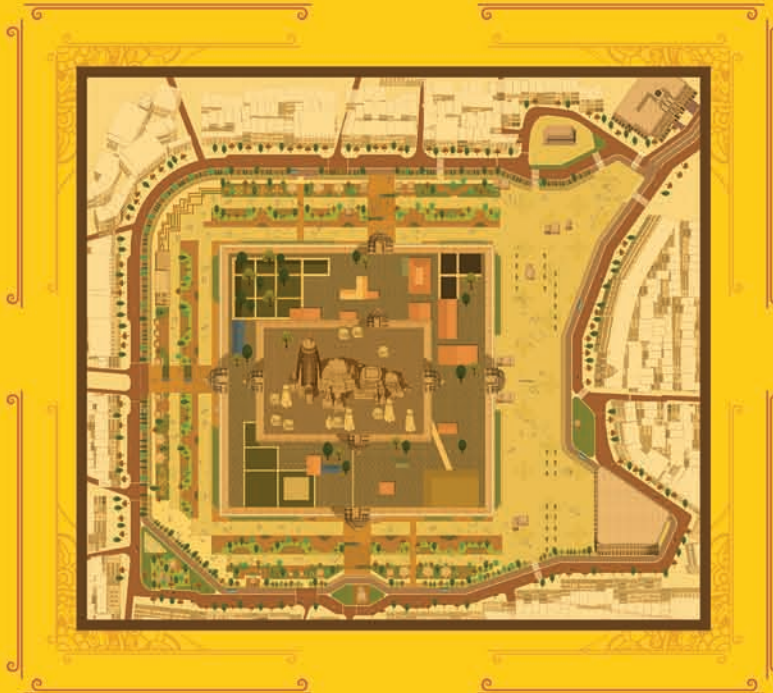




ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ଦିର ପରିକ୍ରମା ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଶିଳାନିଧାସ

୨୪ ନଭେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୧ ବୁଧବାର | ସକାଳ ୯.୩୦ ରୁ ୧୧ ଘଟିକା

ସ୍ଥାନ: ଭଉର-ପୂର୍ବ କୋଣ | ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ଦିର | ପୁରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ଦିର ପରିକ୍ରମା ମୁଖ୍ୟାଂଶ

- ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ଦିର ଚତୁଃପାର୍ଶ୍ୱରେ ସୁରକ୍ଷା କରିତର ସହ ସବୁଜ ବଳୟ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ଏବଂ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟକରଣ
- ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ଦିର ଚତୁଃପାର୍ଶ୍ୱରେ ଭକ୍ତଙ୍କ ପରିକ୍ରମା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଅକ୍ଷୟ ଓ ବାହ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଦକ୍ଷିଣା ପଥ
- ଚତୁଃପାର୍ଶ୍ୱରେ ଥିବା ମଠ ଏବଂ ମନ୍ଦିର ଗୁଡ଼ିକର ପୁନର୍ବିନ୍ୟାସ
- ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଯାନିଯାତ୍ରା ସମୟରେ ବ୍ୟବହାର ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ପ୍ରଦକ୍ଷିଣା ପଥ
- ଭକ୍ତଙ୍କ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ରଖିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଗୃହ
- ସମସ୍ତ ଦ୍ୱାରରେ ସୁଚନା ଓ ଦାନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର
- ତୀର୍ଥଯାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଆରକ୍ଷା ସେବା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର, ପାନୀୟଜଳ, ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର, ଶୈତାଳୟ ଏବଂ ଏ.ଟି.ଏମ୍ ସୁବିଧା
- ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ଦିର ପ୍ରଶାସନ ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟର ପୁନର୍ବିନ୍ୟାସ
- ୭୦୦୦ ଭକ୍ତଙ୍କ ସୁବିଧା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଅଭ୍ୟର୍ଥନା ପ୍ରକୋଷ୍ଠ
- ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓ ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ପାର୍ଶ୍ୱରେ ଭକ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଆଶ୍ରୟସ୍ଥଳୀ ।

ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିତ୍ରି ଟପାନ୍ତେଲରେ ଏହି ଐତିହାସିକ ଶିଳାନିଧାସର ସିଧା ପ୍ରସାରଣ ଦେଖିବା ପାଇଁ ବହୁ ସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ଯୋଡ଼ି ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

ୱେବ ପ୍ରସାରଣ ଦେଖିବା ପାଇଁ ଅନୁସରଣ କରନ୍ତୁ:

ୱେବସାଇଟ୍: <https://www.shreejagannatha.in>

ଟ୍ୱିଟର: https://twitter.com/SJTA_Puri

ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ମନ୍ଦିର ପ୍ରଶାସନ, ପୁରୀ

leisure

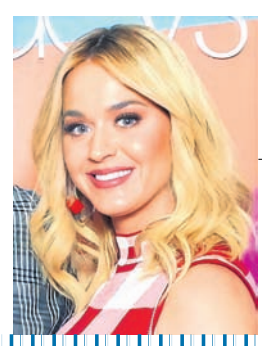


DWAYNE JOHNSON TO RECEIVE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION AWARD

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson will be honoured with the People's Champion Award at the 2021 People's Choice Awards next month. The *Red Notice* actor will receive the accolade December 7 in recognition of his contribution to the entertainment industry and his commitment to supporting children and families in need through various charitable initiatives.

KATY PERRY STARTS EACH DAY BY THANKING GOD

Firework singer Katy Perry loves to start the day with health and wellness in mind. "The first thing I do when I wake up is to say to myself out loud, 'Thank you, God, for today.' I am grateful for every day," she told the Wall Street Journal.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
The stars today may play very clear and purposeful, this day says Ganesh. You will be eager to do something new, meaningful and exciting today. And you will be smart enough to think things out carefully and make elaborate plans before you make a move. This day is expected to become less stressful, more relaxed and trouble free compared to your average days.

TAURUS
Your thinking is likely to be very clear and purposeful, this day says Ganesh. You will be eager to do something new, meaningful and exciting today. And you will be smart enough to think things out carefully and make elaborate plans before you make a move. This day is expected to become less stressful, more relaxed and trouble free compared to your average days.

GEMINI
Today is an auspicious and fruitful day for you. You will become excited by every very small accomplishments. You will need to fulfill the demands made upon you by your family and friends.

CANCER
The health of a kin may cause anxiety, says Ganesh. Your lack of enthusiasm will influence you on family matters. So you will have to focus on family members. New ties and contacts are in the offing. Over-all, a hectic and profit-able day.

LEO
There are good days, bad days, and then there are days like today, when Ganesh foresees a mixed bag of fortunes for you. Make your family the centre of your world, and show them the love and affection that they deserve. Early in the day, you may make an attempt to sever ties with your spouse or life partner. Proceed cautiously and deal with this in an open manner. Just make sure that the tension does not escalate within the family.

VIRGO
Share thoughts, concepts and ideas with people. You may get new perspectives, says Ganesh. Don't let any opportunity pass to make your loved one feel special. Ganesh predicts you might seek the counsel of friends on professional and ethical issues.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you shall find your life more meaningful and fulfilling today because you will be able to indulge the artistic streak in your personality. In the evening, you may go out shopping, possibly for buying new things for your home. On the whole, an exciting day awaits you today.

SCORPIO
Suddenly, you may become health conscious. According to Ganesh, today's resolution would be to eat healthy and live a healthy life. A regular exercise regime would top the list of daily activities. Today, you realise the true meaning of the adage, 'work is worship'.

SAGITTARIUS
The day does not begin on a good note, says Ganesh. Certain circumstances at work may prove you weak. You are likely to come across hurdles in your work during the later half of the day. However, monetary gains bring some respite to your disturbed mind.

CAPRICORN
You are very close to your family members and they will lend a helping hand whenever you need them. They will help you climb the ladder of success and making the upward movement more comfortable. Happiness will come to you, however, you may have to pay a price for it.

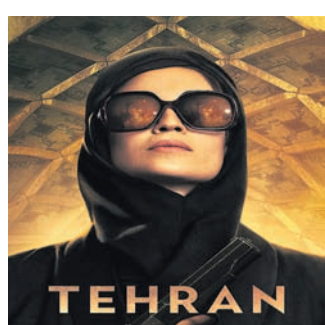
AQUARIUS
Mixed fortunes today. At work, demanding schedules may drive you up the wall, and you may struggle to keep pace with others. Don't be dejected, says Ganesh, these things happen once in a while. It is only after such a busy day that you can bask in the pleasure of a foot massage from your beloved.

PISCES
You need to be extremely careful when planning out your activities for the day, says Ganesh. For the slightest mistake could bring all your efforts to naught. Treading carefully and cautiously is advisable, when it comes to work-related matters, to avoid falling into traps.

49TH INTERNATIONAL EMMYS

Call My Agent, Tehran, David Tennant end Indian challenge

Nawazuddin Siddiqui lost out to Scottish actor David Tennant in the Best Performance by an Actor category



The Indian challenge at the 49th International Emmy Awards, which concluded at Casa Cipriani in New York City late Monday night (US Eastern Time), ended with Nawazuddin Siddiqui losing out to Scottish actor David Tennant in the Best Performance by an Actor category. Ram Madhvani's *Aarya* was edged out by the Israeli spy thriller series *Tehran*, which got The International Emmy for Drama Series. And Vir Das's comic take on Indian history, *Vir Das: For India*, made way for yet another Netflix acquisition, *Call My Agent: Season 4*, which walked away with The International Emmy for Comedy. Tennant, who became famous as The Doctor in the British TV series *Doctor Who*, was honoured for his work in the three-part crime drama miniseries *Des*, which centres around the Scottish serial killer Dennis Nilson, who was arrested in 1983, after the discovery of human remains which had blocked a drain near his London home.

Moshe Zander's *Tehran* tracks the story of a Mossad agent on her first mission in the Iranian capital, which also happens to be her place of birth. The ceremony started with the event host Nigerian-American actress-comedian Yvonne Orji taking the stage dressed in a mustard

gown. The International Emmy went to *Kubrick By Kubrick*, a documentary from France built around previously unheard audio-taped interviews with the maestro, Stanley Kubrick. Joshua Jackson presented the trophy to Hayley Squires as she bagged The International Emmy for Best Performance by an Actress in the four-part British drama series *Adult Material*. *INSIDE*, the comic thriller from New Zealand inspired by the lockdown induced by the Covid-19 pandemic, bagged The International Emmy for Short-Form Series. The Netflix-acquired Thai documentary *Hope Frozen: A Quest To Live Twice* was honoured for the way it narrated the story of a Thai couple who decide to cryogenically preserve their three-year-old daughter's body after she dies of brain cancer in 2015. British reality singing competition television series *The Masked Singer* got the award for Non-Scripted Entertainment, the top honour for TV Movie/Mini-Series went to the Norwegian historical drama *Atlantic Crossing*, and The International Emmy for Telenovela was conferred upon the Chinese television series *The Song of Glory*.



DHARITRI TURNS 48



Members of Dharitri family including Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and Odisha Sahitya Akademi president Hrushikesh Mallick release 'Sutakhiare Biswa', a special edition on climate change, during the 48th foundation day ceremony of the newspaper in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Rajkummar, Janhvi reunite for KJo's next



Mumbai: Rajkummar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor will soon reunite as the two have been roped in for Dharma Productions' next *Mr And Mrs Mahi*. This will be their second outing after the hit horror-comedy *Roohi*.

Dharma head honcho Karan took to his social media to announce the film through a 2D motion graphics animation video. Karan wrote on his Instagram, "One dream, chased by two hearts. Presenting #MrAndMrsMahi, directed by Sharan Sharma who is back with another heart-warming story to tell with his touch of magic! Starring Rajkummar Rao & Janhvi Kapoor; a partnership to look forward to. See you on the field aka the cinemas on 7th October, 2022."

Underlined by mellow piano notes soon enveloped by cricket commentary, the video lists the names of its two leads along with their respective characters as it approaches the crescendo. The film, which will soon go into production, will be helmed by *Gurjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl* director Sharan Sharma.

Priyanka finally features in Matrix main posters



After missing on the earlier posters of 'The Matrix Resurrections', the Barfi actress shared her first look from the film on Instagram

Mumbai: Fans were perplexed as to why Priyanka Chopra wasn't featured on the *The Matrix Resurrections* main poster along with Erendira Barra, Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Jessica Henwick and Yahya Abdul-Mateen II. The makers of the hit franchise have now released fresh character posters from the film. Priyanka took to her Instagram to share her poster, she wrote in the caption, "And she's here. Re-enter #TheMatrix 12.22.21."

The poster features dual tones of red and blue which go pretty well with Priyanka's two-toned outfit and also subtly hint at the red and blue pills which Neo is forced to choose from upon discovering the truth of the Matrix in the first film from the franchise. Other character posters feature actors from the fourth instalment in varying shades like Keanu's in cyan, Carrie's in sea green, Yahya's in amber, Neil Patrick Harris in dual shades of cantaloupe and purple, Jessica's in the tone of cobalt blue, Erendira's in purple and Jonathan Groff in royal blue. *The Matrix Resurrections*, produced, co-written, and directed by Lana Wachowski, tells the story 20 years after *The Matrix Revolutions*. The film is all set to release theatrically in the US December 22.

PEANUTS



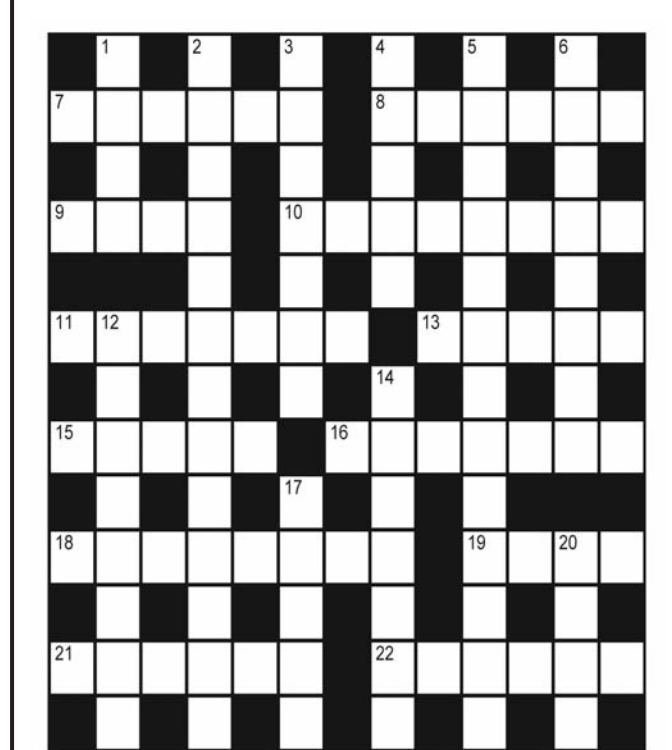
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Reflector
 - 8 On the train
 - 9 A knife used as a weapon
 - 10 Give life to
 - 11 Smoker's receptacle
 - 13 Soft palate
 - 15 New
 - 16 Communicate
 - 18 Fix firmly
 - 19 Employ
 - 21 Take out
 - 22 An armed thief
- Down
- 1 Like some spirits
 - 2 Non governmental control (7,6)
 - 3 Insignificant
 - 4 Excessively quick
 - 5 Self-analysis (4-9)
 - 6 Arm exercise (5-3)
 - 12 Runner
 - 14 Parts of speech
 - 17 Come in
 - 20 Destroy

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

S	T	I	N	G	E	R	A	E	S	O	P
N	N	R	A	D	E	H					
A	M	A	T	E	U	R	S	N	E	E	R
R	N	E	I	K							
E	D	E		N	O	T	O	R	I	O	U
L	Y	O									
A	S	T	R	A							
U	H	N	K								
S	W	O	R	D	F	I	S	H	A	R	C
T	R		S	O							
R	H	E	A	S							
I	A	P	E								
A	R	U	B	A							

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



37 calls since morning offering me data of individuals covered under data protection Act!

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	58664.33 ↑ 198.44
NIFTY	17503.30 ↑ 86.80
DOLLAR	74.47 ↑ ₹0.04
EURO	83.79 ↑ ₹0.17
GOLD	₹47,439 ↓ ₹484
SILVER	₹62,516 ↓ ₹2055

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 31.3°C	32.0°C
	MIN 23.2°C	23.0°C
Humidity	86%	94%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
		Light rain very likely

INDIA TO BEGIN TITLE DEFENCE AGAINST FRANCE TODAY

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: India's preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympics will begin here with the mega sporting spectacle - FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup - which is all set to kick-start Wednesday. With the senior men's team winning a bronze medal in Tokyo

2020 in August this year after a gap of four decades, Indian hockey lovers are now expecting the junior side to gain experience from here in order to change the color of the medal in 2024 Games.

As the world's top teams gather in Bhubaneswar, all eyes will be on hosts India and the question will be whether they can defend the World Junior title

JUNIOR HOCKEY WORLD CUP

They won in 2016 in Lucknow. India are among the 16 teams that have been divided into four groups of four teams each and will play in the preliminary stage in a round-robin format with the top two teams from each group qualifying for the quarterfinals. The hosts are in a relatively easier Pool B with France, Poland, and Canada as their opponents. And they will start their campaign against France in the last match of the opening day Wednesday. Reigning world champion in the senior section, Belgium start the ball rolling with a match against South Africa, and India will take on France in the last match.

53 school-going girls, 31 VIMSAR students test +ve

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Fifty-three girl pupils of a government-aided high school in Sundargarh district and 31 MBBS students of Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla in Sambalpur tested positive for COVID-19 in the last three days, a health official said.

The state's coronavirus tally rose to 10,47,386 Tuesday as 212 more people, including 70 children, tested positive for the infection; while two fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 8,396, he said. "The girls have been isolated and special provisions have been made for their treatment. Their health condition is normal, while the educational institute has been shut for a week," Sister Petrica, headmistress of St Merry Girls' School, said.

The infected students studying in Classes 8, 9 and 10, and they were tested for COVID-19 after a majority of them exhibited symptoms of cold and cough, she said, adding that the district administration and health authorities have been

informed about it.

The 31 MBBS students of VIMSAR, Burla have been admitted to the COVID hospital. Authorities suspect that the infection might have spread from the institute's annual function held recently. They have convened an urgent meeting on the prevailing situation on the campus.

While there has been a significant decline in the spread of the infection across Odisha, the sudden spurt in cases in the western districts of Sundargarh and Sambalpur is a cause of concern, health expert Dr Narayan Mishra said.

Of the 212 new cases registered in the state, 123 were reported in quarantine centres, while the remaining 89 infections were detected during contact tracing. Fourteen of the 30 districts did not record any new case.

The rate of infection among the 0-18 age group stood at 33.01 per cent against 19.88 per cent on the previous day. Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of new cases at 90, followed by Sundargarh (39) and Mayurbhanj (13).

Sops for electronics cos

Odisha Electronics Policy 2021 offers fixed capital investment subsidy ranging from ₹10cr to ₹250cr, exemptions in power bills & stamp duty

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Ahead of the winter session of Assembly, the state cabinet Tuesday approved 24 proposals including the Electronics Policy 2021. To stimulate the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) industry in the state, the government has come up with the Electronics Policy 2021, said Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra.

Odisha Electronics Policy 2021 has been conceptualized to position Odisha as an attractive destination for the electronics industry by providing a congenial, industry friendly and proactive industrial climate with leading infrastructure, supporting facilities and policy initiatives, he said.

A lot of sops have been announced for the investors in electronics sector. As per the policy, fixed capital investment subsidy ranging from Rs10 crore to ₹250 crore will be provided



to ESDM units based on their fixed capital investment. The state government has provisioned exemption of power duty and electrical inspection fees for five years. Eligible ESDM units would be provided subsidy on their power bills for a period of 5 years at 30 per cent limited to ₹50 lakh per unit.

Similarly, 100 per cent exemption of stamp duty and 50 per cent exemption on second transaction will be provided to such investors. There will be reimbursement of 100 per cent of land conversion charges payable for converting land from agricultural to industrial use. Additional sops will be given to women entrepreneurs and persons with disabilities, local entrepreneurs. This policy will remain in force until March, 2026.

The cabinet has also approved a policy to deal with land issues pending against various educa-

tional institutions for decades.

Due to inability of such institutions to pay dues like premium, incidental charges and other fees with penalty, interest, the land is not recorded in the name of institutions, said Revenue Minister Sudam Marndi. All land irrespective of extent of area under occupation of standalone government degree colleges and standalone government Plus II colleges will be recorded in the name of higher education department and school & mass education department respectively with marfat of the concerned degree colleges/ higher secondary school, he said.

The cabinet has approved to amend the Industrial Policy Resolution 2015 by addition of a section to provide special incentives to new age mega industries.

This package of incentives includes capital investment subsidy of up to 30 per cent, reimbursement of SGST, energy tariff, electricity duty exemption and employment cost subsidy for Odia employees. The proposed amendments are expected to attract investments of around ₹12,000 crore to the state, creating employment for more than 35,000 people. P2

Failing to catch school bus, Class 9 boy ends life in MP

AGENCIES

Betul (MP), Nov 23: Apparently upset over missing his school bus, a Class 9 student committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh, police said Tuesday. This incident occurred Monday at Aamdoh village under the Ghodadongri police post, located 40 km from the Betul district headquarters.

"A 14-year-old boy, who was the student of Class 9 in a private school, committed suicide by hanging Monday," said Ghodadongri police post in charge Ravi Shakya. He said the boy had left him home for school but missed the bus.

"His family members told the police that he was very punctual about attending his school. He was upset after he missed the bus," the police officer said. According to his family members, he returned home crying Monday. He was later found hanging from a tree in the backyard of his house, Shakya said.

The deceased boy's uncle said he was very good in studies. "He was found hanging from a mango tree in the backyard still wearing his school uniform," he said.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE
• FOCUS ODISHA •

PANELISTS

Mr. Pradeep Jena, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, MD, OSDMA

Dr. Monika Nielsen
Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha

Mr. Nick Low
British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata

Ms. Archana Soreng
Member of UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra
DG, Indian Meteorological Department

Mr. Soumya Ranjan Biswal
Climate Activist/ Marine conservationist

Mr. Kavish Seth
Singer/Songwriter/ Poet/Inventor

Mr. Ranjan Panda
Noted Water & Climate Change Expert, popularly known as Water Man of Odisha

Mr. Sujit Mahapatra
Founding Volunteer of Bakul Foundation

Mr. Sampad Patnaik
Independent Journalist & Researcher

24TH NOVEMBER BHUBANESWAR

MAIN SPONSOR: OMC, DISHA

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS: Dendrop, Phosphate Limited, FSN, PANZER, vedanta

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE
• FOCUS ODISHA •

SPEAKERS

Aradhana Manoswini
AIIMS

Shirshita Pattnaik
SCB Medical College & Hospital

Barsha Priyadarshini Kar
College of Basic Science & Humanities

Padmaja
BJB Autonomous College

Bishwoksen Dash
College of Engineering & Technology

Sanchita Das
XIMB

Suchismita Senapati
Sai International College of Commerce and Economics

Sonali Giri
Utkal University

Preyrana Mishra
KIIT University

Pooja Mohanty
Ravenshaw University

24TH NOVEMBER BHUBANESWAR

MAIN SPONSOR: OMC, DISHA

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PARTNERS: Odisha High Commission Kolkata, Bakul, Water Conservation, OISHA ENVIRONMENT CONGRESS 2021, ODISHA LOCAL, OrissaPOST, MEDIA PARTNER: OrissaPOST, OUTDOOR PARTNER: TEAM

PARTNERS: Odisha High Commission Kolkata, Bakul, Water Conservation, OISHA ENVIRONMENT CONGRESS 2021, ODISHA LOCAL, OrissaPOST, MEDIA PARTNER: OrissaPOST, OUTDOOR PARTNER: TEAM

SCB global conclave to mark platinum jubilee

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 23: The SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) is all set to host a three-day global conclave starting November 26 as part of its platinum jubilee celebrations. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, PK Mishra, are scheduled to participate in the conclave virtually. Governor Ganeshi Lal will also participate in the conclave virtually November 27, said sources in the SCBMCH. Several renowned doctors having national and international repute and people who have excelled in different fields are scheduled to participate in the conclave. "The views and advices of these renowned people will help SCBMCH to become a world-class health institute in the coming 25 years," said SCBMCH Dean and Principal Dattaswar Hota at a presser here Tuesday.

CB team in Delhi to quiz Nigerian hacker

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Following the arrest of one Nigerian cyber criminal from Bangalore by Delhi police, a two-member team of state Crime Branch (CB) Tuesday reached New Delhi to interrogate the fraudster for his suspected involvement in swindling of Rs 7 lakh from the contacts of OCAC CEO Manoj Kumar Patnaik. The accused, Okwudiri Paschal was arrested by Delhi police Saturday. The mastermind of the cyber fraudsters' gang involved in the hacking of WhatsApp accounts, emails and mobile phones was arrested by the Delhi police too. The CB team will question the accused to know whether he had hacked the mobile number of Patnaik and duped his contacts through phishing messages seeking money. Notably, Saheed Nagar police had registered a case following a complaint by Patnaik, who is also the additional secretary of state E&IT department, and other victims November 11. Later, the CB had taken over the investigations.

Ex-SPCB RM shown the door for graft

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The state government Tuesday gave compulsory retirement to Narottam Behera, former Regional Manager at the Balasore branch of State Pollution Control Board. On October 9, Behera was intercepted by Vigilance sleuths at Tangi check gate. Behera was returning from Balasore to his residence here by a hired four-wheeler. The sleuths seized Rs 89,290 from his possession. A case (17/21) was registered against Behera in this regard. Vigilance sources claimed that Rs 16.5 lakh including Rs 9.25 lakh from his Satyanagar residence and Rs 6.35 lakh from his quarter at Balasore have also been seized. Behera has been in judicial custody since October 10.

- WASSUP TODAY**
- BHUBANESWAR**
- 17th Sangam, a confluence of dance, Rabindra Mandap, 7pm
- HELPMATE to celebrate the centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Odisha, Buddha Mandir, near MBS School, 06:30pm
- Protest rally by Dalit-Adivasi Suraksha Sangha, Congress Bhawan to Lower PMG, 11am

Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to opwassup@gmail.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

No ruckus during Question Hour: Patro

OPPOSITION CHIEF WHIP MOHAN MAJHI SAYS THE BJP WILL OPPOSE IT IF THE SPEAKER RAISES THE ISSUE AT THE ALL-PARTY MEETING

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro Tuesday said the legislators will no longer be allowed to create ruckus in the House during the Governor's address and Question Hour. Patro said the decision was taken at the two-day All India Presiding Officer's Conference held in Shimla during November 16 and 17 this year. The conference asked the Speakers to inform the members about the decision. Patro said the issue would be discussed at the all-party meeting scheduled to be held November 29

prior to the commencement of the Winter Session of the state Assembly December 1 next. Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi (BJP), however, said they would oppose it if the Speaker raised the issue at the all-party meeting. The Winter Session of the Assembly would be held observing all Covid-19 protocols. The members and staffers will have to undergo RT-PCR and antigen tests and those tested negative would be allowed to participate in the proceedings of the House. The Winter Session of the Assembly is scheduled to commence December 1 and continue till December 31. As per the notification issued by the Odisha Assembly, the first supplementary statement of ex-



THE DECISION WAS TAKEN AT THE TWO-DAY ALL INDIA PRESIDING OFFICER'S CONFERENCE HELD IN SHIMLA DURING NOV 16 AND 17 THIS YEAR

penditure for the year 2021-22 will be presented on the inaugural day of the session and the Appropriation Bill will be tabled December 10 next.

Regularise data entry operators: HC to state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 23: The Orissa High Court Tuesday directed the state government to regularise the contractual data entry operators engaged at four of its institutions within three months. Justice BR Sarangi ordered the state to regularise the contractual data entry operators at Local Fund Audit, Sub-Registry, Lok Seva Bhawan and Madhusudan Academy. The state government is also required to provide them other benefits of the job, the court ruled. The court's move came in response to a batch of petitions

filed by around 700 contractual data entry operators of the four institutions. "The petitioners had contended the HC that despite having served the state government for 10 to 12 years, they were yet to get regularised. The petitioners had urged the court for directing the state government to regularise them and also provide other perks of service," said senior lawyer Atul Tripathy, who appeared on behalf of the petitioners. Sources said the HC order has come as a big relief for more than 1,500 contractual data entry operators working at the four state-run institutions.

Cabinet approves 12 drinking water projects worth ₹1,800cr

The govt has decided to appoint eminent sportspersons & para-sportspersons in Group-A, Group-B & Group-C posts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The State Cabinet Tuesday approved tenders for construction of 12 mega piped drinking water projects with an investment of around Rs 1,800 crore. These projects will be implemented in Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Balasore, Gajapati, Kandhamal and Koraput districts that would benefit more than 12 lakh people, said Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra. The Cabinet has also approved construction of Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Project with an expenditure of Rs 10,759.20 crore that would create additional irrigation potential of 2,63,801 hectare to provide supplemental Kharif irrigation to uplands. The state government has planned to bring more upland arable lands into the ambit of irrigation by implementing Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Project, Mahapatra said. The state government has decided to appoint eminent sportspersons and para-sportspersons in Group-A, Group-B and Group-C posts and services under government organisations and PSUs. Till now, such persons are appointed to Group-B posts only. The Cabinet has given its nod for amendment of Odisha Fire Service Act, 1993. A draft Bill has been prepared in consultation with Law department, sources said. The amendment Bill proposes to delegate power and function exercisable by state government to the director general (DG), Fire Services, to strengthen the fire and emergency service organisation. The panel also approved the tender for construction of Rs 117.44 crore In-stream Storage Structure (ISS) at Chhattamakhana village across river Suktel in Bolangir.

Nod to ₹19,380cr Suppl Budget

The Council of Ministers has given its nod for the first Supplementary Budget for FY 2021-22, which is scheduled to be presented before the Assembly December 1. The Council has approved an outlay of Rs 19,380 crore for the Budget. Last year, a Supplementary Budget of a whopping Rs 11,200 crore was presented in the House. However, as Panchayat elections are nearing, the government has enhanced the budgetary allocation to fund some major rural development projects and schemes, sources said. Covid response related to health, food & social security, livelihood programmes, employment generation among others. Besides, funds for KALIA, BSKY, Mamata, Mission Shakti and other schemes are likely to get priority, they said.

The project is planned to be completed in 30 calendar months. Similarly, the Cabinet has approved a five-year budget provision amounting to Rs 484.10 crore under Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana, which was introduced in June 2018. Tender for construction of a Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science & Research, Trauma Care & Surgery complex with Casualty at Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar at an investment of Rs 235 crore has also been approved. In order to improve the medical education in the state and cater to the needs of qualified doctors, the government has decided to open the facility which will facilitate health services at a cheaper cost. A target has been set for completion of the project within two years.

CM to lay stone for Heritage Corridor today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is all set to lay the foundation stone for the Srimandir Heritage Corridor project at a special programme here Wednesday. Apart from Patnaik, his Cabinet colleagues and many other dignitaries are also scheduled to participate in the foundation laying ceremony, sources said. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Monday started a three-day Yagya (sacred offering to the fire god) ahead of the stone laying ceremony. The CM will lay the foundation stone for the mega project, being implemented within 75-metre radius of the 12th century shrine, immediately after the completion of the Yagya rituals, sources said. "The locals of the Holy City, who have donated their land for the mega project, would be felicitated during the event. A model of the heritage corridor project would also be unveiled at the ceremony," said state government's media advisor Manas Mangaraj at a presser here Tuesday. The district administration, meanwhile, stepped up security near Srimandir to avoid any untoward incident during the event.



Rituals in progress for the foundation laying ceremony in Puri, Tuesday

At least 25 platoons of armed police personnel, three additional SPs, 10 DSPs and 40 inspectors would be deployed in the city during the Chief Minister's visit, sources said. "The shops along both sides of

the Grand Road from Srimandir to the Hospital Square would remain closed from 6am to 12 noon as part of the security arrangements," said Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh. The opposition Congress and BJP, meanwhile, alleged that the

public discontent over the murder of teacher Mamita Meher in Kalahandi has forced the Puri district administration to arrange an unprecedented level of security for the Chief Minister's visit to the Pilgrim city.

IIT-Bhub starts admissions for 2021-22

BHUBANESWAR: Admissions for B Tech and Dual Degree courses at IIT-Bhubaneswar for 2021-22 academic session have started and the students have been asked to report at the campus by November 24. Altogether 472 students, amongst whom 90 (20%) are women and 139 (29%) are under 18, were offered admissions November 20, 2021, after the 6th and last round of counselling by Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JOSAA). The counselling began October 27 and 226 students (182 boys and 44 girls) reported at the campus till November 22, said sources. The institute has provided the option of attending online classes for those under 18. However, only 20 (4%) of them opted for attending classes from home. While seven B Tech students have requested for extension of time due to health reasons, 15 Dual Course students have sought extension for other reasons. The rest are expected to arrive at the campus by November 24.

HE dept reviews OPHWC works

BHUBANESWAR: The Higher Education (HE) department Tuesday reviewed the infrastructure work of state public universities undertaken by Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPHWC). The department also wrote letter directing the Chairman-cum-MD of OSPHWC to meet the HE Minister Arun Sahoo November 26.

SAI students ready to cheer hockey again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Odisha is all set to host the Men's FIH Junior Hockey World Cup 2021 Wednesday and the SAI International School is ready to cheer the Indian team. The students Tuesday welcomed former Captain of Indian Hockey team Padma Shri Dilip Tirkey to celebrate and cheer for the tournament. The matches will be played at Kalinga Stadium and the finals will be held December 5. A total of 16 teams from across the globe will fight for the trophy. The 18-member

team includes three players from Odisha; Abhishek Lakra, Sudeep Chirmako and Sunil Jojo. Addressing the gathering, Tirkey said he was delighted to see the response of the students. Chairperson Silpi Sahoo presented a token of appreciation to the esteemed guest and said, "Having such guests in the school motivates students while providing an array of exposure. The CM has envisioned making Odisha the sports capital of India and has equipped Kalinga Stadium with all possible modern sporting infrastructure."

CAPTIVATING AUDIENCE



Artistes of Maa Santoshi Kala Pratisthan from Rayagada perform Deshiya dance at Ama Lokakala Ama Sanskruti programme organised by Odia Language Literature and Culture department at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Bhubaneswar ranks 44th in NITI Aayog's SDG Index

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 23: Temple City Bhubaneswar has been ranked 44th among 56 cities in the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Urban India Index and Dashboard for 2021-22. The state capital has scored 59.71 in the SDG Urban Index. The capital of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla has topped the index followed by Coimbatore and Chandigarh, while Dhanbad, Meerut and Itanagar have been the worst performers. Bhubaneswar has been declared as a good performer in two goals- Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. According to an official statement, the NITI Aayog has developed the SDG Urban index and dashboard in collaboration with GIZ and BMZ under the umbrella of Indo-German Development

Bhubaneswar has been declared as a good performer in two goals - Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Cooperation. Launching the index and dashboard, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said, "Cities are fast becoming engines of growth. The SDG Urban Index and Dashboard, a product of innovative partnership between NITI Aayog and GIZ, will go a long way in instituting a robust SDG monitoring system in our cities, and is a milestone in our SDG localisation journey."

The statement said the index highlights the strengths and gaps of ULB-level data, monitoring, and reporting systems. "The index and dashboard will further strengthen SDG localisation and institute robust SDG monitoring at the city level," it said. The NITI Aayog considered a total of 56 cities for computation. Out of 56 urban areas ranked in the index, 44 are with population of above one million. Twelve are state capitals with population of less than a million. "For each SDG, the urban areas are ranked on a scale of 0-100. A score of 100 implies that the urban area has achieved the targets set for 2030; a score of 0 implies that it is the farthest from achieving the targets among the selected urban areas. Overall or composite urban area scores are then generated from the Goal-wise scores to measure aggregate performance of the urban area," it said.

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- 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 Rayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-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.

SHORT TAKES

Man hacks mother to death

Jharsuguda: In a shocking incident, a youth allegedly hacked his mother to death when she refused to prepare egg curry at 1b village under Sadar police limits in Jharsuguda district Monday evening. The deceased was identified as Kumudini Bhoje (55), while the accused is Rajendra Bhoje (27). The accused was arrested and produced in court. According to police, the accused, a daily wagger, returned home with eggs in the evening and asked his mother Kumudini to make a curry. However, she refused to do so. This led to an altercation between the two. Infuriated over the refusal, Rajendra attacked her with a sharp weapon, resulting in the death of Kumudini on the spot.

Charred body of youth recovered

Balangir: A half-burnt body of a youth was recovered behind the Rajendra University here, Tuesday. The deceased, who is yet to be identified, is aged around 20-22 years. On being informed, Town police rushed to the spot and started an investigation with a scientific team. Later, the body was sent for post-mortem to the Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir. Preliminary inquiries indicated that unidentified miscreants after killing the youth elsewhere might have dumped the body behind the compound wall of the university and then set it on fire to destroy evidence. SDPO Tophan Bag said that the reason behind the death is yet to be ascertained but will be clear after receiving the post-mortem report.

Guv for water conservation

Kendrapara: "Water is life and its conservation is vital for the next generation," said Governor Ganeshi Lal during his visit to Kendrapara district, Tuesday. The Governor held discussions with officials of the district administration at Jajang Circuit House over local issues pertaining to drinking water problems and finding solutions. It is worth mentioning here that the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has identified Kendrapara as the only water-stressed district from the state. The district was included in the water conservation campaign, 2019. The Governor sought a detailed report about the present status of the water resources in the district from executive engineer of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department, Basant Nayak. The Governor observed that the fresh water needs to be conserved. He directed officials of the district administration to hasten the work of toilet construction in schools.

Excise officials accused of beating youth to death

VICTIM'S FAMILY MEMBERS ALLEGED THAT AN EXCISE OFFICIAL HAD ASKED THEM OVER PHONE TO PAY ₹50,000 FOR HIS RELEASE



POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Nov 23: Excise officials have allegedly beaten a youth to death in custody in Phiringia area of Kandhamal district, Tuesday. Irate over the incident, locals blocked a road demanding compensation for the bereaved family and stern action against the guilty. According to reports, Amit Mukhi and his brother, residents

of Saitingia under Phiringia police limits, were on their way to Boudh for some work November 13. At Ranipathar Ghatia, Excise officials detained the two and took Amit in custody on charges of smuggling marijuana.

Later, Amit's family members alleged that an Excise official had asked them over phone to pay ₹50,000 for his release. In the evening, the family members were again

informed over phone that Amit was critically injured.

Amit's family members alleged that he had sustained deep head injury and was first taken to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) at Phulbani. Later, he was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack where he succumbed to his injuries, November 21.

Angry over the incident, locals demanded stern action against the guilty Excise officials and compensation of ₹50 lakh to the bereaved family. Meanwhile, Amit's brother has filed a complaint at Phiringia police station about incident, accusing Excise ASI Anil Kumar Panigrahy and other officials of killing his brother.

Three students run over while playing online game on rail tracks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Nov 23: Three teenagers were run over by a train while they were playing 'Free Fire' online game on their mobile phones sitting on the rail tracks at Khuntapalli village under Durguripalli police limits in Subarnapur district Monday night.

According to reports, the deceased failed to hear the sound of the approaching train as they had put on their headphones for playing the online game on their cell phones near the Naupalli railway crossing.

The deceased were identified as Gagan Seth, 18; Aditya Biswal,

17 and Hemant Seth, 17, of Khuntapalli village.

The tragic incident occurred when a goods train was coming from Bargharh end on the Sambalpur-Titilagarh route, while a passenger train was coming from the opposite direction.

A pall of gloom descended on the village as the news of their death spread. It is said that the villagers and the family members of the deceased cremated the bodies the same night without informing police or any outsider.

When contacted, the Government Railway Police and Durguripalli police said that they have no information about the mishap.

Man, father get lifer for dowry death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 23: A local court Tuesday sentenced the husband of a woman and her father-in-law to life imprisonment after convicting them for her murder in 2017 at Kunua village under Rasol police limits in this district.

District and Sessions Judge Sarat Kumar Dehuri convicted the husband, Ajay Khilar, and father-in-law, Muralidhar Khilar, for the murder of Geetanjali Khilar for additional dowry, December 12, 2017. The court also slapped a fine of ₹5,000 on each of them. Ajay had married Geetanjali in 2014. Public Prosecutor Ganesh Kumar Behera pleaded the matter.

Cop pursues his passion for teaching

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Nov 23: Constable Debendra Samarath of Karchamal village under Koshagumuda block in Nabarangpur district has set an example for others to emulate. A graduate and CT degree holder, Samarath takes some time out from his regular routine to teach poor students of his locality. He has been doing this for the last three years, balancing his profession and passion.

After completing his studies, Samarath qualified to become a constable in the Excise department at Nabarangpur and is currently posted at Kodinga Excise department. Samarath says, he ensures that no child in his area is deprived of education for lack of money. Hence, he is making all efforts to teach the poor children free of cost.

Though Samarath is an employee of Excise department, his interest was always in teaching. Today, as many as 70 children are benefitting from the



free classes offered by Samarath.

He joined the Excise department but was always pondering to find a way to give vent to his passion. Finally, he decided to translate his thoughts into action and started teaching the children in his locality after returning home from office at night.

Samarath prepares himself before taking the classes and also teaches the children on holidays without taking a pie from them. As a constable, he is drawing a small salary but that does not deter him from spending a part of it for the education of the children. He spends

around 10 per cent of his salary to buy study materials and kits for the deprived students.

According to Samarath, he has gone through lots of hardship in his life as a fruit shop was the only means of livelihood of his family. He was interested in pursuing higher studies, but had to drop the idea due to want of money.

Later, he thought that no children should be deprived of education for money and decided to teach the poor children in his area. A co-villager, Premchand Bhadra holds a BA BEd degree and assists him in teaching the children.

He has been teaching the children in an under-construction house of villager Sitaram Pujari due to lack of a proper place to hold classes. Villagers are not only happy but are praising Samarath for his noble initiative.

When contacted, his father Gobinda Samarath said that he is proud of his son for teaching the poor children.

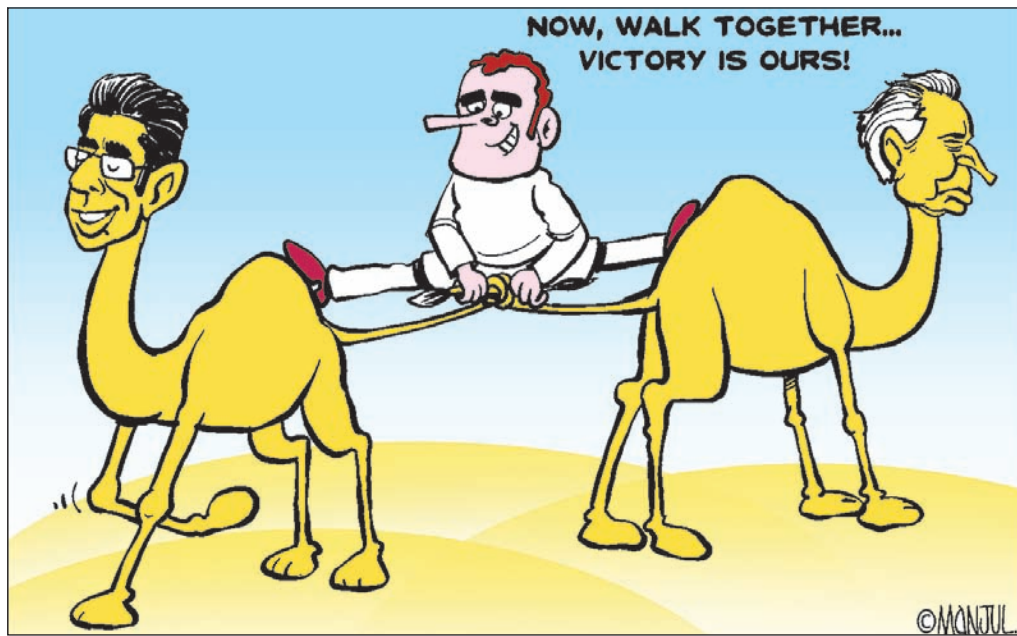
Oram bats for flights from Steel City

ROURKELA: Senior BJP leader and MP Jual Oram has demanded that the Civil Aviation Ministry connect Rourkela airport to the Udaan circuit. Speaking at the Udaan ceremony at Jharsuguda Monday, Oram put forth this demand before Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Oram discussed with Scindia about steps necessary for starting flight services to and from Rourkela airport and the extension of runways. He also told the Union Minister about a letter he had sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Pantalk about the development of the Rourkela airport. Rourkela airport has ATC-2c permission for flight of 19 passengers. Over 8 lakh people live in the Steel City, which is a major commercial hub with a number of industries, he added.

Breach on embankment floods acres of farmland

MAHAKALAPARA: Establishment of prawn gheries and fishing close to the embankment of the Luna river here have posed a serious threat to the river embankment, a report said. The worst fear came true after a breach occurred on the embankment and submerged ripened paddy crops on hundreds of acres of farmland, Sunday. Reports said that the breach is a result of prawn gheries constructed close to the embankment. Locals alleged that some people have illegally dug up large ponds on 12,000 acres and 800 acres of land separately and carrying out prawn cultivation. They are drawing sea water through a creek and filling up the ponds for prawn cultivation. After harvesting prawns, they are discharging the toxic water blended with chemicals into the river and the sea and polluting both. This has been continuing for a long time as no officials ever tried to check the menace. The tidal waves crossed the shore Friday and caused the embankment to breach.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Khushi goes haywire in Bhadrak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur, Nov 23: The state government-sponsored Khushi scheme aimed at promoting menstrual hygiene among school-going adolescent girls through distribution of free sanitary pads has gone haywire in Bhadrak district. According to a report, large number of sanitary napkins that were dumped in the godowns has been damaged lying there for a long time.

The scheme has become a farce, especially in Basudevpur block of Bhadrak district, it was alleged.

According to information available from the state Health department, the Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd (OSMCL) had supplied 5.70 lakh sanitary napkins to the nodal centre in this block in January. Later, in February, the OSMCL supplied an additional 2,10,870 sanitary napkins to the block. Earlier, the nodal centre had 1,40,562 sanitary napkins with it which were not distributed following which the total stock in store went up to 9,21,672 in the



Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd had supplied 5.70 lakh sanitary napkins to the nodal centre at Basudevpur in January

godown.

Later, in November, the OSMCL again supplied 6,04,472 sanitary napkins to the nodal centre. As a result, the total stock again went up to 15,26,472 in the godown.

Reports said that the expiry

date of sanitary napkins supplied earlier will end soon, while the current lot neither has manufacturing date nor expiry date on their packaging. Moreover, a dispute has arisen as to who will distribute the napkins among the girl students.

When contacted, block education officer, Jagabandhu Sahu said that the Health department usually distributes the sanitary napkins. The Health department supplies the sanitary napkins to the regional resource centres. Teachers collect them from the resource centres and distribute the napkins among the girl students. However, the Health department is not cooperating, he alleged.

Dr Susant Samant, medical officer of local community health centre, said that the Health department, after receiving the sanitary napkins, has stored them at the nodal centre and it is the responsibility of the Education department to distribute them. Such blame game has given rise to an impasse. Locals demanded that the matter should be resolved at the earliest.

25th Gunjan 2021
Dance and Music Festival
26th | 27th | 28th November 2021
Saheed Bhawan, Cuttack
6.30 PM onwards

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POSSESSION NOTICE
Rule 8(2) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas the authorized officer of **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.**, formerly known as SUNDARAM BNP PARIBAS HOME FINANCE LTD., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower, Co-Borrower and GPA to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notices. The Borrower, Co-Borrower & GPA having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Co-Borrower, GPA and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The borrower's attention is invited to provision of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower, Co-Borrower and GPA in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.**

Sl. No.	File Nos.	Borrower's, Co-Borrower's & GPA Name and Address	Date of Demand Notice/Publication	Notice Amount	Date of Possession	Total Outstanding
1	6720 0002	Indira Das (Borrower) Lane 3 142, At Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar Bhubaneswar - 751013 Santosh Kumar Padhy (GPA)	02 Sept, 2019	Rs. 43,51,887/-	20 Nov, 2021.	Rs. 45,90,904/-
Schedule of Property: All the piece and parcel of land situated at mouza Ambopua, in front of Vivek Vihar BDA housing project, Berhampur District, Ganjam, Odisha bearing Khata no. 442/4681, Plot no.844/6970, BDA approved layout Plot no.9, Area measuring 1800 Sqft, (45' x 40') construction area 2126.6 sqft, (Duplex House) Vide BDA approval letter no.508/16.02.09. Bounded by: North: Road South: Approved plot no.24 East: Road West: Approved plot no.10.						
2	6720 0003	Indira Das (Borrower) Lane 3 142, At Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar Bhubaneswar - 751013 Santosh Kumar Padhy (GPA)	01 August 2019	Rs. 43,11,163/-	20 Nov., 2021.	Rs. 45,48,363/-
Schedule of Property: All the piece and parcel of land situated at mouza Ambopua, in front of Vivek Vihar BDA housing project, Berhampur District, Ganjam, Odisha bearing Khata no. 442/4681, Plot no.844/6970, BDA approved layout Plot no.24, Area measuring 1800 Sqft, (45' x 40') construction area 2126.6 sqft, (Duplex House) Vide BDA approval letter no.508/16.02.09. Bounded by: North: Approved plot no.9, South: Road, East: Road, West: Approved plot no.23.						

Date: 20-11-2021 for **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD** Authorised officer

RADARS TO CHECK RASH DRIVING ON HIGHWAYS

IIT, BHUBANESWAR, HAS BEEN ASKED TO DEVELOP THE RADAR BY SEPT 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 23: Several motorists continue to drive irresponsibly with scant regard for their own safety and that of the fellow commuters. Now, in a bid to reduce accidents on highways, the state commerce and transport department in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar is developing a radar technology to identify the motorists driving faster than the permissible speed limits on the highway, a report said.

This radar will be built by the ace institute by September 2022. The matter came to the fore after transport department November 13 asked Prasant Kumar Sahoo, associate professor, IIT, Bhubaneswar to develop the radar within the period.

The department has asked to prepare automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR) radar which will help in identifying the registration number plates of vehicles overspeeding on the highways. The IIT has assured to prepare the radar by May 2023, while the MS Padhi, principal secretary of transport department has insisted on completion of the project by



September 2022.

The department has allocated Rs14, 87,400 to the IIT in March to develop the radar technology. The associate professor in a review meeting November 15 has pointed out that the work has been slow as development of radar is a costly project.

Reports said that a committee on road safety headed by a retired judge has been formed by the Supreme Court. The committee has formed several rules and guidelines at different point of times.

However, accident-related deaths continue to rise due to lack of adequate staff in the transport department to keep a tab on errant drivers violating speed rules on the highways.

Meanwhile, the state transport authority has published a notification on speed limits of different category of vehicles on the highways. However, biker and motorists violate these rules with impunity with staff shortage plaguing the department. To overcome this problem, the radar technology to be developed will come handy, the report said.

Sources said that over 1.50 lakh people die every year in road mishaps. Odisha has jumped to twelfth rank from 16 in deaths due to road accident.

The Supreme Court committee on road safety has directed to reduce accident-related deaths to 50 per cent. According to reports, in Odisha 3,932 persons died in 2014 while 4,738 persons died in 2019 in road mishaps. The CID and Crime Branch report says 684 persons died in September and October in 2019 while 872 persons died during the same period in 2020. The road accident deaths are 27.5 per cent more than the previous year.

FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

CORPORATE GREENWASHING



With activists at COP26 and beyond accusing financial-sector leaders of greenwashing by relying on carbon offsets, the debate about climate-aligned investing has heated up. While critics are right that pay-to-pollute strategies have no place in a net-zero world, some offsets could still have a positive – if temporary – role to play

In the run-up to this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26), a growing number of companies hopped on the sustainability bandwagon, declaring commitments to achieve carbon neutrality – net-zero carbon-dioxide emissions – by mid-century. And among the many ambitious announcements to come out of COP26 is that almost 500 financial-services firms have "agreed to align \$130 trillion – some 40 per cent of the world's financial assets – with the climate goals set out in the Paris agreement, including limiting global warming to 1.5°C."

But many commentators have been skeptical about such proclamations, suggesting that they amount to greenwashing. Critics point to corporations' heavy reliance on "offsetting," which has become an increasingly important – and controversial – issue in the broader climate debate. So great is the confusion about what is real and what is not that the Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets, led by UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance Mark Carney, has established a new governance committee to review corporate emissions pledges.

The skeptics are right to be concerned about the use of offsets. The world needs to get to net-zero by mid-century, and it cannot do that with offsets. Companies buy offsets precisely so that they can continue emitting greenhouse gases (GHGs) while claiming that their emissions are zero, net of the offsets. The very existence of an offset means that the purchaser's emissions are not zero.

But not all offsets are alike. The critics focus on offsets in which one company or country pays another to reduce emissions and then claims the reduction as its own. This is the kind of offset that cannot be allowed if the world as a whole is to get to zero emissions. There is a place, however, for offsets generated by removing GHGs from the atmosphere, for exam-

ple by direct air capture or forest growth. If a company emits 100 tonnes of CO2 and then removes the same amount, its net emissions really are zero. If all companies do this, the world as a whole will achieve net-zero emissions.

True, the recourse to forestry requires a cautionary note. Growing trees raises issues of both additionality and permanence – additionality because it is hard to be sure that the forest growth would not have occurred anyway, and permanence because there is a risk that the forest will burn, a problem that has grown more visible and severe in recent years.

Still, offsets can play a positive role. The costs of reducing GHG emissions, and the willingness and ability to pay for such reductions, vary

greatly from country to country, depending on the sources of its emissions and its stage of development. Some countries may not be willing or able to pay for an expensive reduction in emissions at home but could still pay for less costly reductions abroad. When this happens, an offset market can facilitate a reduction in emissions that would not otherwise have occurred, or that would not occur without a policy that penalises CO2 emissions.

In this case, offsets may be useful at least in moving the world closer to net-zero emissions. But to reach the finish line, they will have to be phased out at some point. There ultimately is no place for offsets in a zero-emissions world.

In the meantime, policymakers and business leaders would

do well to attend to a related issue that has been neglected: the failure to distinguish between so-called scope-one, scope-two, and scope-three emissions. Scope one refers to emissions that arise from a company's own operations, whereas scope two applies to those associated with the production of electric power purchased by the company, and scope three to those arising from other parts of the supply chain, particularly from the consumption of the product. Clearly, there is potential for massive double counting here if one adds up all the emissions across companies. If my company purchases electricity from a local utility, the associated emissions are scope two for me and scope one for the utility. If Exxon sells jet fuel to American Airlines for use in Boeing aircraft, the emissions are scope three for Exxon and Boeing, and scope one for American Airlines. These emissions are counted three times, which is anathema to any competent accounting system. Every scope-two or -three emission is someone else's scope-one emission.

Fortunately, such confusion is avoidable. If every company has reduced its scope-one emissions to zero, aggregate corporate emissions will be zero. It therefore makes sense for every company to focus only on this factor. If scope-one emissions are brought to zero, scope-two and scope-three emissions will take care of themselves.

This should help to simplify the general policy guidance and instructions given to companies: Focus on reducing your scope-one emissions. Plan on phasing out offsets over the long run. And continue to look for opportunities to remove GHGs from the atmosphere, as these reductions can still be counted against your own scope-one emissions.

The writer is Professor of Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Geoffrey Heal

COMPANIES BUY OFFSETS PRECISELY SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE EMITTING GREENHOUSE GASES WHILE CLAIMING THAT THEIR EMISSIONS ARE ZERO, NET OF THE OFFSETS

Bravo, CJI

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

THE MOTHER



Chief Justice of India NV Ramana's pronouncements November 22 on the rulers' duty should inspire confidence among the people in the rule of law. It could also restore faith in the judiciary which has considerably been eroded during the past few years when justice was often not "seen to be done" as it should be. The dictum is clear that it is not enough to do justice, but the judiciary needs to ensure that people can see justice being done. It has, unfortunately, not been the case in several recent instances when many supporters and leaders of the ruling BJP boasted the judiciary would do only what they wish. There is a well founded impression that, in several major cases, the Supreme Court gave judgements to suit the interests of the ruling elite. The rulings have been glaringly pro-government. In the case of demolition of the Babri Masjid, a Bench led by the Chief Justice of that time had no solid evidence served up to prove that the mosque had been built by destroying a temple nearly five centuries ago, but the verdict was in favour of building a temple at the site that sent certain rabid elements into raptures, making a mockery of justice. It virtually meant the guilty got rewarded for their crime of destroying not only a relic of history but also of damaging the country's delicate social fabric. The worst outcome of this apparent blurring of the borderlines between the judiciary and the executive is that the main author of this judgement, Chief Justice of that time, was shortly thereafter nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the ruling party.

However, since the new CJI assumed office, winds of change seem to be blowing and pronouncements by the judiciary in major cases are steadily restoring the people's confidence about fair play. CJI Ramana recently spoke about how rulers need to introspect every day about whether the decisions taken by them are good and also check if they have any bad characteristics, clearly pointing to some events of the near past. It could not have come at a more opportune time. For, the country has just seen how a nearly year-long agitation by thousands of farmers against the three controversial farm laws forced the government to introspect whether its decision riding roughshod over the feelings of farmers was good and find out its 'bad characteristics,' as the CJI said. Of course, the government is still obtuse not to find fault with its decision and Prime Minister Narendra Modi merely said the government could not explain the merits of the laws to the farmers. It means the government had to bow to the wishes of the farmers not because it thought its legislations had 'bad characteristics,' but because it is scared of the electoral repercussions they may have in the next few months when several states, including UP, Punjab and Uttarakhand go to the polls. This was rather projected as a 'tapasya' gone wrong.

One of the factors that could have compelled the government to accept defeat at the hands of the farmers was the intervention of the apex court which suspended the implementation of the three laws January 12 and appointed a committee to understand the pros and cons of the laws. The farmers waged a do or die battle against what they felt colossal harm being done by the government to their livelihood. The judicial action did keep alive hope as the CJI averred the court would decide on the merits and demerits of the three laws. Apart from the votes, it may be that the government could sense this time around the judiciary would not be as pliant as it had been in the recent past when judges like Gogoi and Bobde headed it.

In such a backdrop, CJI Ramana struck the right note when he said at a programme in Puttaparthi town in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh: "There is need to offer just administration and it should be according to people's needs." He also reminded the audience of the "developments that are taking place worldwide and countrywide." The reference is unmistakable. Nothing can be more reassuring than the CJI's words that it was his desire that all the systems in the country should be independent and honest, solely aiming to serve the people.

Earlier also, CJI Ramana had pulled the government up for the way the sedition law is being used by the government to crush liberties. He asked Attorney General KK Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, why a colonial law used against Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak continued to survive in the law book after 75 years of Independence. "Sedition is a colonial law. It suppresses freedoms," he observed. The CJI's oral statement in open court resonated well at a time when public anger is rising against Central and State law enforcement agencies using the sedition law to silence dissent, muffle free expression and for denying bail to incarcerated journalists, students and other activists. A number of petitions have been filed highlighting the chilling effect the law on sedition has on the fundamental right of free speech. The apex court was right to point out to the government's two top law officers why the sedition law is not being annulled as governments of all hues have been using it to settle scores with their critics.

The agitating farmers have kindled hope that a government with overwhelming parliamentary majority can be brought to its knees by the people, who send their representatives to the parliament, if they act against their wishes. Now, the apex court under the leadership of the incumbent CJI is slowly and steadily renewing the faith of the people that the judiciary can be relied upon in strengthening the people's cause and thereby the very essence of democracy.

WISDOM CORNER

It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society. JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

Courage is a love affair with the unknown. OSHO

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive. THE DALAI LAMA

WORDSWORTH

POTUS

This acronym, meaning "President of the United States", has been common among Washington insiders for several decades. It has spread far wider in recent years, even outside the US, as a result in part of TV programmes like The West Wing. It has to be said it's a pretty obvious abbreviation, one that must have occurred to many people down the years. But we're sure its genesis lies with Walter P Phillips, a former journalist and telegraph operator who was at the time the Washington bureau chief for the Associated Press but who later became General Manager of the United Press Association and a vice-president of the Columbia Graphophone Company. Phillips published his code in 1879. At first it was primarily valued to streamline the reporting of court proceedings but was soon extended beyond legal matters to news in general, and would have been known to everyone dealing with copy coming in on the wire. It was a shorthand for terms that were likely to appear in news reports: fapib meant "filed a petition in bankruptcy"; cck, "committed suicide"; utaf, "under the auspices of the". The names of people in the news were often reduced to initials, as in this example that appeared in the Kansas City Star in 1910: "T tr l o HKT ft mu o SW on Mu roof garden, nw in pg ...", which the transcriber would at once have rendered as "The trial of Harry K Thaw for the murder of Stanford White on the Madison Square Roof Garden, now in progress ..." A writer in the Daily Northwestern of Wisconsin said this about the code in 1921: One or more letters may mean one word, or may mean a group of words. For instance, a dot, dash and a dot, or the letter f, means "of the"; potus, "president of the United States", xn, "constitution", and hundreds of others, which, when sent at a high rate of speed, keep an operator's attention constantly riveted on every dot and dash in order that he may transcribe the conglomeration, on a typewriter, into reading matter such as appears in the daily newspapers. In his original code Phillips merely included pot, short for "president of the", but this was extended in specific cases.

IN JEST THIS

Wash those stickers before you eat them



Melvin Durai

SCIENTISTS HAVE DONE TESTS ON STICKERS AND FOUND THEM TO HAVE ZERO NUTRITIONAL VALUE, WHICH MAKES THEM IDEAL FOR TEEN CONSUMPTION

Newspapers provide an invaluable service to their readers. If you don't believe me, just consider this question that was recently sent to a wellness column in the New York Times: "I keep finding myself biting into an apple or a peach, only to find I've eaten half the sticker the store put on there. Is there any harm in eating produce stickers?"

New York Times writer Sophie Egan proceeded to answer the question: "While the stickers that get placed on fruits and vegetables won't cause you any harm, it's probably best to remove them before eating."

Yes, it's always advisable to peel the stickers off before eating them. Don't eat them while they're still on the fruit. That would be like eating a banana peel while it's still on a banana.

In my never-ending quest to win a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, I decided to track down the person who wrote the sticker question and find out if there were other sticky questions I could answer. Indeed, there were.

If I eat a sticker, what food groups am I consuming?

You are generally consuming three food groups: ink, paper and adhesive.

Do the stickers have any nutritional value?

Scientists have done tests on stickers and found them to have zero nutritional value, which makes



It's always advisable to peel the stickers off before eating fruits. Don't eat them while they're still on the fruit. That would be like eating a banana peel while it's still on a banana

them ideal for teen consumption. It's not just teenagers who enjoy foods with no nutritional value, of course. It's also rats. Rats will eat anything.

Can I buy the stickers without the fruits and vegetables?

No, stores generally require you to buy a fruit or vegetable with each sticker.

Can I lose weight by going on a sticker diet?

Yes, but it's probably not a good idea to do so. It's important to have a balanced diet, which means that you should get no more than 5 to 10 per cent of your daily calorie intake from stickers. Try to follow a stricter

diet, not a sticker diet.

When did the practice of putting stickers on fruits and vegetables begin?

It began in the mid-1980s as a way to relieve the stress on cashiers at grocery stores, many of whom were struggling with fruit identification. For example, a cashier named Robert in Miami, Florida, got in big trouble with his manager when a customer bought a kiwi-fruit, but Robert charged him for a potato.

The sticker displays a PLU (product look up) code that is set by the International Federation for Produce Standards. For example,

a banana's PLU code is 4011, which explains why you might hear this exchange on a street corner in New York City:

"Hey man, got any 4011?"

"Sorry, all I have is 4036."

"Peach?"

"No, nectarine."

Has a sticker ever killed anyone?

Well, a man in Chennai went shopping for a new iPhone and almost died from sticker shock. He collapsed in the store and had to be revived with a Nokia.

No, I meant from eating a sticker, not looking at a sticker.

There are no known cases of sticker poisoning or sticker illness. Health authorities in every country require that stickers to be safe for consumption. But it's important to note that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a guidance in 2018 stating that some traders in India use stickers to make their fruit look premium and sometimes to cover any decay or defect. A variety of adhesives are being used and some may contain harmful chemicals, according to the FSSAI.

Does that mean that I should not eat stickers in India?

It means that you should not consume stickers in India without washing them well. Put all the stickers in a strainer and run water through them. You may also scrub each of them to ensure that the adhesive is removed.

Wastage of food

Sir, Odisha is the land of peace and non-violence. Lord Jagannath is the basis of our culture. In Jagannath tradition, there is no hatred and ill-will, there is only love and fellow-feeling. Odisha is internationally acclaimed as a peaceful state. Nowadays pelting of eggs and tomatoes on political opponents by various political parties in Odisha is gaining momentum. Egg is a nutritious food that contains vitamins and minerals. It is vital for growth and all-round development. It is served to school students in mid day meals in order to increase their strength and vitality. Similarly, the prices of tomatoes are skyrocketing. Is it advisable in a democracy to waste such precious food items only to vent one's anger on others? It is an insult to farmers and cooperatives. One may use flowers, holy water, sandalwood paste and vermilion instead. They will be less harmful and less bitter.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Gehlot's balancing act

Sir, It is heartening that the much-anticipated Cabinet reshuffle in the Ashok Gehlot-led Rajasthan government went off without a hitch Sunday. Dissident leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot claimed it sent a positive message across the state. Two of Pilot's trusted lieutenants and former ministers, Vishvendra Singh and Ramesh Meena, who were sacked after the rebellion in July 2020, made a triumphant comeback to the Cabinet. The biggest take-away from the Cabinet expansion has been the increased representation of Dalits, Scheduled Tribes and women. With the issue of factionalism addressed, there should be no hurdles for the smooth functioning of the Gehlot government.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Ludicrous statement

Sir, The controversial and ludicrous statement of Kangana Ranaut that India got real freedom in 2014 and what India and Mahatma Gandhi got in 1947 was not freedom but 'bheekh' from the British deserves condemnation. But now the question arises as to why there has been no legal action against Kangana. There has been no question from the government. Why has PM Modi not condemned the statement? The silence says it all. India did not receive Independence in charity; it was earned by the efforts of our freedom fighters.

Somya Agrawal, UJJAIN

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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national

of the day quote

It appears as though there is Section 144 in the kitchen that you cannot keep more than four tomatoes or onions. Why is it that the government keeps trying to distract the attention of the people from these issues to non-issues? We would not allow the collective attention of the country to be hijacked by this government by creating non-issues by hiding their failures

PAWAN KHERRA | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

Birthdays greetings to LS Speaker Shri Om Birla Ji. His impeccable knowledge on Parliamentary procedures and the manner in which he conducts proceedings are widely respected

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

The ultimate aim of science is to bring happiness and make people's lives better

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

5 dead, 12 injured

Salem (TN): A cooking gas cylinder blast at Karungalpatti here triggered a collapse of three houses, leaving five people dead and 12 injured in the incident. Chief Minister M K Stalin condoled the deaths and announced ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the victims. Municipal Administration Minister K N Nehru, after visiting the mishap site, said the use of commercial gas cylinder in a house for making snacks and sweets has come to the notice of the government and said the district administration will inquire in detail into the incident and take action against the culprit.

6 killed, 10 injured

Rajkot: Six persons, including a nine-year-old child, were killed and ten others injured when a tyre burst-hit car collided with a state transport bus after jumping the divider on a national highway near Gondal town in Gujarat's Rajkot district on Tuesday evening, police said. The Gujarat government announced a compensation of ₹4 lakh each to the kin of those who died in the accident.

SC refuses to postpone Tripura municipal polls



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Supreme Court Tuesday refused the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party's plea for postponing of municipal elections in Tripura and said it is an "extreme recourse" and last resort to do in a democracy and passed a slew of directions to the state police to ensure free and fair elections. The apex court directed re-assessment of deployment of Para-Military forces in critical areas and warned of coercive action if the directives are not followed scrupulously.

It also sought details of the FIRs registered in view of violent incidents during campaigning and the arrests made in those cases.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Vikram Nath said, "Postponing election is a matter of last and extreme recourse. It is our considered view that short of postponing of elections, the apprehensions which have been expressed on behalf of the petitioners by the counsels can be suitably addressed by issuing peremptory directions to the State of Tripura, so as to ensure that the remaining phases of the Municipal elections take

THE APEX COURT DIRECTED REASSESSMENT OF DEPLOYMENT OF PARA-MILITARY FORCES IN CRITICAL AREAS AND WARNED OF COERCIVE ACTION IF THE DIRECTIVES ARE NOT FOLLOWED SCRUPULOUSLY

IT ALSO SOUGHT DETAILS OF THE FIRS REGISTERED IN VIEW OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS DURING CAMPAIGNING AND THE ARRESTS MADE IN THOSE CASES

THE BENCH SAID THE DGP AND THE IGP SHALL TAKE ALL STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE ELECTION PROCESS IS CONDUCTED IN PEACE AND ORDERLY MANNER AND WITHOUT ANY DISRUPTIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE DATE OF POLLING LEADING UP TO THE COUNTING OF BALLOTS ON NOVEMBER 28

place in peaceful and orderly manner."

The top court was hearing a plea of TMC seeking contempt action against the Tripura government and other officials for failing to curtail violent incidents against opposition parties in the run up to

the upcoming Municipal polls.

It said the reports of breach of law and order, which have been brought to the notice of law enforcing agencies, are to be duly dealt with in accordance with law. "The DGP and the IGP (law and order) shall hold a joint meeting with the State Election Commission by tomorrow morning for the purpose of assessing the availability of sufficient strength of paramilitary forces drawn from the CRPF for ensuring peaceful conduct of the remaining phases of the elections," the bench directed.

The top court said that after making an assessment of the situation on the ground, if so required, a requisition shall be submitted to the CRPF or as the case may be to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

"Any such request shall be duly considered having regard to the situation and in the interest of ensuring peace, security and orderly conduct of elections in the state of Tripura on November 25, 2021," it said. The bench said the DGP and the IGP shall take all steps to ensure that the election process is conducted in peace and orderly manner and without any disruptions, particularly on the date of polling leading up to the counting of ballots on November 28.

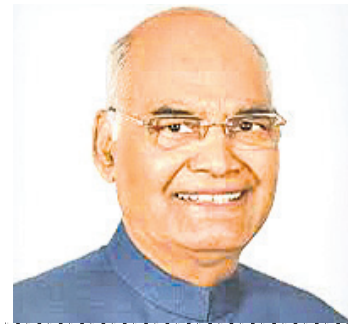
"Since serious grievance have been raised on behalf of the petitioners by the counsel that despite the lodging of FIR, no action has been taken by law enforcing agencies, the respondents (Tripura and police) shall submit before this court a tabulated statement of the complaints which have been lodged, FIR which have been registered; action which have been taken and arrests that have been made," the bench said.

It said the tabulated statement shall be submitted together with the compliance affidavits which have already been directed to be filed by this court by its previous order dated November 11.

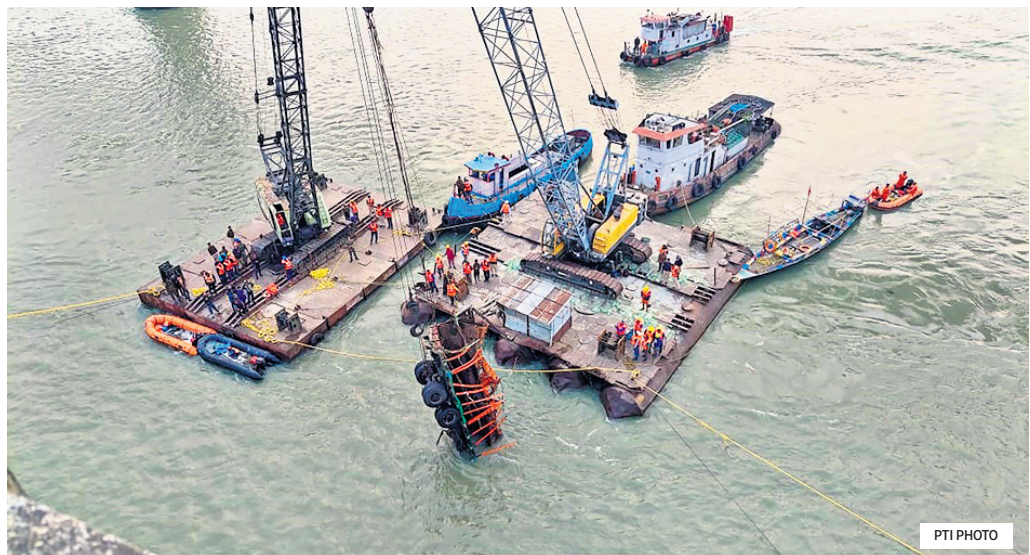
There is no shortage of fertilisers in the country
MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS MINISTER

KOVIND TO VISIT UP

President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh from November 24 to 25, a statement issued Tuesday by Rashtrapati Bhavan said



SEARCH OPERATION



State Disaster Response Force lifts a truck that fell into the Brahmaputra river from the Kaliabhomora bridge, in Tezpur

SC junks plea against Central Vista project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed a plea challenging the change in land use of a plot where the new official residence of the Vice-President is proposed as part of the ambitious Central Vista project in Lutyens' Delhi.

Everything can be criticised but it should be "constructive criticism," the apex court observed and said it was a policy matter and the authority concerned has offered sufficient explanation to justify the change in land use of the plot.

"We find no reason to examine the matter further and therefore put a quietus to the entire controversy by dismissing this petition," a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar said. The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, was hearing a petition challenging the change in land use of plot number one from recreational area to residential.

As the petitioner's counsel argued that the change in land use of the plot is not in public interest and they



are seeking to only protect the green and open area, the bench orally asked, "Hereafter, recommendation will be taken from common citizens as to where the Vice President's residence should be?"

"Everything can be criticised. There is no difficulty about that but the criticism should be constructive criticism," the bench said, adding, "How the Vice-President's residence can be shifted elsewhere."

It observed that policy makers have considered these aspects. The Central Vista revamp envisages a new triangular Parliament building, with a seating capacity for 900 to 1,200 MPs, that is to be constructed by August, 2022 when the country will celebrate its 75th Independence Day.

Naxals blow up mobile tower in Bihar

Patna: Naxals blew up a mobile tower in Bihar's Aurangabad district, police said Tuesday. In the high-intensity explosion that occurred Monday evening in the Naxal-dominated Juhari village, the mobile tower was completely destroyed and collapsed on the ground. A nearby Kisan Bhawan was also damaged. According to the locals, hundreds of Naxals came to the village to blow up the tower. "The Naxals also threatened us to stay silent," the villagers said. "Though we informed the police about the presence of the Naxals, the security force did not come," they added.

Rains push up tomato prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Retail tomato prices are ruling at ₹80 per kg in most cities across India but the rates have shot up to as high as ₹120 per kg in few southern states because of widespread rains, according to government data.

In Chennai, retail price of tomato was at ₹100 per kg, Pondicherry ₹90 per kg, Bangalore ₹88 per kg and Hyderabad ₹65 per kg. In Kerala, retail prices of tomato are ruling at ₹120 per kg in Kottayam, ₹110 per kg in Ernakulam, ₹103 per kg in Tiruvananthapuram, ₹100 per kg in Palakkad, ₹97 per kg in Trissure, and ₹90

per kg in Wayanad and Kozikode. In Karnataka, retail prices of tomato are ruling at ₹85 per kg in Dharwad, ₹84 per kg in Mysuru and ₹80 a kg in Mangalore.

In Andhra Pradesh, tomato prices are ruling at ₹91 per kg in Vijawada, ₹80 per kg in Vishakhapatnam and ₹75 per kg in Tirupati. In Tamil Nadu, tomato is selling at ₹119 per kg in Ramanathapuram, ₹103 per kg in Tirunelveli, ₹97 per kg in Thiruchirappalli, ₹94 per kg in Cuddalore and ₹90 per kg in Coimbatore. However in Delhi, tomato was sold at ₹72 per kg, according to the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry for 167 centres representing all regions of the country.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER R.W. DIVISION, ANANDAPUR, SALAPADA, KEONJHAR e-Procurement Notice for Road Signage works Identification No. On line- 09/EERW/AND/2021-22

No. O-989 E-mail address: eerw_anandapur@yahoo.co.in No. 7956/Dt.18.11.21

1. Name of the work : Road signage of RD road for the year 2021-22. 2. Total No. of works: 01 (One) No (Percentage Rate Tender). 3. Estimated cost: Approx. Estimate Cost 10.64 lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: "C" Class & "D" Class. 5. Other Details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Anandapur	Date & Place of receipt of bid cost & bid security
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Anandapur	On line 08/ EERW/ AND/2020-21	23.11.2021 at 10.00 A.M. to 29.11.2021 up to 5.30 P.M.	28.11.2021 upto 5.30 P.M.	30.11.2021 at 11.30 A.M.	The bidder shall transfer online the cost of bid and EMD in column No.-4 & 6 in Annexure-I, respectively through a process as mention in DTCN

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in & www.tenders.ori.nic.in OIPR-25055/11/0007/2122 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Anandapur

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/21-22/ E-Tender/73, Dt.:18.11.2021

(1) Tender No.-e-tender-North-KUR-201-2021, Dtd.: 16.11.2021

Description: MISCELLANEOUS REPAIR & RENOVATION OF STAFF QUARTERS FROM NAVAGARH TO TANGIRIAPAL STATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹272.38 Lakhs

(2) Tender No. -e-tender-TM-KUR-203-2021, Dtd.: 10.11.2021

Description: PROPOSED WELDING & GAS CUTTING OF VARIOUS PARTS IN CONNECTION WITH TRACK MACHINES AT IOH DEPOT/KHURDA ROAD AND RECONDITIONING SPARE PARTS OF BCM & PORS/SORS AT BASE BCM MACHINES BASE STATION & PORS/SORS BASE DEPOTS & AT SITE OF OTHER TRACK MACHINES WORKING IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION UNDER DY. CHIEF ENGINEER / SENIOR ENGINEER/ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/TM OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS.

Approx cost of the work: ₹89.40 Lakhs

Completion Period: 04 (Four) Months (for Sl. No. 1) & 24 (Twenty Four) Months (for Sl. No. 2).

Tender Closing Date & Time: at 1500 hrs. of 08.12.2021 (for both tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letterhead and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Khurda Road PR-568/M/21-22

Plight of Punjab schools a misfortune: Kejriwal



Arvind Kejriwal addresses a press conference in Amritsar, Tuesday

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amritsar, Nov 23: Aam Aadmi Party National Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday termed the plight of government schools and teachers in Punjab as a misfortune.

Kejriwal gave eight guarantees to teachers for comprehensive education reforms in Punjab and promised that these guarantees would be implemented on priority if the AAP government is formed in 2022. He also called upon all teachers to join the AAP's campaign to transform the state's government school education system like Delhi.

The eight guarantees include creating a Delhi-like environment in the education sector in Punjab, regularising outsourcing and contractual teachers, implementing a transparent transfer policy, banning non-teaching work by teachers and permanent recruitment on vacant posts.

Kejriwal along with AAP state president Bhagwant Mann was interacting with the media here. The party's Punjab in-charge Jarnail Singh and co in-charge Raghav Chadha were also present on the occasion.

Recognising the importance of education and teachers for the development and uplift of society, the Delhi Chief Minister gave the first guarantee to create a 'good environment for education' in the state. He said just as a good atmosphere in education has been created in Delhi, a similar atmosphere would be created in Punjab under which a high standard of education would be provided. Through the second guarantee, Kejriwal promised to secure all types of raw, outsourced and contract teachers. He said most of the teachers in Punjab have been working for only ₹10,000 per month for the last 18 years, which is a joke and unjust for a teacher.

E-mail: pwoffngd34@gmail.com

1st Corrigendum to bid Identification No. Superintending Engineer, (R&B) Division, Nayagarh 2/2021-22.

No. B-658 Tender Reference:- Superintending Engineer, (R&B) Division, Nayagarh 2/2021-22

The Bid availability period, Date of opening of the tenders have been modified as follows:-

Sl. No.	Existing Bid Availability Period	Revised Bid Availability Period	Existing date of Bid opening	Revised date of Bid opening
1	10.00 A.M. of 16.11.2021 to 5.00 P.M. of 23.11.2021	10.00 A.M. of 22.11.2021 to 5.00 P.M. of 30.11.2021	11.00 A.M. of 24.11.2021	11.00 A.M. of 01.12.2021

Other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh OIPR-34138/11/0010/2122

B-664

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION-I, SAMBALPUR
e-procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE/R&B/SBP/22/2021-22
E-mail-exeeengsbpr@rediffmail.com, Phone/Fax-0663-2548013 No. 7262 Dated: 18.11.2021

1. The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No-1, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Civil / Electrical / P.H. Work as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.

2. No. of works : 08(Eight)

3. Tender Cost : Rs. 6,000/-, Rs. 4,000/-, Rs.600/- (Online)

4. Class of Contractor : "D" & "C" Class, "C" & "B" Class Contractor, MV & HT Electrical Contractor

5. Date and time Available in Website & receipt of Bids: 16.00 Hrs 01.12.2021 to 17.00 Hrs of 07.12.2021.

6. Date of Opening of Tender : 08.12.2021 at 11:30 Hrs.

7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website.

8. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No. 1 OIPR-34042/11/0052/2122

DSPL - 271

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Poster of beheaded Shiva idol in ISIS magazine causes ire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttara Kannada (Karnataka), Nov 23: A recent post by India-centric online propaganda magazine by terrorist outfit ISIS has gone viral and has created a tense situation in the communally sensitive coastal district of Uttara Kannada in Karnataka.

Self-styled analyst and observer, Anshul Saxena has shared an image on Twitter. The magazine poster has put out a picture of a beheaded Shiva statue. The poster also shows the head being replaced by an ISIS flag.

The idol in the poster resembles the 123 feet tall famous Shiva statue located in Murudeshwara town beach of Uttara Kannada district. It is one of the pilgrimage centres as well as a major tourist destination. The poster claims below the image that, "It's time to come to break false gods". The post shared by Anshul Saxena has gone viral and Hindu outfits are furious over it. Anshul Saxena has asked the state as well as central government to scale up security measures of Murudeshwara town in the backdrop of ISIS magazine publishing the beheaded image. After his appeal, the state government has beefed up the security at Murudeshwara temple. Terrorists Yasin Bhatkal and others hail from this city.

Publish report on farm laws: SC panel

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 23: A member of the Supreme Court appointed committee on farm laws, Anil Ghanwat, Tuesday wrote to the apex court to release their committee's report and also said he will mobilise a lakh farmers, who support farm reforms, to Delhi.

Ghanwat, also a senior leader of Shetkari Sangathan, separately in a media briefing said he will mobilise one lakh farmers to Delhi in the next couple of months demanding "badly" required agri reforms even after the repeal of the three farm laws.

He also said the protesting farmers' demand to make minimum support price (MSP) a legal guarantee and ensure procurement of all agri-crops at MSP is "not feasible and implementable."

In the letter dated November 23 written to CJI N V Ramana, Ghanwat said after the government's decision to repeal the three farm laws in the coming Winter Session of Parliament, the panel's report is "no longer relevant" but the recommendations are of great public interest.

It is important to ensure that while the specific laws may no longer exist, the "reform impulse" that was reflected in the three farm laws is not "diluted," he said. "The report can also play an educational role and ease the misapprehensions of many farmers who have,



Member of the Top Court appointed committee on farm laws, Anil Ghanwat wrote to the apex court to release their committee's report and also said he will mobilise a lakh farmers, who support farm reforms, to Delhi

in my opinion, been misguided by some leaders....." he added. The three-member panel had submitted the report to the apex court on March 19. Since then, the report has not been made public despite

government's fruitless, unproductive endeavours which also end up causing angst and frustration in the community," he said.

For instance, with the repeal of the laws, a large number of farmers are now even further frustrated with India's lack of attention to their needs, he added in the letter. Ghanwat suggested setting up a committee to prepare a white paper for making new farm laws.

Briefing media on this issue, Ghanwat said the current situation would not have arisen had the apex court released the report in the public domain within a few days after its submission.

"It's been over eight months since the report has been submitted. Now the laws are going to be repealed, at least the report should be made available to the public so that people know the recommendations," he added.

Ghanwat stressed that the reforms in the agriculture sector are "badly" required and this should not stop with the repeal of the three laws. "We want reforms. I am going to travel across the country and make farmers understand the benefits of agri-reforms and bring one lakh farmers to Delhi in the next couple of months demanding farm reforms," he said.

On protesting farmers' demand to make MSP a legal guarantee, Ghanwat said he was not against the MSP system but it should be implemented in a limited way.

Delhi HC unhappy with civic bodies

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Delhi High Court Tuesday expressed its displeasure at the national capital's municipal corporations over their inaction in containing the rising dengue fever cases in the city.

Hearing a matter related to the Delhi government's decision on funds to South Delhi Municipal Corporation, a division bench comprising Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh rapped the civic body, saying they are doing nothing to tackle dengue.

"You only want salaries. What do you do with these salaries and amounts?" Justice Sanghi told the SDMC's counsel while expressing concern over the increasing dengue cases in the capital every year. "Is there some rocket sci-

ence involved? Is there no planning? Is there no thought process? How can it be that every year?" the court asked. It also asked the civic body to file an affidavit disclosing the steps taken on the ground in order to contain the rising vector-borne diseases.

The court said it will be hearing the issue of dengue December 1. On November 9, in a plea filed by a petitioner, who is herself suffering from dengue, the Delhi High Court had sought the response of the city government and the North Delhi Municipal Corporation an action plan to control the dengue outbreak in the national capital.

The petitioner had alleged that the outbreak is due to the inaction by the respondents in controlling it. The plea stated that it is an obligatory duty of the Delhi Government and Municipal Corporations to take measures to control the dengue outbreak and to conduct regular fogging of the area, door-to-door awareness campaigns, form teams to inspect dengue larvae on-premises to levy penalties for violation and issue dengue helpline numbers to protect the fundamental right to life of a citizen.

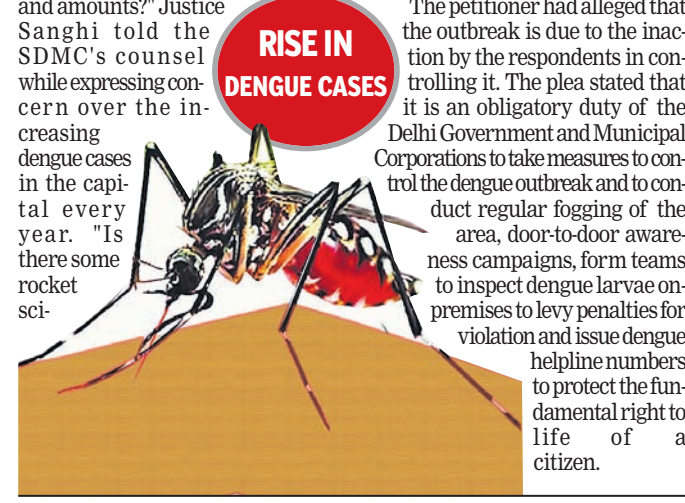
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WATER, WATER, EVERY WHERE



Sandbags being used to stop the rain water at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bangalore

PTI PHOTO

Poor air quality poses health risk in capital

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 23: In Delhi, air quality has deteriorated to dangerous levels, causing serious health problems such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bronchitis, dyspnea, nausea, and eye burning.

Mithila Singh (name changed), a college student from Karol Bagh, Delhi, was fine and going about her usual routine when she had an asthma attack two to three days ago. Symptoms such as heaviness in the chest and breathing problems were caused by the low air quality. Her family drove her to our hospital right away. Bronchodilators were given to her right away to help her breathe. The patient is currently on medicine and appears to be in good health. Rest and frequent check-ups have been recommended for her.

The haze makes it difficult for many patients who already have respiratory difficulties to breathe. Similarly, several new patients have complained of shortness of breath, cough, throat irritation, and dizziness owing to the pollution.

"The fog and toxins mix together and generate smog, which is dangerous for the health," Dr Vipul Rustgi, MBBS MD Medicine, Consultant physician and Diabetologist, Apollo Spectra, Delhi, remarked. Sulphur dioxide, ni-

trogen dioxide, and particulate matter, which are generated by cars and crackers, mix with fog to form smog, which is a dense layer in the atmosphere. Smog causes respiratory ailments, dyspnea, nausea, and possibly cancer, resulting in a higher morbidity rate. Those suffering from asthma, which causes inflamed airways, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which causes restricted airflow from the lungs, are also admitted to the ICU. Until now, many people have complained of smog-related concerns, particularly breathing difficulties. In comparison to the previous year, the number of similar cases is up. The elderly are more aware of it.

Delhi to get 15 dedicated PSs for Cybercrime

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Delhi Police will set up a separate and dedicated police station in every 15 district to tackle with cyber crime cases.

According to a Gazette notification issued by the Delhi Home Department, the new police stations will be set up as the Cyber Police Station East, Cyber Police Station North-East, Cyber Police Station South, Cyber Police Station South-East, Cyber Police Station South-West, Cyber Police Station West, Cyber Police Station Outer, Cyber Police Station Central, Cyber Police Station North, Cyber Police Station North-West, Cyber Police Station Shahdara, Cyber Police Station Rohini, Cyber Police Station New Delhi, Cyber Police Station Dwarka and Cyber Police Station Outer North.

The Department said it was necessary to constitute a "Cyber Police Station" in each of the notified police district to inquire and investigate cases, adding it will facilitate extension of better police assistance to the public.

The new stations will have jurisdiction over the whole of the police district for which the Cyber Police Station is being notified.

Selection of candidates for Council polls in K'taka sparks nepotism debate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 23: The announcement of candidates by the three major political parties in Karnataka for next month's Legislative Council polls has sparked a "nepotism debate".

The parties indulged in allegations and counter charges on the issue, as the ruling BJP on Tuesday accused the opposition of nepotism in selection of their candidates. The Congress hit back, asking the BJP to have a look into its own list first.

The biennial election to the Karnataka Legislative Council from 20 Local Authorities' Constituencies for 25 seats, due to retirement of sitting members, will be held on December 10.

"In JD(S), eight people from one family are sharing power, but the Congress party is a bit generous on this issue. From AICC national president post to selection for candidates for legislative council polls, Congress has honoured nepotism," the BJP said in a tweet with media reports on family connections of some Congress candidates for MLC

polls. According to Congress sources and reports, several of its candidates for the council polls are relatives of senior party leaders. Among the candidates, Channaraja Basavaraja Hotthiholi from Belagavi is the brother of MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar, R Rajendra from Tumkur is the son of former party MLA KN Rajanna, S Ravi from Bangalore Rural is the relative of state Congress President D K Shivakumar, Sunil Gowda Patil from Bijapur is the brother of senior MLA and former Minister MB Patil.

While Raichur Congress candidate Sarana Gouda Patil is the nephew of MLA Amaregouda Patil, Bhimrao B Patil from Bidar is the brother of MLA Rajashekar Patil, sources said, adding that Bhimanna Naik from Uttara Kannada and Mantar Gowda from Kodagu are also relatives of senior politicians.

Mantar Gowda is the son of former Congress leader and ex-Minister A Manju, who is now associated with the BJP. However, after this development, the BJP today relieved Manju from all party responsibilities.

Heavy rains cause extensive damage to farmers

HEAVY SHOWERS IN KARNATAKA SINCE SEPTEMBER HAVE CAUSED LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN 5 LAKH HECTARES IN THE STATE. HORTICULTURE CROP LOSS HAS BEEN ASSESSED FOR 30,114 HECTARES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 23: Heavy and unrelenting rains have caused extensive damage to standing and harvested agricultural as well as horticultural crops in Karnataka. The rains have damaged jawar crop in north Karnataka and ragi in southern districts of the state.

Jower is the staple food of north Karnataka, whereas ragi is staple diet of the people of south districts. In Chikkaballapur district known for horticultural produce, as many as 3,000 hectares of grape yards and other horticultural produce worth an estimated ₹50 crore have been destroyed. The farmers will now have to wait for another



IANS PHOTO

RAIN FURY IN K'TAKA

one-and-a-half month to reap fruits and vegetables.

It is estimated that 60,000 hectares of crops including 25,000 hectares of Ragi crop and hundreds of acres of rose farms in Chikkaballapur have been destroyed.

Officers of the agriculture department at all levels were instructed to engage themselves in conducting surveys of crop losses. It is estimated that crops in 3.43 lakh hectares were affected due to incessant rains in August and September affecting 1.5 lakh farmers. Since, the copious rains continued throughout November, the damage to the farming commu-

nity is immense. ₹130 crore has been released for the farmers so far by the Karnataka government. Compensation for 79,000 farmers is pending and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has instructed for release of ₹79 crore towards clearing the compensation due to battered farmers.

Officers have been instructed to take action and ensure speedy disbursement of crop loss insurance amount by the insurance companies to farmers. Chief Minister Bommai has also given directions to take up repair work of irrigation tanks on war footing. According to the government assessment,

Modi speaks to Bommai

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Tuesday stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi called him up to take updates on the situation in the state due to heavy downpour for the past 15 days. Bommai said that Prime Minister Modi was concerned about the losses caused due to incessant rains. "He took information on the existing situation of all districts, about crop loss and damages to houses across the state," he said. "Prime Minister Modi was concerned about the situation in Bangalore. He discussed short term and long term plans for the city and relief measures initiated," Bommai explained.

Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Ramnagar, Hassan districts have suffered extensive damages because of rains.

The farmers of south and coastal Karnataka are praying to rain gods, as they could heave a sigh of relief with the areca nut crop if heavy downpour stops.

Farmers have also lost their houses to rains. According to sources, the preliminary report on the damages stated that 658 houses were completely damaged and 8,495 houses were partially damaged. It has also resulted in the death of 191 livestock. An amount of ₹689 crore is made available with District Commissioners under National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to cater to the immediate needs of rain affected people and regions. Chief Minister Bommai has assured allocation of more funds if necessary. Action for immediate release of ₹1 lakh as the first instalment of relief for those who lost their houses has been initiated.

Koppal district known as rice bowl of the state saw total destruction of paddy fields. Harvested paddy stored in open fields also perished. The farmers of Karatagi and Gangavathi taluks of the district known for paddy cultivation are now looking to succour from the government.

of the day quote

When the Samajwadi Party was in power and now with the BJP, both the parties have been showing my work as their own. Even the Congress that was in power for the longest time (in Uttar Pradesh) since Independence could not do the work that I had done in such a short time

MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

Earlier there used to be riots every third or fourth day in the state, but now Uttar Pradesh has the identity of a riot-free state. On this occasion, I will ask the followers of 'Chacha Jaan' (Owaisi) and 'Abba Jaan' (Mulayam) to listen carefully -- if you spoil the atmosphere by provoking the feelings of the state, then the government knows how to deal with it strictly

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Parties must unite on issues of corruption, unemployment and inflation

MULAYAM SINGH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY FOUNDER

SHORT TAKES

11 injured

Hyderabad: Eleven people were injured in an LPG cylinder blast in Nanakramguda area of Gachibowli here Tuesday, police said. The injured were admitted to the government-run Gandhi Hospital, where the condition of two of them is stated to be critical. Due to the impact of the explosion, the ground floor of the two-storey house was totally damaged. Disaster Response Force personnel and police rushed to the spot and launched rescue and relief operation.

Student ends life

Kochi: A day after complaining against domestic abuse, a 21-year-old law student was found hanging at her house near here Tuesday. The victim had approached the Aluva Police on Monday and complained of domestic abuse against her husband and in-laws. In her suicide note, she sought strict action against the police official, who misbehaved when she along with her father had come for reconciliation talks with the family of her estranged husband.

Six arrested

Bangalore: The police in Karnataka have arrested six youths in connection with the kidnapping and robbing a student in Bangalore, authorities said Tuesday. The arrested youth are Deepu and Bhuvan, who are classmates of the victim; BPO employees Anil Kumar, K. Prajwal, Nishchay; and R. Prajwal, an engineering student who also worked as a cab driver. The accused had kidnapped Abhishek (20) and looted ₹70,000 worth of cash and his gold chain from him.

Teacher booked

Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh): A Maths teacher has been booked after a college student accused him of running a sex racket, exploiting college girls and forcing them to sleep with him. The lecturer is absconding and police have launched a manhunt to arrest him. The student, 20, who was allegedly sexually assaulted for months after she went to his house with a friend, stated in her complaint that the lecturer "forces students to take psychotropic substances and have sex with him". She also mentioned the names of other students. The student met the Pilibhit Superintendent of Police on Sunday and an FIR was registered under IPC sections 294 (obscene acts), 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

BJP corners Cong over Tewari book

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: The BJP Tuesday flayed the Congress saying that the book penned by its leader Manish Tewari has proved that the UPA government had put the country's national security at stake.

Talking to mediapersons at the party headquarters here, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said: "Entire country knew this reality of UPA government, the saffron party had been saying that, and now even Congress leader and former Central minister Manish Tewari has confessed that the UPA government had put national security at stake."

Bhatia sought an explanation from Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on why after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the UPA government did not give a free hand to the armed forces to take decisive steps against Pakistan.

"Instead of taking strict action against Pakistan, Rahul Gandhi was busy in partying all night and the then Home Minister Shivraj Patil in helping Bollywood. The Congress leaders were busy in proving the 'theory of Hindu terrorism'," Bhatia claimed.

Asserting that the country has witnessed a sea change under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bhatia said: "After the Pulwama attack, the Army was given a free hand post which

the Balakot strike was conducted and Pakistan was taught a lesson."

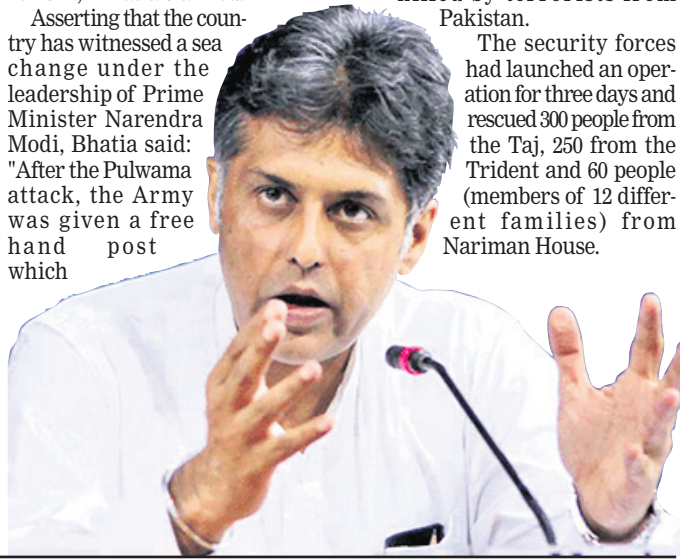
"Not only Pakistan, but our forces have taught a lesson to China too. Now, both the nations have understood that the Modi government is too serious about national security and how capable Indian Forces are," Bhatia noted.

In his book announced by him on Tuesday on Twitter and to be officially released on December 2, Tewari has raised questions about the Manmohan Singh government's policy on national security.

"For a state that has no compunctions in brutally slaughtering hundreds of innocent people, restraint is not a sign of strength; it is perceived as a symbol of weakness. There comes a time when actions must speak louder than words. 26/11 was one such time when it just should have been done. It, therefore, is my considered opinion that India should have acted a kinetic response in the days following India's 9/11," excerpts from the book say.

This week the nation will observe the 13th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, which paralysed the nation's commercial capital for three days in 2008, in which more than 160 people were killed by terrorists from Pakistan.

The security forces had launched an operation for three days and rescued 300 people from the Taj, 250 from the Trident and 60 people (members of 12 different families) from Nariman House.



TMC leader shot dead

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 23: The Howrah minority cell leader of Trinamool Congress Wahzul Khan succumbed to gunshot injuries Tuesday.

Khan was fired upon from a close range near his home in Howrah on Monday night. This incident comes a couple of days after a youth leader of the party was killed in Canning in South 24 Parganas. "Everyday he used to come to his new house in the evening, which is a 3 minutes' walk from his old house. He used to stay in this house for three-four hours and go back home at night. He used to speak to the local people to know about their problems," Wahzul brother Guddu Khan, who switched over to the BJP before the assembly polls, said.

"On Monday, he was going back home when some people with firearms came and shot him from a close range," Khan added.

GALWAN HEROES HONOURED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: President Ram Nath Kovind conferred gallantry awards to the personnel of Armed Forces, including Galwan Valley heroes, those who fought off Chinese troops, and Indian Coast Guard during Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Kovind conferred a Maha Vir Chakra (posthumous), a Kirti Chakra (posthumous), five Vir Chakras, including four posthumous and six Shaurya Chakras, including one posthumous for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty.

The President also conferred 14 Param Vishist Seva Medals, two Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and 23 Ati Vishist Seva Medals for distinguished service of exceptional

OUR DAY OUT



Birds enjoying at Anasagar Lake in Ajmer

UNI PHOTO

Mamata, Kishor on poaching spree from Cong

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee is at the centre of attention in Delhi with leaders queuing up to meet her during her visit to Delhi and three prominent politicians joined the party including one Congressman, one former Congress and a JD-U leader.

The arrival of Banerjee in Delhi has created furore in the Congress with the grand old party guessing who could be the next. Kirti Azad, Ashok Tanwar and Pawan Varma all three are former parliamentarians with diverse background, who joined Trinamool Tuesday. Azad, a former cricketer and a former BJP MP who switched to Congress is now a TMC party member. Azad was feeling sidelined in the party and so decided to quit. He fought the Lok Sabha polls on a Congress ticket, but could not win. He was ear-



Kirti Azad meets West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as he joins Trinamool Congress in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

lier with the BJP, but left after differences with the leadership. Azad's wife is also active in Delhi politics.

Ashok Tanwar, former Haryana Congress president left the party and has now joined TMC, while Pawan Varma, former bureaucrat and former JD-U MP is also now

with Mamata Banerjee.

Sources have said, Congress leaders who are not happy with the party leadership are founding refuge in Trinamool as poll strategist Prashant Kishor has been playing the role of a facilitator for the newcomers to join Trinamool. Kishor

has been in fact approaching the leaders personally, sources said.

Earlier, both Sushmita Dev from Assam and Luizinho Faleiro from Goa, who joined the Trinamool Congress recently, were considered close to the Gandhi family. It was Faleiro who publicly said that he was approached by none other than Kishor and his team to join the Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress.

After winning the elections in West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress is also trying to make an impact at the national stage now. "We have to see who has got the power to face the current dispensation which is ruling in Delhi and Goa. Definitely, I will support Mamata because she has fought, she has succeeded... She symbolises women's empowerment which can bring this country back on the track of development and progress," Faleiro said, describing the Congress as a "divided house".

Vaccination behind low Covid cases: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Is the worst of the Covid crisis behind India? As cases dip three weeks after Diwali, the answer is a possible yes, say several experts, attributing the downslide to a large section of the population already exposed to the virus during the second wave and a stepped up vaccination campaign.

Though there are always imponderables, including the possibility of a new, transmissible variant and the onset of winter in large parts of the country, a third wave as devastating as the second one is unlikely, they said while advising caution and vigilance.

Covid cases may rise, perhaps across late December-February, but the impact will be milder than what India experienced in the second wave when thousands died and many thousands more were hospitalised.

"... it may not take off in a co-



ordinated manner across the country, provided no far more transmissible variant comes along," explained Gautam Menon, professor, Departments of Physics and Biology, Ashoka University, in Sonapat.

Several epidemiologists had predicted a third wave peaking in October and November because of

large gatherings in the festive season, which includes Durga Puja and Diwali. But the much feared spike thankfully hasn't happened.

On Tuesday, India recorded 7,579 new coronavirus infections, the lowest in 543 days, taking the country's total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,45,26,480, while active cases were the lowest in 536 days, according to

Union Health Ministry data.

The daily rise in new infections has been below 20,000 for 46 straight days and less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported for 149 consecutive days.

"What it suggests is that the impact of the second wave, where a substantial fraction of Indians were infected, continues to manifest itself," Menon said. "In addition, a stepped-up vaccination campaign has meant that more people are protected against severe disease, hospitalisation, and death," he added.

In his view, the substantial number of people infected during the second wave from March to July this year is "the prime protective feature at the moment for India, while vaccines add to that protection".

"A combination of a prior infection with a later vaccination may be even more protective than just the vaccination alone," said Menon. Many scientific studies suggest that people who become

naturally infected with Covid and recover before vaccination develop "hybrid immunity", better immunity than those who only have antibodies from vaccination.

Virologist Anurag Agrawal agreed with Menon, saying the low number of cases can be attributed to a high fraction of the population being infected by the Delta variant during the second wave, followed by most adults having received at least one vaccine dose further boosting the immune response.

"Serosurveys have shown that the majority of the population is likely to have been infected," Agrawal, director of the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, said.

It is a well-established fact that complete vaccination as well as previous exposure with SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19, lead to a significant decrease in the severity of the disease, added immunologist Vineeta Bal.

K'taka girl gets father killed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 23: The Karnataka police has taken a teenager and her three minor friends into custody in connection with the murder of a man in Bangalore, police said Tuesday.

The case took a twist after the girl revealed that she took the help of her friends to kill her father as he sexually harassed her.

The Yelahanka Newtown police are further investigating and verifying their statements. The 45-year-old man was hacked to death by miscreants in the early hours of Monday after barging into his residence. The incident shocked the city, as Deepak was killed in front of his two daughters.

The man hailed from Bihar and worked as a security guard at the GKVK campus in Bengaluru. He lived with his wife and two daughters. One of the daughters studied in a private college and another studied in Class 4.

The man had two wives and his first wife stayed in Bihar.

The second wife was from Kalburgi and had two daughters from this wedlock.

The police said that the man allegedly used to harass his first daughter sexually. She had revealed this to her mother, and the couple had also fought over the matter.

The girl had shared this with her friends at college.

On the day of the incident, the deceased had again attempted to harass her sexually in the early hours of Monday in an inebriated state.

The girl contacted her friend over the phone and sought help. Her friend, who came with four others, attacked Deepak and killed him, police sources said. Police are looking for another accused. Further investigation is on.

international

of the day quote

The threats against our peacekeepers, and particularly the threats resulting from malicious acts, is a major concern and one that we really want to work much more on



JEAN-PIERRE LACROIX | UNDER-SECY-GENERAL FOR PEACE OPERATIONS

Let me state it officially: Ukraine does not plan a military offensive in the Donbas. We are devoted to seeking political and diplomatic solutions to the conflict



DMYTRIO KULEBA | UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Either we were going to give up on investments, production, growth and employment by keeping to the understanding that has prevailed in our country for years, or we were going to engage in a historic struggle in line with our priorities



RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

6 dead in SL ferry capsizes

Colombo: A ferry with 20 people on board capsized in eastern Sri Lanka on Tuesday, killing at least six people, including children, police said. Eleven people sustained injuries after the ferry capsized near Kurinchankerny bridge in Kinniya in Trincomalee district and were admitted to a hospital, the police was quoted as saying by the Colombo Gazette.

La Nina alert issued for east Oz

Canberra: Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) announced Tuesday that a La Nina event has established in the tropical Pacific, spelling a stormy summer for much of the country east. The BoM's climate modelling suggested that the event would likely last through to the beginning of Australia's autumn in March, reports Xinhua news agency.

NZ passes drug checking law

Wellington: New Zealand Health Minister Andrew Little Tuesday said drug-checking services will continue to operate legally at festivals, pop-up clinics, university orientation and other places this summer and beyond after a law was passed earlier in the day. The services have been legal since last summer under temporary legislation that expires next month, reports Xinhua news agency.

Large S Korean firms cut jobs

Seoul: Large South Korean companies have cut their combined workforce by more than 1 per cent over the past two years amid the coronavirus pandemic, a corporate tracker said Tuesday. The number of workers hired by 313 out of the country's top 500 firms by sales came to 1.24 million as of end-September this year, down 1.02 per cent, or around 12,800, from two years earlier, Yonhap News Agency quoted the Leaders Index as saying.

French PM tests Covid positive

Paris: French Prime Minister Jean Castex has tested positive for Covid-19, the media reported. Returning from Brussels Monday afternoon after meeting with his Belgian counterpart Alexander De Croo, Castex learnt that one of his daughters had tested positive for the virus, Xinhua news agency quoted French newspaper Le Figaro as saying in a report.

Putin to attend Beijing Winter Olympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 23: Russian President Vladimir Putin has accepted the invitation from his Chinese counterpart and "good friend" Xi Jinping to attend the Beijing's Winter Olympics, days after the US President Joe Biden said he is considering a diplomatic boycott of the event to highlight China's human rights violations.

Putin's visit to Beijing to take part in the Winter Olympics opening ceremony in February next year will make him the first state leader to meet face to face with Xi since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the central Chinese province of Wuhan in 2019.

"China and Russia have a fine tradition of celebrating major events together. In 2014 Xi attended the Winter Olympics ceremony in Sochi in Russia," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here on Tuesday.

"Now President Xi Jinping is inviting his good friend President Putin to attend the Beijing Winter Olympics. President Putin has accepted the invitation happily," Zhao said.

He said the two sides are in close communication on details of the visit. "We believe this will once again show the partnership between China and Russia

that helps for the best for each other. We hope and we are convinced that the athletes from the two countries will set new records and we will make new contributions to deliver a splendid and safe Olympics," Zhao said.

Biden said last week that backing a diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympics in February is "something we're considering." Beijing is making grand preparations to host the Winter Olympic Games to be held in February next year.

The event makes Beijing the only city in the world to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics. The city hosted the Summer Olympics in 2008. Besides the US, EU and several other western countries were expected to join the diplomatic boycott, which meant that their leaders and diplomats will not take part in the opening and closing ceremonies while their athletes participate in the sports events.

US first lady Jill Biden led the American contingent to the Summer Olympics in Tokyo this year and the second gentleman Doug Emhoff led a delegation to the Paralympic Games. China and Russia are firming up their strategic relations in recent years amid the US and EU push against them on a host of issues including human rights violations.



UK royal family attacks BBC for docu on William, Harry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 23: Britain's Royal Family Tuesday issued a rare joint statement against the use of unnamed sources in response to a new BBC documentary on Prince William and Harry's relationship with the media.

Queen Elizabeth II's Buckingham Palace, her son and heir Prince Charles' Clarence House and Prince William's Kensington Palace offices sent the statement for inclusion in the first of a two-part documentary entitled 'The Princes and the Press', aired on Monday.

The show, presented by Indian-origin BBC journalist Amol Rajan, alluded to royal sources speaking to journalists behind the scenes.

"A free, responsible and open press is of vital importance to a healthy democracy," the joint statement by the royals reads.

"However, too often it is overblown and unfounded claims from unnamed sources that are presented as facts and it is disappointing when anyone, including the BBC, gives them credibility," it notes.

WHO fears 7 lakh more Covid deaths in Europe



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Copenhagen, Nov 23: Europe remains "in the firm grip" of Covid and the death count on the continent could top 2.2 million this winter if current trends continue, the World Health Organization said Tuesday.

Some 700,000 could die in the coming months, the WHO said, as cases creep up across Europe, prompting some countries to reimpose tough restrictions. The WHO expects "high or extreme stress in intensive care units (ICUs) in 49 out of 53 countries between now and March 1, 2022". "Cumulative reported deaths are projected to reach over 2.2 million by spring next year," it added, up from the current 1.5 million. Covid-19 is the leading cause of death across Europe and Central Asia, the WHO reported, citing figures from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. The rise in Europe was being driven by a combination of the highly-contagious Delta variant, insufficient vaccination coverage and the easing of measures such as mask wearing and physical distancing, it said. According to WHO data, Covid-related deaths increased last week to nearly 4,200 a day, doubling from 2,100 deaths a day at the end of September. The WHO also said evidence was growing that vaccine-induced protection against infection and mild disease was declining. "The Covid-19 situation across Europe and Central Asia is very serious. We face a challenging winter ahead," regional director for WHO Europe, Hans Kluge, said in a statement. He called for a "vaccine plus" approach, consisting of vaccinations, social distancing, the use of face masks and hand washing. The WHO said face masks reduce Covid incidence by 53 per cent according to a recent study, and "over 160,000 deaths could be prevented (by March 1) if universal mask coverage of 95 per cent was achieved".

West Africa has highest number of child soldiers: UN

More than 57 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance, a number that's doubled since last year as a result of conflict and the virus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Nov 23: Trapped in conflicts, the children of West and Central Africa are the most recruited by armed groups in the world and also have the highest number of victims of sexual violence, says a report released Tuesday by the United Nations Children's Fund.

For five years the region has seen increased conflicts in which more than 21,000 children have been recruited by government forces and armed groups, says the report. In addition, more than 2,200 children in the region have been victims of sexual violence since 2016, says the report. More than 3,500 children have been abducted, making it the region with the second-highest abductions in

the world, said the report.

"The numbers and trends are extremely worrying for current and future generations of children," Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF's regional director for West and Central Africa told The Associated Press. "Not only have grave violations against children perpetrated by parties to the conflicts not stopped across West and Central Africa, but we have even seen a spike over the past five years, with a 50% increase in the total number of verified grave violations," she said.

Since 2005, when the UN Established a system to monitor and report on serious violations against children, such as recruitment, abduction, rape and attacks on schools and hospitals, one out of four violations globally was

CHEERFUL MOOD



An anti-government protester dances during a parade to mark the 78th anniversary of Lebanon's independence from France in Beirut, Lebanon

BULGARIA BUS CRASH

45 killed after vehicle catches fire

TWELVE CHILDREN WERE CONFIRMED AMONG THE DEAD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sofia, Nov 23: A bus carrying tourists back to North Macedonia crashed and caught fire in western Bulgaria early Tuesday, killing at least 45 people, including a dozen children, authorities said.

The bus apparently ripped through a guardrail on a highway, though authorities have said the cause is still under investigation. Photos taken shortly after the crash showed the vehicle engulfed in flames as plumes of thick, black smoke rose. Daylight revealed a burned-



out shell with all of its windows blown out, sitting in the median. A portion of the guardrail was peeled away and lying in the road.

Seven people were taken to hospitals for treatment after the crash, which happened as a group of buses

was returning from a trip to Turkey

Bulgarian Interior Minister Boyko Rashkov told reporters at the crash site that he had "never in my life seen something more horrifying." "The picture is horrifying, the people who were on the bus are turned to charcoal," Rashkov said. "It is impossible to say how many they were. There were four buses that traveled together, and it is possible that passengers changed buses during the stops." Twelve children were confirmed among the dead, according to North Macedonia's chief

prosecutor, Ljubomir Joveski, who also visited the scene of the accident. The country's prime minister, Zoran Zaev, traveled to Bulgaria as well, visiting survivors in the hospital. He told Bulgarian television channel bTV that one said he was awoken by an explosion.

His government observed a minute of silence Tuesday and declared three days of national mourning in the country of about 2 million people.

Flags will be lowered to half-staff, and all public events will be canceled, authorities said.

TIDBITS

NASA to launch asteroid defence mission today



WASHINGTON: The US space agency is all set to launch its Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spacecraft, intended to deliberately crash into an asteroid, Wednesday. This DART mission is targeted to launch at 1:21 a.m. EST (11:51 a.m. India time) November 24, aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, NASA said in a statement. The DART spacecraft is designed to impact an asteroid as a test of technology to see if it can change the motion of an asteroid in space. The mission aims to see if intentionally crashing a spacecraft into an asteroid is an effective way to change its course, if an Earth-threatening asteroid is discovered in the future. The spacecraft target is the binary near-Earth asteroid Didymos and its moonlet, which pose no threat to Earth.

Israeli Parl okays bill setting term limit for PM

TEL AVIV: The Israeli parliament has voted in favour of a bill that would limit the service of a Prime Minister to a maximum of eight years. Lawmakers voted 66-48 in favour of the bill, reports Xinhua news agency. The vote was the first in three full rounds of votes that the bill needs to pass before becoming a law. On Sunday night, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's cabinet decided to back the proposed legislation in a vote by telephone after a ministerial committee gave a green light to the bill last week. The bill is widely seen as a reaction to former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was ousted by the new governing coalition after 12 consecutive years in office.



Jill Biden receives WH Christmas Tree

WASHINGTON: US First Lady Jill Biden has received the official 2021 White House Christmas tree, which kick-started the annual process of decking the White House, according to media reports. On Monday, the First Lady received the tree, a tradition since 1966, reports Xinhua news agency. According to her office, the 18-and-a-half-foot Fraser fir hails from Peak Farms of Jefferson, North Carolina, and was presented by Rusty and Beau Estes, the National Christmas Tree Association's 2021 grand champion growers -- a title they also received during the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations.



committed in West and Central Africa, said the report. In conflict-affected countries such as Burkina Faso, Central

African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Mali, Mauritania and Niger; violence has had devastating humanitarian consequences for children and communities, with the pandemic exacerbating the situation, said the UN.

While some countries have been a concern for nearly a decade or more, there are three new areas of concern: Burkina Faso, Cameroon and the countries surrounding Lake Chad, according to the UN's annual report on children and armed conflict.

Conflict in the four countries straddling the Lake Chad basin — Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria — has displaced some 3 million people and in Burkina Faso, where a jihadist insurgency has killed thousands, child recruitment rose at least five-fold this

year, up from four documented cases in all of last year, according to information seen by the AP in an unpublished report by international aid and conflict experts.

During a deadly attack in June in the country's Sahel region where at least 160 people were killed, children were seen alongside jihadists, chanting "Allahu akbar" (God is great in Arabic) as they burned homes. Children associated with armed groups are often exposed to "unbearable levels of violence" and their recruitment can be preceded and followed by other violations such as abduction, sexual violence and the killing and maiming of children, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Virginia Gamba told The Associated Press.

of the day quote

Investors need to be careful and do their due diligence while investing in securities markets. They should not invest on the basis of market rumours and should deal only with registered intermediaries

AJAY TYAGI | SEBI CHAIRMAN

I once again appeal to state governments... Lot of reforms have been done. My only request and appeal to you is to bring more and more mines into auction

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINES MINISTER

The pandemic gave us the opportunity to reimagine the business model and emerge stronger. Structural interventions were put in place to enable new revenue streams together with aggressive cost management both at a strategic and tactical level

ANIL CHADHA | CEO OF ITC HOTELS

SHORT TAKES

Spirit of GS grips Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: BMW Motorrad organised the qualifier for International GS Trophy 2022 in City, from November 20-21, 2021. Here BMW GS riders in India display their off-roading skills and get chance to compete at an international level. The multi-city qualifiers are being held across Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Bhubaneswar. Riders screened and selected at these events will compete at the Indian National Qualifier where the top three winners will finally constitute Team India. Team India will represent the country at the BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy 2022 to be held in Albania.

LSB refurbishing centre launched

New Delhi: Leading industrial and automotive supplier, Schaeffler India Limited inaugurated a Large Size Bearing (LSB) Refurbishment Centre in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. Strategically located in the eastern part of the country, this facility is in partnership with Premier Bearings India Ltd., a leading authorised distribution partner for Schaeffler India. With this centre, the company has enhanced its service offerings and proximity to customers to repair bearings used in continuous operating process industries such as mining, metal and minerals, pulp and paper, railways, power sector and many more.

Platinum Love bands launched

New Delhi: Platinum Days of Love launched its latest collection of Platinum Love bands. Crafted with 95% pure platinum, these love bands are an ideal marker of a rare love built on shared gratitude for one another. The design language of this collection includes geometric patterns, delicate markings, intricate motifs, clean lines, and embellishments of diamonds and a two-tone play of metal.

Apollo Tyres joins hands with AWS

New Delhi: Amazon Web Services (AWS) announced that Apollo Tyres has joined hands with AWS to digitally transform itself. By moving its entire IT infrastructure to AWS, Apollo Tyres can use AWS's broad portfolio of services to innovate new customer experiences while driving productivity, compliance, and process efficiency gains globally, across seven factories.



The GST revenue of both the Centre and states will rise due to the scrappage policy... I will discuss with the finance ministry on how to provide more (tax-related) concessions under the new vehicle scrappage policy

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

INDIA, US RELAUNCH TRADE POLICY FORUM

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai Tuesday relaunched the Trade Policy Forum and agreed to engage on issues which are affecting the trade between the two countries.



India to release 5 mn barrels of crude oil from strategic reserves

The US had last week made an unusual request to some of the world's largest oil-consuming nations, including China, India and Japan, to consider releasing crude stockpiles in a coordinated effort to lower global energy prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: India will release 5 million barrels of crude oil from its emergency stockpile in tandem with the US, China, Japan, and other major economies to cool international oil prices, the government announced Tuesday.

This is the first time ever that India, which stores 5.33 million tonnes or about 38 million barrels of crude oil in underground caverns at three locations on the east and west coast, is releasing stocks for such purposes. Of this, about 5 million barrels will be released.

The US will release 50 million barrels of oil from its strategic petroleum reserves. India's 5 million barrels almost equals its daily oil consumption of 4.8 million barrels.

"India strongly believes that the pricing of liquid hydrocarbons should be reasonable, responsible and be determined by market forces," a government statement said. "India has repeatedly expressed concern at the supply of oil being artificially adjusted below demand levels by oil-producing countries, leading to rising prices and negative attendant consequences." While the statement did not give the date for release, an official privy to the matter said the stock could be re-



leased as early as 7-10 days.

The stocks will be sold to refineries of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL), which are connected by pipeline to the strategic reserves.

The US had last week made an unusual request to some of the world's largest oil-consuming nations, including China, India and Japan, to consider releasing crude stockpiles in a coordinated effort to lower global energy prices.

This after members of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies rebuffed repeated requests to speed up their production increases.

"India has agreed to release 5 million barrels of crude oil from its

Strategic Petroleum Reserves. This release will happen in parallel and in consultation with other major global energy consumers including the USA, People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea," the statement said.

India has been the most forceful about flexing its muscles as a major oil consumer, cutting shipments from Saudi Arabia by about a quarter after OPEC+ extended production cuts.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri last week in Dubai had said high prices will undermine the global economic recovery. India is the world's third-largest oil consumer and importing nation and has been severely impacted by the relentless rise in international oil prices.

SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLY IMPROVING: MARUTI SUZUKI



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: The availability of semiconductors has slowly-but-surely improved which has allowed for greater production as well as reduced waiting periods for some car models, automobile major Maruti Suzuki India said.

The global shortage has been triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic-induced supply hurdles as well as healthy demand.

Accordingly, the phenomenon has been blamed on the exponential rise in demand for personal electronics such as cell-phones and laptops during the ongoing pandemic.

On a technical basis, semiconductors play a critical part in the production of internal combustion engines. They are an integral part of all kinds of sensors and

controls in any vehicle.

Lately, the shortage has extended waiting periods along with escalated prices.

In a conversation with IANS, Maruti Suzuki India's Senior Executive Director, Sales and Marketing, Shashank Srivastava said that the supply situation is still very dynamic but positive.

"Semiconductor supply issues have become better in the past few months but the situation is still very dynamic," Srivastava said.

"In November about 85 per cent production will be achieved from 40 per cent in September and 60 per cent in October." However, he maintained that even though the supply situation has improved the entire industry is still suffering from the shortages.

The company had produced 134,779 units in October, down 26 per cent from the like period of 2020.

Parle hikes biscuit prices by 5-10% as input cost soars

Several FMCG companies operating in the food space are facing the inflationary trend in commodity prices along with increased transportation changes due to an increase in fossil fuels prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Leading food company Parle Products has increased the prices between 5 and 10 per cent across categories as the input cost has gone up substantially after the rise in prices of raw materials, such as sugar, wheat and edible oil, said a company official.

In the biscuit segment, Parle, which owns popular brands such as Parle G, Hide & Seek and CrackJack, has increased the prices by 5-10 per cent and 7-8 per cent in the rusk and cake segments, respectively.

The price of its most popular glucose biscuit Parle G is now up by 6-7 per cent.

"We have taken a 5-10 per cent price hike," Parle Products Senior

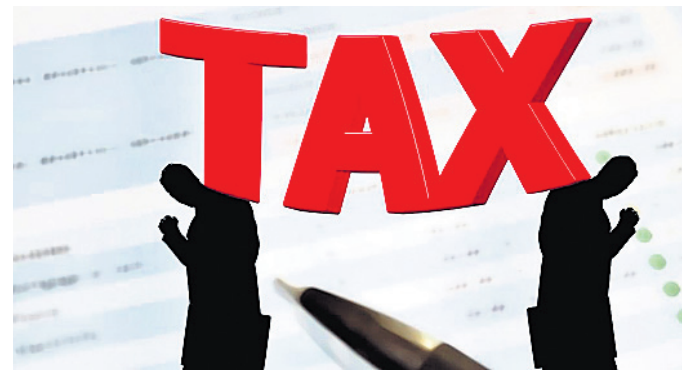


Category Head Mayank Shah told PTT. The company has increased the prices of biscuits and other products above ₹20 and has reduced the grammage of below it to retain the attractive price points, he added.

This is the first hike by Parle in this fiscal. Earlier, in the January-March 2021 quarter also, the company had gone for a price hike. "This is after considering the inflationary pressure on the input cost that we are facing. Most of the companies are facing it," he said.

The company is facing inflationary pressure as prices of input materials such as edible oil have gone up by 50-60 per cent compared to last year, he said.

Odisha gets ₹4305cr as Nov tax devolution



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The Central government has released two installments of tax devolution to the state governments amounting to ₹95,082 crore as against the normal monthly devolution of ₹47,541 crore. Odisha received ₹4305.32 crore from the Centre as November tax devolution.

The amount ₹95,082 crore of tax devolution will help to strengthen fiscal space of the states.

After a meeting with all Chief Ministers and state Finance Ministers November 15, 2021, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the Centre will double the amount of November tax devolution by including one advance installment to help the states push their capital expenditure.

The hefty amount has been released to step up investment, infrastructure, and growth. The government of India has released two installments of tax devolution to the state governments November

Uttar Pradesh received the highest devolution amount (₹17,056 crore), followed by Bihar (₹9,563 crore), Madhya Pradesh (₹7,463 crore), West Bengal (₹7,152 crore) and Rajasthan (₹5,729 crore)

22, 2021, as against the past normal monthly devolution.

Out of all the 28 states, Uttar Pradesh received the highest devolution amount (₹17,056 crore), followed by Bihar (₹9,563 crore), Madhya Pradesh (₹7,463 crore), West Bengal (₹7,152 crore) and Rajasthan (₹5,729 crore).

According to a report, currently, 41 per cent of the tax collected is devolved in 14 installments among the states during a fiscal.

Latent View shares make stellar market debut, zoom 148%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Shares of Latent View Analytics Tuesday made a stellar market debut and settled with a premium of 148 per cent against the issue price of ₹197.

The stock listed at ₹300, reflecting a huge gain of 169 per cent from the issue price on BSE. During the day, it jumped 178.55 per cent to ₹548.75. It gained 148.02 per cent to close at ₹488.60. On NSE, shares of the company made its debut at ₹512.20, a jump of 160 per cent. The stock zoomed 147.69 per cent to close at ₹487.95.

In terms of traded volume, 20.73 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 2.88 crore shares at the NSE during the day.

The initial public offer of Latent View Analytics received overwhelming response from all category of investors as it was subscribed a whopping 326.49 times earlier this month.

The ₹600-crore IPO had a price range at ₹190-197 per share.

The company provides services ranging from data and analytics consulting to business analytics and insights, advanced predictive analytics, data engineering, and digital solutions.

After Airtel, Voda Idea raises tariffs by 18-25%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea Tuesday announced an increase in mobile call and data tariffs across plans by 18-25 per cent for prepaid customers, with effect from November 25.

The development comes a day after Bharti Airtel announced a similar level of tariff hike in mobile prepaid users.

While analysts believe Jio will also increase the mobile rates, the Mukesh Ambani-led company has not opened its card yet.

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) has increased the minimum value of recharge by 25.31 per cent for 28 days to ₹99 from ₹79.

With this, VIL customers have to pay a minimum of ₹99 for availing of mobile services for about a month.

In the popular unlimited category plans, Vodafone Idea has hiked the rates in the range of 20-23 per cent. The lowest plan bundled with a



per-day 1 GB data limit with a 28-day validity will cost ₹269 from November 25 onwards. Currently, it costs ₹219.

Further, the price of the 84-day validity plan with 1.5 GB per day data limit will cost ₹719 instead of ₹599.

The 365-day plan with 1.5 GB per day data limit will go up by 20.8 per cent to ₹2,899. Currently, it

is priced at ₹2,399. The company has also increased the price of low-value data top-up by about 20 per cent. The ₹1,499 annual prepaid plan, which comes with a fixed data limit of 24 GB at 4G speed, will go by about 20 per cent to ₹1,799 from November 25.

The company has increased data top-up plans price in the range of 18-21 per cent. The 3 GB and 12 GB

The development comes a day after Bharti Airtel announced a similar level of tariff hike in mobile prepaid users. The tariff hike from VIL comes despite it continuously losing its customers

data top-up plans' prices will now be at ₹58 and 118, respectively, instead of ₹48 and ₹98 currently.

The data top-up prices of 50 GB and 100 GB will now be ₹298 and ₹418, respectively, instead of ₹251 and ₹351 currently.

The company has announced an increase in tariff across 16 mobile services plans.

The tariff hike from VIL comes despite it continuously losing its customers.

SpiceJet reintroduces 737 Max aircraft after recertification



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 23: Budget airline SpiceJet, Tuesday recommended flight services on Boeing 737 Max aircraft.

Notably, the aircraft has been brought back after a gap of around two-and-a-half years. The aircraft has been re-certified by the aviation regulator DGCA by using European standards.

SpiceJet is the only operator of the 737 Max in the country. At present, the airline has 13 of these planes in its fleet. It had earlier signed a \$22 billion deal with Boeing for up to 205 aircraft in 2017.

Consequently, the company plans to completely replace the older 737 NGs with Max in the coming months. It plans to induct 50 Max planes in 2022 and 2023. The airline will be deploying these aircraft on both domestic as well as international routes. Besides, the aircraft's services resume at a time when passenger traffic is showing healthy growth.

However, jet fuel prices have also soared during this period. "With significant cost saving capabilities, we expect a significant reduction in our operating costs improving our bottom line," said Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet.

GUARDIOLA'S MANCHESTER CITY HAVE A MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB AS THEY FACE ONE OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FRONT-THREE COMPRISING MESSI, NEYMAR AND MBAPPE WHEN PSG VISIT THE ETIHAD STADIUM FOR THEIR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCH

CLASH OF TITANS

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Six matches have been played between the two sides with Man City winning three times compared to PSG's one, while two games ended in stalemates

Manchester City side surge to the top of the rankings in Group A after PSG were held by RB Leipzig, and Pep Guardiola's side will assure themselves of a first-placed finish and a spot in the last 16 with all three points against PSG.

City's bid for back-to-back Premier League titles also gathered pace at

aside nearly all that has been put before them in the Champions League so far this season – racking up 15 goals in their four group-stage games – a tally that can only be bettered by Bayern Munich.

It is now three wins on the bounce in all competitions for Man City heading into the visit of PSG, and they are on an eight-game winning streak at home in the Champions League, but lightning has struck twice in this fixture before.

Many could not have foreseen Lionel Messi taking six Ligue 1 games to get off the mark for PSG following his summer arrival, but the Argentine will hope to consign his slow start to life in the French capital to history after putting the cherry on the icing on the cake against Nantes.

Kylian Mbappe took just two minutes to draw first blood before Randal Kolo Muani equalised after Keylor Navas's sending off, but the 10 men of PSG fought back to claim all three points courtesy of Dennis Appiah's own goal and Messi's 87th-minute effort.

However, PSG's chances of a first-placed finish in Champions League Group A took a significant hit against RB Leipzig last



Bengaluru test awaits Odisha



GETTING BATTLE READY: Odisha FC players in action during their practice session ahead of their ISL campaign opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vasco, Nov 23: Former champions Bengaluru FC would look to build a winning momentum after their opening match victory when they face Odisha FC in their second Indian Super League (ISL) fixture here Wednesday.

The Sunil Chhetri-led side have faced Odisha eight times in the ISL, winning five, losing two and drawing one, and they will once again start favourites at the Tilak Maidan.

Fresh from the 4-2 win over NorthEast United in their campaign opener, the Blues would look to build on the positives and notch up their second consecutive win.

"We need to focus on our game, take the good things from the previous game, and try to improve ourselves and do better. We have three points on the board and we need to try and build on that," Bengaluru head coach Marco Pezzaioli said at the pre-match conference.

He admitted his team did not do well in the midfield and that's why Chhetri was relatively quiet in the previous match.

For Odisha FC head coach Kiko Ramirez said he knew Bengaluru's impressive track record in the ISL but his team has also prepared well.

"They have quality attackers, they play good football and have proven themselves in the ISL. We know it's

going to be a difficult game against Bengaluru as they won their first game, but we are ready," he said.

Asked about specific way to counter the Bengaluru players, Ramirez said, "The team have to give 100 percent concentration in the game, not make any mistakes. We have to stay focused from the beginning and implement what we have practised in the week."

"I will put four of my most competitive foreign players on the pitch. They are important, but the seven Indian players are more important as they are going to play every match. So, our focus is also on the Indian players whom we aim to develop in this season."

AGENCIES

Manchester, Nov 23: Seeking to avenge their September defeat at the Parc des Princes, Manchester City welcome Paris Saint-Germain to the Etihad Stadium for Wednesday's Champions League Group A battle.

The hosts currently sit at the summit with nine points to their name, but PSG are only one point behind and will also eye qualification to the next round this week.

Two weeks after putting five past surprise package Club Brugge on their Belgian turf, Man City produced an equally ruthless performance to comfortably dispatch their Group A counterparts in Manchester, with Phil Foden, Riyad Mahrez, Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus on the scoresheet in a 4-1 success.

Such a thumping saw this mer-

the weekend with a comprehensive 3-0 thumping of Everton – during which Rodri scored one of the goals of the season – but Guardiola is still after that elusive European crown.

Domestic triumphs are bread and butter to the Catalan coach at this point, but City have swept

TODAY'S MATCHES

Besiktas v Ajax

Inter v Shakhtar

Time: 11:15 pm

Man City v PSG

Club Brugge v Leipzig

Atletico v AC Milan

Liverpool v Porto

Sporting CP v Dortmund

FC Sheriff v Real Madrid

Time: 01:30 am (Thursday)

TEAM NEWS

MAN CITY: Kevin de Bruyne is not available following his positive coronavirus test, while Jack Grealish and Ferran Torres are battling injuries, thus doubtful

PSG: Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma is a major doubt due to gastroenteritis, while Julian Draxler is likely to miss out. Sergio Ramos may finally make his long-awaited debut

time out, as a late penalty from Dominik Szoboszlai saw PSG prevail 2-0 over Man City in Paris two months ago, but Guardiola's men won 2-0 at home in last season's semifinals, and the visitors are without a goal at the Etihad from their previous three battles on the Manchester turf.

As a result, second-placed PSG are now one point behind City in the rankings but boast a four-point cushion over third-placed Brugge, so their rightful place in the knockout rounds should not be in any real jeopardy as they aim to end a three-game winless run on the road in Europe.

A thunderbolt from Messi and strike from Idrissa Gueye saw PSG prevail 2-0 over Man City in Paris two months ago, but Guardiola's men won 2-0 at home in last season's semifinals, and the visitors are without a goal at the Etihad from their previous three battles on the Manchester turf.

Lakshya, Kashyap bow out of Indonesia Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Nov 23: India's Lakshya Sen fought hard before going down in straight games to top seed Kento Momota of Japan in the opening round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event here Tuesday.

The 21-year-old from Almora, who had lost in straight games to Momota in the round of 16 last week, lost 21-23, 15-21 to the two-time world champion from Japan in 53 minutes. In another men's singles match, Parupalli Kashyap went down 11-21, 14-21 to Loh Kean Yew of Singapore to bow out of the event.

Men's doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila lost 20-22, 13-21 to Korea's Choi Solgyu and Kim Wonho in the opening round. Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhvi Dewangan too had a dismal day as they went down 12-21, 4-21 to Germany pair of Jones Ralfy Jansen and Linda Efler.

SINDHU IN FRAY

India's two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, along with eight others, will be contesting the BWF Athletes' Commission election to be held during the World Championships in Spain, December 17.

Rahul ruled out of 1st Test, SkY added

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur, Nov 23: Senior India opener KL Rahul was Tuesday ruled out of the two-Test series against New Zealand due to a muscle strain in his left thigh, a development which is expected to open up debut opportunity for either Shreyas Iyer or Suryakumar Yadav.

The opening Test is scheduled to begin in Kanpur from Thursday and Suryakumar has been added to the Indian squad.

"Team India batsman KL Rahul has sustained a muscle strain on his left thigh and has been ruled out of the upcoming 2-match Paytm Test series against New Zealand," BCCI said in a release.



"He will now undergo rehabilitation at NCA in preparation for the series against South Africa scheduled next month," the release added. Rahul was missing from the Indian team's customary practice session, attended by almost all the players at the Green Park stadium Tuesday.



Shubman Gill was seen opening the batting along with Mayank Agarwal during the team's net session as Cheteshwar Pujara, the vice captain for the series-opener, also batted.

There is a strong possibility that either Shreyas Iyer or Suryakumar will make his Test debut and bat in

the middle order.

Young batter Shubman was expected to bat in the middle order but now in the absence of Rahul, he will be asked to play in his usual opening slot.

It is learnt that Rahul had complained about his niggle before the third ODI in Kolkata. While the BCCI's media team issued the release after the practice session, Rahul had in fact gone back home to Bengaluru from Kolkata while Surya accompanied the team from Kolkata to Kanpur.

During the net session at the Green Park, Suryakumar was seen batting for a considerable amount of time. There was also Shreyas Iyer, who was seen bowling his leg breaks to Suryakumar.

BCCI's 'halal' meat proposal for Indian stars shocks many

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur, Nov 23: A row involving the BCCI erupted Tuesday after it emerged that only 'halal' meat has been recommended for the Indian cricketers during their stay in Kanpur for the first Test against NZ.

The catering and menu document, in possession of this agency, also mentions categorically that no pork or beef should be part of any food in any form or variety.

BJP spokesperson and advocate Gaurav Goel demanded immediate withdrawal of the recommendation. None of the BCCI officials was ready to speak about the document, which is believed to be prepared by the support staff and medical team keeping the dietary requirements in mind.

Usually Hindus and Sikhs prefer 'jhatka' meat while Muslims largely prefer 'halal'. In the Halal form of slaughter, animals are killed with a cut to the jugular vein and are left till the blood drains out completely. In the jhatka method, the animal is killed instantaneously.

In the menu, there are two kinds of meats listed – chicken and lamb. The non-vegetarian items listed include roasted chicken, roasted lamb, lamb chops in black pepper sauce, murgh yakhni, chicken thai curry, marinated grilled chicken, Goan fish curry, tangri kebabs and stir fried vegetables with chicken in garlic sauce.



Inspired India colts begin title defence

While we did not have overseas competition, the juniors played some practice games against senior team in Bhubaneswar, which were quite valuable. Since arriving here, we have been getting used to the stadium. It's good that we are getting to train here before we start

Winning and losing is part of the game. But when we lose, there is a tendency to point fingers, but I told him (Vivek Sagar Prasad, captain) that the team should not do that and just focus on your game. Just stay as a team. And that will help you win every match

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The Indian colts would draw inspiration from their Olympic bronze medal-winning seniors when they begin their title defence at the Junior Hockey World Cup with a clash against France, here Wednesday.

Indian men's senior side created history at the Tokyo Olympics by claiming a bronze medal after 41 years.

The junior side would look to wrap up the successful 2021 season by retaining the World Cup title, which would be its third. The team first won the World Cup title in 2001 in Australia before reclaiming the crown in the last edition of the event in 2016 in Lucknow.

The junior hockey World Cup is considered a stepping stone for aspiring youngsters to play the game at the senior level as nine players from the 2016 squad rep-

resented India at the Tokyo Games. And many members of the Vivek Sagar Prasad-led Indian team would look to showcase their potential and impress upon the national selectors for a place in the senior side.

Getting the opportunity to stay, train and play matches against senior side ahead of the event has been a blessing for the juniors.

Besides seniors like Manpreet Singh and PR Sreejesh, India chief coach Graham Reid has been working relentlessly with the Indian junior side, being coached by veteran BJ Kariappa.

India are placed in Pool B in the 16-team competition alongside France, Canada and Poland and are overwhelming favourites to top the pool.

In other matches on the opening day, Belgium will play South Africa, Malaysia will face Chile, Germany will take on Pakistan and Canada will lock horns against Poland.