interpret simple texts, the study found. "COVID probably played some role but I would not overrate it," OECD director of education Andreas Schleicher told a news conference.

"There are underlying structural factors and they are much more likely to be permanent features of our education systems that policymakers should really take seriously." Countries that provided extra teacher support during COVID school closures scored better and results were generally better in places where easy teacher access for special help was high.

Poorer results tended to be associated with higher rates of mobile phone use for leisure and where schools reported teacher

shortages. The OECD said the decline was not inevitable, pointing to Singapore, where students scored the highest in maths, reading and science, with results that suggested they were on average three to five years ahead of their OECD peers.

After Singapore, Macau, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea also outperformed in maths and science, where Estonia and Canada also scored well.

In reading, Ireland, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan earned top marks, and was all the more notable in Ireland and Japan because their spending per student was no higher than the OECD average.











business



INDIA'S EU-STYLE CHARGER RULES WILL HIT PRODUCTION TARGET: APPLE

Apple has told India its local production targets will be hit if New Delhi follows the European Union and requires existing iPhones to have universal charging ports, a government document shows as the US tech giant lobbies for an exemption or delay.



next big global manufacturing

hub, an immense opportunity.

Developing a strong logistics

framework will be key in trans-

forming India from a services-

dominated economy into a man-

ufacturing-dominant one,'

Unlocking the labour market potential will largely depend

upon upskilling workers and in-

creasing female participation

will enable India to realize its de-

digital market could also fuel

expansion in India's high-growth

startup ecosystem during the

next decade, especially in fi-

nancial and consumer technol-

In the automotive sector, India

is poised for growth, building

on infrastructure, investment,

and innovation, it added.

mographic dividend," it said.

"Success in these two areas

S&P said a booming domestic

it said.

ogy

in the workforce

uote

Services sector activity hits 1-year low: PMI

I, for one, believe that technology has a very, very important role to play in the future of biotechnology and

the way we develop products KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW BIOCON EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

We can safely say that we have some views about the internet... Of what future of internet should be... Multi stakeholderism will be the

cornerstone to how future on internet will be shaped, policy wise and regulation wise RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR UNION MINISTER

The fastest growing economy must balance its energy cost, energy availability and green energy objectives while continuing to accelerate its massive green ambitions

GAUTAM ADANI

SHORT TAKES

Mineral output up 11.5% in Sept

New Delhi: Mineral production increased by 11.5 per cent in September as compared to the year-ago period, the government said Tuesday. The index of mineral production of the mining and quarrying sector for the month of September 2023 at 111.5, is 11.5 per cent higher compared to the level in the month of September 2022, according to the provisional data of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). The cumulative growth for the April-September period over the corresponding period of the previous financial year is 8.7 per cent, the mines ministry said in a statement. The production of important minerals in September includes coal (673 lakh tonnes), lignite (29 lakh tonnes), manganese ore (247,000 tonnes) and limestone (347 lakh tonnes).

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services **Business Activity Index** fell from 58.4 in October

to a one-year low of 56.9 in November

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: The services sector growth in India fell to a one-year low in November on softer expansions in new work intakes and output, despite receding price pressures, a monthly survey said Tuesday. The seasonally adjusted S&P

Global India Services Business Activity Index fell from 58.4 in October to a one-year low of 56.9 in November. Despite witnessing a month-on-month decline, the rate of expansion was stronger than its long-run average. In Purchasing Managers'

Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The survey is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies.

"India's service sector has lost further growth momentum midway through the third fiscal quarter, but we continue to see robust demand for services fuelling new business intakes and



pansion look very healthy when considering their respective longrun averages and the outlook for business activity remains bright in spite of optimism fading due to rising inflation expectations," said Pollvanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

On the prices front, rates of both input cost and output charge inflation slipped to eight-month lows. "Fewer companies hiked their own fees as a result, an aspect that might provide a further boost to demand as 2023 draws to a close," Lima said.

On the employment front, services companies curbed recruitment to some extent amid broadly stable levels of outstanding business among services companies.

'... Given the lack of pressure

on operating capacities signalled by stable backlog levels, services firms became more cautious when it comes to hiring. Net employment still rose in November, but the rate of job creation was marginal and the slowest in seven months. Lima said. Going ahead, businesses maintained a positive outlook for activity in the coming 12 months, although confidence somewhat faded due to rising inflation expectations.

Meanwhile, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index fell from 58.4 in October to 57.4 in November, signalling the weakest rise in private sector activity across India for a year.

The Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data.

"Manufacturers outperformed service providers, and noted a quicker rate of growth. Services saw the slowest upturn in one vear." the survey said.

Similarly, factory orders rose to a greater extent and demand for services somewhat cooled. At the composite level, sales increased at the weakest rate since November 2022, as per the survey. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank

is likely to maintain the status quo on the short-term interest rate in its monetary policy review later this week.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to begin its three-day deliberations December 6. Das would unveil the decision of the sixmember MPC December 8.

India to be 3rd largest economy by 2030: S&P

India currently is the fifth largest economy in the world behind the US, China, Germany

and Japan PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: India will become the world's third largest economy by 2030, S&P Global Ratings said Tuesday as it forecast the nation's GDP growth reaching 7 per cent in 2026-27 fiscal year.

In its Global Credit Outlook 2024, S&P saw a 6.4 per cent GDP growth in the fiscal year through March 2024 (2023-24) as compared to 7.2 per cent in the previous financial year.

The growth rate will remain at 6.4 per cent in the next fiscal (2024-25) before climbing to 6.9 per cent in the next and 7 per cent in 2026-27, the rating agency said. "We see India reaching 7 per cent in 2026-27 fiscal.'

"India is set to become the third-largest economy by 2030, and we expect it will be the fastest growing major economy in the next three years," S&P said.

India currently is the fifth largest economy in the world behind the US, China, Germany and Japan.

"A paramount test will be whether India can become the

Sensex scales 69K peak-

ROBUST BUYING IN POWER. BANKING AND UTILITY STOCKS EXTENDS RALLY FOR SIXTH CONSECUTIVE SESSION



Foreign institutional investors purchased shares worth ₹2,073.21 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

The market rally was also fuelled by gains in Adani group stocks which Adani soared up to 20 per cent following a report that the US agency found short-seller Hinderburg Research's allegations of corporate fraud against the conglomerate were not relevant

Adani Energy Solutions and Adani Green Energy zoomed 20_ per cent each to close at ₹1,082.60 and ₹1,348 apiece. Adani Total Gas surged 19.95 per cent to settle at ₹878.20, and NDTV jumped 18.41 per cent to ₹266.55.

In the broader market, the BSE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Banks have written off ₹10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years, of which ₹5.52 lakh crore was in respect of loans pertaining to large industries, the government informed the Parliament Tuesday.

"As per RBI data, scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) have written off an aggregate loan amount of ₹10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years," Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in reply to a ques-

tion in the Rajya Sabha. The

scheduled commercial banks

output. The current rates of ex-

Reserve Bank reins in peer-to-peer lending

REUTERS

Mumbai, Dec 5: RBI has told peer-to-peer lending platforms to halt certain activities after inspections found rule violations and misleading sales practices, four sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The Reserve Bank of India, also the country's banking regulator, conducted inspections of at least 10 lenders in the fastgrowing sector between June and September, said the sources, all industry executives. They declined to be identified because

to 100 billion rupees (\$960 million-\$1.20 billion) in assets under management. The regulators recently raised capital requirements for lenders, including non-

bank financial companies, against personal loans they give out. Peer-to-peer lending, which sidesteps banks and financial institutions by connecting individual lenders with borrowers, has grown to \$407 billion globally

as of last year, according to a report by Future Market Insight. But several countries including China and Indonesia have in recent years curbed the platforms'

Banks write off ₹10.57L cr in 5 yrs: FinMin

Coal industry index grows to 18.4%

New Delhi: The index of coal industry rose to 18.4 per cent in October from 9.1 per cent in April. "As per the index of eight core industries for October 2023, released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industries, the index of coal industry has showcased in the last 16 months highest growth of 18.4 per cent (provisional), reaching 172.6 points compared to 145.8 points during the same period last year," the coal ministry said in a statement. The growth in the index of coal industry can be seen due to a substantial rise in production of dry fuel in October to 78.65 Million Tonnes (MT), over 66.32 MT in the corresponding month of previous year.

Wipro acquires **3 soap brands**

New Delhi: Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting Tuesday announced the acquisition of three soap brands, Jo. Dov. and Bacter Shield, from VVF (India) Ltd for an undisclosed amount, a move that will help the company expand in the personal wash segment. This is the third acquisition by Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting, part of Azim Premjiled Wipro Enterprises, within the last 12 months and the 15th acquisition so far. as it is aggressively expanding its portfolio. "The acquisition will be a strategic expansion for Wipro in the personal wash segment," said a statement from Wipro Consumer, which is among the leading players in the segment with sandalwood soap brand Santoor and female toiletries brand Enchanteur.

discussions with the reg ulator are not public. They added that some lenders had already begun halting certain services and practices in line with the central bank's guidance, while failure to com-BANK ply could risk future penalties or restrictions.

The Reserve Bank of India did not respond to a request for comment. The six largest lending platforms, of 24 doing business in India, also did not respond. The regulators found a variety of violations and questionable practices, including improper relending of repaid funds and marketing of products as an alternative to bank deposits, the sources said.

India's regulators have been intensifying their scrutiny of rapidly growing consumer finance services, including peer-to-peer lending, which industry executives estimate is worth 80 billion



cial institutions to lend via their platforms, one of the sources said. The source, a senior executive at a peer-to-peer lender, added that the central bank had told lenders to stop marketing their platforms as an alternative to bank deposits, which regulators determined was mis-selling. "RBI has categorically told us not to compare the product with savings or fixed deposits,' the source said. The four sources also said some lenders were automatically relending funds re-

authorisation from the lender,

also a violation of banking

regulations.

lenders were boosting their transaction volumes by improperly

lakh crore in respect of loans pertaining to large industries and services during the last five financial years (FYs), i.E. From FY 2018-19 to FY 2022-23. includes ₹93,874 crore written paid by borrowers without proper

have also recovered ₹7.15 lakh crore of non-performing asinspections found that some Indian sets (NPAs) during the fiveyear period "Comprehensive steps have been taken to recover NPAs, enabled by which. SCBs have

made an aggregate recovery allowing other finanof ₹7,15,507 crore (RBI provisional data for FY 2022-23) in NPA accounts, including written-off loans, during the last five financial years,' he said In reply to a separate question, Karad said: "Scheduled commercial banks have written off an aggregate amount of ₹5.52

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty soared to new lifetime highs Tuesday, fuelled by robust buying in power, banking and utility stocks, extending their rally for a sixth consecutive session.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 431.02 points, or 0.63 per cent, to close at a new record high of 69,296.14. As many as 20 Sensex scrips closed with gains.

The broader index Nifty also climbed 168.50 points, or 0.81 per cent to hit its lifetime high of 20,855.30 with 32 of its components closing in the green.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged by more than ₹2.5 lakh crore to cross ₹ 350 lakh crore Tuesday.

Analysts said the positive sentiment was fuelled by unabated inflow of foreign funds

on the back of robust sentiment built up over favourable macroeconomic data in the previous week and the results of assembly polls of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh that raised expectations of longer political stability in the country.

Also, investors are expecting the Reserve Bank to maintain the status quo on the interest rate in its bi-monthly monetary policy decision to be announced Friday, they said.

Among major Sensex movers. Power Grid rose the most by 4.46 per cent, NTPC by 3.89 per cent, SBI by 2.31 per cent and ICICI Bank by 2.28 per cent. Other gainers included Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan and Maruti.

On the other hand, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance remained laggards with losses of up to 1.49 per cent.

largecap index surged 1.01 per cent, midcap gauge gained 0.14 per cent and smallcap advanced marginally by 0.12 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, utilities surged the highest 6.54 per cent followed by power rising by 6.09 per cent. While services index went up 3.93 per cent, commodities advanced 2.04 per cent and oil & gas jumped 1.84 per cent. Bankex rose 1.21 per cent and energy inched up by 1.17 per cent.

Realty index declined by 0.65 per cent, while IT and teck slipped by 0.57 per cent and 0.43 per cent, respectively. Telecommunications, healthcare and FMCG were other laggards.

In Asian markets, Hang Seng and Nikkei 225 traded lower by 2.07 per cent and 1.37 per cent, respectively, while China's Shanghai Composite declined 1.67 per cent.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude advanced 1 per cent to USD 78.81 a barrel.

75,000 GW solar power by 2050 possible: Report

period.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Solar power generation capacity can go up to 75,000 gigawatts by 2050 globally with long-duration storage capacity, a report by the International Solar Association (ISA) and LDES Council, said.

The report released on

Tuesday by ISA and the Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Council unveils a bold vision for the future of renewable energy, showcasing the pivotal role of Long Duration Energy Storage in realizing ambitious

solar targets. The report, presented at COP28 in Dubai, emphasized the transformative potential of combining solar energy with



LDES to ensure continuous, reliable, and affordable renewable energy, a statement said

The report emphasized the necessity of LDES to fully realize the potential of solar installations for complete decarbonization and achieving a solar capacity of 75,000 GW by 2050.

It presented a case study of isolated island utilities in the US, demonstrating the financial viability of LDES in areas with limited interconnectivity and high local fuel costs.

He also said that this

off by all the banks on account

of fraud during the five-year

The combination of solar, wind, and LDES emerges as the most cost-effective solution for achieving 100 per cent renewable energy.

The LDES Council estimates that LDES will become a USD 4 trillion industry by 2040, with an installed capacity potential of 8 TW, the statement said.

This growth is essential for enabling solar energy to meet global electricity demands affordably and reliably.

The report also identified barriers to the widespread adoption of solar and LDES, including regulatory challenges, financ ing issues, and technical limitations, and proposed solutions to overcome these hurdles.

"Solar, already the most economical source of new electricity globally, will further strengthen its competitive advantage. Combined with Long Duration Energy Storage, solar becomes a continuous, reliable 24/7 energy source," stated Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General ISA.

US regulators inspect Indian pharma majors

REUTERS

Hyderabad, Dec 5: The US Food and Drug Administration is inspecting Dr Reddy's research and development centre in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad, the pharma company said Tuesday.

We confirm the commencement of a USFDA inspection at our R&D centre (Integrated Product Development Organisation or IPDO)," a Reddy's spokesperson told Reuters.

A unit of Laurus Labs' subsidiary Laurus Synthesis in Visakhapatnam in Andhra

Pradesh is also being inspected by the US drug regulator, according to a source familiar with the matter.

Rivals Sun Pharma's Dadra facility and Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd's oncology unit are also undergoing FDA inspections, CNBC-TV18 reported.

Sun Pharma, Laurus and Torrent did not immediately reply to Reuters' requests seeking comment.

Torrent Pharma closed 1.6% lower following the news, while Laurus Labs ended 0.9% down. Sun Pharma and Dr. Reddy's set-tled 0.7% and 0.4% higher, respectively.





OrissaPOST WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 6 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

a decent run with the bat in the

recently-concluded Women's Big

Bash League where she garnered

India have three new faces for

this series with right-arm

Karnataka spinner Shreyanka

Patil, Punjab's left-arm spinner

Mannat Kashyap and Bengal's

Saika Ishaque — another left-

arm spinner — being roped in.

The series between the sen-

ior women's sides was preceded

by a three-match contest be-

tween their respective 'A' teams,

wherein Issy Wong's all-round

brilliance handed the visitors a

On spin-friendly and slow sur-

faces, batters from both the teams

struggled largely which indi-

cates this could be a series dom-

inated by spinners and both

India and England have plenty

2-1 win.

in their ranks

321 runs in 14 matches.

Eves aim for better returns Kartik, bowlers help Odisha sink Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 5: India will look to draw confidence from recent performances and improve their disappointing bilateral record against England when the two teams face-off in a three-match women's T20I series, starting here Wednesday.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led India have had a successful year in the shortest format so far, winning the gold medal in the Asian Games, an away series against Bangladesh by 2-1 and also making it to the final of the triangular series in South Africa, with West Indies as the third side.

On the other hand, World No.2 England will look to overcome the disappointment of losing to Sri Lanka 1-2 at home.

World No.4 India have a poor record at home in T20Is as well as against England in general and the hosts will hope to come up with something special.

At home, in nine matches against England, India have only two wins to show with their most recent victory coming more than five years ago in March 2018 when they won by eight wickets at the Brabourne Stadium.

In fact, it is India's overall record against England which is also concerning given they only have seven wins to show from 27 matches

Additionally, India women's last win at home in T20Is came more than two years ago in March 2021 when they defeated South Africa in Lucknow by nine wickets. Since then, India have lost four and tied one game while playing at home.

The series also presents India an opportunity to improve their disappointing overall home record as they only have 19 wins from 50 T20Is at home with 30 losses and one tied game.

Both India and England were the semifinalists of the last T20 World Cup held in South Africa earlier this year.

With the next showpiece event



THE SQUADS

INDIA: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh Thakur, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Kanika Ahuja, Minnu Mani.

ENGLAND: Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Mahika Gaur, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn, Bess Heath (wk), Amy Jones (wk), Freya

Sciver-Brunt, Danielle Wyatt. MATCHDAY

Kemp, Heather Knight (C), Nat

India Women vs England Women 1st T20 International Time: 7:00 pm Telecast: Sports 18 Network Stream: Jio Cinema

2024, this series presents an opportunity to fine-tune their preparations for the edition in Bangladesh. While Deepti Sharma has been

India's most successful bowler with 19 wickets in 16 matches with a strike rate of 15.89, it is the batters who have done a commendable job this year in the shortest format, led by Harmanpreet, who has averaged 35.88 to make 323 runs in 13 T20Is with three fifties.

Jemimah Rodrigues has struck 342 runs in 16 matches at 34.20 with one fifty, while India's vicecaptain Smriti Mandhana has topped the charts with 369 runs in 15 matches with three fifties

while averaging 28.08. Mandhana also finished as the sixth-highest run-getter in 'The Hundred' Women's competition with 238 runs in nine matches, playing a vital role in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 5: Odisha had a stunning outing Tuesday in the Vijay Hazare Trophy oneday cricket tournament as they pulled off a sensational 86-run win their Group A match at the KSCA Cricket Ground in Alur.

It was a result anyone would had expected after Odisha, who were invited to bat first by Mumbai skipper Ajinkya Rahane, managed only 199/9 in their 50 overs. And the credit must go to Kartik Biswal (64. 98b, 6x4), who was magnificent with the willow when it mattered the most.

Odisha were struggling at 16/3 at one stage and later 60/4 in 19 overs. However, the middle-order comprising Kartik, seasoned Govind Poddar (39, 54b, 2x4, 1x6) and Abhishek Raut (35 n o, 37b, 2x4, 2x6) helped the team total go close to 200. In response, the bowlers complemented the batters' efforts and bundle the Indian cricket powerhouse for a paltry 113 in 32.3 overs.

Odisha were 16/3 by the end of the seventh over losing their skipper Shantanu Mishra (1), experienced Shubhranshu Senapati (0) and Prabin Luha (3) cheaply. However, Kartik and the opener Sandeep Pattnaik (35, 68b, 3x4, 1x6) held their nerves and steadied the ship guiding

the team past 50 in the process Just when it was looking like both the batters are set, Sandeep got out putting Odisha in a spot of bother. Former captain Poddar then joined Kartik at the middle and the duo stitched together 89 runs for the fifth wicket, which was later proved to be the turning point.

Kartik's wicket brought Odisha down to 149/5 before Poddar too perished a couple of overs later. Odisha then kept losing wickets at regular intervals. However, Raut remained unbeaten at one end to take the team close to a competitive total giving the bowlers something to fight for.

However, the Odisha bowlers turned the 200-run target into a 400-run one. They didn't give any chance to Mumbai batters to free their arms. The domination of Odisha bowlers was such that the top score for the team was 24 not out and it was by their No.11 batter Royston Dias. The second best was Hardk Tamore (23). Debabrata Pradhan (2/20),

Rajesh Mohanty (2/21), Poddar (2/26) and Abhishek Yadav (2/28) bagged two wickets apiece, while skipper Shantanu too bagged a scalp in his 2-over spell. Despite being wicketless, Tarini Sa was ex $cellent\,throughout\,his\,6\text{-}over\,spell$ where he conceded only 12 runs.

Araijeet hat-trick secures India win over South Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, Dec 5: Araijeet Singh Hundal struck a hat-trick as India dished out a dominant display to beat South Korea 4-2 in their opening pool match of the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup here Tuesday. India will next play against Spain.

Hundal scored in the 11th, 16th and 41st minutes while Amandeep found the target for India in the 30th minute in the Pool C match. Dohyun Lim (38th) and Minkwon Kim (45th) were the goal scorers for Korea.

India, who had lost to France in the bronze-medal match in the last edition in 2021 in Bhubaneswar, made a strong start with Hundal scoring in the first quarter off a penalty corner.

The Indians continued their domination by pumping in two goals in the second quarter through Hundal and Amandeep - both field goals - as they were 3-0 up at the half time.

Korea pulled one back though Dohyun midway in the third quarter but India replied soon after with Hundal completing his hattrick with another field goal.

With a 4-1 lead in the match, the Indians appeared to have slowed down a bit. The Koreans pressed for goals and they were able to reduce the margin with Minkwon finding the target.

Ashwini-Tanisha moves up to 28th

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 5: Indian women's doubles pair, Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto, jumped four places to reach World No.28 in the latest BWF rankings.

Ashwini, 36, and her 20-yearold partner Tanisha, who started playing together only in January this year, finished runners-up at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow Sunday. The duo ear-



lier won the Nates International Challenge and Abu Dhabi Masters Super 100.

Priyanshu Rajawat, who had reached the semi-finals in men's singles, also gained a place to break into the top-30. All other Indian singles players stayed static with HS Prannoy (8) remaining the top ranked shuttler from the country, followed by PV SIndhu (12), Lakshya Sen (17) and Kidambi Srikanth (24).

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty occupied the world number 2 spot, while Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand stayed at 19th position.

NEXA



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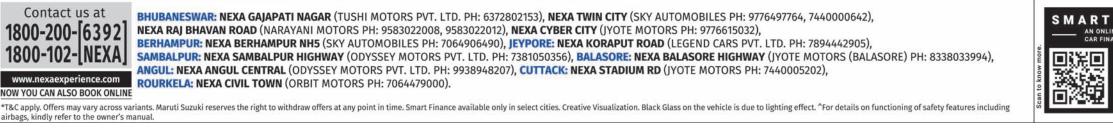


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